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# General Household Survey 2023

*Measuring the progress of development in the country*

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Embargo: 23 May 2024, 11:00



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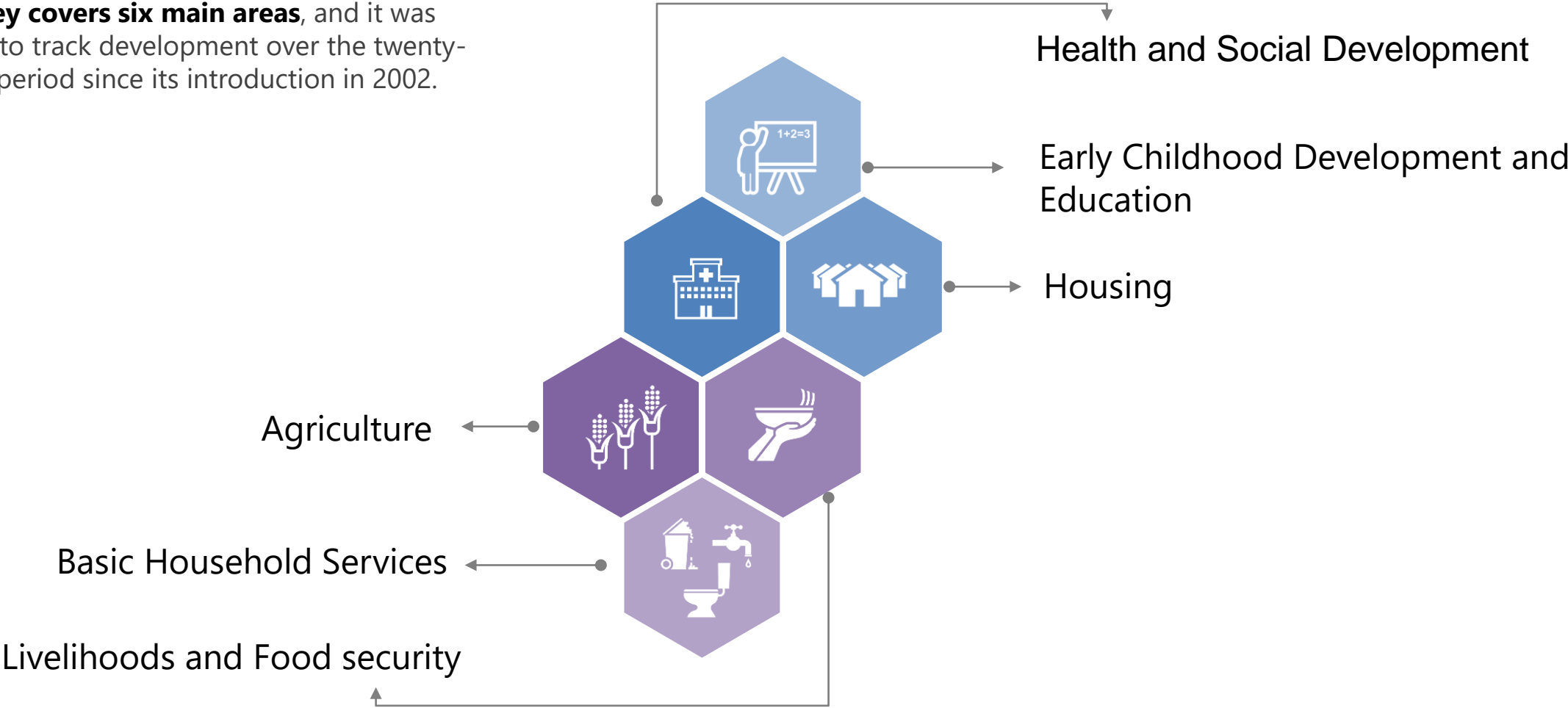
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# General Household Survey 2023

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



# Household Characteristics



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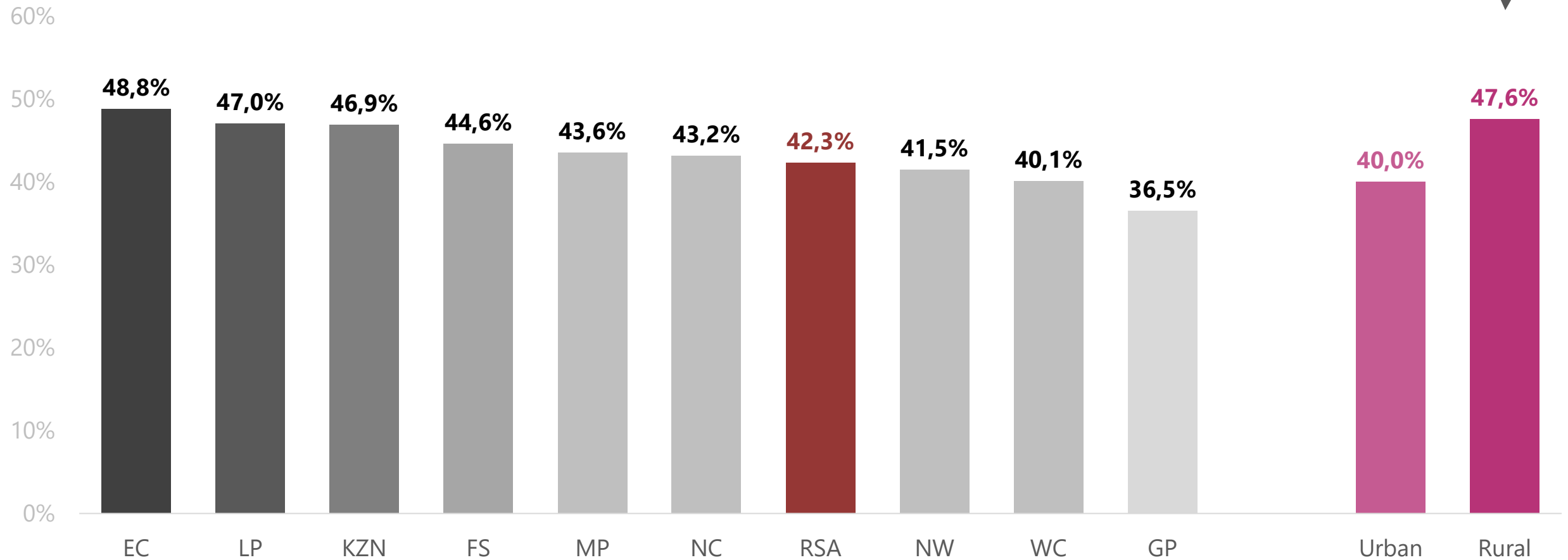
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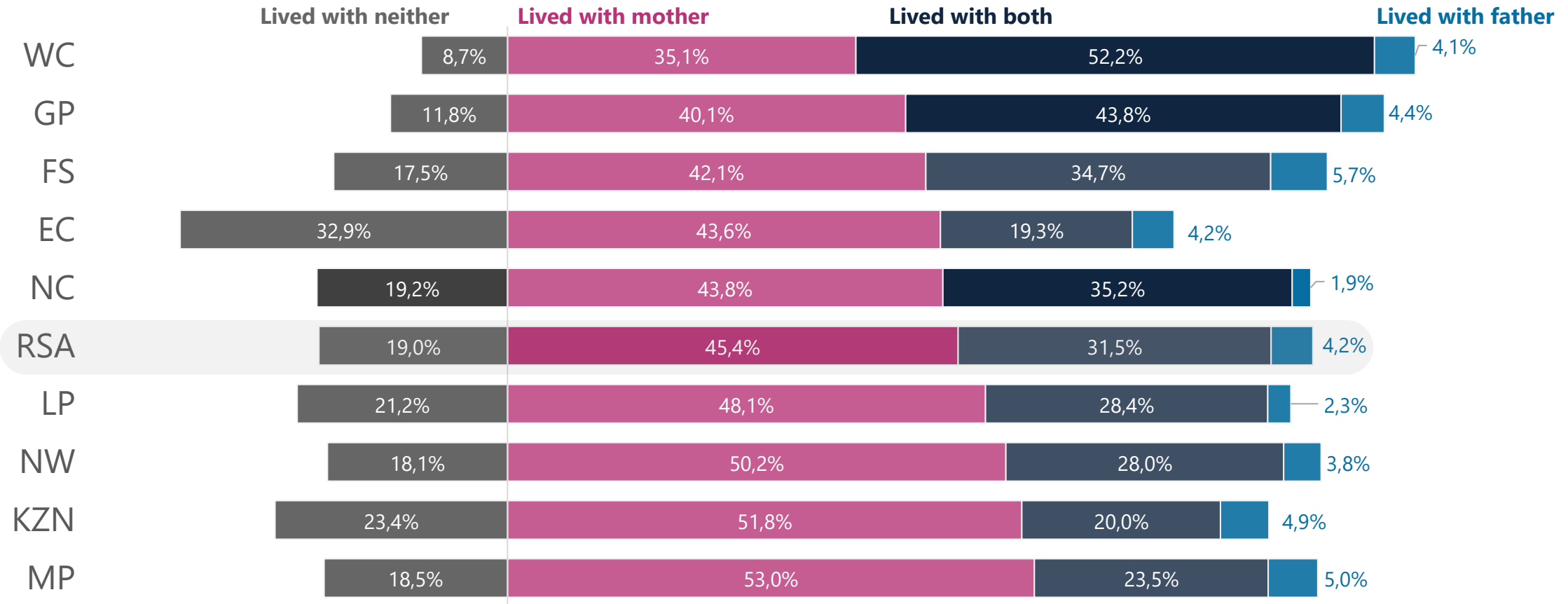
# Female headed households are more prevalent in rural areas.

Percentage of female-headed households by province, 2023



Nationally, **45,4% of children lived with mothers only** while about one-third lived with both parents. *Children in more affluent provinces (WC and GP) were more likely to live with both parents.*

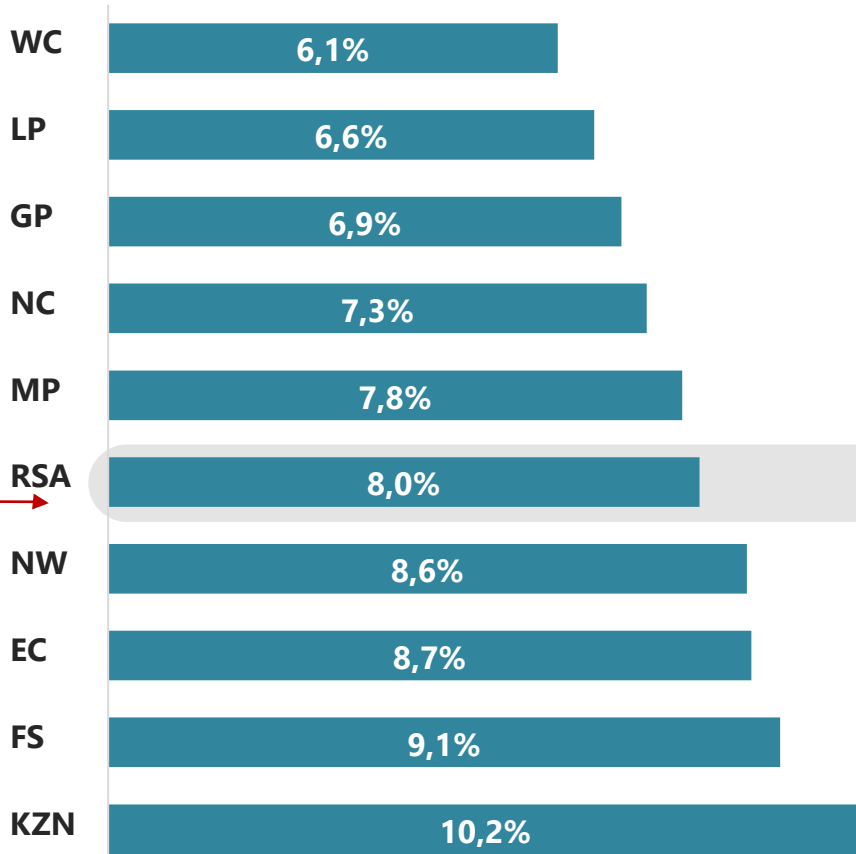
Percentage of children living arrangements by province, 2023



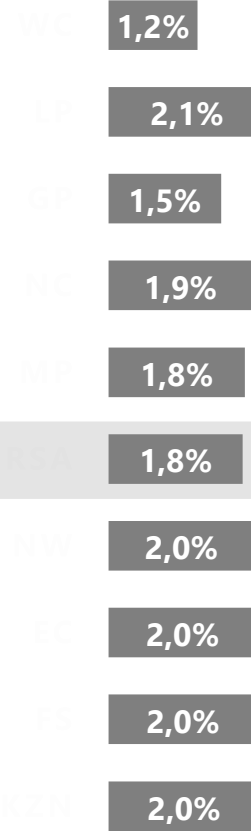
Nationally, **12,3% of children had lost one or both parents**. Most orphaned children were in KZN (14,6%) and the least were in WC (9,0%). FS had a high percentage of both **paternal (9,1%)** and **maternal (4,0%)** orphans.

