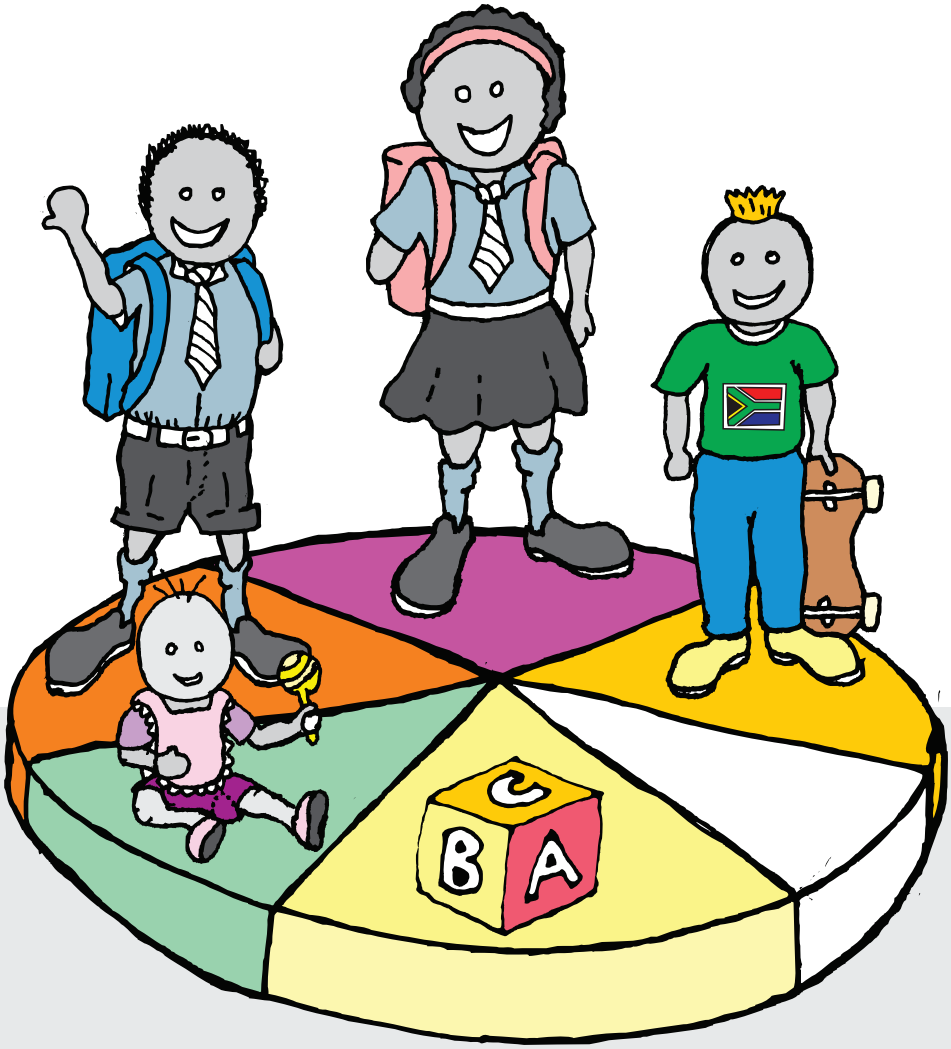
Statistics South Africa

Education Series Volume VII:

Children's education and well-being in South Africa, 2018



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Education Series Volume VII

Children's education and well-being in South Africa, 2018

Statistics South Africa

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician General

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For technical enquiries please contact:
Seble Worku
Tel.: 012 310 8480
Email: seblew@statssa.gov.za

Table of contents

List of figures

Abbreviations and acronyms

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa
ECD	Early childhood development
GHS	General Household Survey
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus/ acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NEET	Not in education, employment or training
NDP	National Development Plan
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
WHO	World Health Organization

WC	Western Cape
EC	Eastern Cape
NC	Northern Cape
FS	Free State
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
NW	North West
GP	Gauteng
MP	Mpumalanga
LP	Limpopo
RSA	Republic of South Africa

Foreword

Household surveys and administrative records data are very important for discussing and creating policies pertaining to education and other child development related goals, and are aimed at presenting information, assessing, and analysing the results surrounding topics relevant for assessment, such as learning inequalities between population groups and gender. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) developed a collection of thematic reports on education intended for the use of researchers, NGOs, policymakers, and school principals, to serve as important references from the social context of education in South Africa. The present report, “Children’s education and well-being in South Africa”, which is the seventh report in this series, discusses existing trends in differentials on education participation among children aged 0–17 from 2014 to 2018. The report also discusses important characteristics that affect child well-being.

