

Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS)

Governance Statistics 2025/26

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

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About the GPSJS and its objectives



Victims of Crime Survey (VOCS)

The Victims of Crime Survey (VOCS) was conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in 1998. The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) conducted the 2003 and 2007 versions of the VOCS.



Sample size

Stats SA resumed the survey from 2011 – 2017/18, based on a total sample size of approximately 30 000 households across 9 provinces of SA.



New information demands on governance

In 2017 VOCS was redesigned to make room for new information demands on governance. The redesigned survey is called Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS).



Governance Statistics

The GPSJS 2025/26 provides data on the following:

- ❖ Awareness of the Constitution and Human Rights
- ❖ Experience of Discrimination/Harassment
- ❖ Experience of Disputes/problems
- ❖ Participation in Political and Public Affairs



Complement Governance Statistics

Complement governance statistics by providing estimates for quantities that cannot be measured through administrative data sources.

Awareness and perception of the Constitution and Bill of Rights



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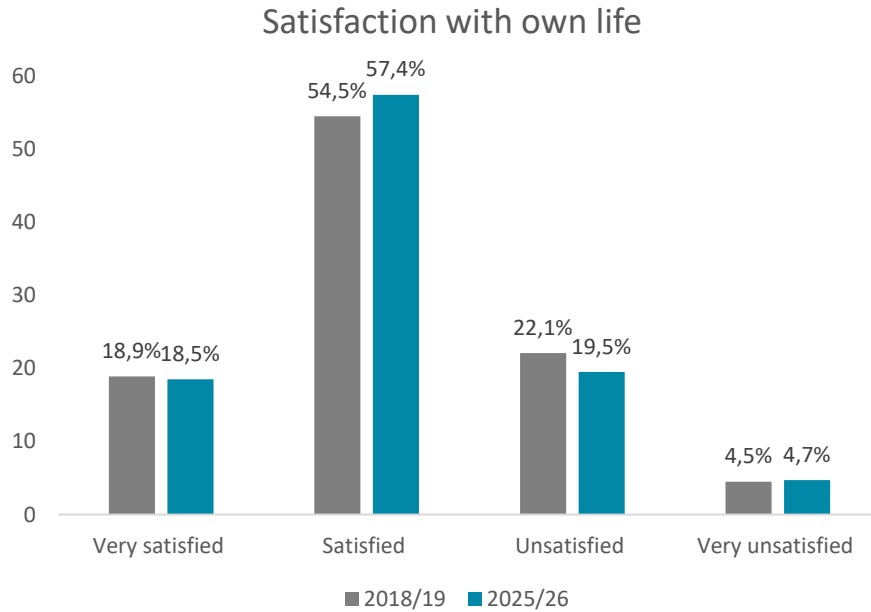


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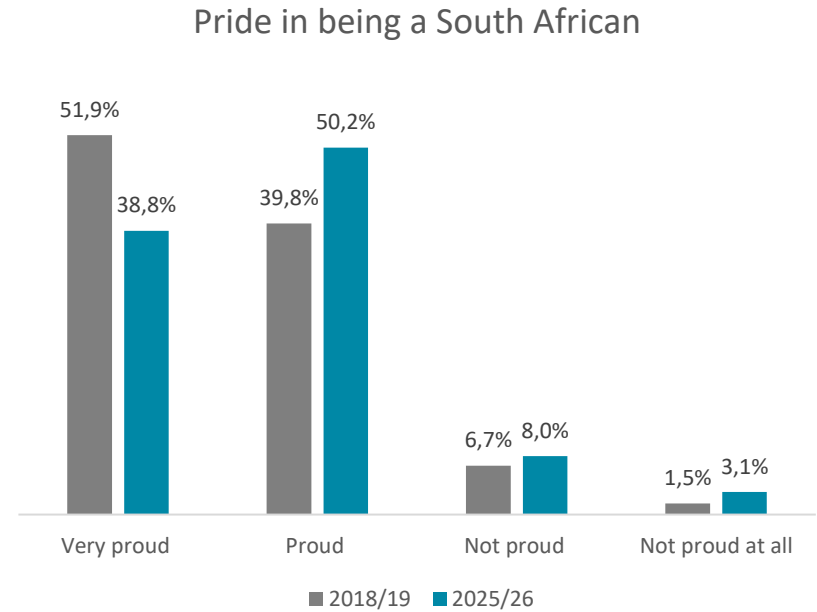
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More individuals aged 16 years and older were **satisfied** with their own lives in 2025/26 compared to 2018/19. **Almost 39% (38,8%)** indicated they were very proud to be South African and **50,2% indicated they were proud** in 2025/26 period.

Percentage distribution of individuals on the level of satisfaction with own life, 2018/19 and 2025/26

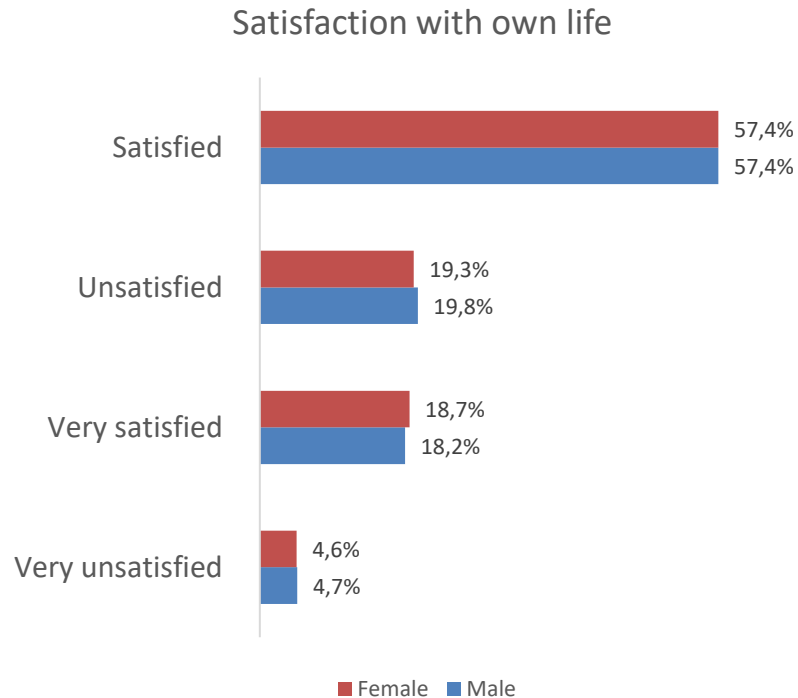


Percentage distribution of individuals on the level of pride in being a South African, 2018/19 and 2025/26

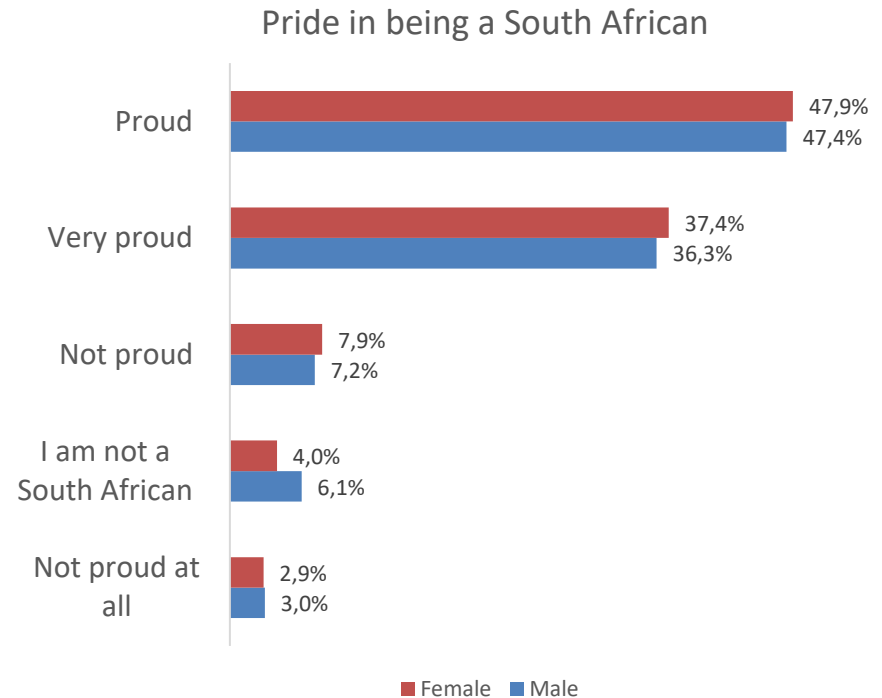


Regardless of sex, more individuals aged 16 years and older indicated they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their own life. Same trend is observed for the level of pride in being South African in 2025/26.

Percentage distribution of individuals on the level of satisfaction with own life by sex, 2025/26

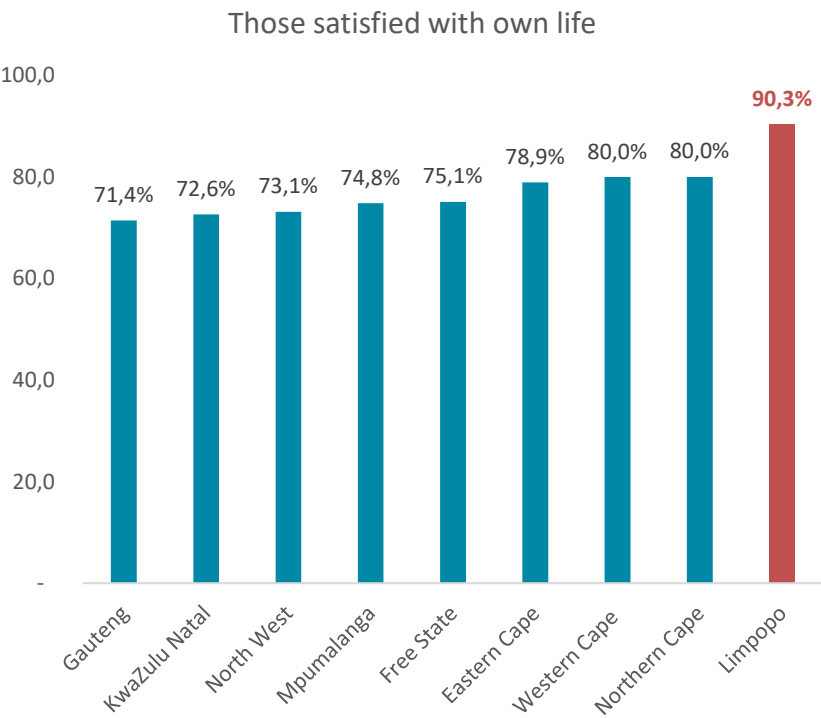


Percentage distribution of individuals on the level of pride in being a South African by sex, 2025/26

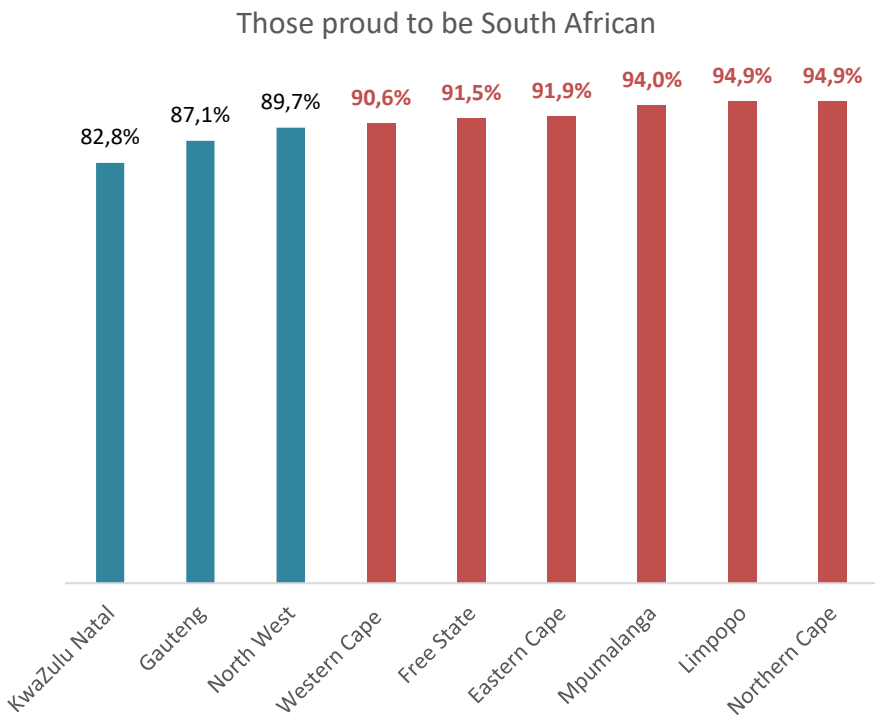


Limpopo province compared to other provinces has the highest proportion of individuals who are satisfied with their own lives. **Over 90% in six out of nine provinces** are proud to be South Africans.

Percentage distribution of individuals on satisfaction (satisfied and very satisfied) with own life by province, 2025/26

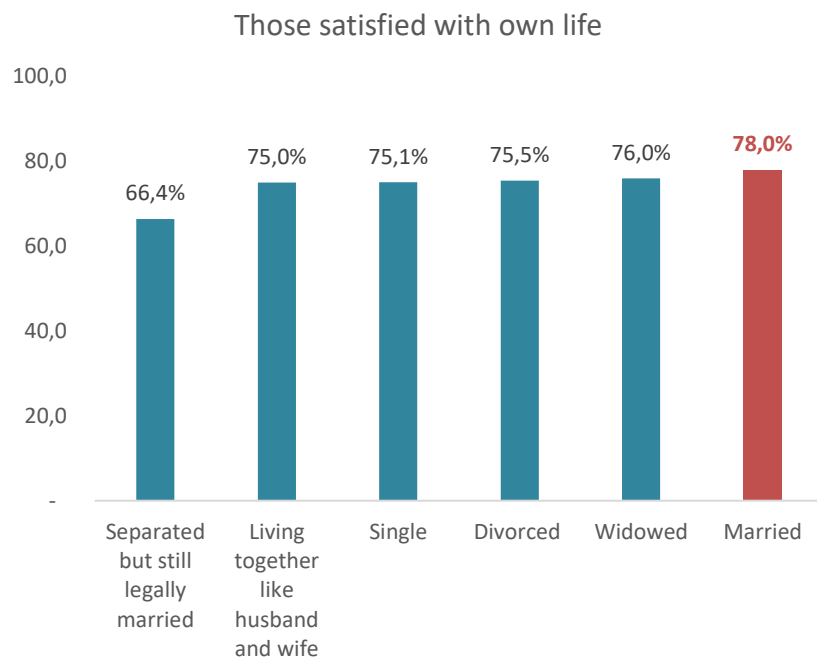


Percentage distribution of individuals on the level of pride (proud and very proud) in being a South African by province, 2025/26

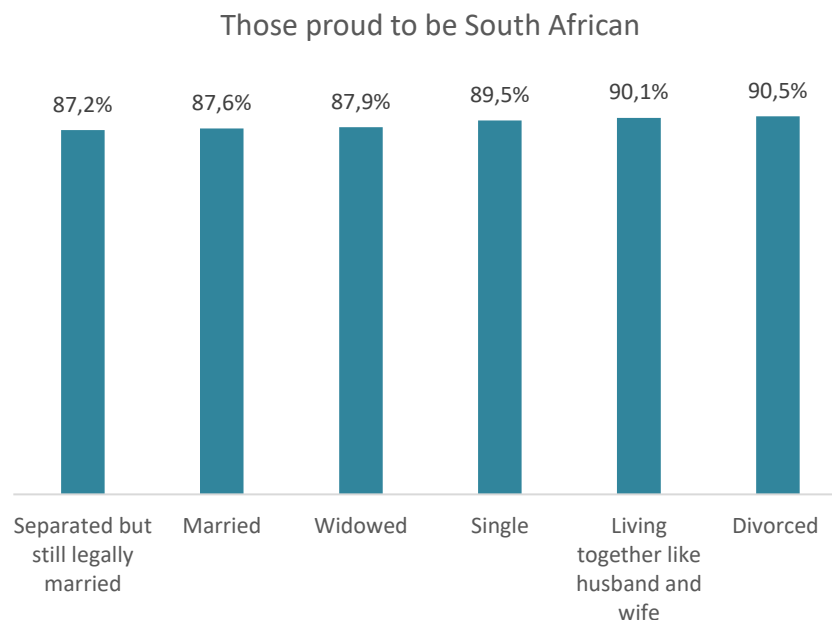


Married individuals were more satisfied with their own lives compared to other marital groups in 2025/26. Regardless of the marital status over 80% of individuals indicated they are proud to be South Africans.