Percentage of children by orphanhood status and province, 2023

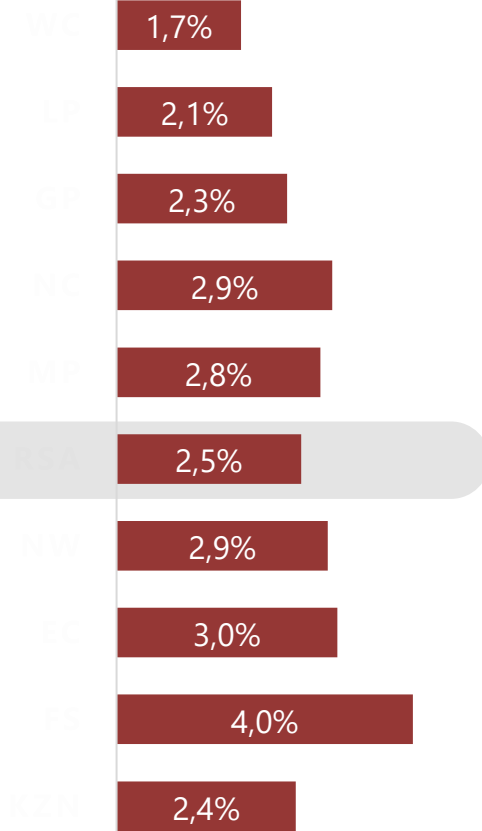
### Paternal Orphan



### Double Orphan

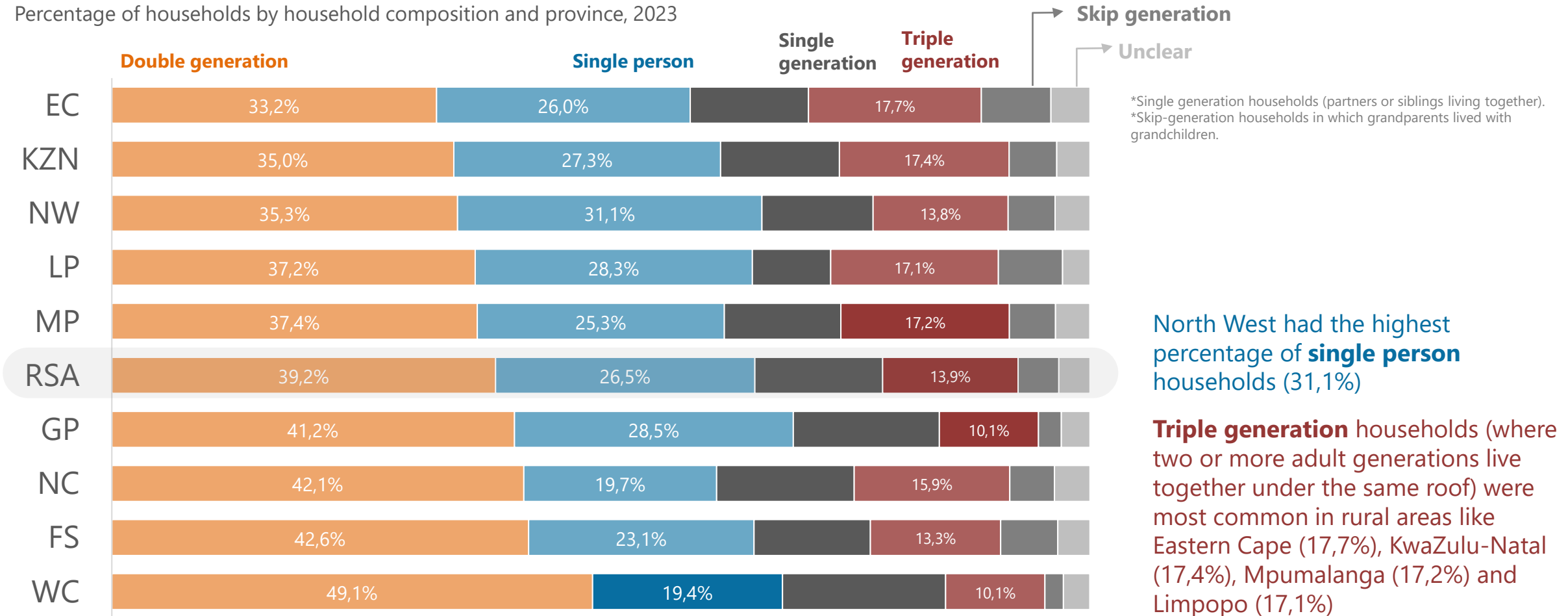


### Maternal Orphan



Nationally, **39,2%** of households were classified as **double generation households** (comprising parents and children), and **13,9%** were classified as **triple generation households** (with members of all three generations living together)

Percentage of households by household composition and province, 2023



# Education



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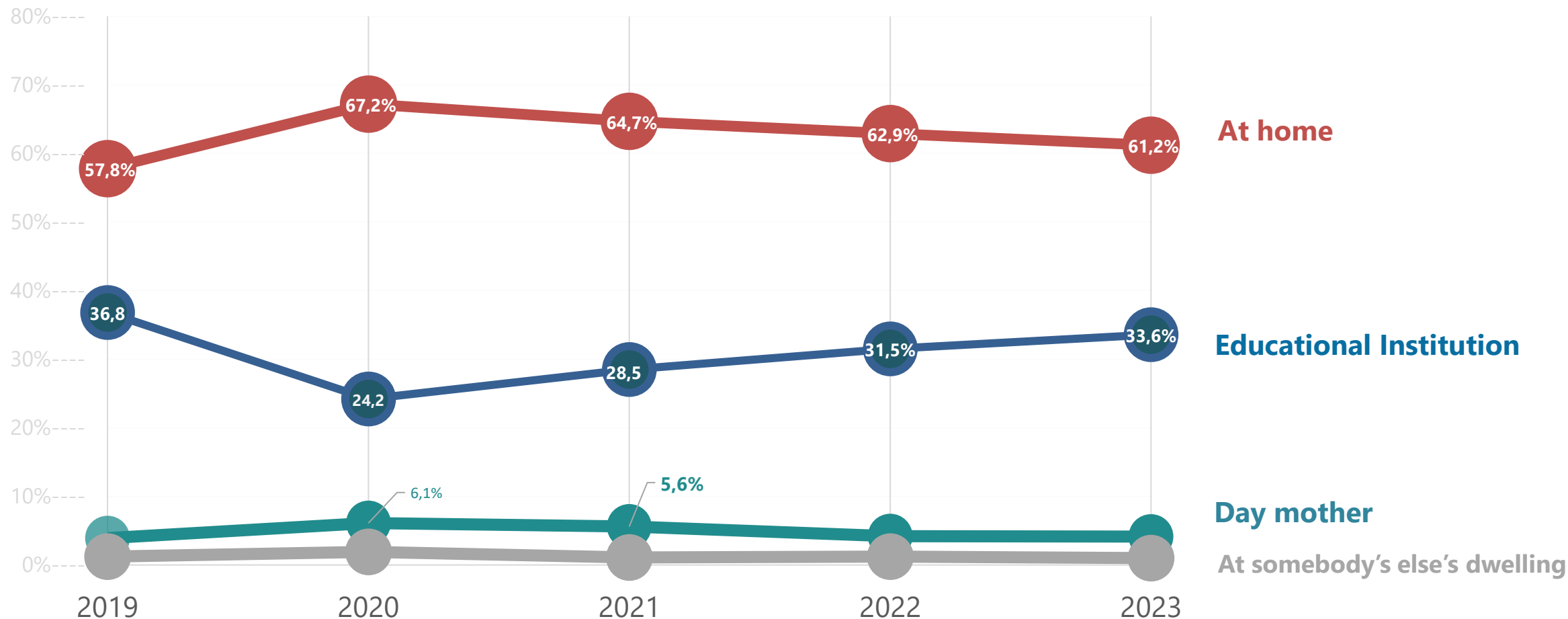
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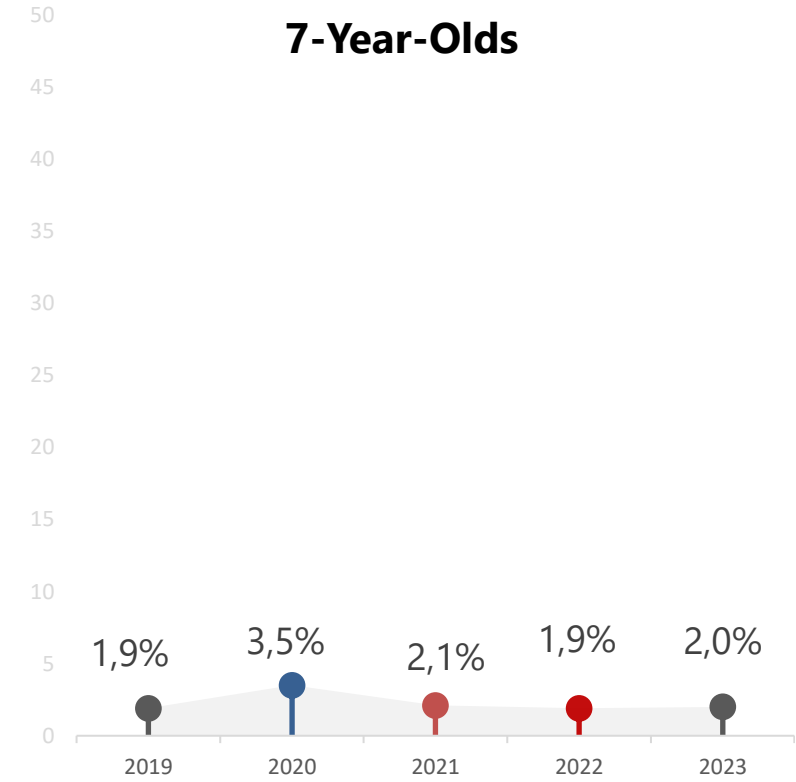
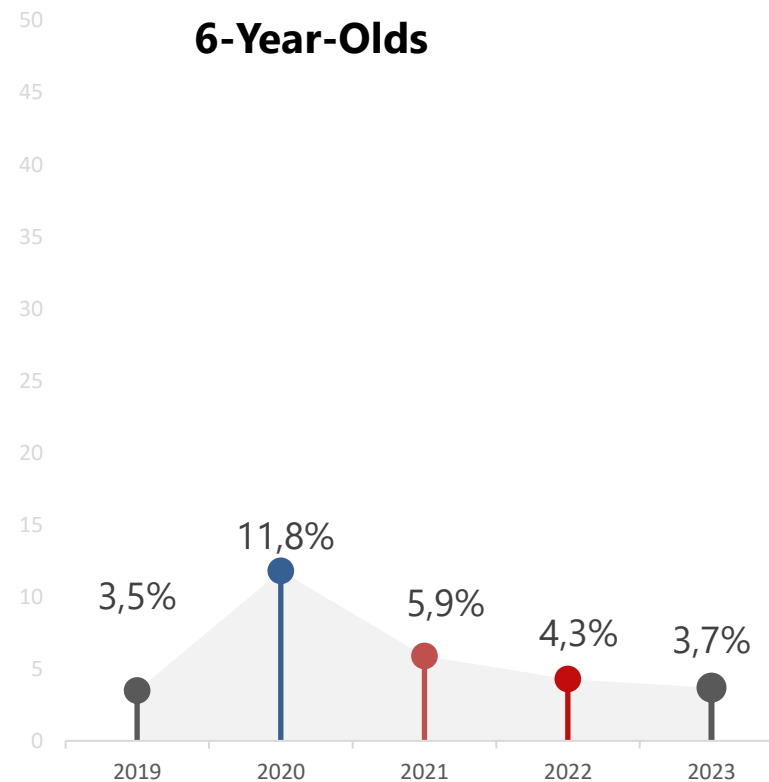
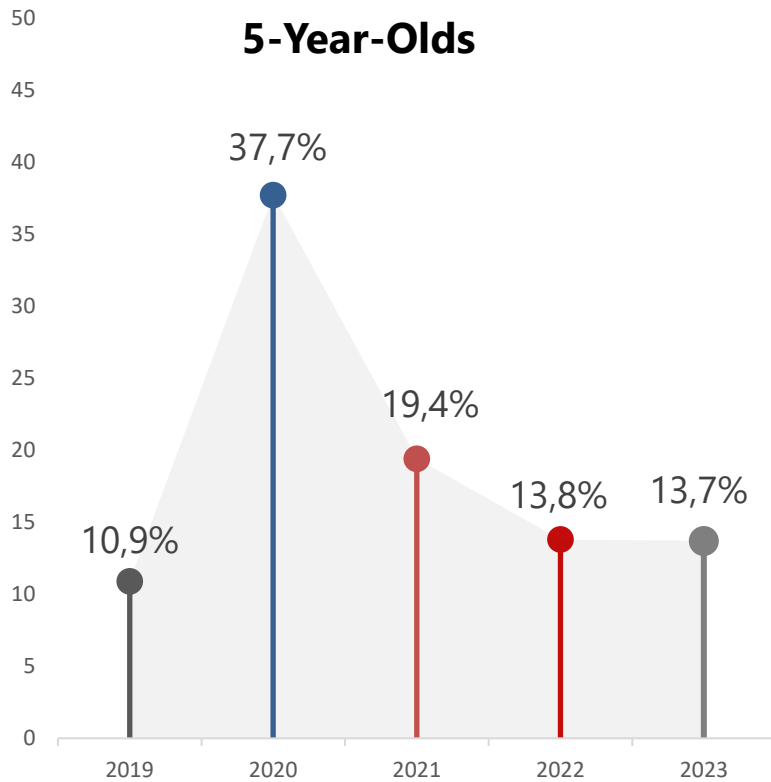
When compared to 2019, children aged **0-4** were still less likely to attend an **educational institution** in 2023 (**33,6% compared to 36,8% in 2019**).