In 2018, the total population of South Africa was estimated at 57,7 million, out of which more than one-third (34,5%) were children under the age of 18 years. Among these under-18-year-olds, approximately 42% were 0–6-year-olds, almost 39% were 7–13-year-olds and roughly 19% were 14–17-year-olds. KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng were home to the majority of children in the country. South Africa was ranked in the SADC region as the country with the third-lowest population below the age of 15 years (28,8% in 2019), while it had the highest percentage of youth below 15 years compared to those in BRICS countries.

In 2015, 62,1% of children aged 0–17 were classified as multi-dimensionally poor, while more than half of these children (51,0%) were classified as money-metric poor. Limpopo was home to the most multi-dimensionally deprived children aged 0–17 in 2015. Children staying in households with uneducated or poorly educated household heads and in female-headed households were the most deprived in 2015. In South Africa, grant income was one of the main sources of household income, with the main ones being the child support grant and the old-age grant. Two-quarters of children aged 0–17 (67%) lived in households with multiple members who were recipients of social grants in 2018. In 2018, more than two-thirds of children aged 0–17 (68,2%) received the child support grant, with black African children being the largest beneficiary of this grant (73,4%). In 2018, the largest percentage of children who were recipients of the child support grant lived in Eastern Cape and Limpopo. In the same year, almost half (48%) of children aged 0–17 received monthly total household social grant amounts of R1 001–R4 000, and almost one-third (32,9%) of children aged 0–17 lived in households that earned monthly total household income amounts of R1 001–R4 000.

The role of family members is important in the life of children as these family members are mostly responsible for the children's care and well-being. Children in South Africa live in non-standard family structures with mostly one of their biological parents. In 2018, there were twice as many children who had a co-resident mother compared to those who had a co-resident father (76% and 36,4%, respectively). Furthermore, black African children aged 0–17 were less likely to stay with their biological father compared to their peers in the other population groups. Additionally, Western Cape had the highest proportion of children who lived with their biological mother, while Eastern Cape recorded the lowest proportion. Western Cape also had the highest proportion of children who lived with their biological father, whereas Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal recorded the lowest proportion. Younger children aged 0–4 would most likely stay in the same household as their biological parents compared to adolescents aged 15–17.

Human rights conventions link the registration of birth to a new-born child's right to an identity and a name. In South Africa, the birth certificate of the child is a key document required for children to access various services such as healthcare, welfare, and education. Hence, not having a birth certificate easily exacerbates the living conditions of vulnerable children. One of the major benefits received by children is the child support grant, which can only be accessed through the registration of births. Historical data show that birth registration had

a very low uptake before the government initiated the child support grant in 1998. The various reforms increased the threshold for eligibility of the child support grant in 2003, 2007 and 2010, which increased the timely registration of births in the country. With a national average of 93,8% of birth registrations within the year of birth in 2018, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, and Eastern Cape lag behind in the birth registration process.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets aim at reducing neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1 000 live births and under-five mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1 000 live births by 2030, and the National Development Plan (NDP) targets are aimed at reducing infant mortality from 43 to below 20 per 1 000 live births, and reducing the under-five child mortality rate from 104 to below 30 per 1 000 live births by 2030. In 2019, the under-five mortality rate was estimated at 30 deaths per 1 000 live births and the infant mortality rate was estimated at 22,1 per 1 000 live births, showing that South Africa is on track to achieve at least the NDP targets. However, child deaths were still high in South Africa and child deaths due to non-natural causes were on the rise. In 2017, non-natural causes of death among children aged 5–9 rose to 39,1% from 23,8% in 2007. The percentage of toddlers aged 1–4 who died from non-natural causes more than doubled from 10,9% in 2007 to 22,4% in 2017. Similarly, non-natural deaths among under-one-year-old children rose from 2,6% in 2007 to 3,4% in 2017.