Percentage distribution of individuals on satisfaction (satisfied and very satisfied) with own life by marital status, 2025/26



Percentage distribution of individuals on the level of pride (proud and very proud) in being a South African by marital status, 2025/26



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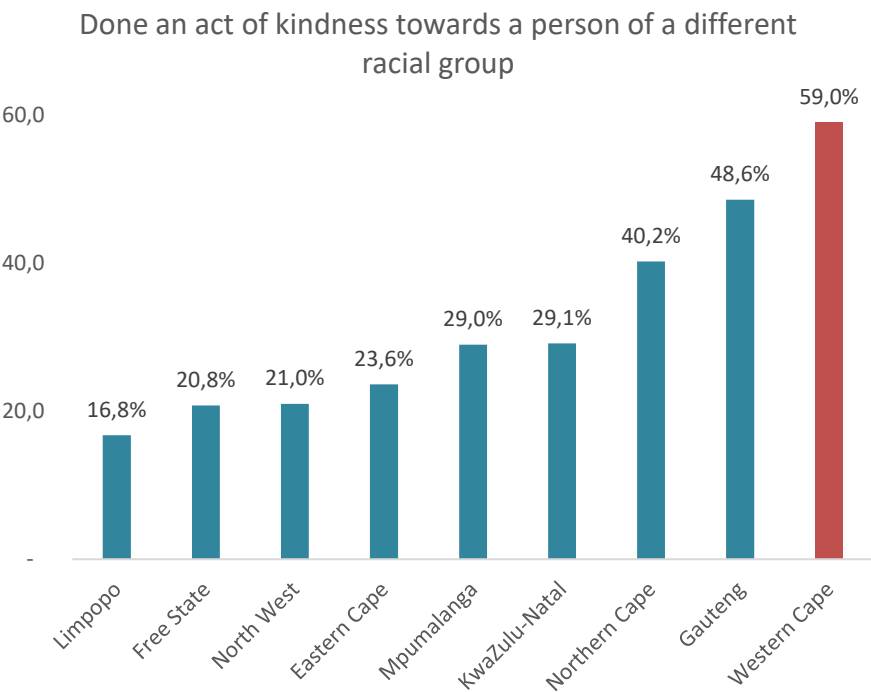
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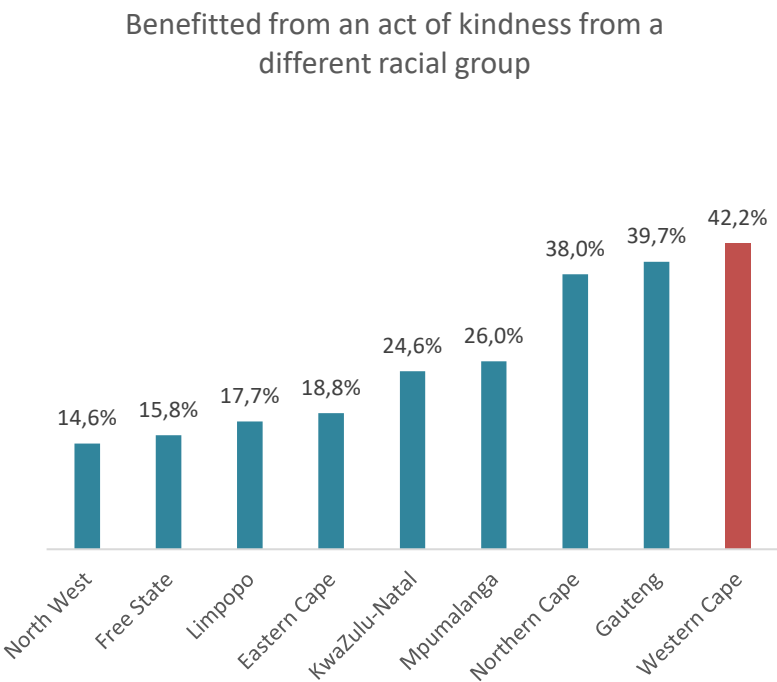


Individuals aged 16 years and older from **Western Cape province** were more likely to **show kindness and receive kindness from other racial groups**.

Percentage distribution of individuals who did an act of kindness towards a person of a different racial group by Province, 2025/26

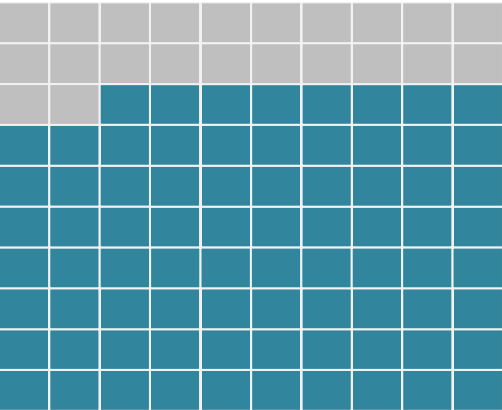


Percentage distribution of individuals who benefitted from an act of kindness from a different racial group by Province, 2025/26



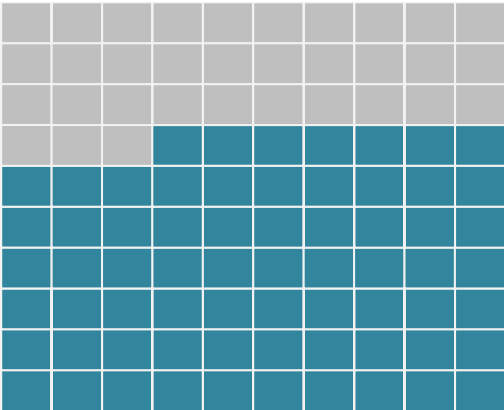
About 76,6% of those aged 16 years and older have heard about the Constitution. Over half thinks the Constitution protects others' rights more than their own.

Percentage distribution of the individuals who have heard about the Constitution and their perception on bill of rights, 2025/26



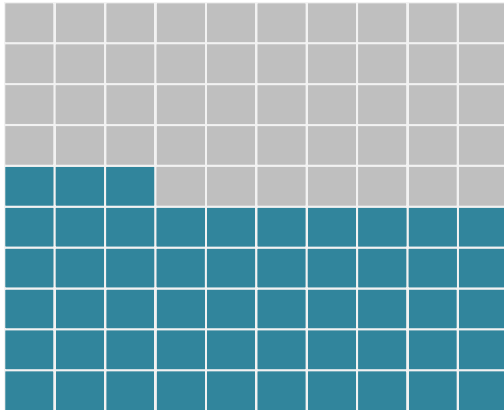
76,6%

Heard about the Constitution



67,0%

Thinks it protects their rights



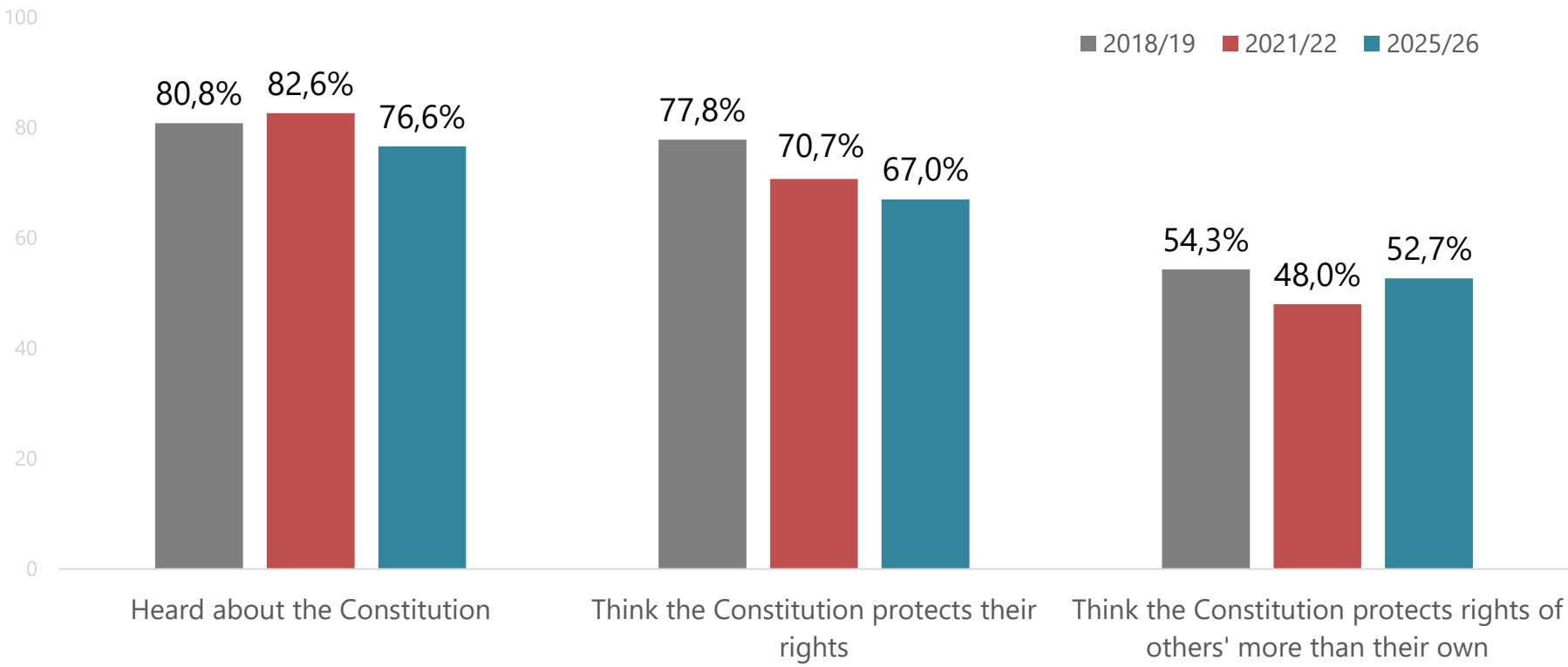
52,7%

Thinks it protects others' rights more than their own



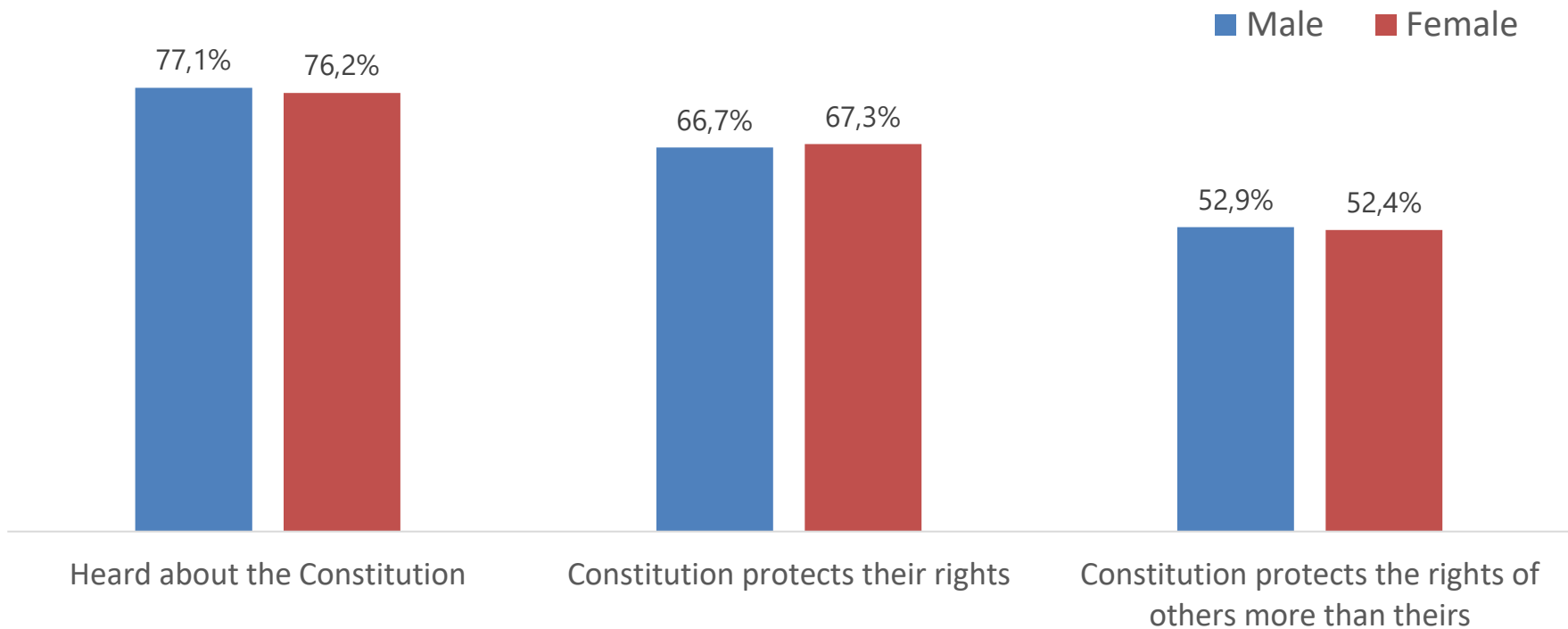
A decrease is observed in the proportion of individuals who have heard about the Constitution and those who think the Constitution protects their rights. An increase of 4,7 percentage points between 2021/22 and 2025/26 is observed in those who think it protects the rights of others more than their own.

Percentage distribution of the individuals who have heard about the Constitution and their perception on the Bill of Rights, 2018/19 - 2025/26



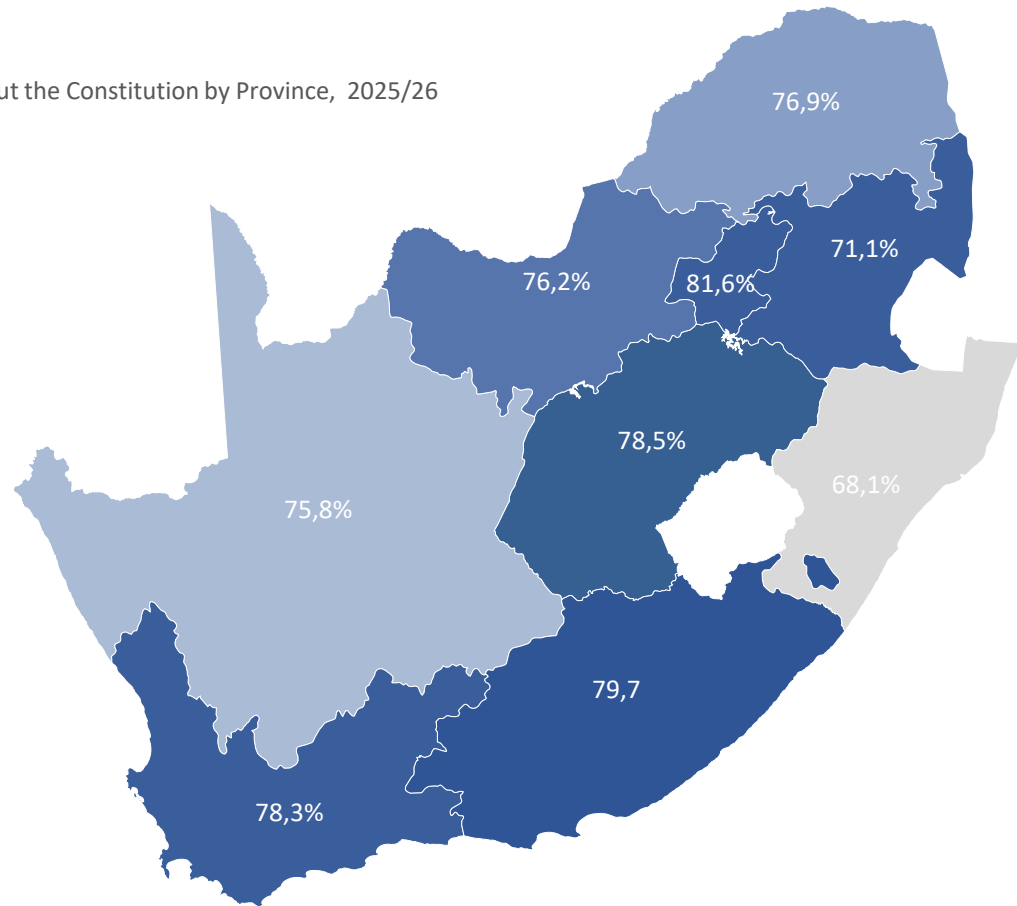
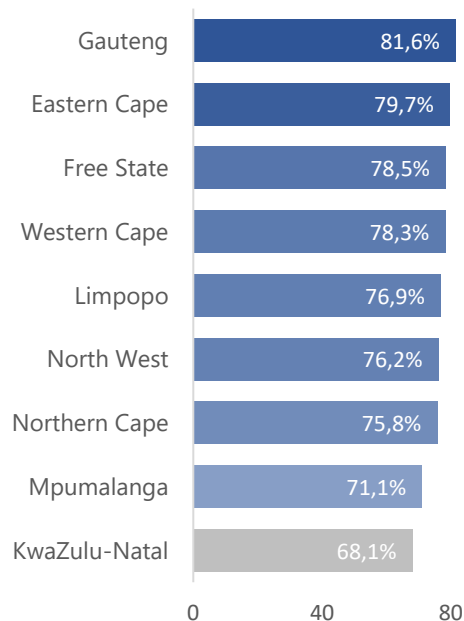
Regardless of sex, more than 75% of individuals indicated they have heard about the Constitution and over 65% thinks it protects their rights in 2025/26.