Children aged 0-4 years using different childcare arrangements by province, 2023 (top 4)



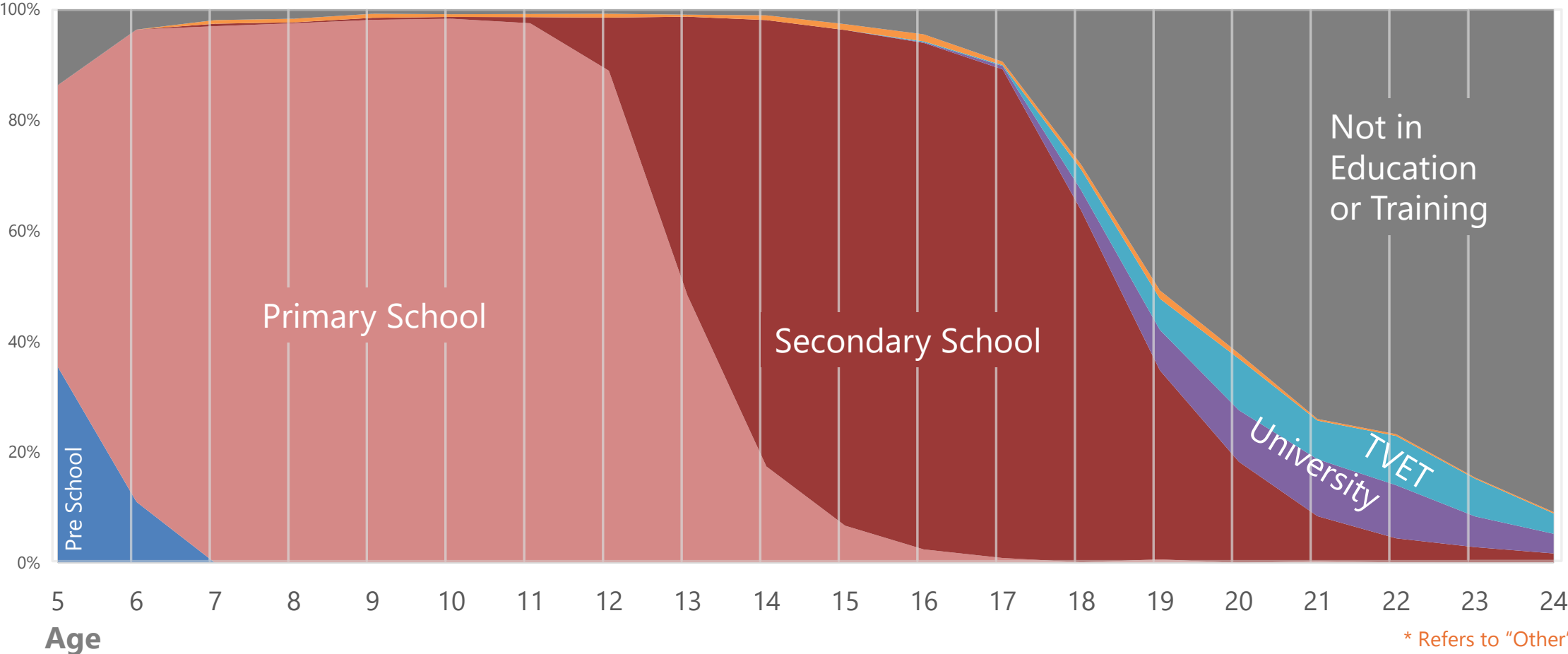
Restoration of pre-COVID-19 patterns is almost complete. The percentage of **children aged five and six years** who were not attending educational institutions in 2020 has declined notably over time.

Percentage of individuals aged 5, 6 and 7 years who did not attend educational institutions, 2019–2023



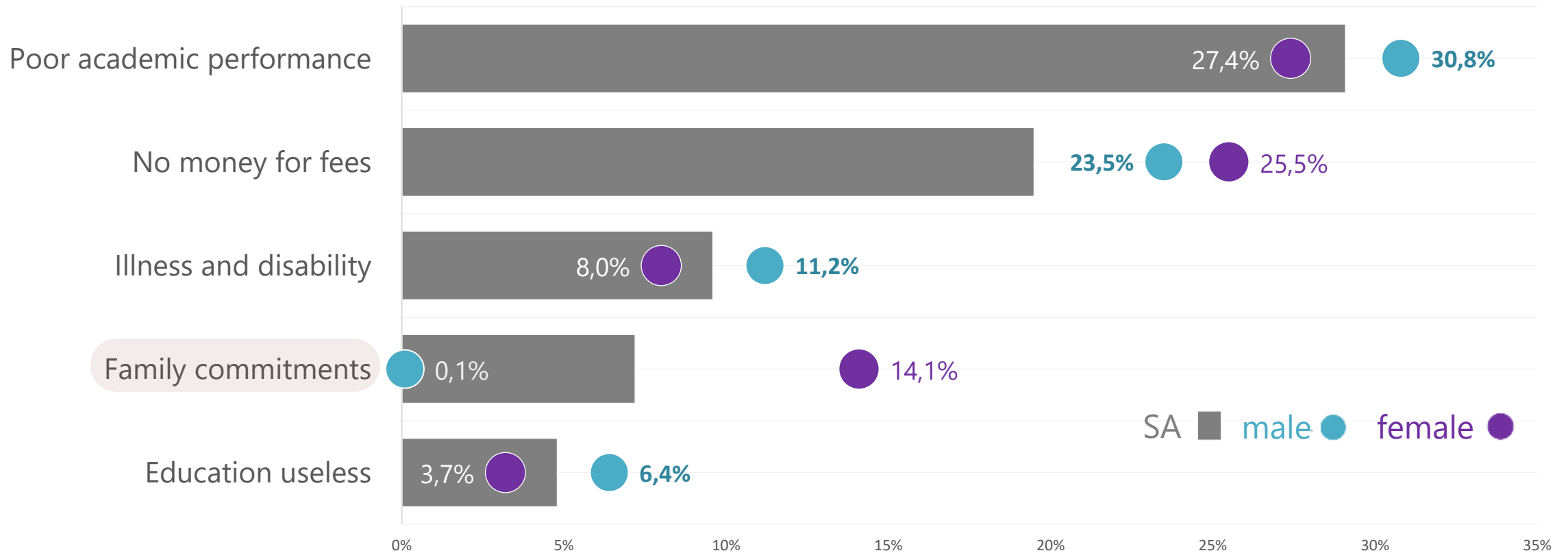
# High Transition between Primary School and **Secondary School**, however smaller transition rates to TVET or University.

Type of educational institution attended by individuals aged 5–24 years, 2023



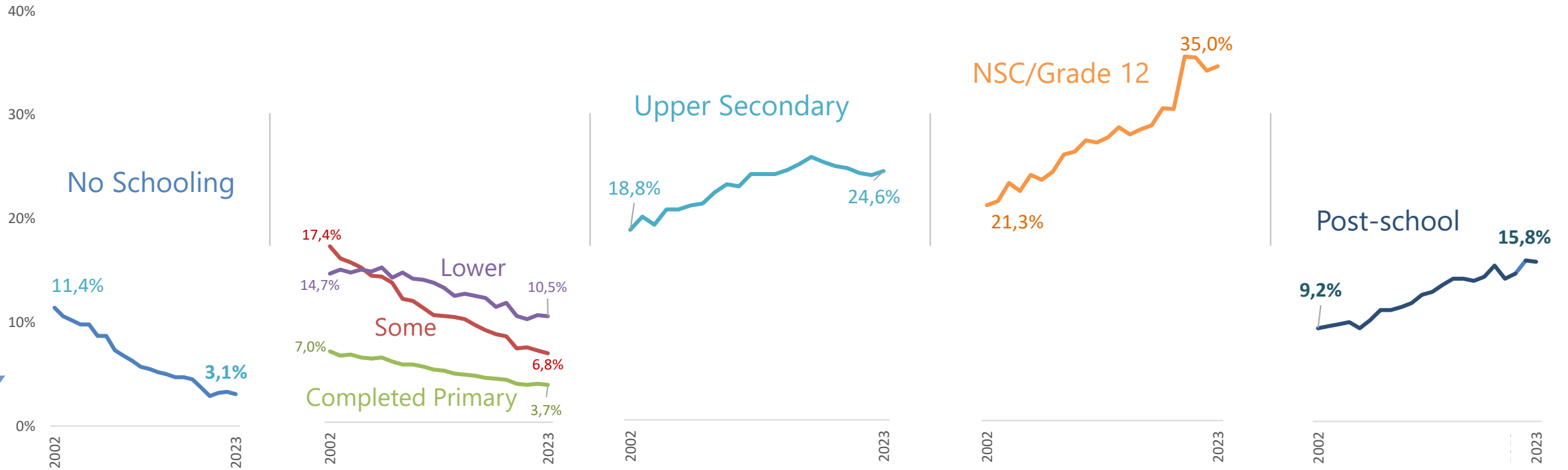
# Top reasons for males not attending school was **poor academic performance**, with large gender disparity in **family commitment** as a reason for not attending school

Percentage distribution of selected reasons given by individuals aged 7 to 18 years for not attending an educational institution, by sex, 2023



The percentage of individuals aged 20 years and older who **did not have any education** decreased from **11,4% in 2002 to 3,1% in 2023**. Those with **grade 12 qualification or higher** increased from **30,5% to 50,8%** over the same period.

Educational attainment for persons aged 20 years and older, 2002-2023



# Grants and sources of income



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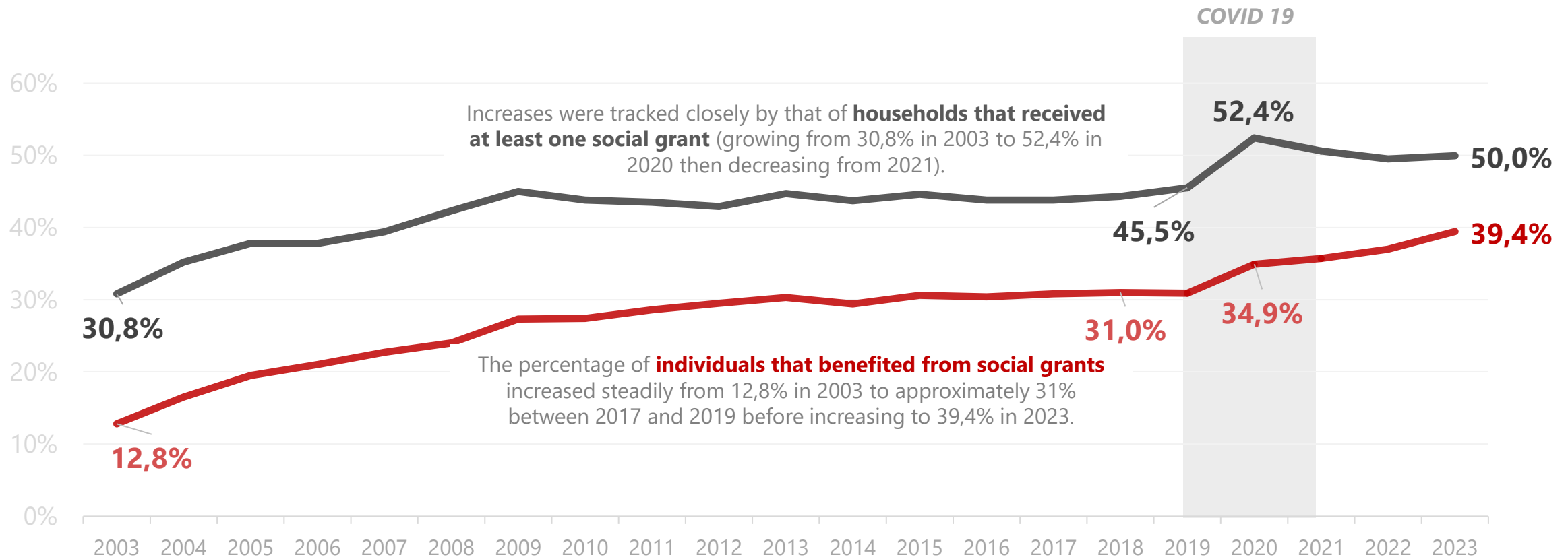
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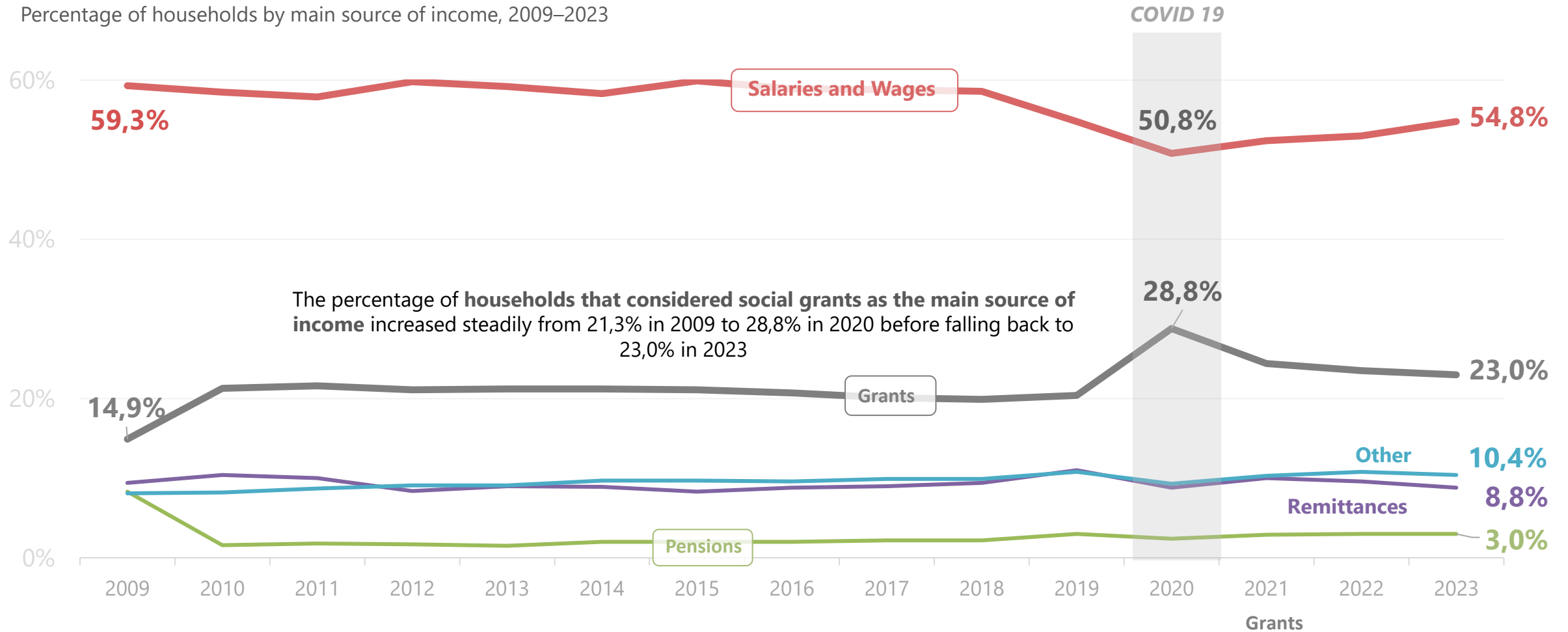
# An increase in the percentage of individuals who accessed social grants in 2023 was mainly due to the large uptake of COVID-19 **Social Relief of Distress grants**.