Opportunities to gain access to good quality education have not been equal for all children in South Africa, due to poor infrastructure and lack of well-trained teachers in rural and township schools. In 2018, among children aged 0–6, close to 43% did not attend any education institution. However, close to 70% of 4-year-olds, almost 87% of 5-year-olds, and close to 97% of 6-year-olds were attending education institutions in 2018. White children aged 0–6 were most likely to attend education institutions compared to black African children (73,4% and 56,6%, respectively). In 2018, attendance of education institutions among 0–6-year-olds was the highest in Gauteng and lowest in KwaZulu-Natal (66,3% and 46,5%, respectively). The education institution attendance rate was the highest among children aged 6–13, with close to 91% of children in this age group attending primary school, while close to 8% were attending education institutions outside the primary school phase and approximately only one per cent being out of school. By contrast, in 2018, close to 83% of children, aged 14–17 were attending secondary school, approximately 13% were attending education institutions outside the secondary school phase and close to five per cent were out of school. Grade repetition was more common among 14–17-year-olds compared to 6–13-year-olds, and highest among males compared to females (5,5% and 10,7%, respectively) in 2018.

Public policies and programmes exist to provide for better care and education of children in South Africa. However, programmes must be more precise, better funded, and reliably resourced to reach vulnerable children and adolescents to fulfil their rights to a family environment and healthy living arrangements, and to limit preventable causes of death.

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Chapter 1: Child population and demographic characteristics

1.1 Introduction

Many developing countries struggle to educate and employ their young people, and are facing the challenges of providing universal good quality education which can ensure productive and decent work to all their citizens. South Africa has very high functional literacy rates (95,5%) among its youth population aged 15–24 (Stats SA, 2019a). However, the education system is leaving behind a substantial proportion of the population. According to the General Household Survey (GHS), close to 31% of persons aged 20 years and older had completed grade 12 or received a matric certificate in 2018, while 14,3% had achieved post-school qualifications. Parents unable to pay school fees were exempted fully or partially from paying school fees according to the South African Schools Act of 1996.The exemptions were granted through means tests (Act No. 84, 1996). Furthermore, in South Africa, schools were classified using school quintile levels from 1 to 5, according to the poverty levels in areas surrounding the location of the schools. The schools in quintiles 1 to 3 were classified as “no-fee schools”. In 2018, two-thirds of individuals five years and older attended school without paying any tuition fees (Stats SA, 2019a).

Previous education reports have shown higher attendance rates for persons aged 7–24 in provinces such as Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape and Limpopo, compared to the national average. Although school enrolment figures at primary and secondary levels were high, the country had a high percentage of learners who lagged behind the expected age per grade, especially in provinces such as Eastern Cape and Limpopo. This is because a high proportion of learners begin to repeat grades from grade 9 onwards, which leads to a high proportion of school dropouts. Hence, lower primary and secondary school completion rates were observed in these provinces than the national averages (Stats SA, 2015, 2016).

In South Africa, despite continuous investment in the education system, the youth have failed to reach their full productive potential and have not contributed to the economic development of the country. The growth in the number of youth further compounds that challenge, requiring South Africa to improve the quality and reach of its education system – not only to make up for existing deficiencies, but also to serve the rapidly growing number of young people. The youth from previously disadvantaged geographical areas were still not given equal opportunities to acquire education and skills, and have not been given equal opportunities to use their skills. In 2018, the highest attendance rate in tertiary education amongst individuals born between 1980 and 1999 was observed in Western Cape (64,4%), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (54,5%) and Gauteng (53,5%). Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Eastern Cape had the lowest percentage of individuals born between 1980 and 1999 attending tertiary education institutions (37,2%, 29,3% and 23,4%, respectively). Among young people born between 1980 and 1999, close to 10% were unemployed graduates in 2018. In the same year, the highest percentage of employed individuals born between 1980 and 1999 were Western Cape residents (63,5%), followed by Gauteng (53,6%). In 2018, the highest percentage of discouraged work-seekers born between 1980 and 1999 were residents of Limpopo (17,5%), followed by those of KwaZulu-Natal (16,7%) (Stats SA, 2020a).