Percentage distribution of the individuals who have heard about the Constitution and their perception on the Bill of Rights, 2025/26



Gauteng province has the highest proportion of individuals who have heard about the Constitution and KwaZulu-Natal has the lowest.

Percentage distribution of the population who have heard about the Constitution by Province, 2025/26



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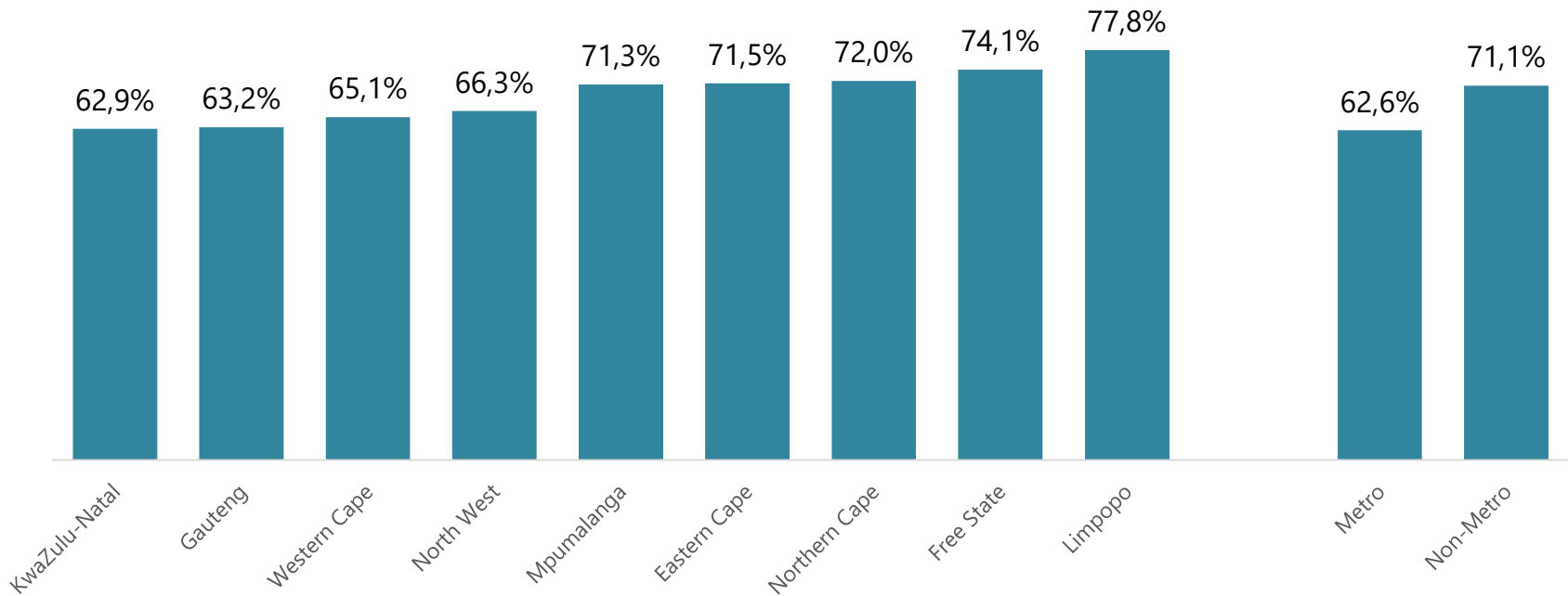


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Limpopo province (77,8%) has the highest proportion of those who think the Constitution protects their rights. **More individuals residing in non-metros** think the constitution protects their rights more than those who resides in metro areas.

Percentage of individuals who think the Constitution protect their rights by province, 2025/26



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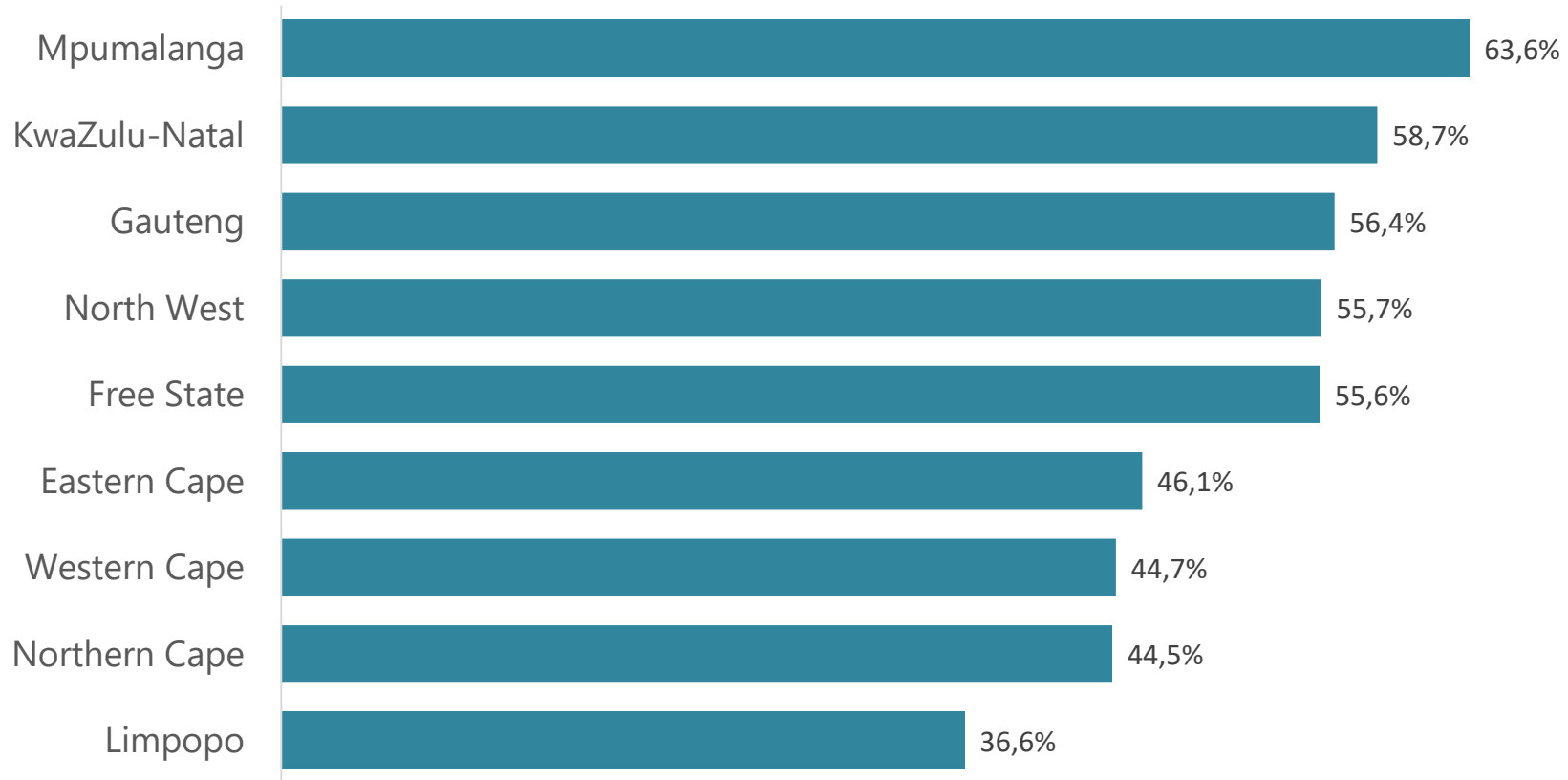
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Mpumalanga has the highest proportion (63,6%) of those who think the Constitution protects the rights of others more than their own.

Percentage of individuals who think the Constitution protects the rights of others more than their own rights by province, 2025/26



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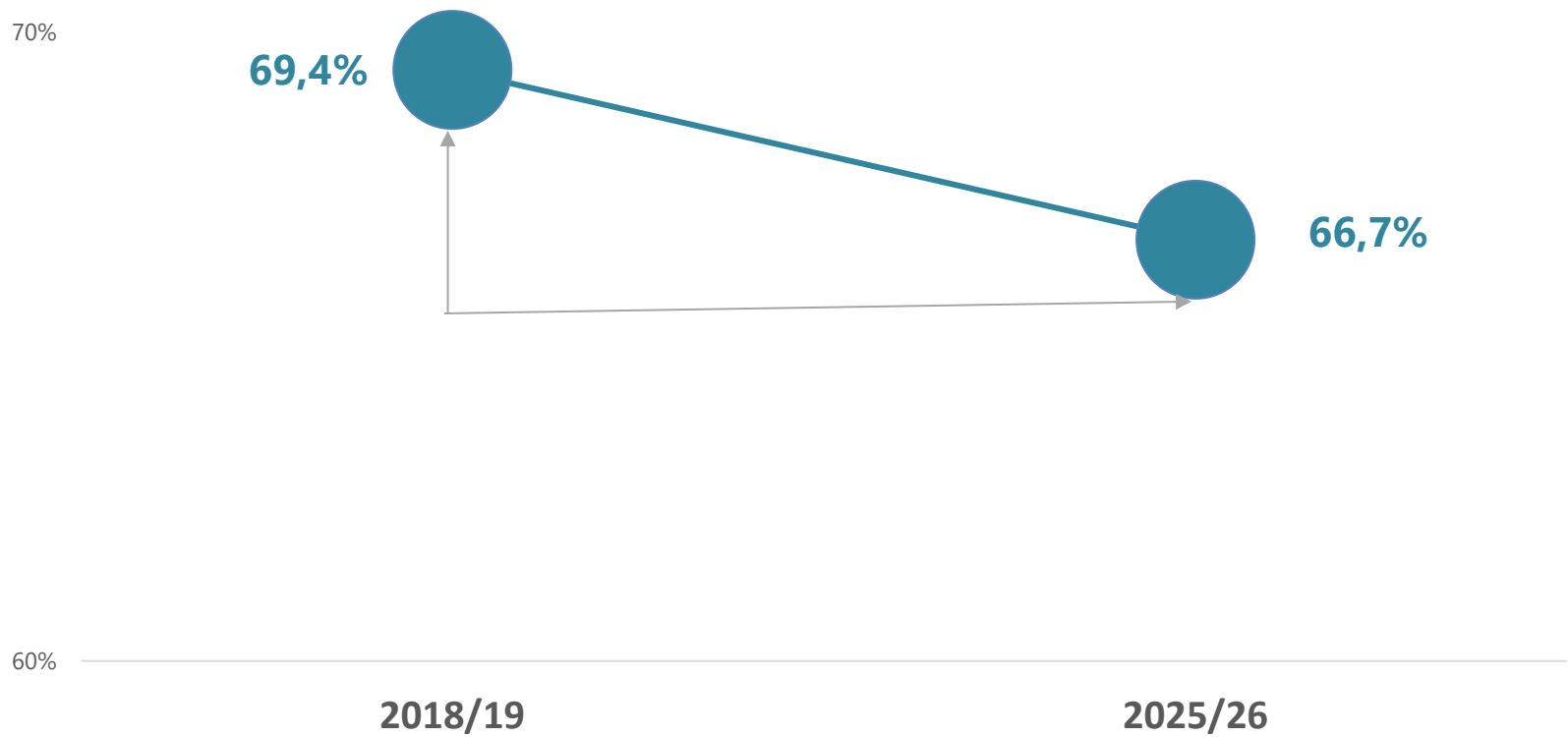
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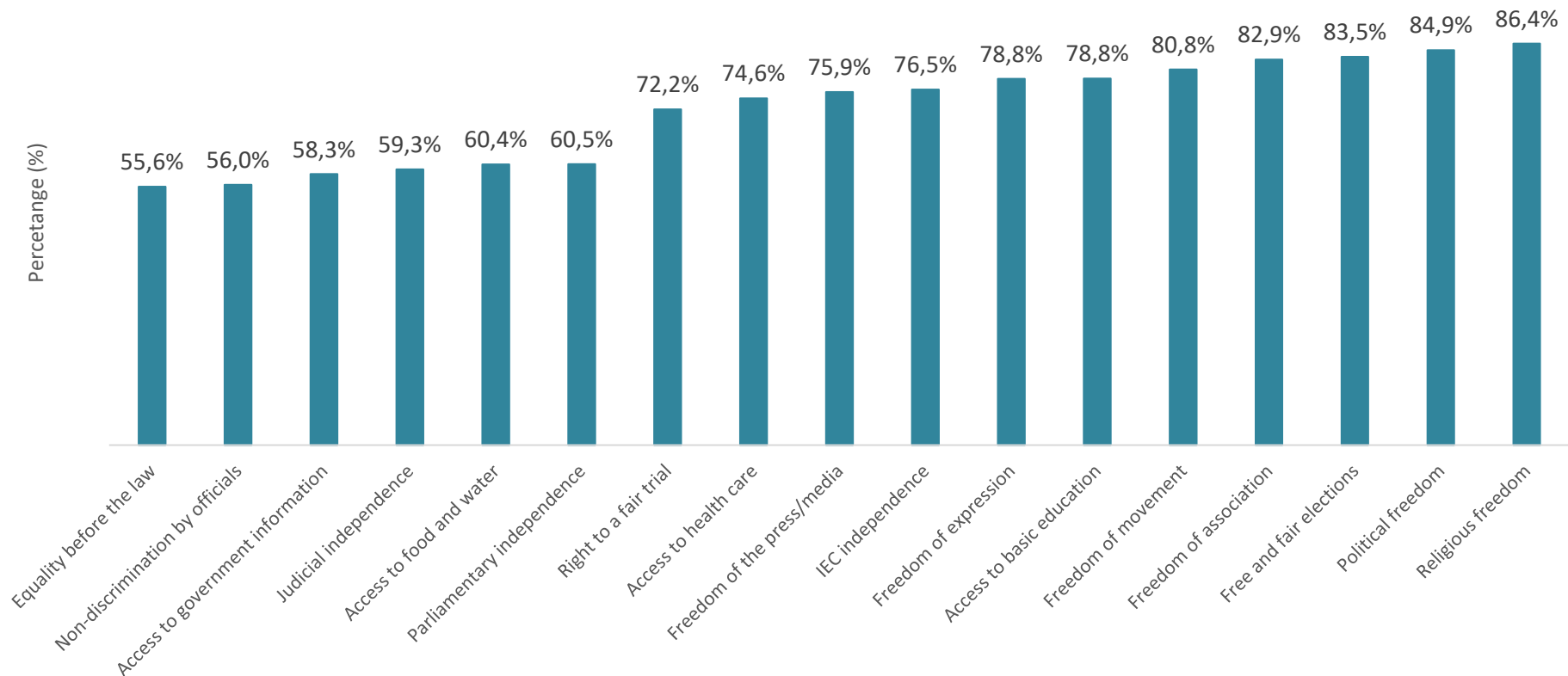
A decrease of 2,7 percentage point was observed between 2018/19 and 2025/26 in the proportion of individuals who were aware that the Bill of Rights is part of the South African Constitution.

Percentage of individuals aged 16 years and older who are aware of the Bill of Rights which is part of the South African Constitution, 2025/26



Over 86% of the individuals aged 16 years and older think the right to choose what religion to follow and worship without interference of prosecution is respected in South Africa.