Percentage of households and individuals who have benefited from social grants, 2003–2023



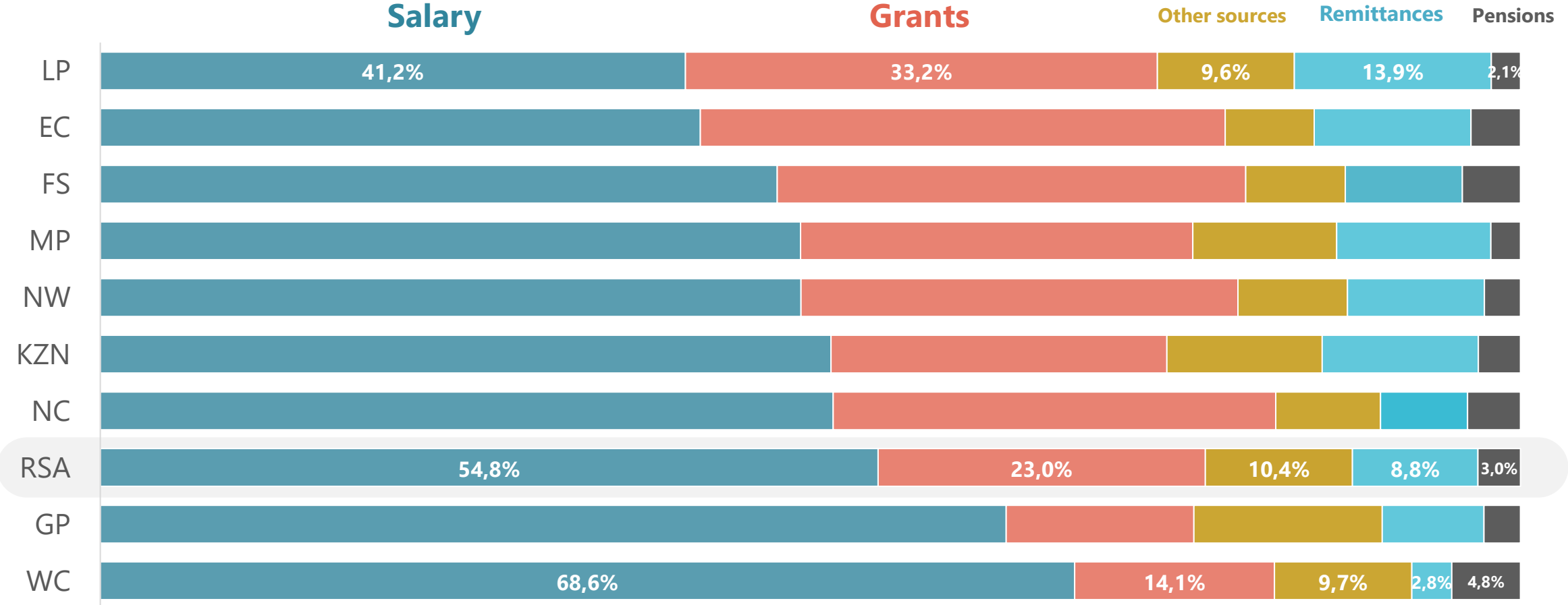
Households that considered grants their main source of income increased sharply in 2020 (mainly due to the large uptake of COVID-19 **Social Relief of Distress grants**) and has since declined.

Percentage of households by main source of income, 2009–2023



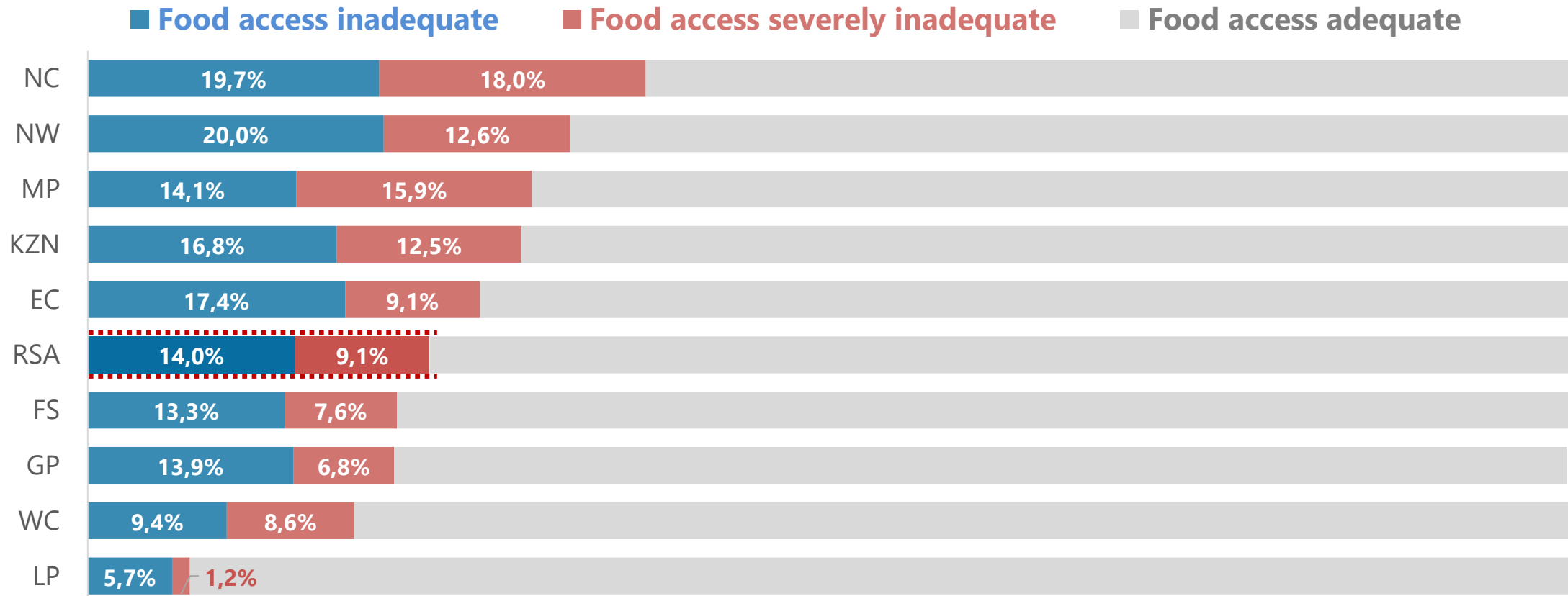
# Grants are the main source of income for almost one-quarter (23,0%) of households nationally.

Percentage distribution of main sources of household income by province, 2023



**Nationally, 23,1%** of households considered their access to food as **inadequate** or **severely inadequate**. Food access problems were the most common in Northern Cape (37,7%), North West (32,6%), Mpumalanga (30,0%), and KwaZulu Natal (29,3%).

Percentage of households experiencing food adequacy or inadequacy by province, 2023



# Health



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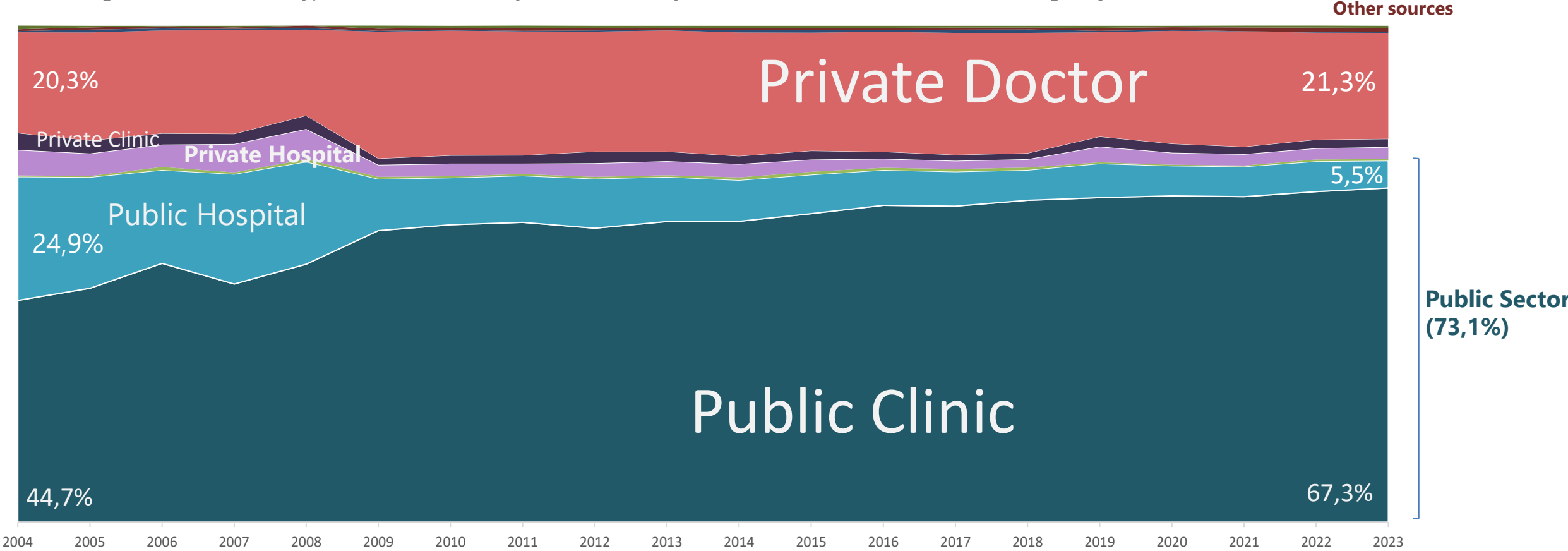
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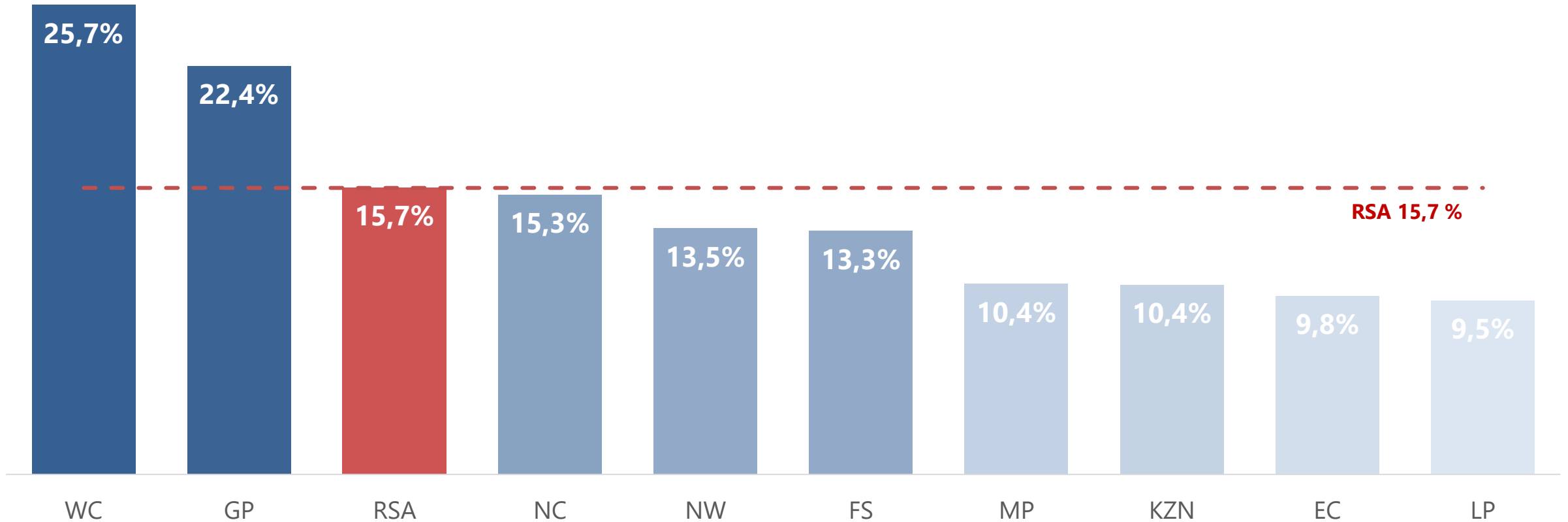
In 2023, **73,1%** of household members first consulted personnel at a **Public Clinic or hospital** while 25,4% turned to the private sector .