Early childhood development and care have been given increased attention in South Africa, and remains the subject of past and ongoing policy intervention with increased conviction of its contribution to a wide range of social, economic and educational goals. The Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy that was approved in 2015 anticipates universal access to quality early childhood development (ECD) for all children in South Africa. However, unlike funding for primary and secondary schools, public funding for this sector is limited. Most working parents must either seek the services of private institutions if they can afford them, or else rely on informal arrangements with family, friends and neighbours. South Africa is currently working on improving the coordination of ECD in all services provided by the Departments of Social Development, Health

and Basic Education, which cover the provision of universal free public education with regard to the children's "readiness for school" outcome.

Research shows strong linkages between low socio-economic status and high mortality rates. In South Africa, a study in Agincourt suggested that individuals from the poorest households continue to bear a disproportionately high burden of increased mortality due to HIV/AIDS (Kabudula et al., 2017). Children, especially those from poor households (being the most vulnerable segment of the population), would most likely be exposed to many risks that compromise their health and well-being. In South Africa, many children have limited or inadequate access to basic services – including healthcare services – and many suffer from malnutrition, which prevents them from reaching their full potential (Stats SA, 2018a).

South Africa subscribes to the international legal obligations on birth registration contained in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and the African Union's African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). This right is operationalised through the South African Birth and Death Registration Act, 1992 (Act No. 51, 1992). South Africa has experienced an increase in the rate of birth registrations due to government's commitment to improve the registration of births, and due to better access to the Department of Home Affairs services to the most vulnerable parents who are keen to register their children's birth. Access to social grants and other welfare services have served as an incentive for new parents to register the birth of their children. Furthermore, South Africa is pushing towards universal birth registrations through an early childhood development policy approved in 2015.

1.2 Objective of the report

South Africa has a legal obligation towards protecting and promoting the rights of its children in terms of the international treaties such as the UNCRC and the ACRWC. It has been 31 years since the adoption of the UNCRC. The Convention recognises a child's right to a standard of living that is adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. While this does not have a direct bearing on the wealth or poverty status of the child, it highlights the importance of growing up in a caring, safe, happy and stimulating family environment linked to the rights of access to basic services, healthcare, welfare and social services, and access to equitable educational opportunities. Furthermore, section 28 of the South African Constitution's Bill of Rights covers the rights that children have and provides for the protection and care of children. However, while additional legislations exist to support vulnerable children and their families together with the required legal institutions to provide a comprehensive range of social services, children in South Africa still face complex social challenges.

The analysis presented in this report is intended to understand better why and how children's well-being and educational opportunities are changing in South Africa. It provides information that can be used as a basis to address issues related to child development. In developed countries, adequate direct investment in the lives of children has proven to have very significant and sustained effects on the development of the future generation and the society as a whole. Programmes related to services such as education and welfare require analysis within the age structures and distribution of the population, so that programmes may be tailored to meet the needs of the intended recipients, or targeted to specific groups.