Percentage of individuals aged 16 years and older who think specific rights are respected in South Africa, 2025/26



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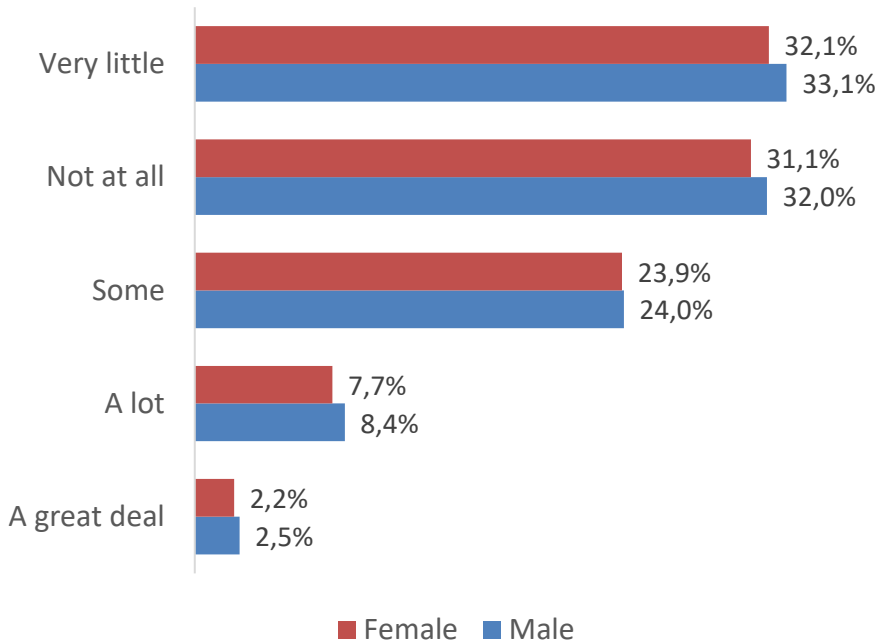
Inclusivity

Target 16.7 (Inclusive Decision-Making): Ensures responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels



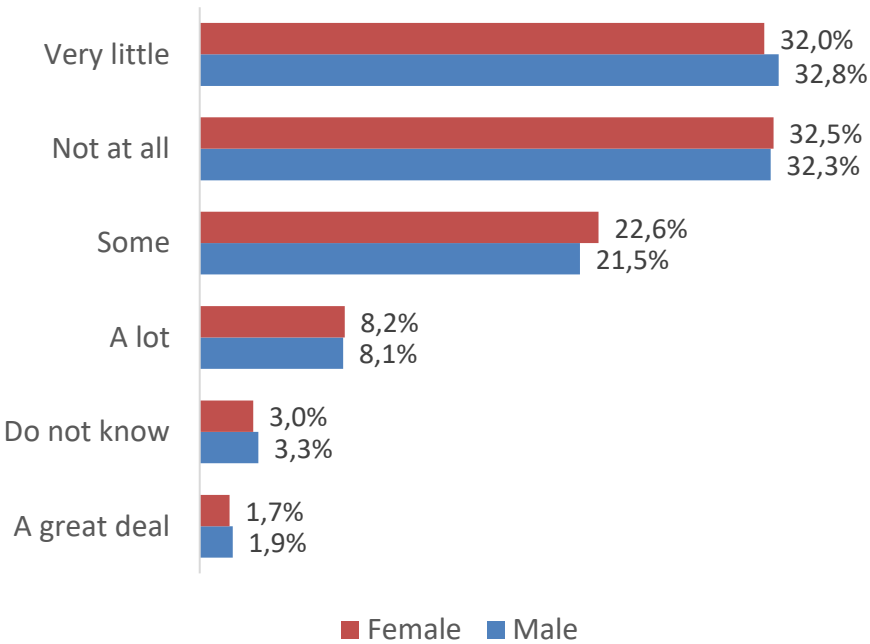
Both **males** and **females** indicated the political system in South Africa allowed people like them to have very little (33,1% vs 32,1%) or no say at all (32,0% vs 31,1%) in what the government does.

Percentage of individuals who think the political system in South Africa allows people like them to have a say in what the government does by sex, 2025/26



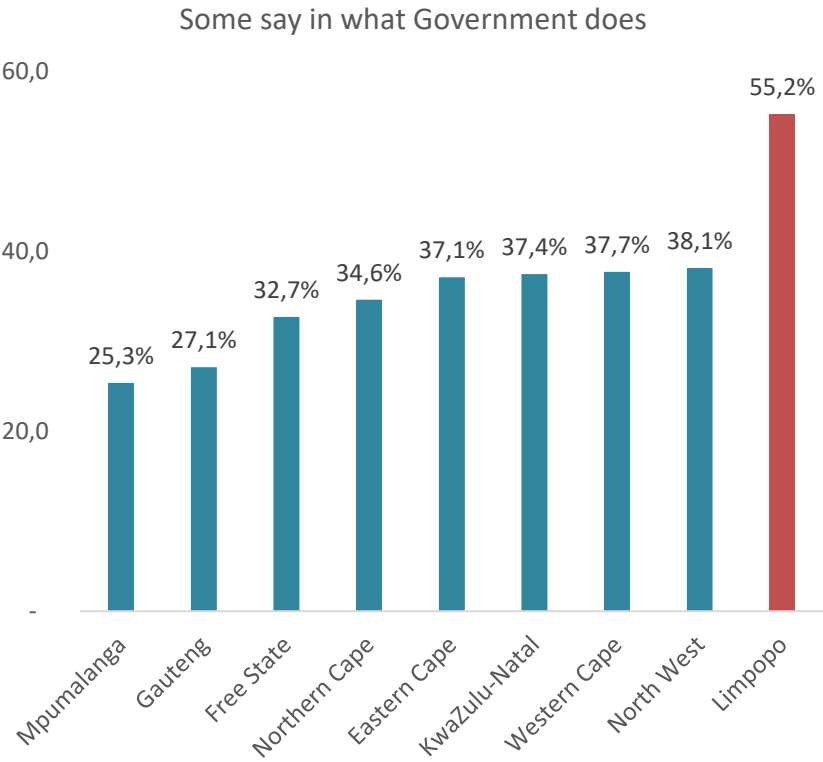
Both **males** and **females** indicated the political system in South Africa allowed people like them to have very little influence (32,8% vs 32,0%) or no influence at all (32,3% vs 32,5%) on politics in 2025/26.

Percentage of individuals who think the political system in South Africa allows people like them to have an influence on politics by sex, 2025/26

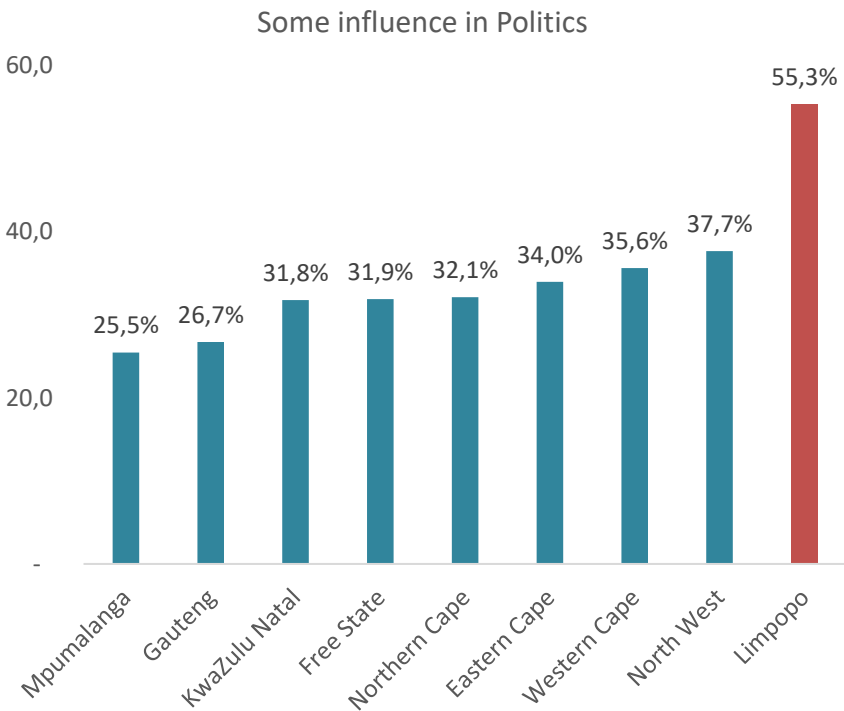


Those residing in Limpopo compared to other provinces think that the political system in South Africa allows them to have a say in what government does and have an influence in politics.

Percentage of individuals who think the political system in South Africa allows people like them to have a say in what the government does by province, 2025/26



Percentage of individuals who think the political system in South Africa allows people like them to have an influence on politics by province, 2025/26



Experience of Discrimination



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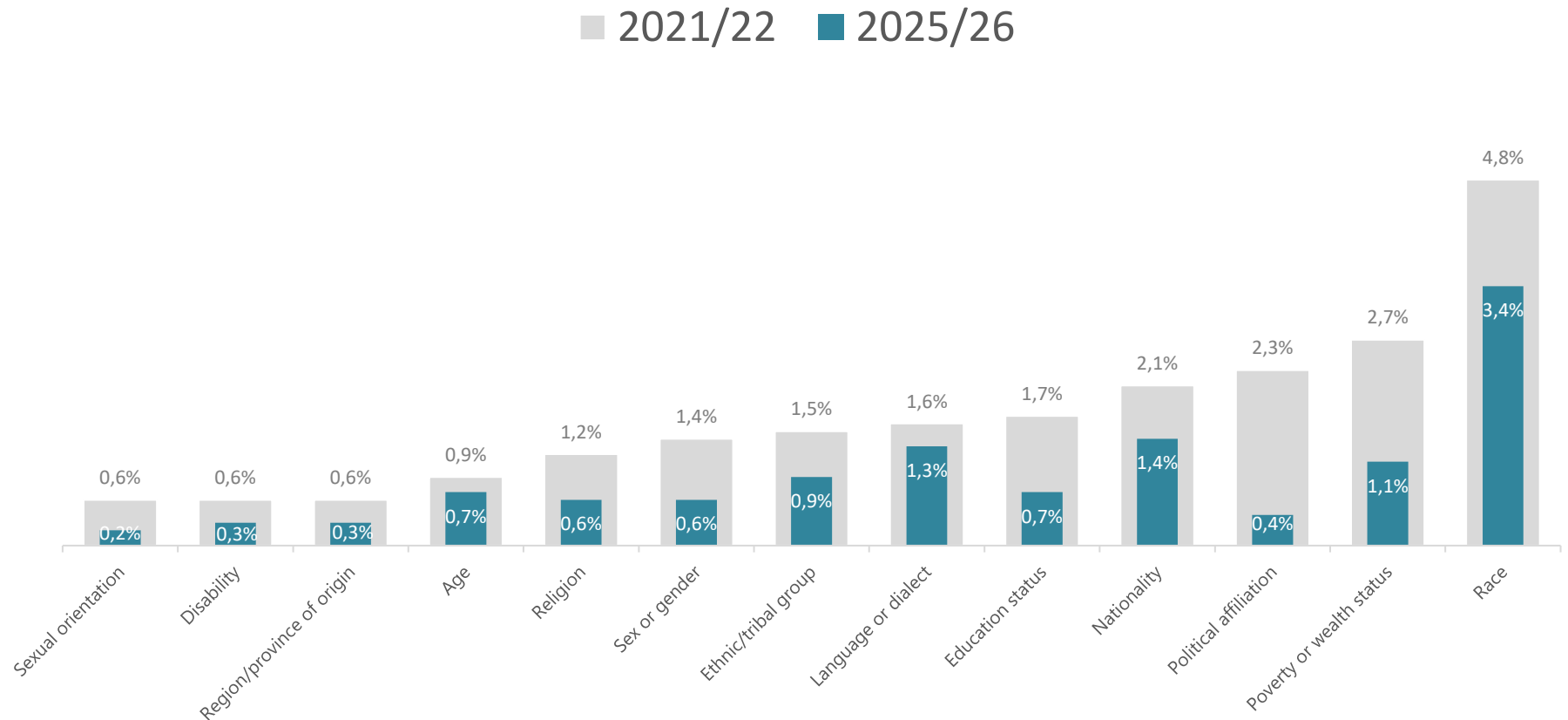
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The **experience of discrimination/harassment decreased** in all categories between 2021/22 and 2025/26 periods.

Percentage of individuals who experienced specified types of discrimination or harassment in the past 12 months, 2021/22 and 2025/26



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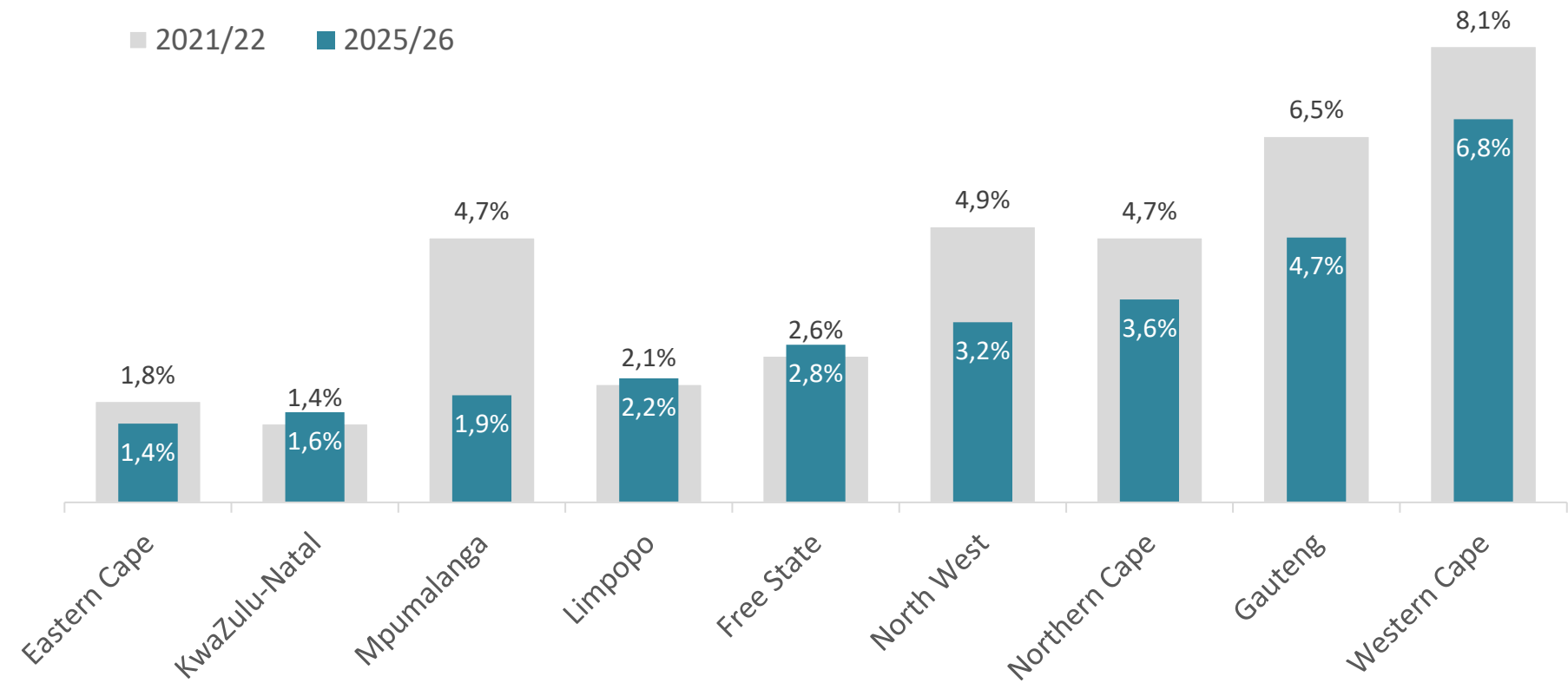
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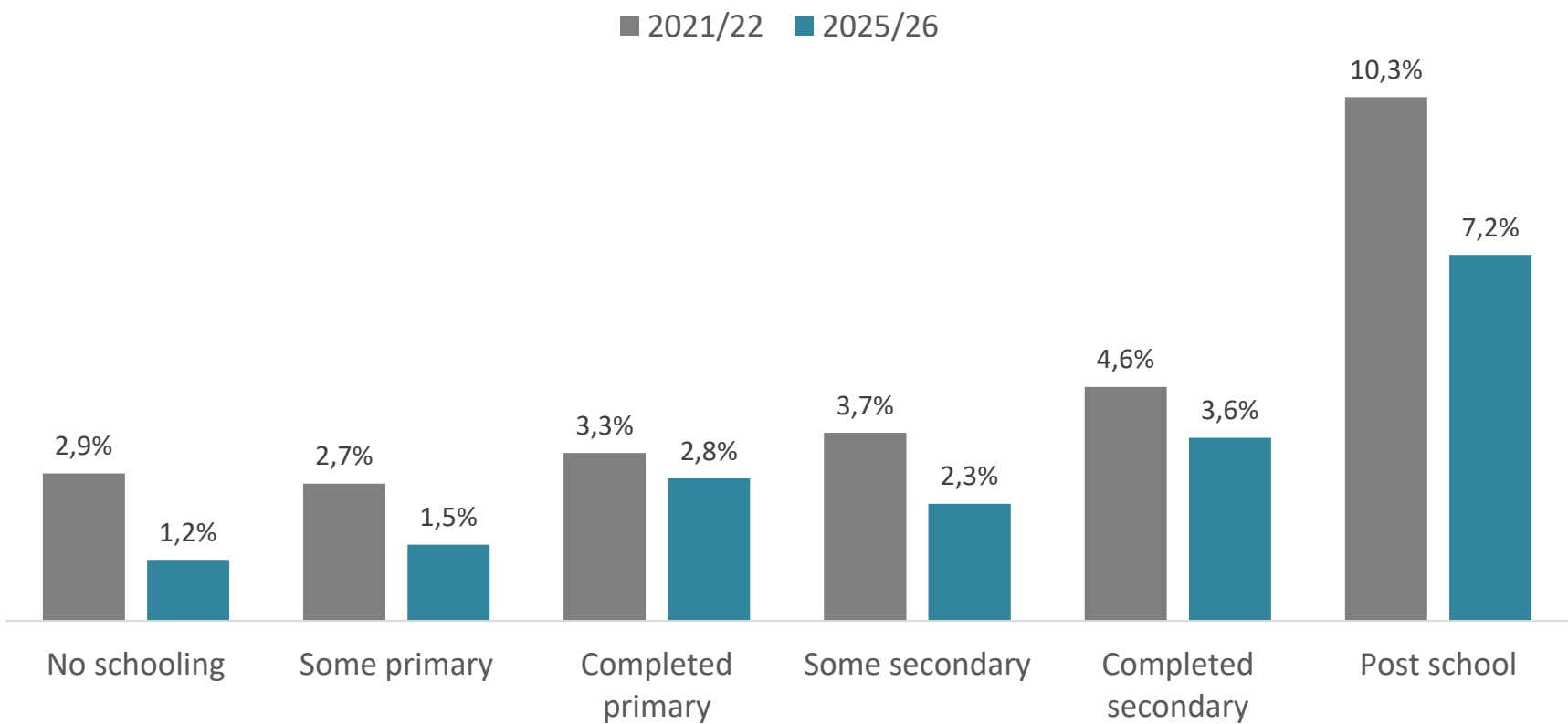
Western Cape had the highest proportion on individuals who experienced race-based discrimination or harassment in both 2021/22 and 2025/26.