Percentage distribution of the type of health-care facility consulted first by the households when members fall ill or get injured 2004 - 2023



# Approximately 15,7 % of individuals had medical aid coverage in 2023. Only WC and GP have coverage rates higher than 20%

Individuals who are members of medical aid schemes per province, 2023



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# Housing and Service Delivery



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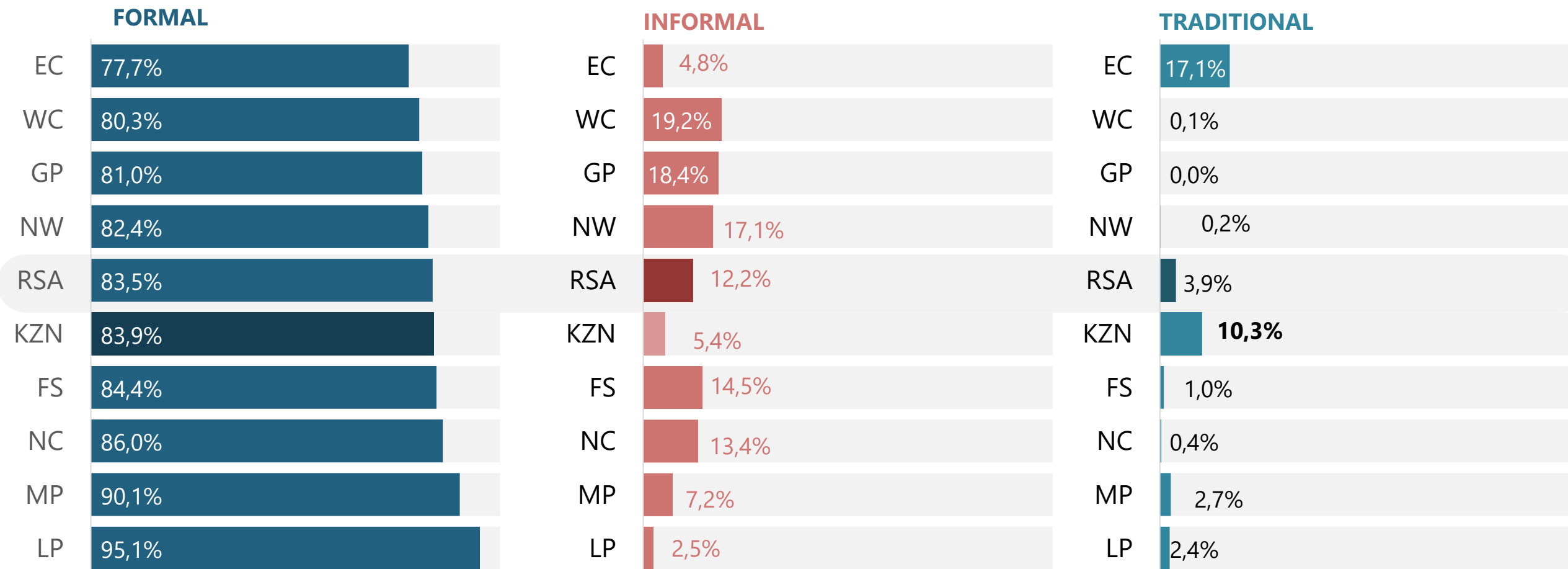
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# Slightly more than **four-fifths (83,5%)** of South African households lived **in formal dwellings in 2023**. *Approximately one in five households in WC (19,2%) and GP (18,4%) lived in informal dwellings*

Percentage of households that lived in formal, informal and traditional dwellings by province, 2023



# Energy



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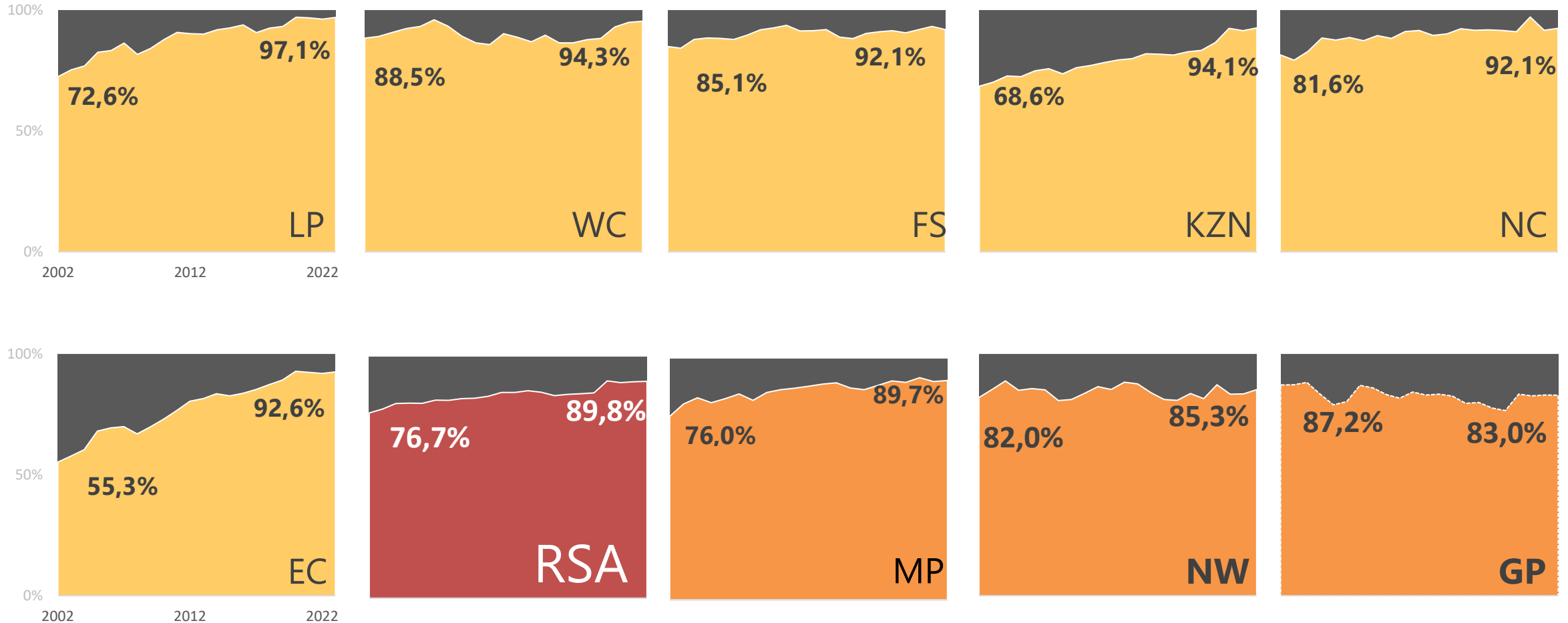
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# All provinces except for **MP, NW and GP** had **90% mains electricity connection**

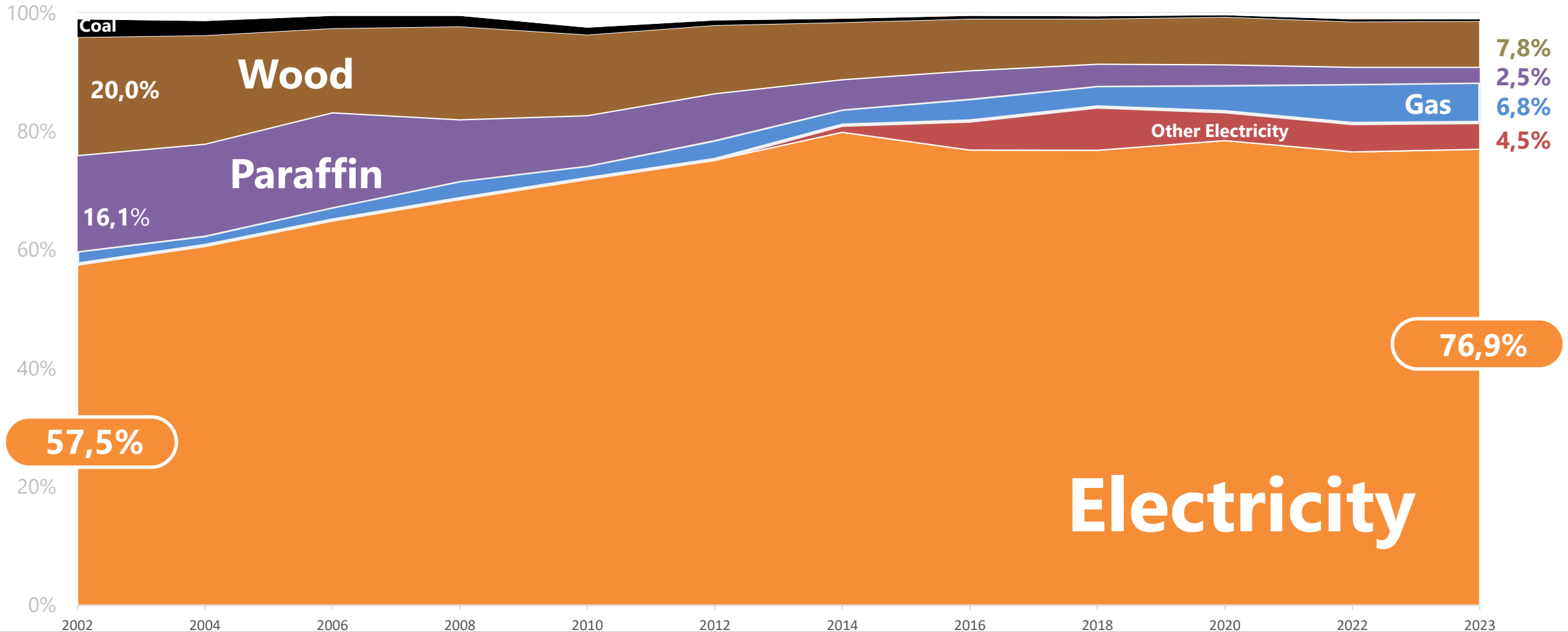
Percentage of households connected to the mains electricity supply by province, 2002–2023



Declines in connection to electricity in Gauteng can be associated with the rapid in-migration experienced by the province, with NW having high informal settlement development in the recent past

# The use of alternative sources of electricity for cooking has increased noticeably since 2014. Gas usage has tripled over the last 20 years from 2,2% to 6,8%

Energy used for cooking, 2002-2023



# Water and Sanitation



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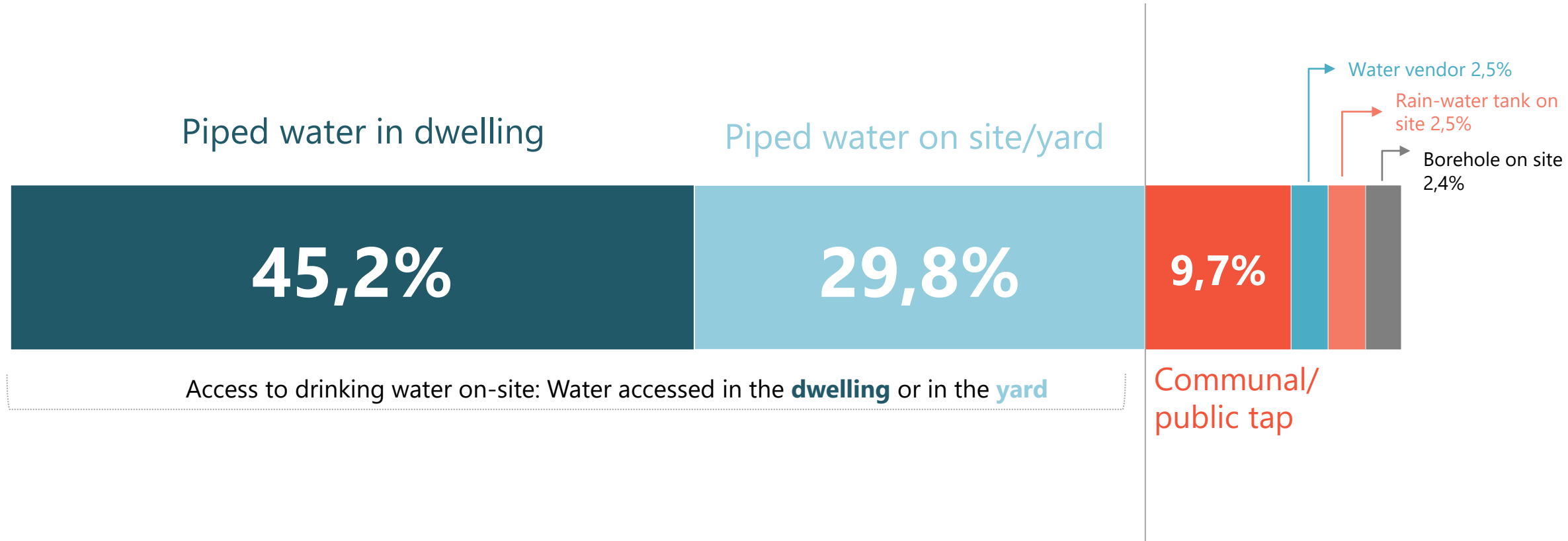
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# Three quarters (75%) of South African households have access to **improved water sources in the dwelling or in the yard**. Approximately, one-tenth (9,7%) of households relied on a **communal/public tap** as a main source of drinking water. .