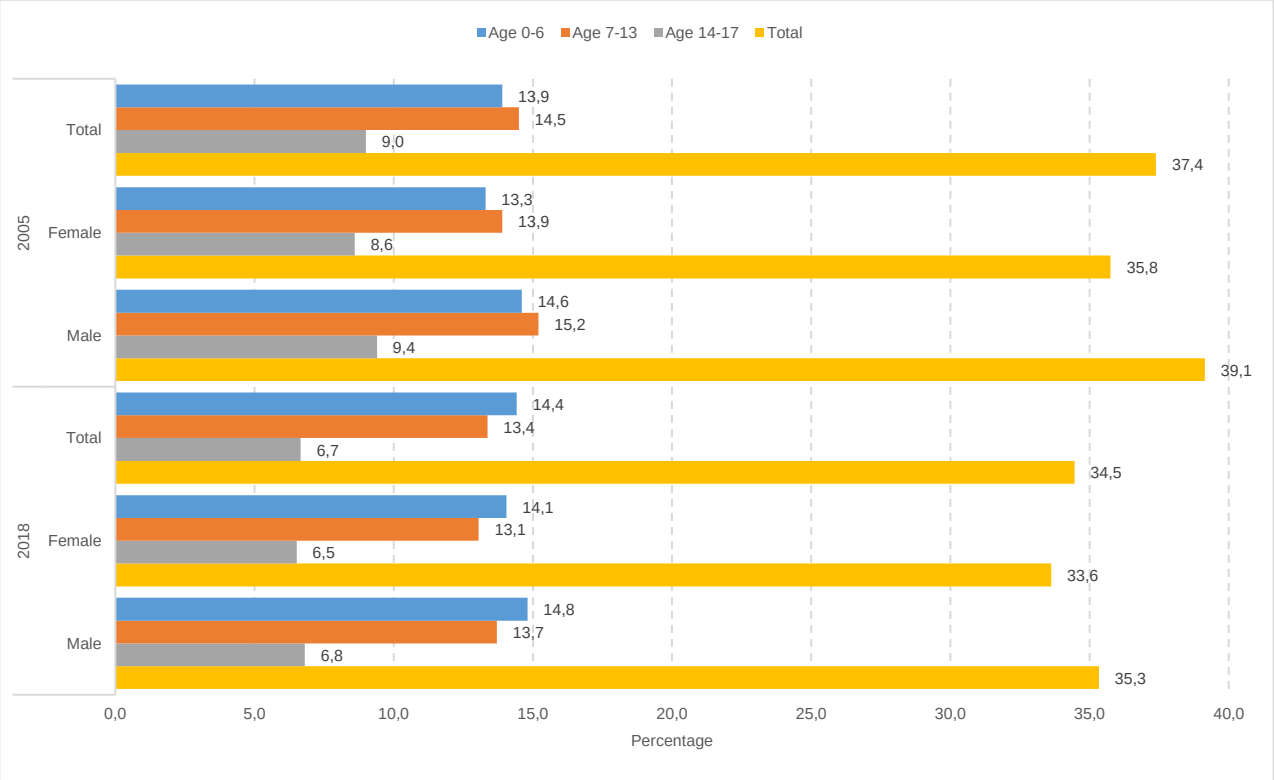
This report is mostly based on the General Household Survey (GHS) datasets compiled by Stats SA, and on the Mid-year population estimates, Mortality and causes of death, and Recorded live births data. The report is divided into five sections: Chapter 1 presents the demographic characteristics of the children of South Africa in the context of age, sex and size composition of the population in the country. Chapter 2 analyses children poverty profiles, their access to social grants and their living arrangements. It also discusses the birth registration status in the country. Chapter 3 provides an overview of child mortality in South Africa with top underlying causes of death being the particular focus of the section. Chapter 4 provides an in-depth review of

educational participation of children aged 0–17, identifying important patterns and trends. Chapter 5 concludes by making important linkages between various aspects of child well-being in the global context of child development.

1.3 The age distribution of children in South Africa

In 2019, the total population was estimated at 57,7 million, and close to 30% of the population was estimated to be younger than 15 years, while close to 38% were younger than 20 years (Stats SA, 2018b). South Africa has for many years maintained low total fertility rates,[1] which were estimated at 2,33 in 2018. Eastern Cape and Limpopo were the provinces with the highest estimated average total fertility rates. The crude birth rate[2] was steadily declining since 2009 and was estimated at 20,2 in 2018 (Stats SA, 2019b). This reduction in birth rates resulted in a slow population growth.

Figure 1.1: Child population as a proportion of the total population by age and gender, 2005 and 2018