Percentage of individuals that experienced race-based discrimination or harassment in the past 12 months, 2021/22 and 2025/26



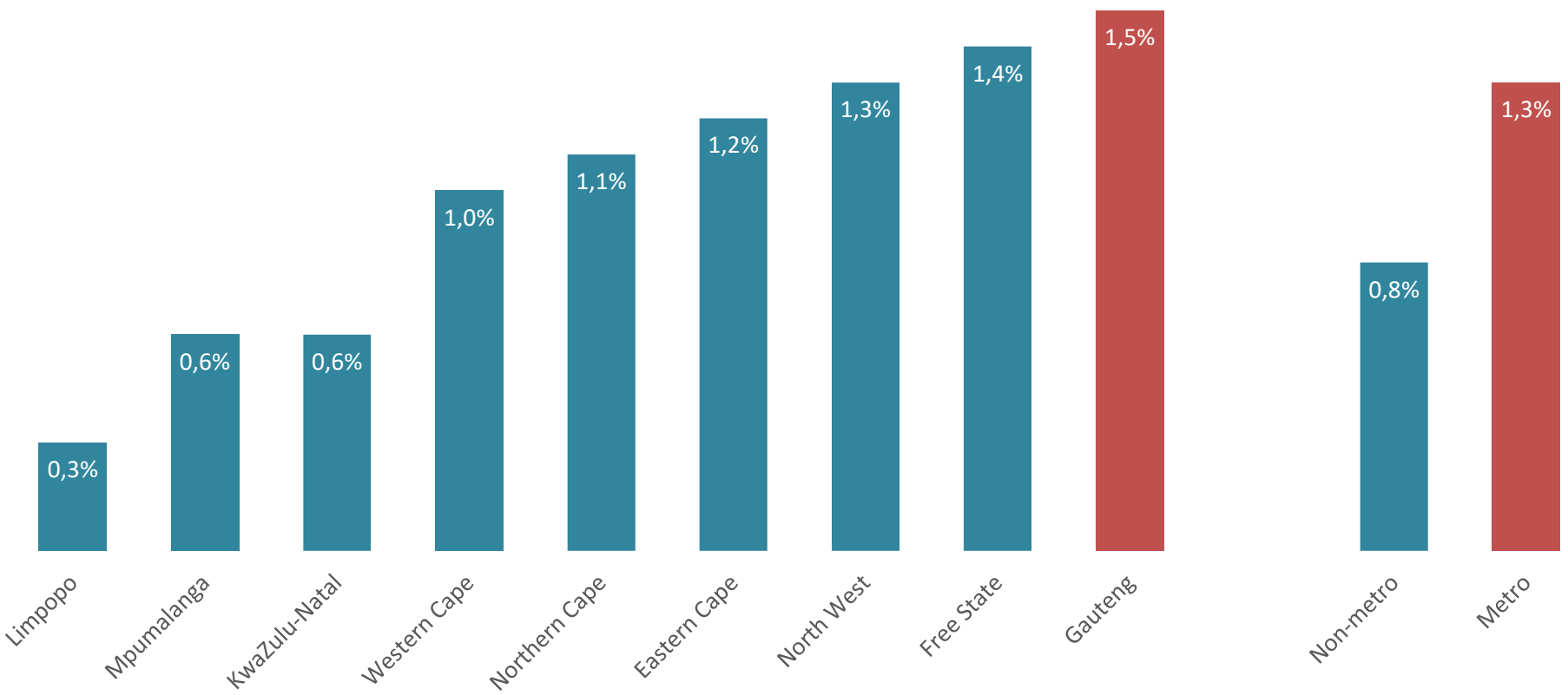
In both reporting periods, individuals with **Post School level of education** have experienced the highest proportion of discrimination or harassment based on race. *The experience of race-based discrimination or harassment has declined in all levels of education.*

Percentage of individuals that experienced race-based discrimination or harassment by highest level of education in the past 12 months, 2021/22 and 2025/26



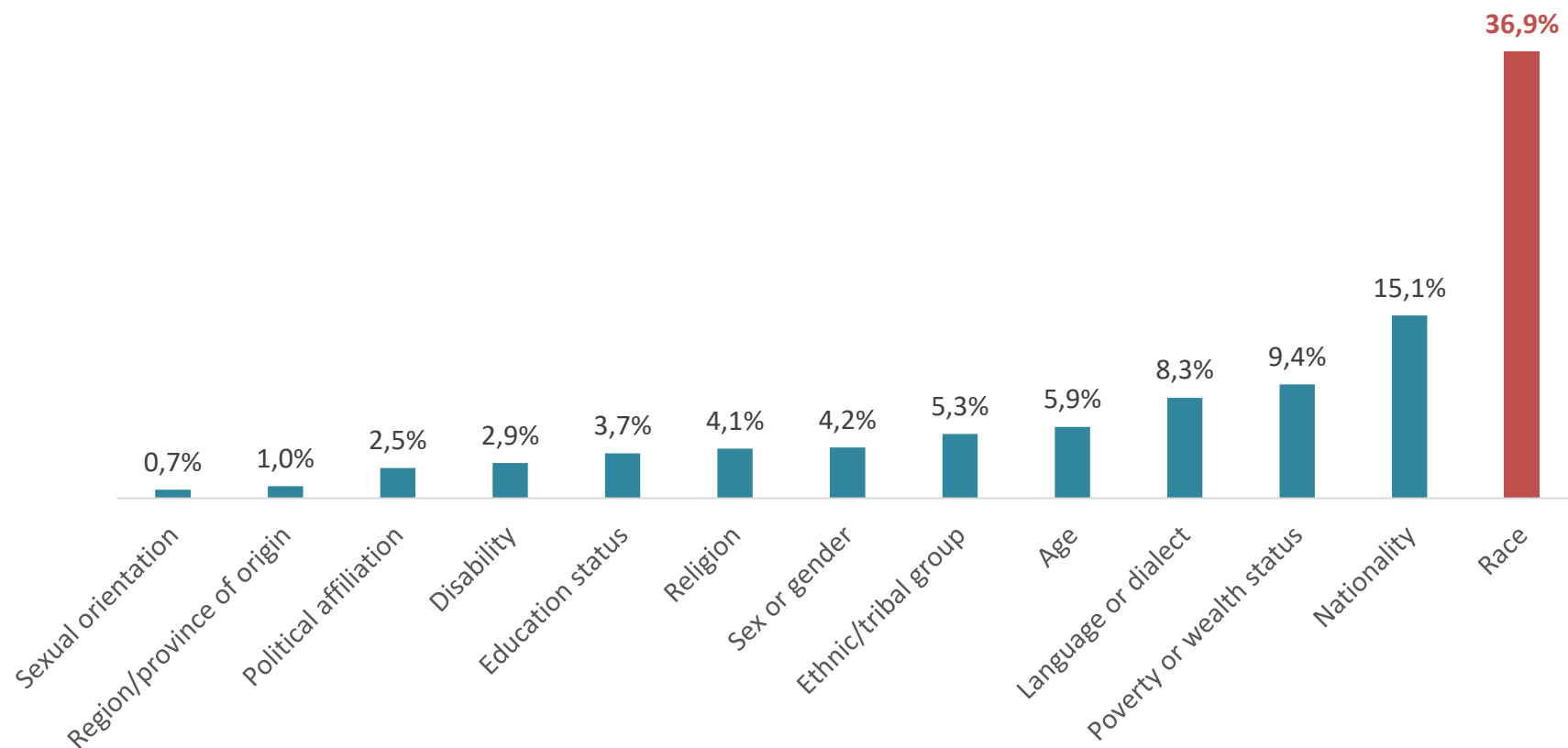
Gauteng (1,5%) and those **residing in metros (1,3%)** had the highest proportion of individuals that experienced discrimination or harassment based on poverty or wealth status.

Percentage of individuals that experienced discrimination based on poverty or wealth status by location in the past 12 months, 2025/26



Race based discrimination/harassment was the most recent discrimination/harassment experienced by individuals, 2025/26.

Percentage distribution of the most recent types of discrimination or harassment experienced by individuals 16 years and older, 2025/26



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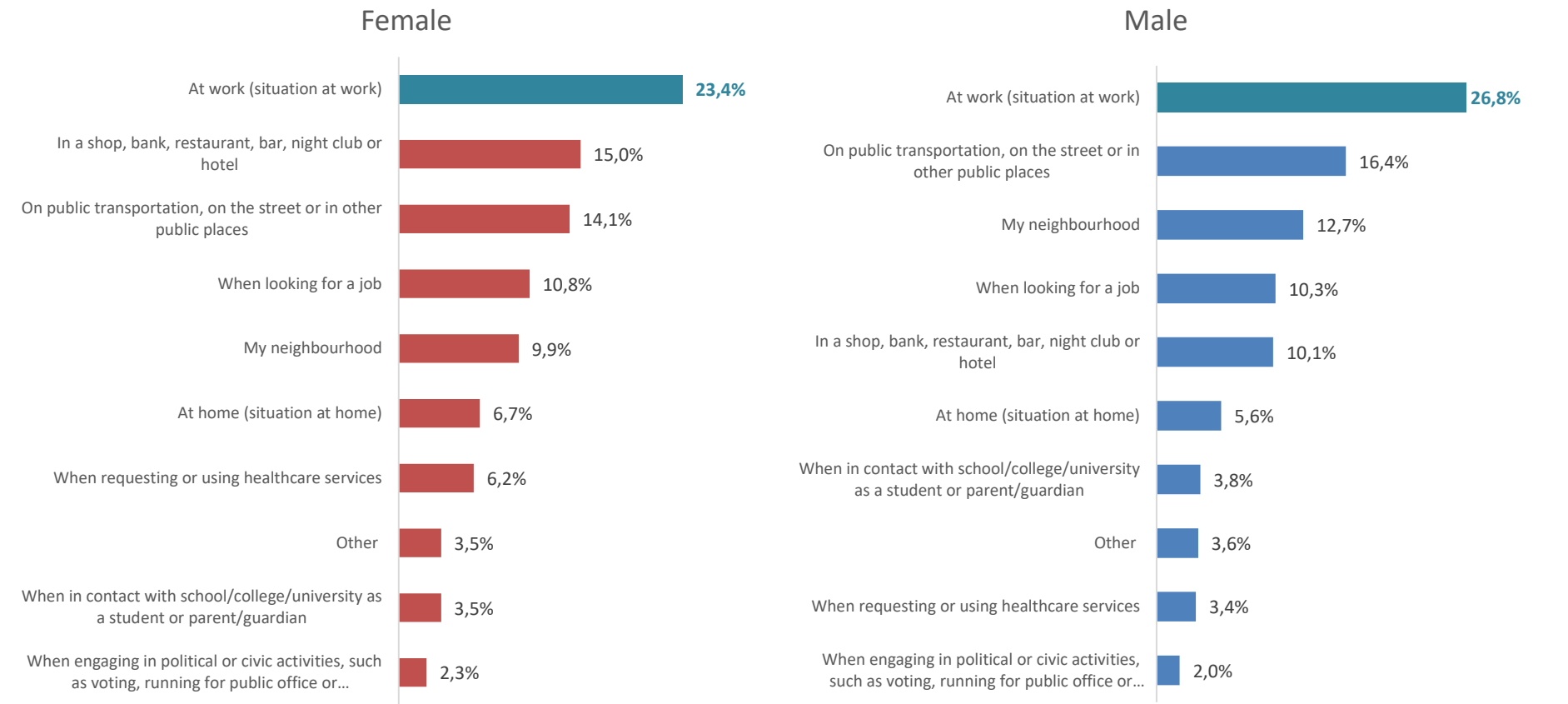
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Most individuals (both males and females) experienced discrimination or harassment **at their workplaces.**

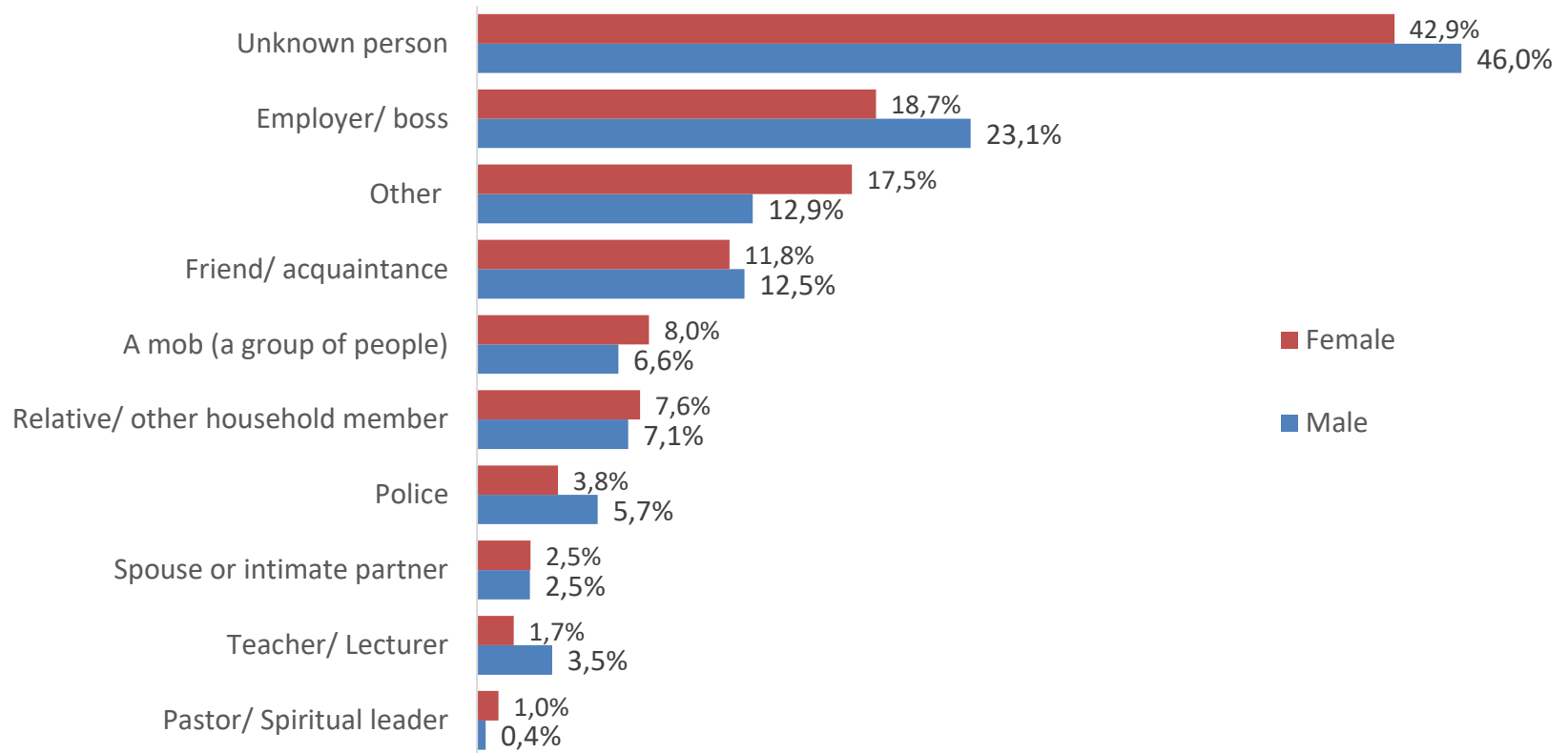
Percentage distribution of the situation(s) where individuals experienced the most recent discrimination/harassment by sex, 2025/26



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Unknown persons followed by employer/boss were more likely to be perpetrators of the most recent type of discrimination or harassment experienced by both males and females.