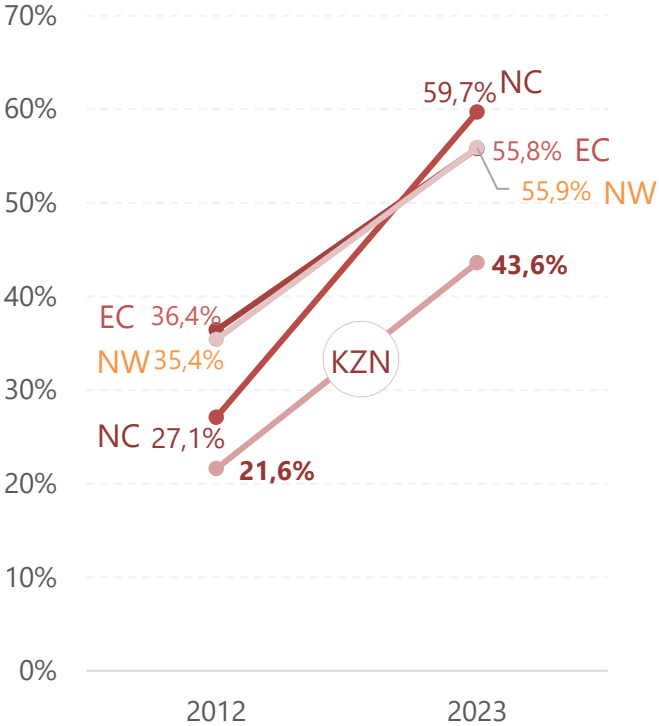
Percentage of households by selected main water source (**top 6 sources shown**), 2023



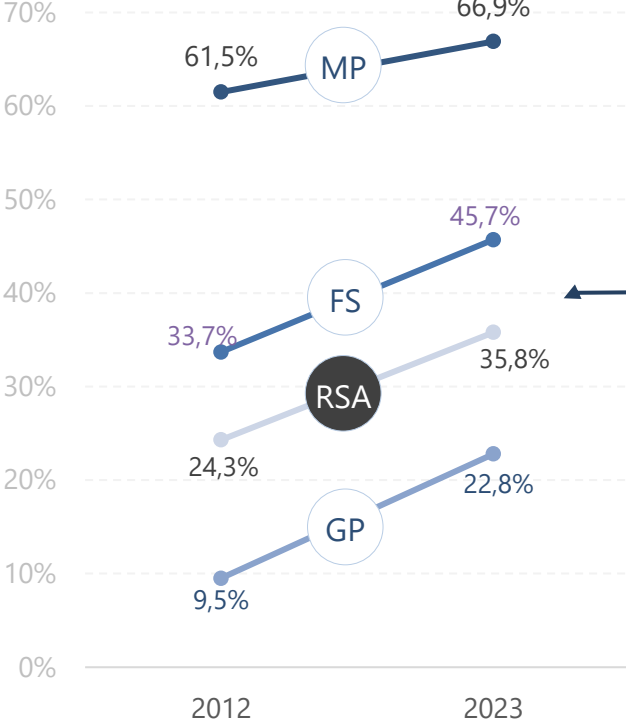
# Percentage of households that experienced water interruptions lasting more than 2 days at a time, or 15 days in total over the past year increased from 24,3% in 2012 to 35,8% in 2023.

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

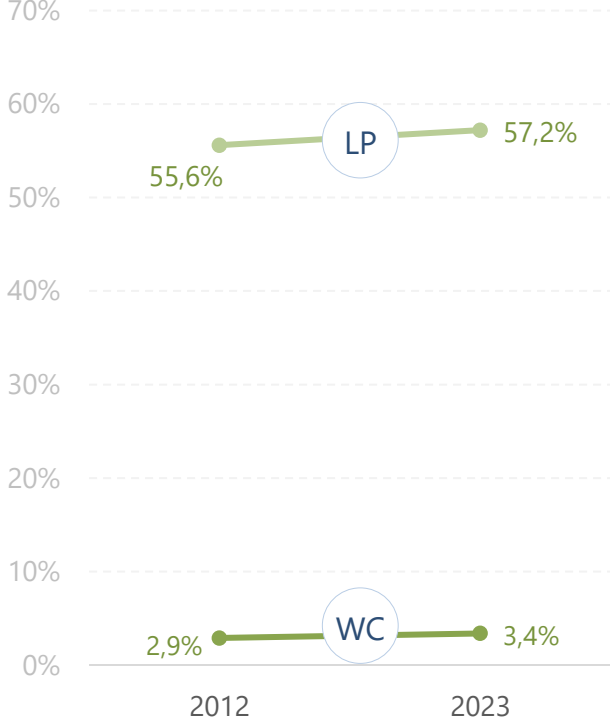
Provinces with rapid increases



Provinces with modest increases

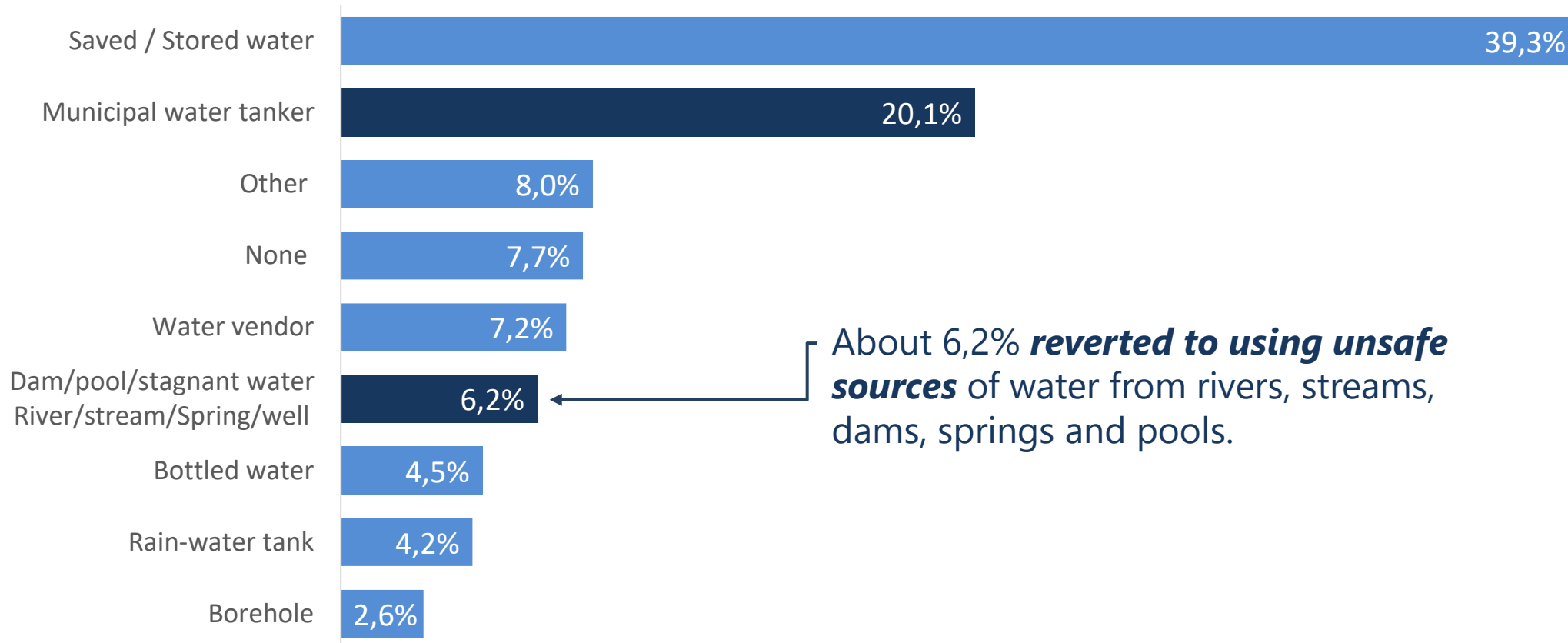


Provinces with low or dropping rates



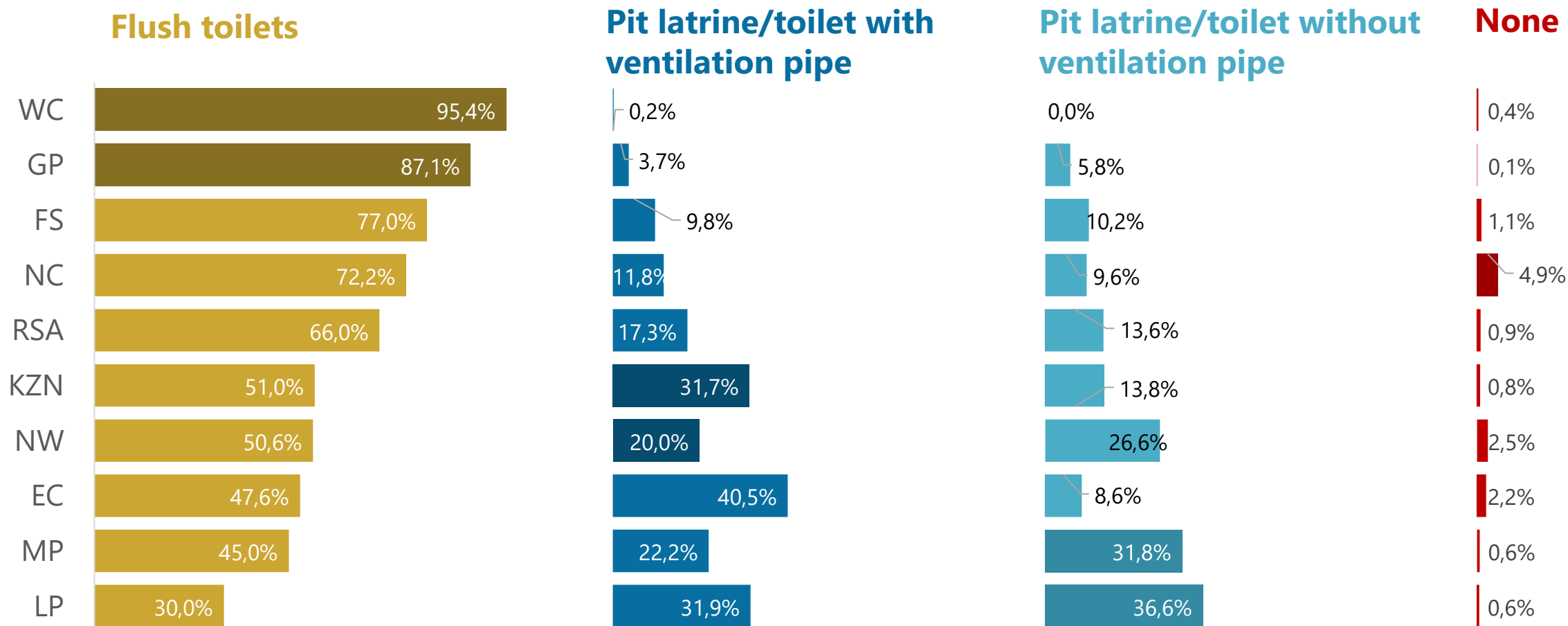
Approximately **one-fifth of households** depended on municipalities to provide water using **tankers** as an alternative source **during water interruptions**. *Approximately, 5 out of 100 households used bottled water as an alternative water source during water interruptions.*

Percentage of households by alternative sources of drinking water used during water interruptions that lasted 2 days or longer, 2023