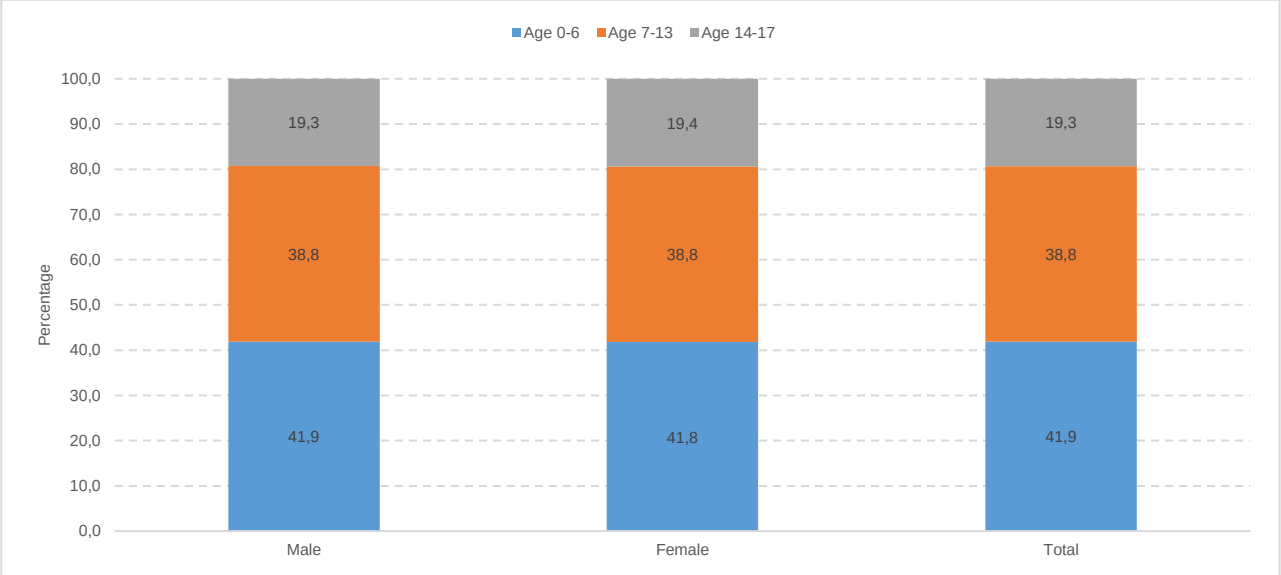


Source: Statistics South Africa, Mid-year population estimates 2005, 2018

The size of the child population has stabilised in the past decade in South Africa and has shown growth by almost two million children from 2005 to 2018. The total child population as a proportion of the total population has reduced by close to three percentage points, from 37,4% in 2005 to 34,5% in 2018. However, the age-sex structure of the population followed similar patterns for both years with the total child population aged 0–6 as a proportion of the total population being closed to 14%, while the total child population aged 7–13 as a proportion of the total population was 14,5% in 2005 and marginally reduced to 13,4% in 2018. Similarly, the total child population aged 14–17 as a proportion of the total population was 9,0% in 2005 and reduced to 6,7% in 2018.

[1] Total fertility rate: Average number of children born alive to a woman during her lifetime if she were to bear children at each age in accordance with the prevailing age-specific fertility rates. It is obtained by summing up all age-specific fertility rates for each year of the childbearing span.
[2] Crude birth rate: The number of live births observed in a population over a given period relative to the size of the population as estimated at the middle of that time period. The rate is usually stated per 1 000 and the most usual period is one year.