Percentage distribution of perpetrator(s) of the most recent discrimination or harassment experienced by sex, 2025/26



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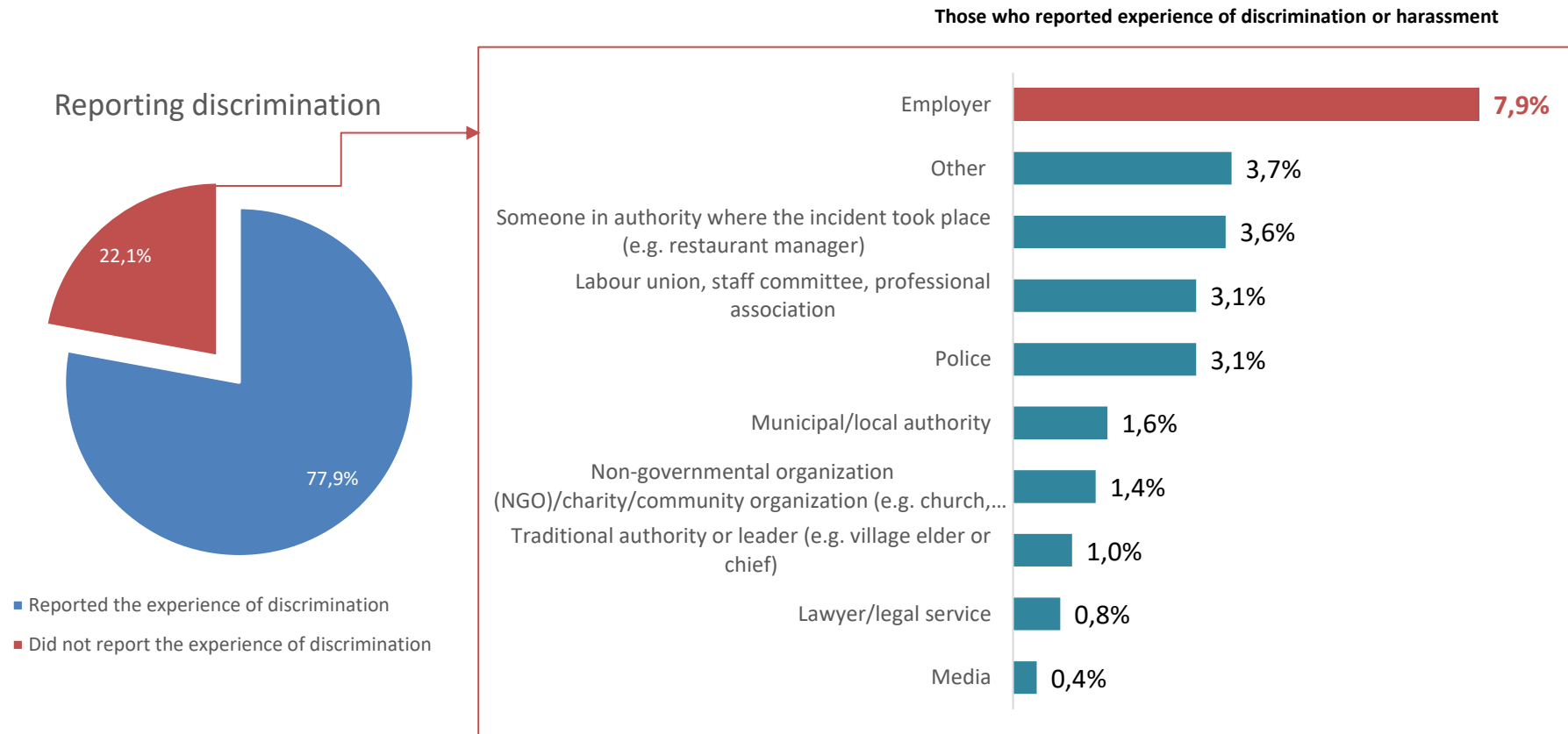
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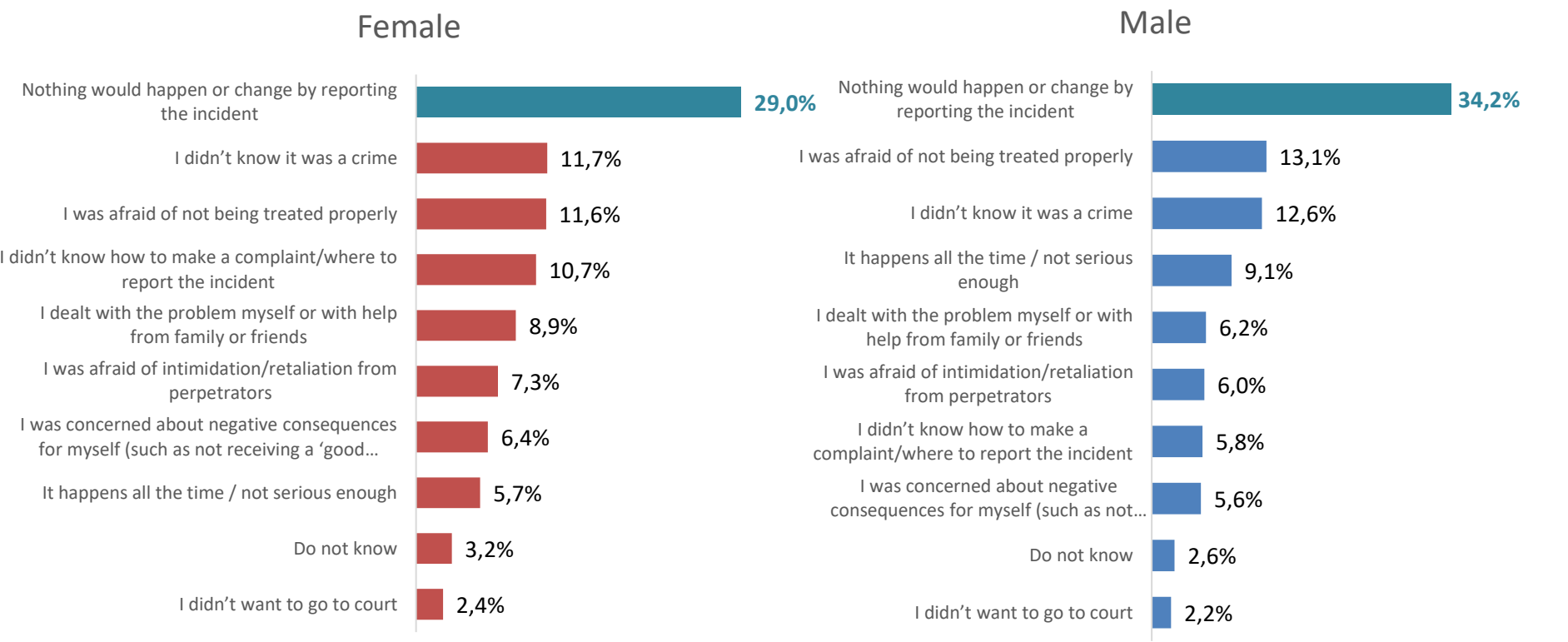
Over 70% of individuals did not report their experience of discrimination. Most individuals (7,9%) reported discrimination or harassment to their employer in 2025/26.

Percentage distribution of institutions where the most recent experienced discrimination by individuals were reported, 2025/26



‘Nothing would happen or change by reporting the incident’ was the top reason why the most recent experienced discrimination or harassment was not reported by both males and females.

Percentage distribution of reasons why the most recent experienced discrimination/harassment was not reported by sex, 2025/26



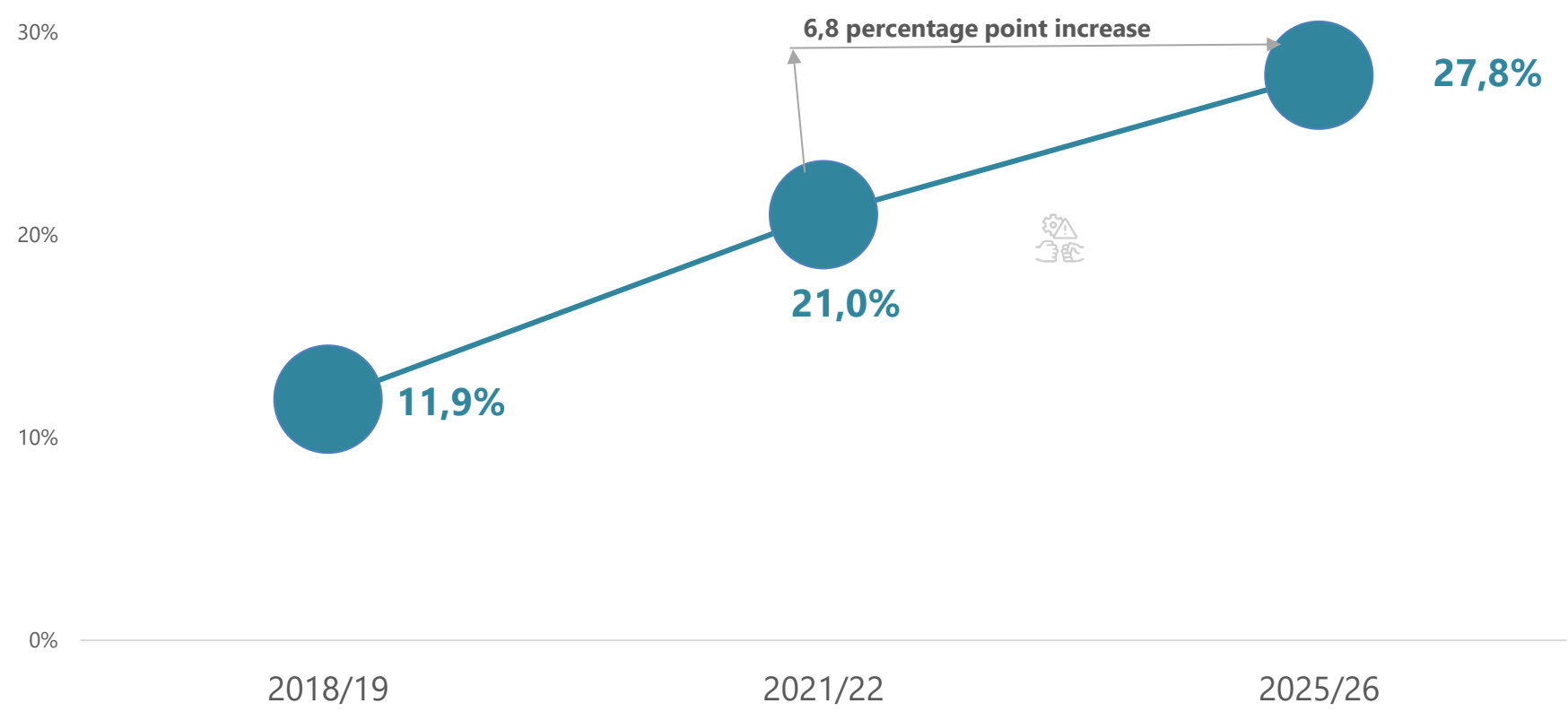
Individual experience of disputes and problems

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 addresses dispute resolution primarily under **Target 16.3**, which focuses on promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all



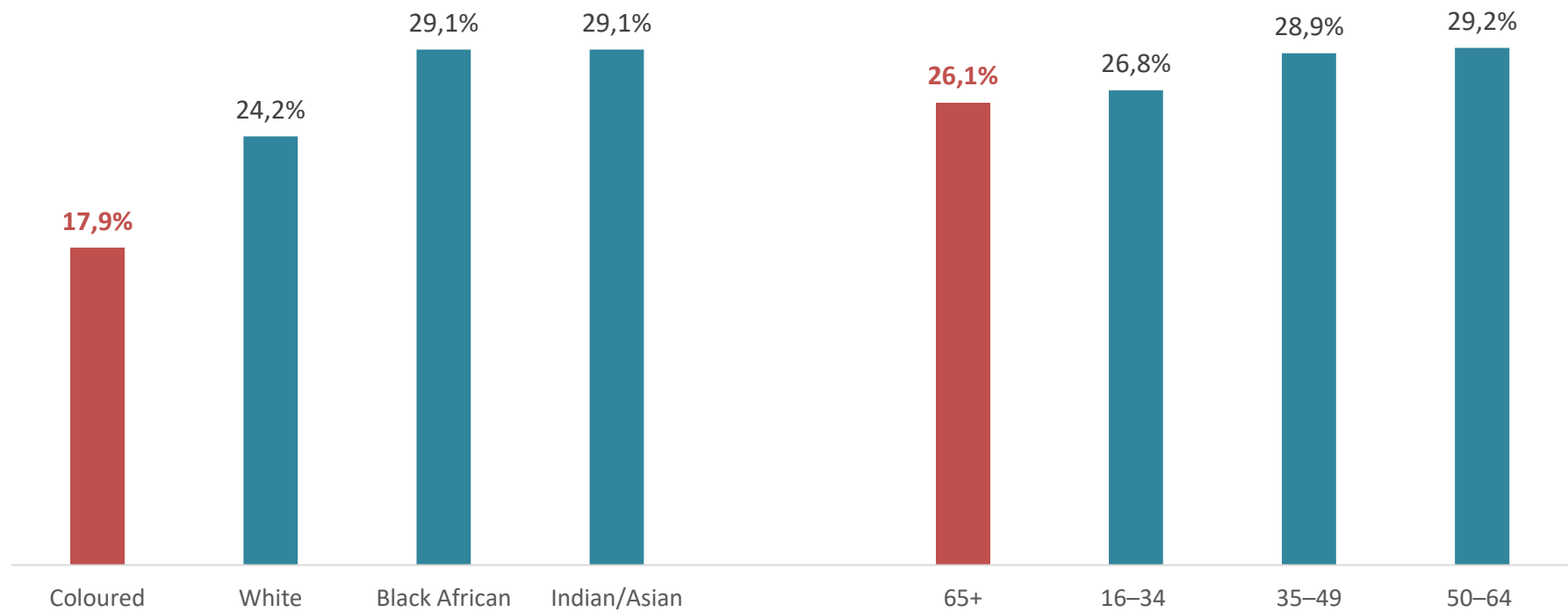
There is a 6,8 percentage points increase in the proportion of individuals that have experienced one or more disputes/problems **in the past 2 years**

Percentage of individuals aged 16 years and older that experienced 1 or more disputes/problems in the past 2 years, 2018/19 - 2025/26



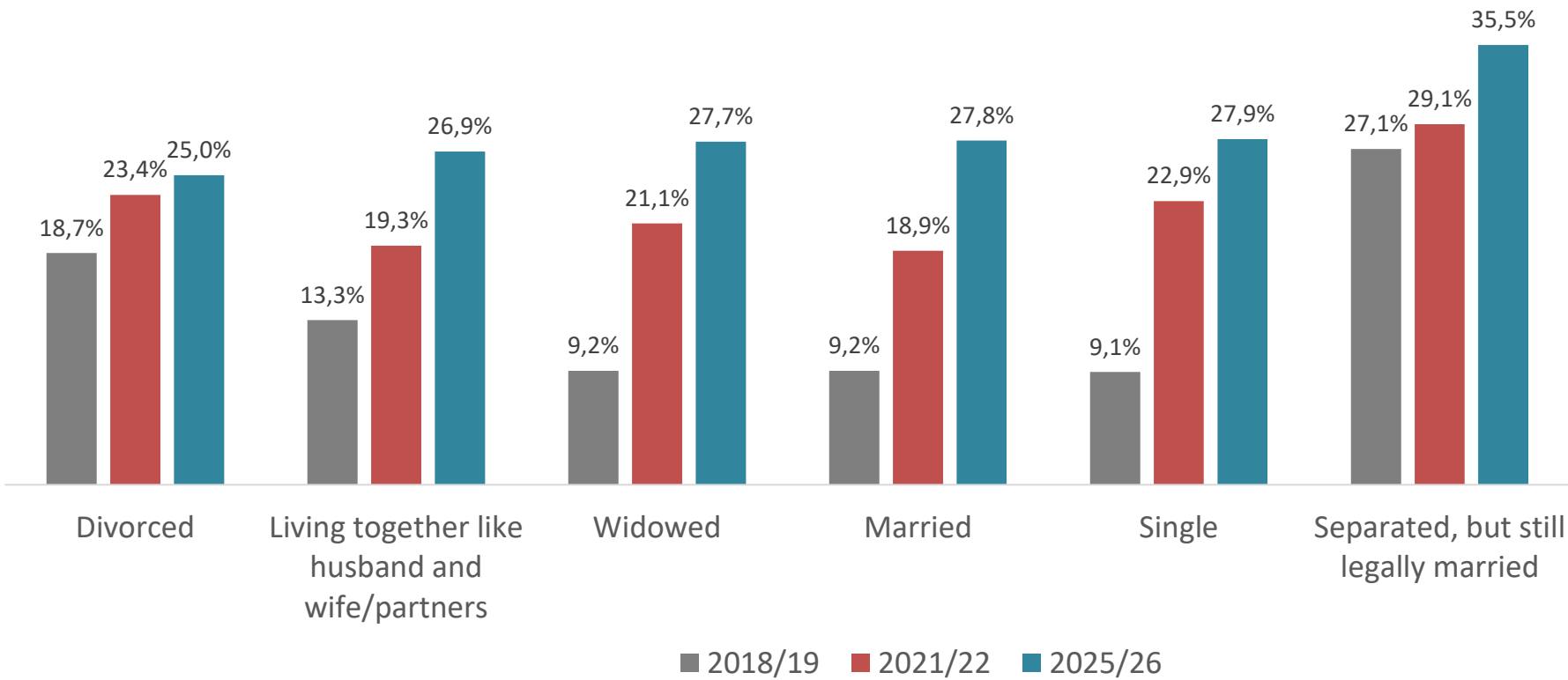
The Coloured population group had the lowest proportion of individuals who experienced at least one type of disputes/problems compared to other population groups. **Those aged 65+ had the lowest proportion** of individuals who experienced at least one type of dispute/problem compared to the other age groups.