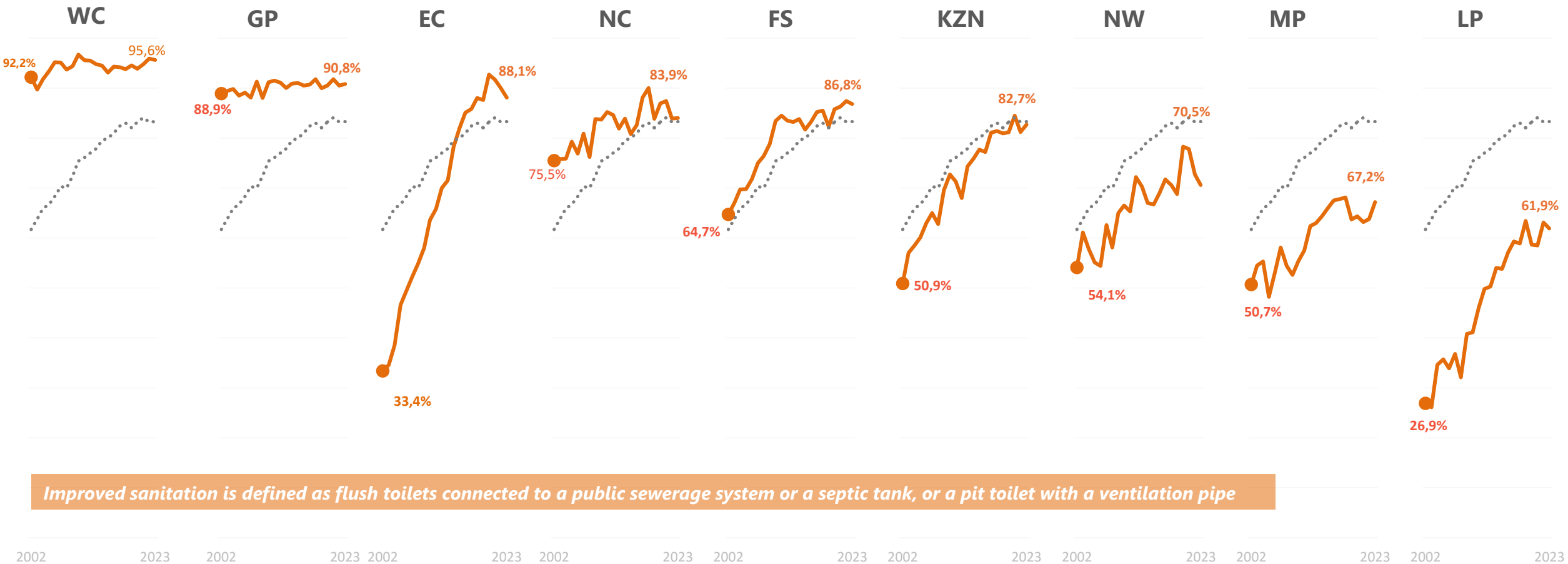
Almost two-thirds of South African households have **access to flush toilets** while 83,3% had access to improved sanitation. *Less than 1% had no access to sanitation facilities.*

Percentage of households by type of toilet facility and province, 2023



# Majority of households in WC, GP and EC had access to improved sanitation rates of greater than 90%. Access was most limited in Limpopo and Mpumalanga.

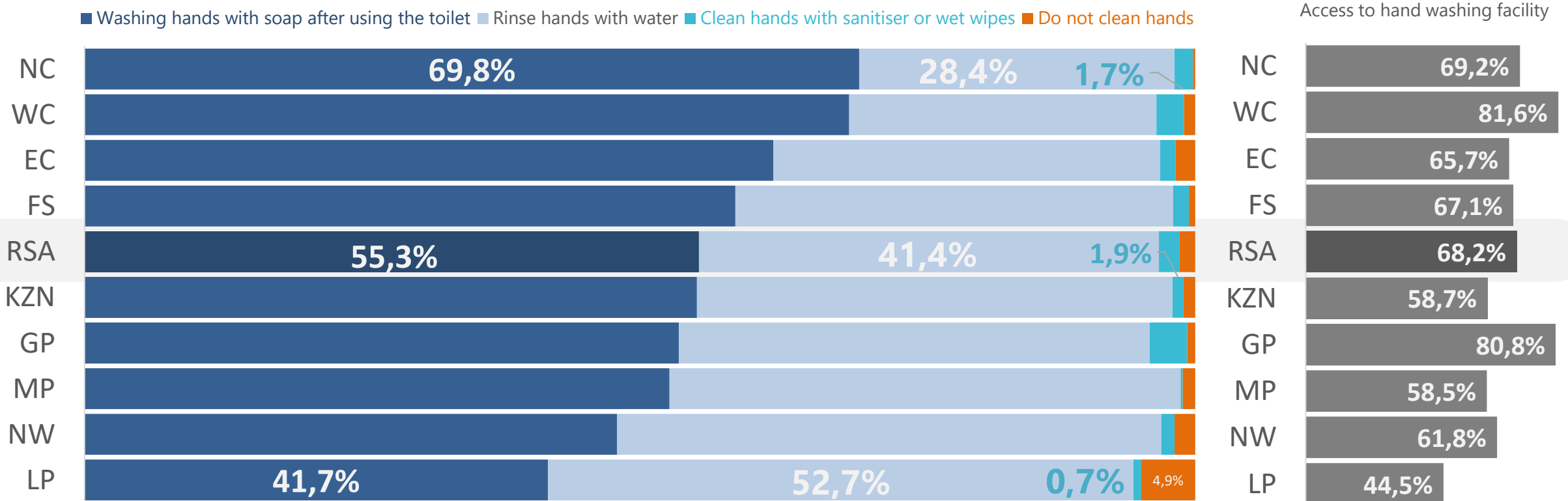
Percentage of households that have access to improved sanitation per province, 2002–2023



*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 (55,3%) of households indicated that their members washed hands with soap after using the toilet, while 41,4% only rinsed their hands with water.

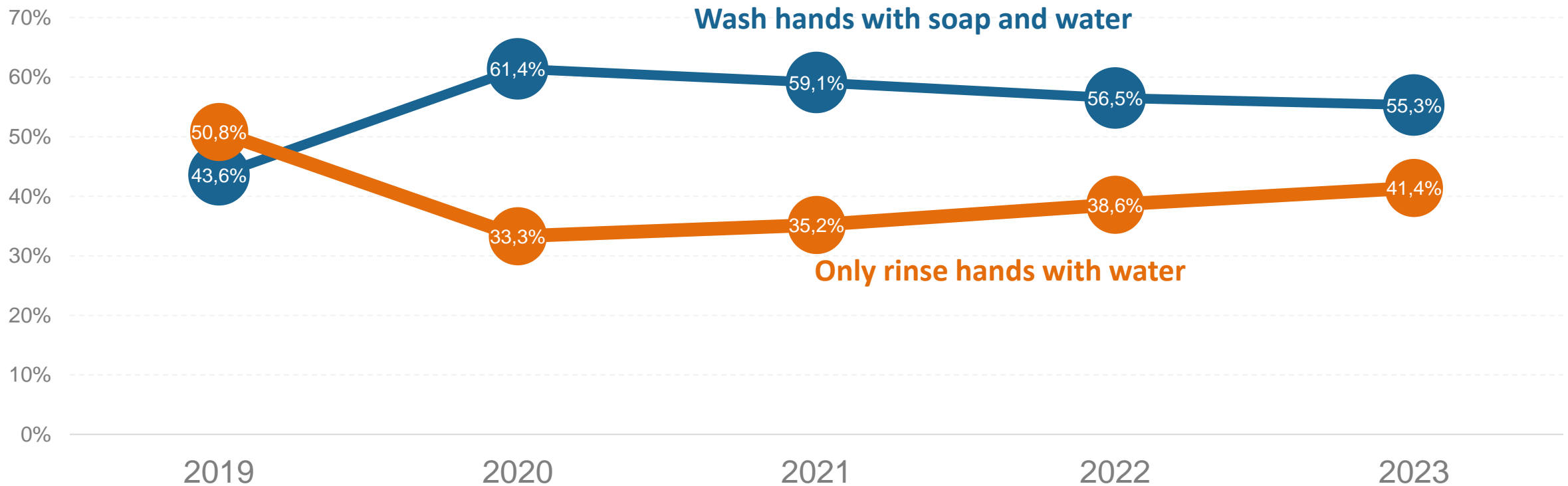
Percentage of households by access to hand washing facility, 2023



## 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 2023.

Percentage of households by the methods usually used by household members to clean their hands after using the toilet by province, 2019 - 2023



# Solid Waste and Refuse removal



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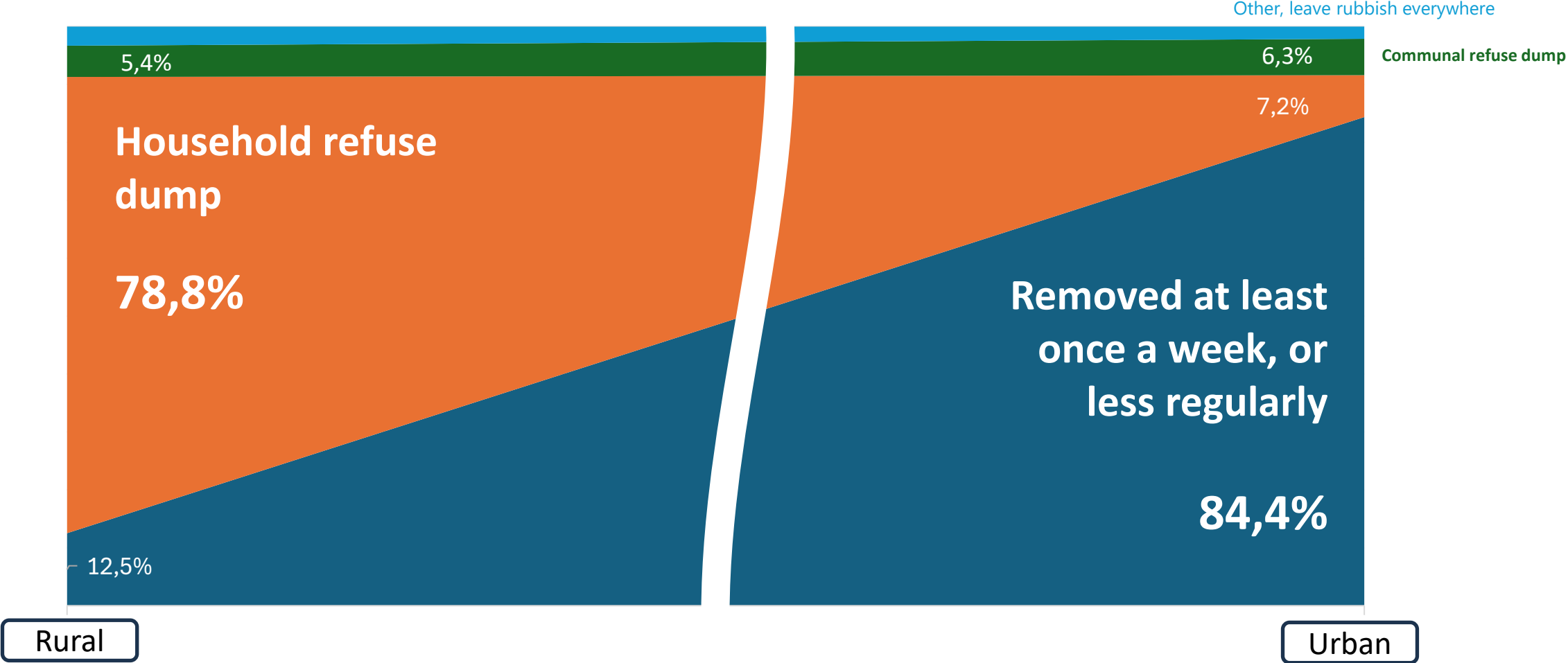
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**Refuse was removed for 84,4%** of households in urban areas, while **78,8%** of households in rural areas used their **own refuse dumps** in the absence of services.