Percentage distribution of individuals who experienced at least one type of dispute/ problems by population and age group, 2025/26



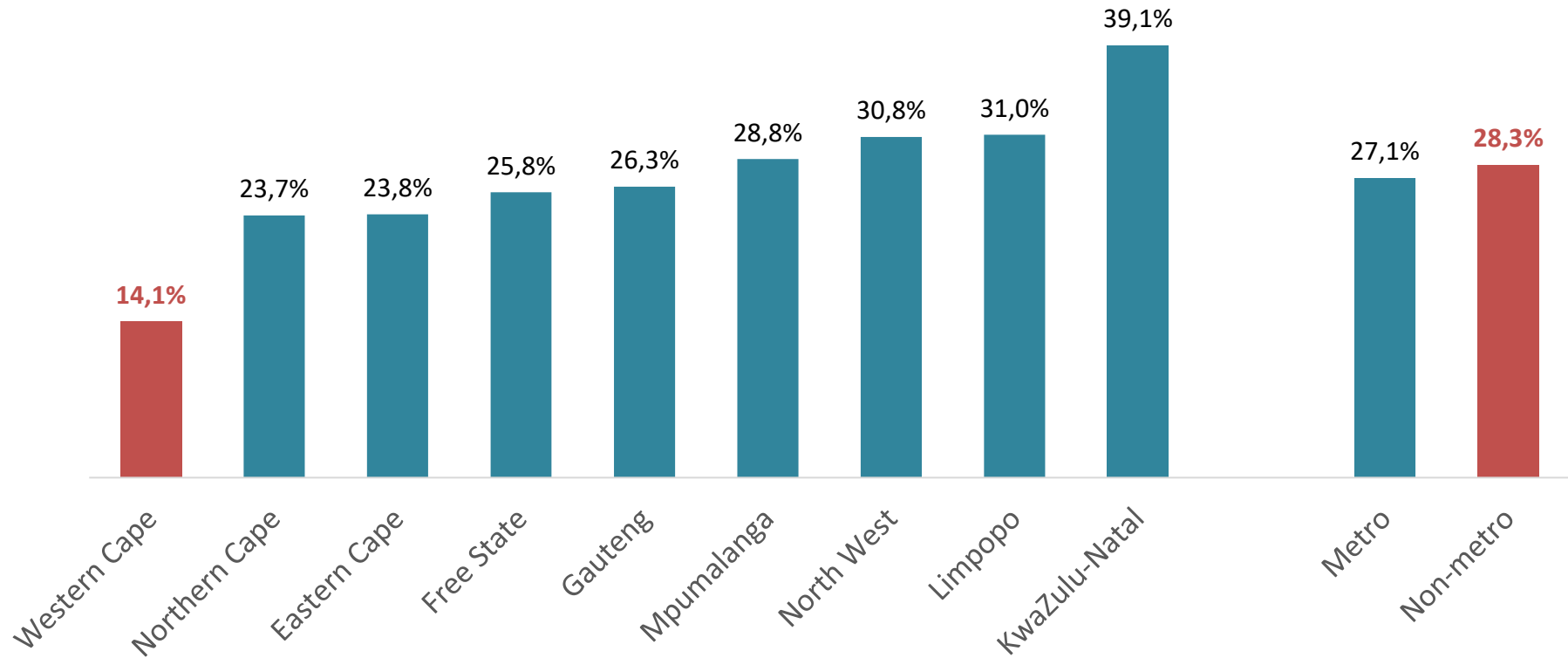
Those who were 'separated but still legally married' consistently recorded the highest proportion of individuals who experienced at least one type of dispute/problem for all three reporting periods.

Percentage distribution of individuals who experienced at least one type of dispute/problem by marital status, 2018/19 - 2025/26



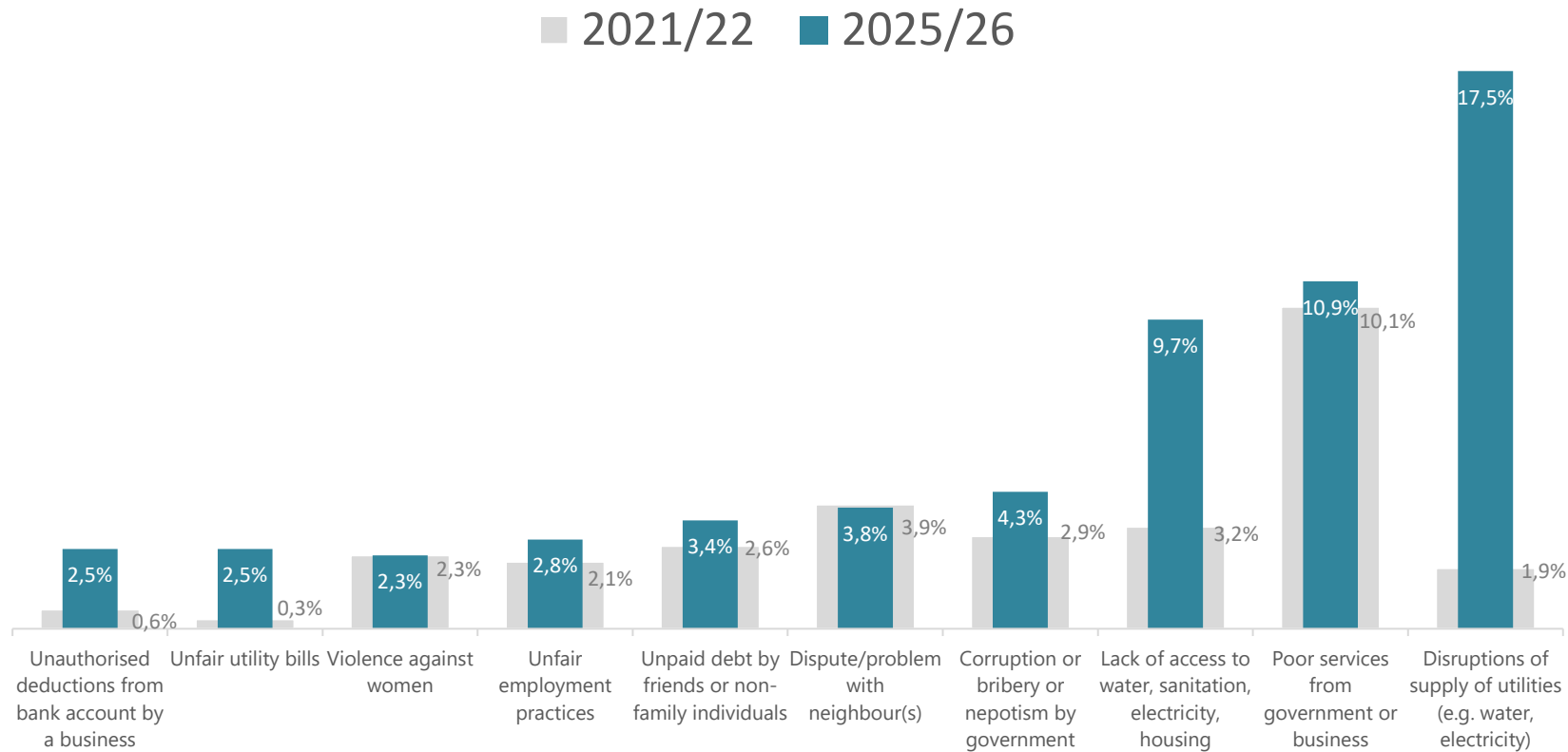
Western Cape had the lowest proportion of individuals who experienced at least one type of dispute/problem compared to other provinces. Those residing in non-metro areas **had the highest proportion** of individuals who experienced at least one type of dispute/problem compared to metro areas.

Percentage distribution of individuals who experienced at least one type of dispute/problem by province and metro status, 2025/26



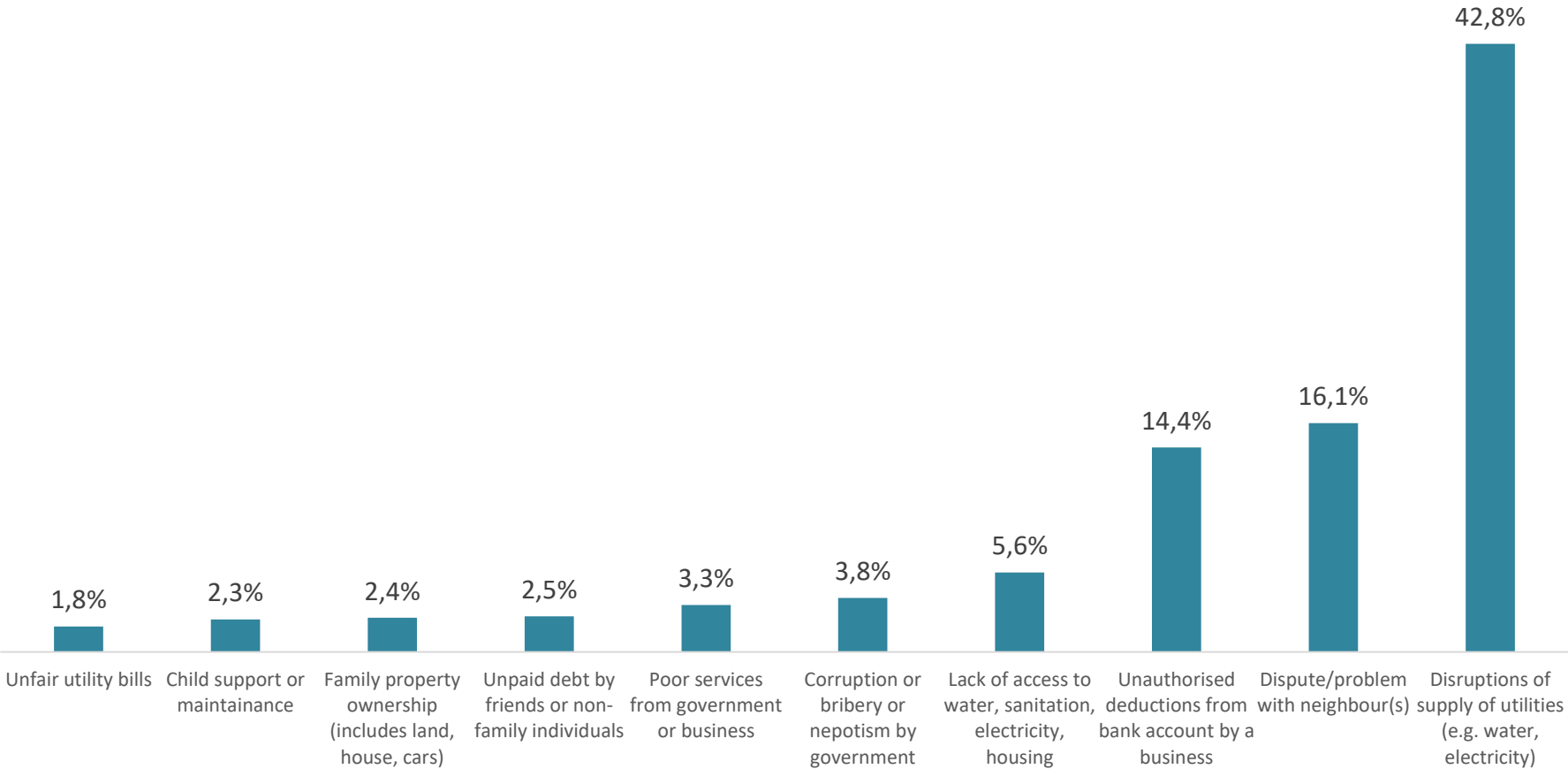
Disruptions of supply of utilities was the most common dispute/problem experienced by individuals 16 years and older. An increase of 15,6 percentage points was observed in Disruptions of supply of utilities between 2021/22 and 2025/26.

Percentage of the disputes/problems experienced by individuals aged 16 years and older in the past two years, 2021/22 and 2025/26



Disruptions of supply of utilities followed by dispute/problem with neighbour (s) was the most recent dispute/problem experienced by individuals 16 years and older in 2025/26.

Percentage distribution of the top ten most recent disputes/problems experienced by individuals aged 16 years and older, 2025/26



Regardless of sex, disruptions of supply of utilities was the topmost recent dispute/problem experienced by both males and females.

Ranking (from highest to lowest) of the 10 topmost recent disputes experienced by individuals aged 16 years and older by sex, 2025/26

Most recent disputes or problems (Females)	Most recent disputes or problems (Males)
Disruptions of supply of utilities (e.g. water, electricity)	Disruptions of supply of utilities (e.g. water, electricity)
Lack of access to water, sanitation, electricity, housing	Lack of access to water, sanitation, electricity, housing
Poor services from government or business	Poor services from government or business
Dispute/problem with neighbour(s)	Dispute/problem with neighbour(s)
Unpaid debt by friends or non-family individuals	Unpaid debt by friends or non-family individuals
Corruption or bribery or nepotism by government	Corruption or bribery or nepotism by government
Unauthorised deductions from bank account by a business	Unauthorised deductions from bank account by a business
Child support or maintenance	Unfair utility bills
Unfair employment practices	Unfair employment practices
Unfair utility bills	Family property ownership (includes land, house, cars)

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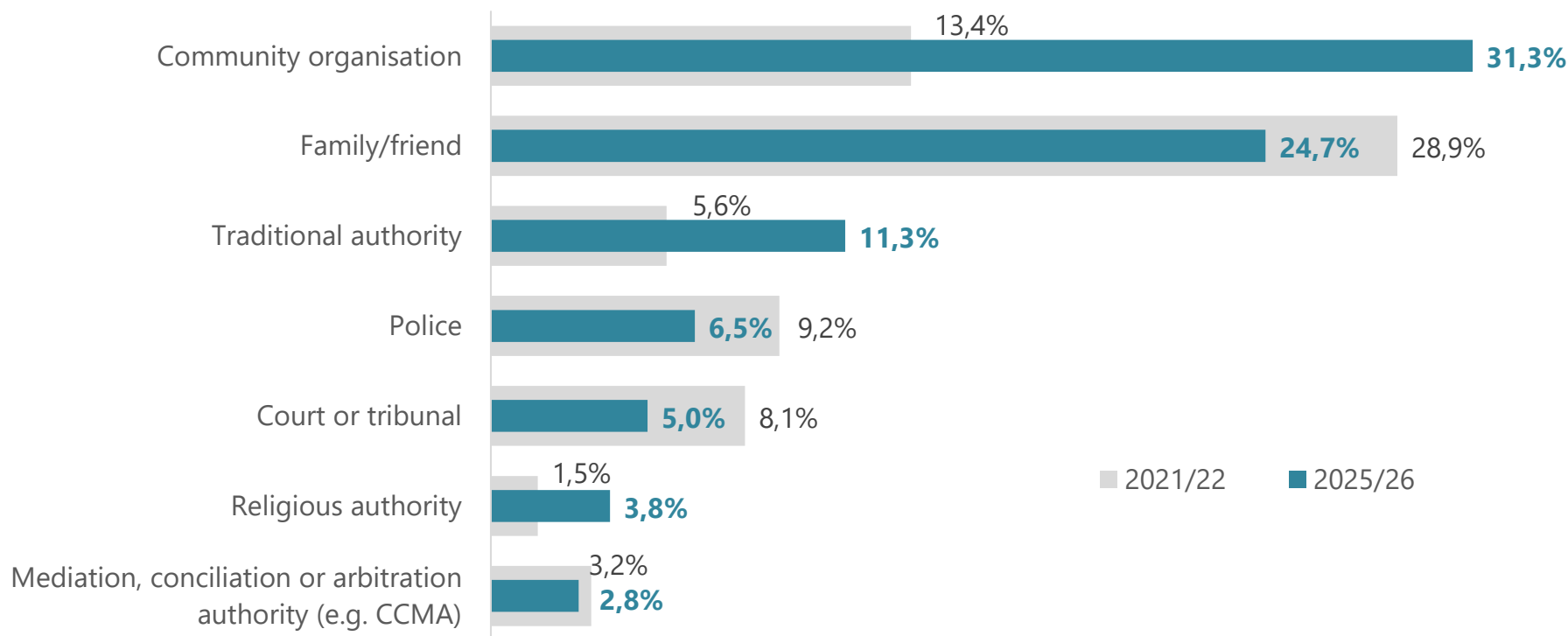