Percentage of households by type of refuse removal services, 2023



# Telecommunications



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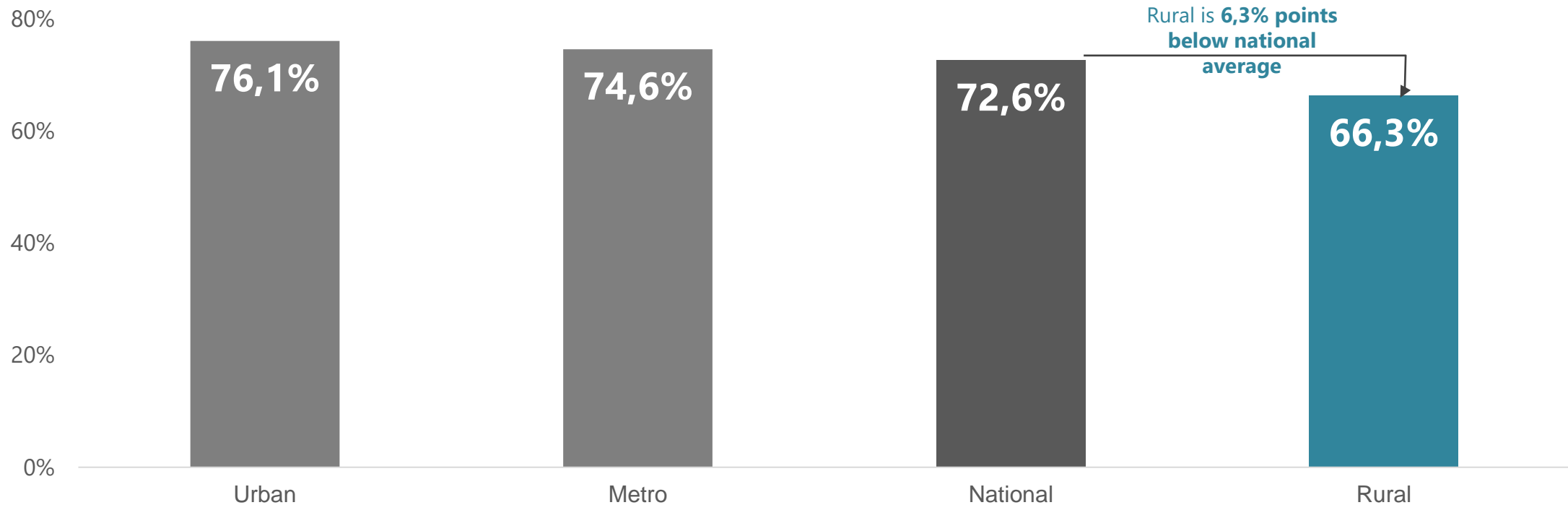
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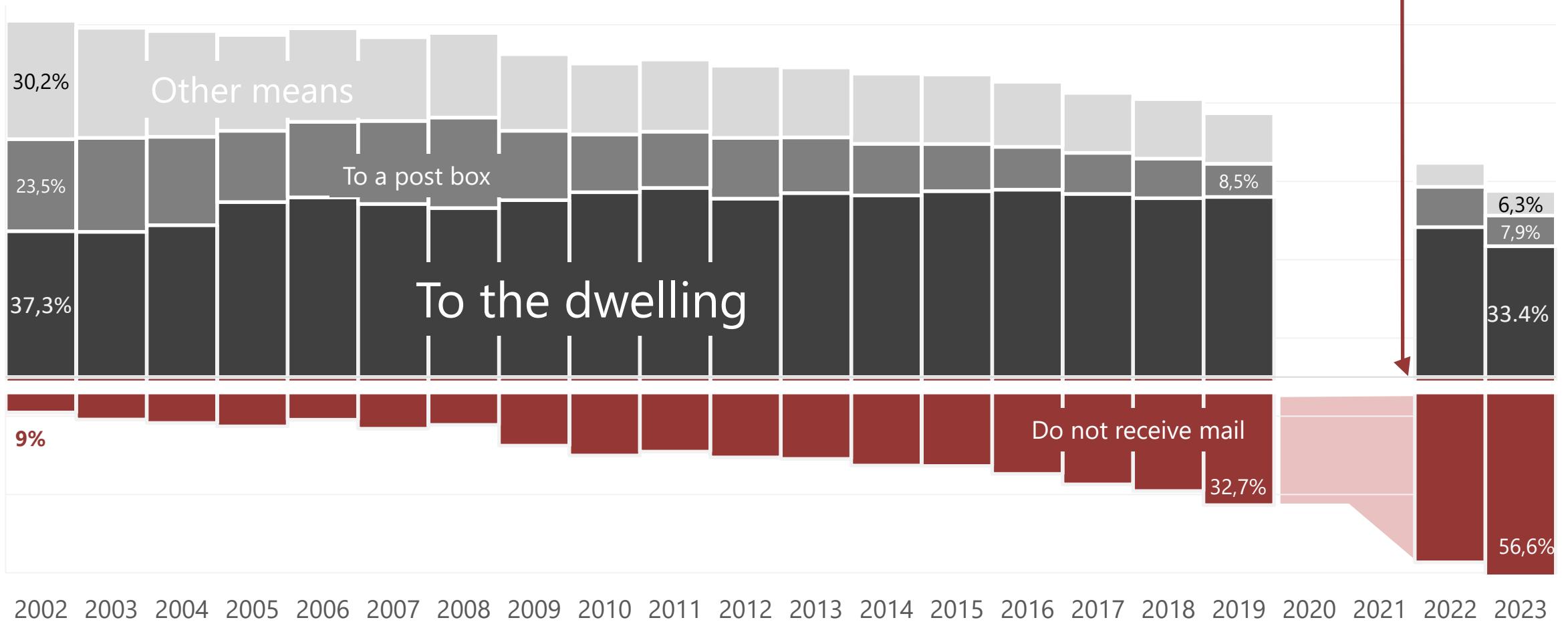
**Nationally**, internet access using mobile devices (72,6%) was the most common form of access to the internet. Although the use of mobile internet access devices in rural areas (66,3%) still lags behind its use in urban and metro areas, it is much more common in rural areas than any of the alternative methods.

Access to the Internet using mobile devices, 2023



The percentage of **households that do not receive mail** has increased by 23,9 percentage points to **56,6%** since 2019.

Percentage distribution of households that received mail services by type of service, 2002–2023



# Agriculture



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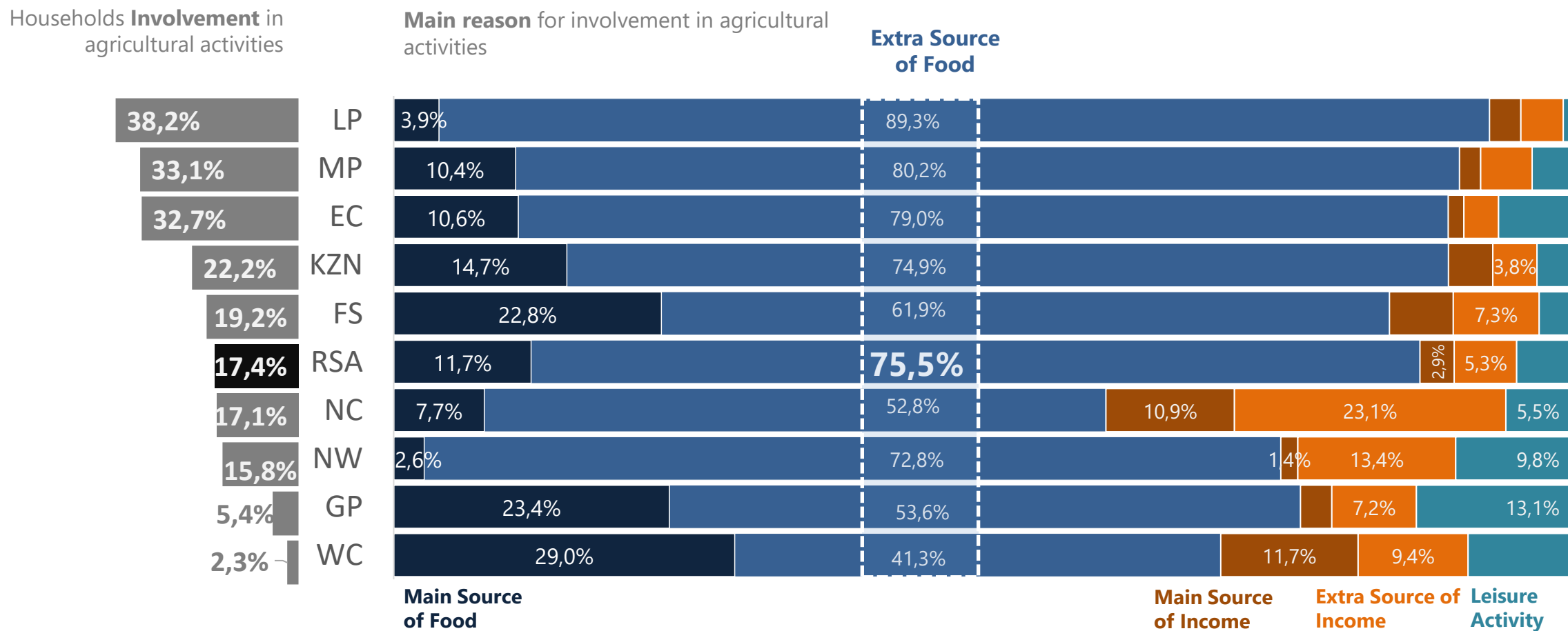
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**More than three-quarters (75,5%)** of households involved in agriculture did so to produce **extra food**, while **11,7% of household nationally (29,0% in Western Cape)** participated in agriculture as their **main source of food**. Only 2,9% of households had agriculture as their main source of income.

Proportion of Agricultural households & main reason for involvement, 2023

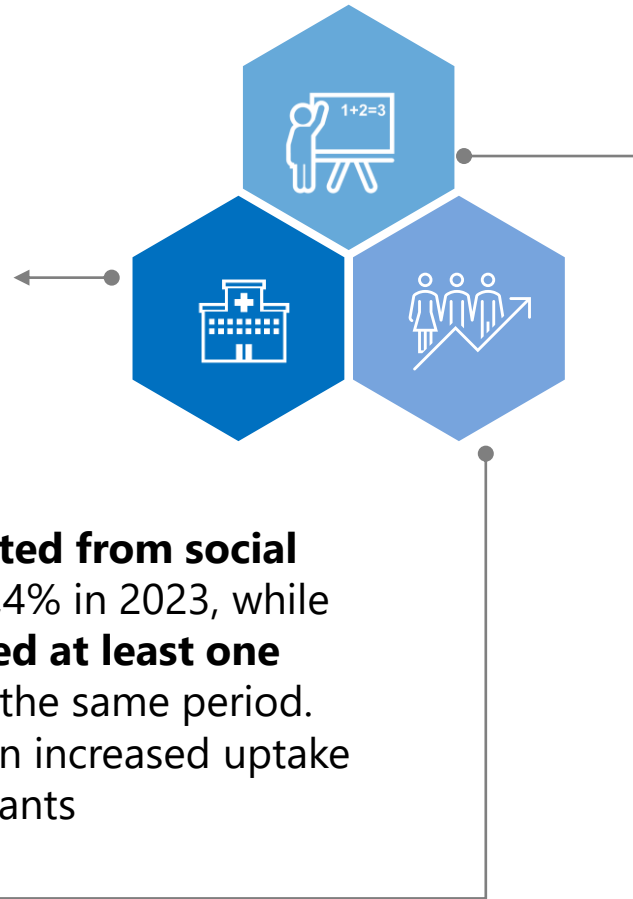


# Overview and Conclusion

Almost three-quarters (73,1%) of household members first **consulted** medical personnel in the **public health care system** when required.

Approximately 15,7% (9,8 million individuals) of individuals had **medical aid coverage** in 2023. Coverage varied from 25,7% in WC to 9,5% in LP.

The percentage of **individuals who benefited from social grants** increased from 12,8% in 2002 to 39,4% in 2023, while the percentage of **households that received at least one grant** increased from 30,8% to 50,0% 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.

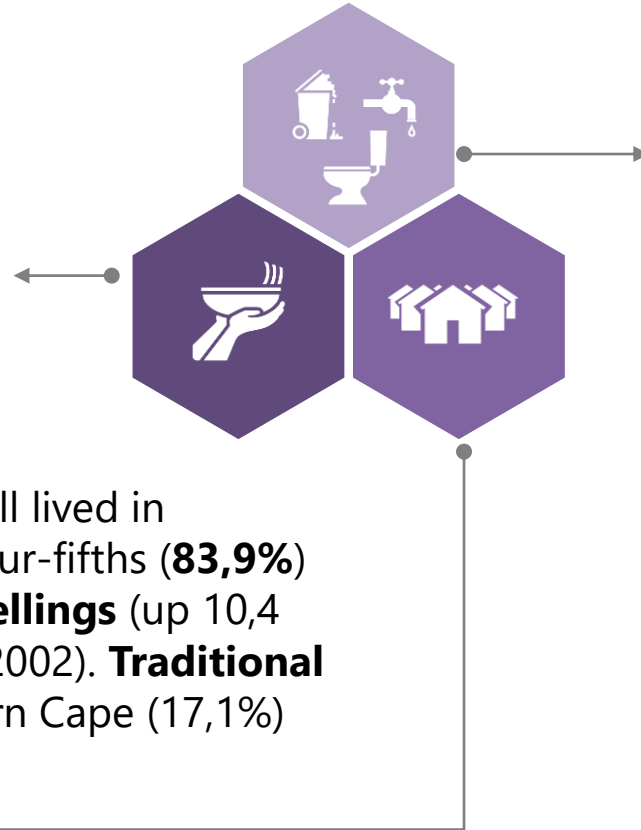
## Educational Attainment

The percentage of individuals without any education have decreased from 11,4% in 2002 to 3,1% in 2023, while the percentage of individuals with at least a grade 12 qualifications has increased from 30,5% to 50,8% over the same period.

# Overview and Conclusion

Almost one quarter (23,1%) of households considered their **access to food as inadequate or severely inadequate**. The need was most pervasive in NC (37,7%) and least common in LP (6,9%)

Although **12,2%** of households still lived in **informal dwellings**, more than four-fifths (**83,9%**) of households lived in **formal dwellings** (up 10,4 percentage points from 73,5% in 2002). **Traditional dwellings** most common in Eastern Cape (17,1%) and KwaZulu-Natal (10,3%).



- Approximately 9 in 10 (89,8%) households in South Africa were connected to **mains electricity**. The use LPG/Gas as source of energy for cooking has increased notably over the past five years.
- Three-quarters (75%) 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 83,3% had access to **improved sanitation** (flush toilets and VIP Pit toilets)- up from 61,7% in 2002.
- **Refuse** was removed for 84,4% of households in urban areas.

GHS 2023

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