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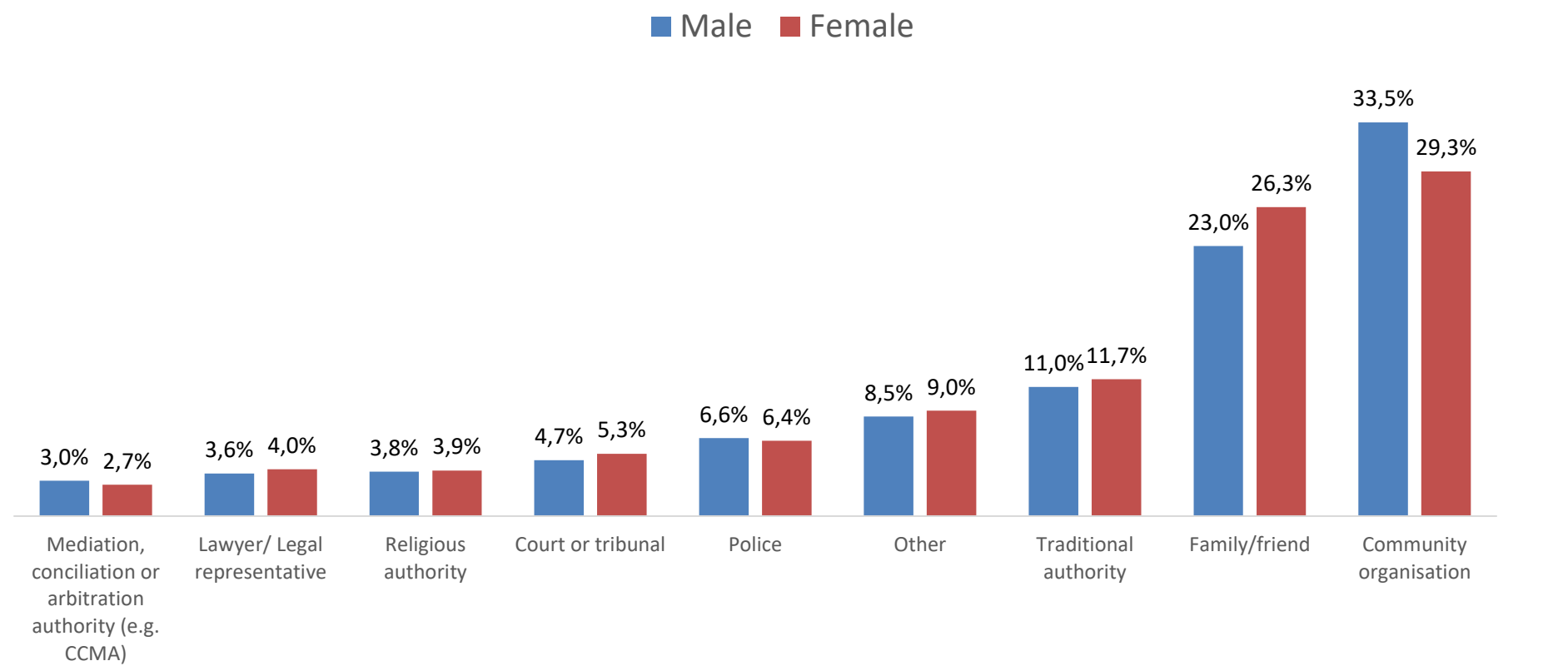
In 2025/26, about 31% (31,3%) sought help with their most recent dispute/problem from **community organisations** which was an increase of 17,9 percentage points from 2021/22 (13,4%).

Percentage of individuals who used specified institutions or any other third-party individual to seek help to resolve their most recent dispute or problem, 2021/22 and 2025/26



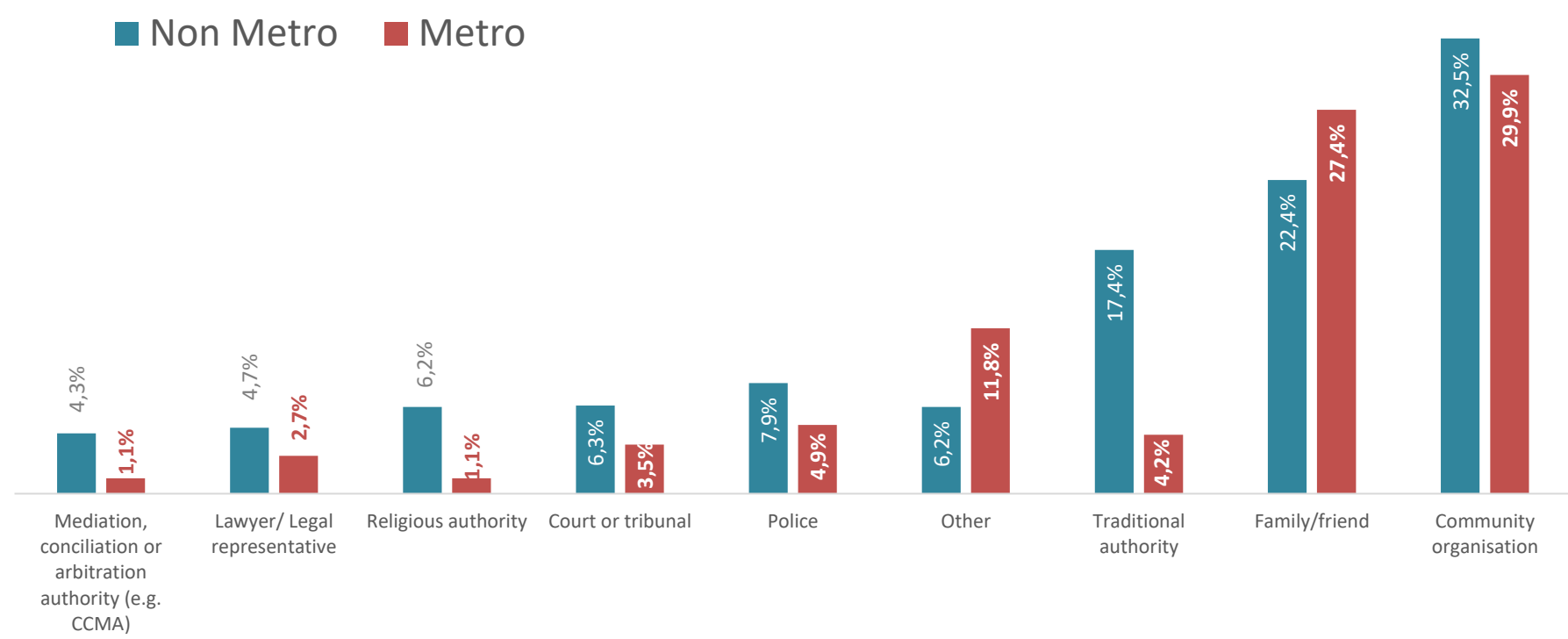
Regardless of sex more individuals sought help with their most recent dispute/problem from community organisations to resolve their most recent dispute.

Percentage of individuals who used specified institutions or any other third-party individual to seek help to resolve their most recent disputes/problems by sex, 2025/26



Regardless of where individuals resided, they sought help with their most recent dispute/problem from family/friends to resolve their most recent dispute.

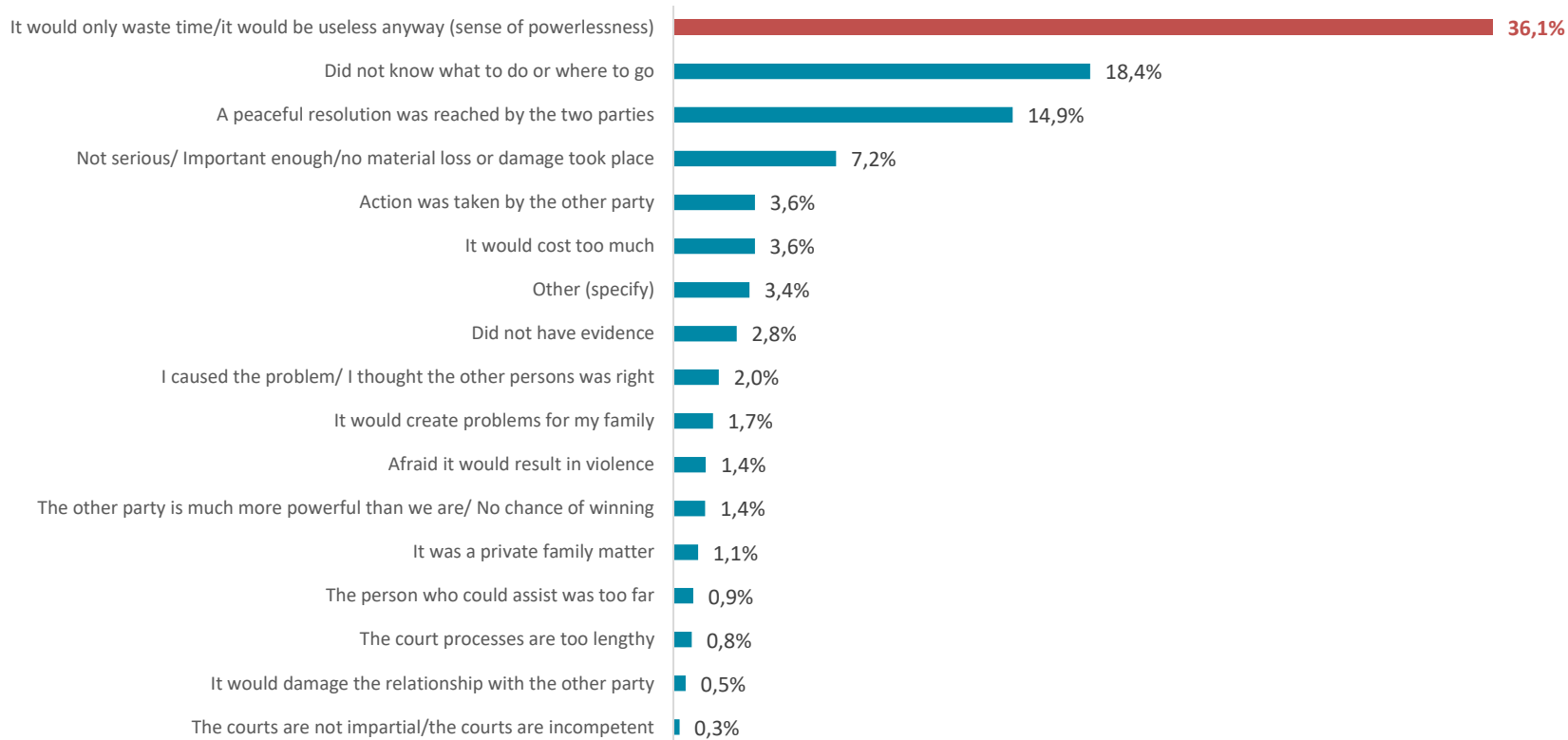
Percentage of individuals who used specified institutions or any other third-party individual to seek help to resolve their most recent disputes/problem by metro status, 2025/26



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36,1% of individuals indicated it would be a waste of time/useless to seek anyway as the reason they did not seek help to resolve their most recent disputes/problems.

Reasons why individuals did not seek help to resolve their most recent disputes/problems by specified reason, 2025/26



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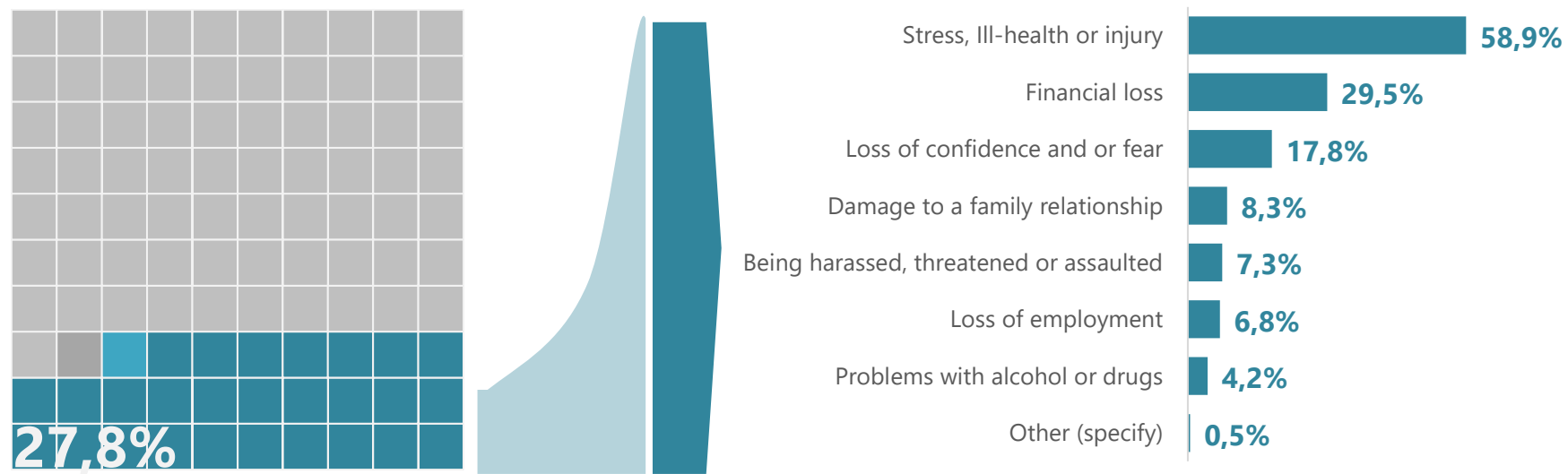
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Of those who experienced a dispute/problem almost 59% (58,9%) experienced stress, ill-health or injury followed by financial loss.

Percentage of individuals 16 years and older who experienced negative impacts of the most recent dispute/problem , 2025/26



Individuals aged 16 years and older that experienced one or more disputes/problems

Recap: GPSJS 2025/26

01

Awareness and perception of the Constitution and Democracy

About 77% of individuals that have heard about the Constitution, and 67% think the Constitution protects their rights. About 53% thinks the Constitution protects others' rights more than their own.



02

Experience of Discrimination

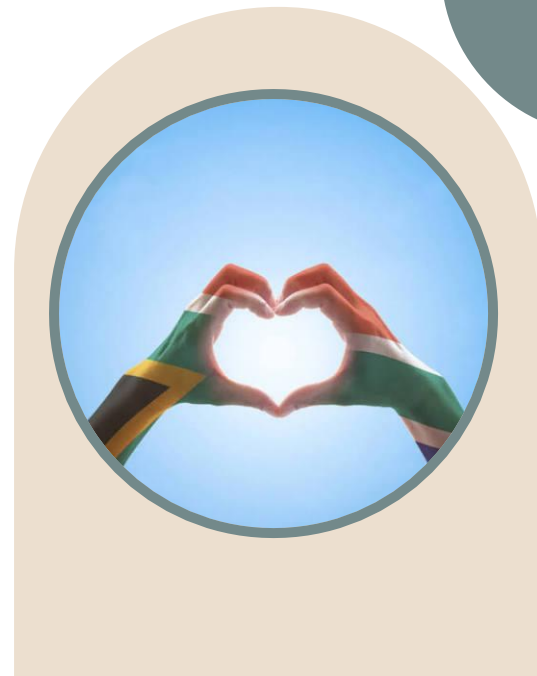
Race-based discrimination or harassment is the most experienced discrimination/problem in 2025/26 during the past 12 months. Individuals living in Gauteng mostly experienced discrimination based on poverty or wealth status.



03

Experience of disputes

Disruptions of supply of utilities (17,5%) was the dispute/problem that was experienced by individuals. Service Delivery issues ranked highly amongst the top 3 dispute/problem.



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