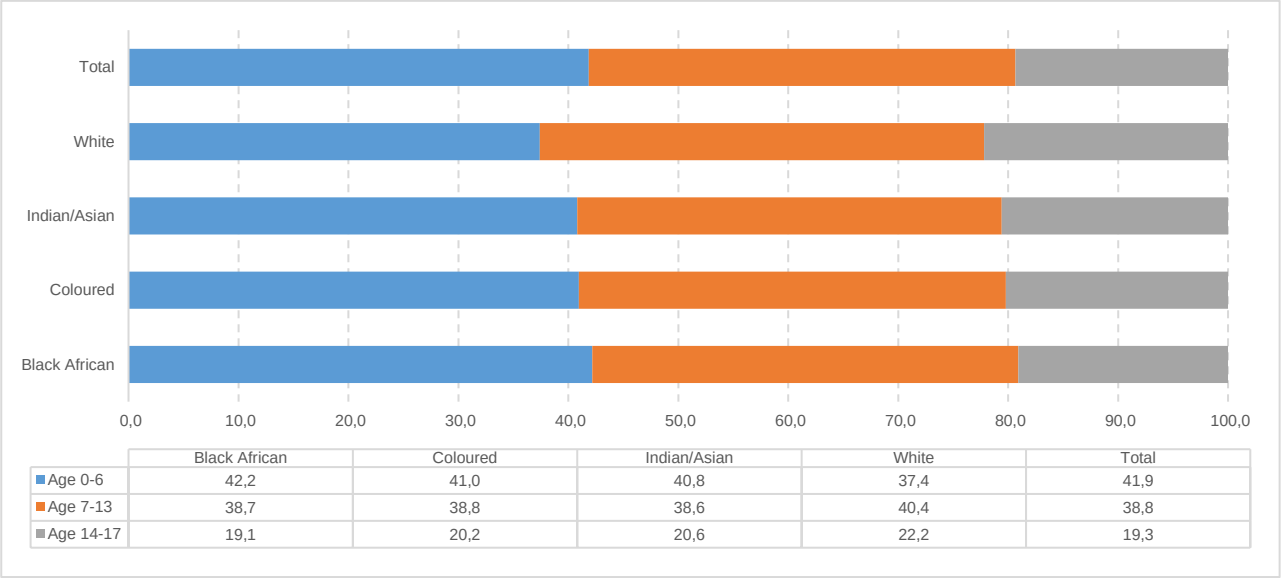
Figure 1.2: Child population by age and gender, 2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, Mid-year population estimates 2018

Out of the total 57,7 million estimated people in the country in 2018, close to 19,9 million were children under 18 years old. The majority (close to 42%) of the children under 18 years were aged 0–6, while 38,8% were aged 7-13, and 19,3% were aged 14–17 years.

Figure 1.3: Child population by age and population group, 2018

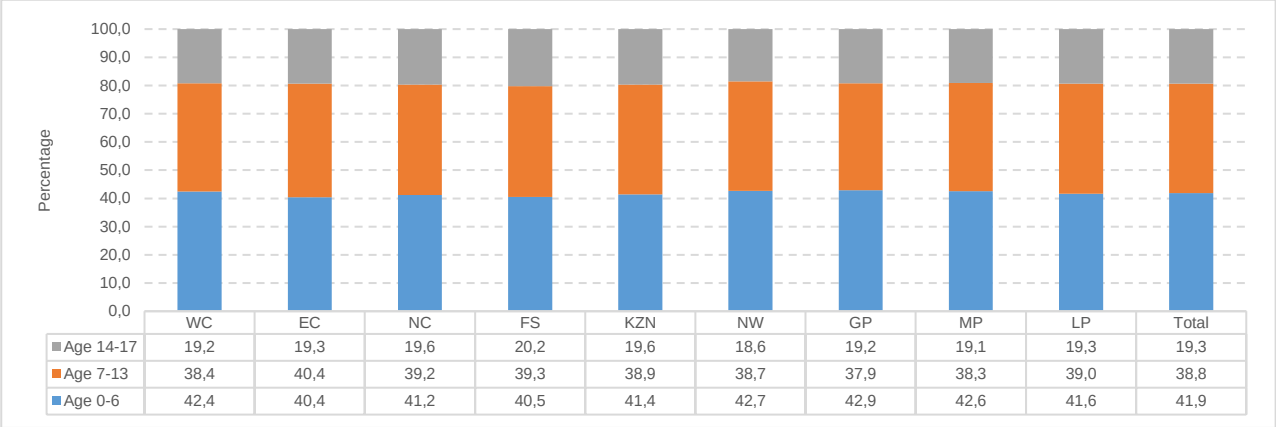


	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	Total
Age 0-6	42,2	41,0	40,8	37,4	41,9
Age 7-13	38,7	38,8	38,6	40,4	38,8
Age 14-17	19,1	20,2	20,6	22,2	19,3

Source: Statistics South Africa, Mid-year population estimates 2018

The child population distribution by population group and age is presented in the above graph. Close to 42% of children aged 0–6 were black Africans. Similarly, close to 41% of children aged 0–6 were coloureds or Indians/Asians compared to 37,4% whites. Close to 40% of white children were aged 7–13, while 22,2% were aged 14–17 years.

Figure 1.4: Child population by age and province, 2018



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	Total
Age 14-17	19,2	19,3	19,6	20,2	19,6	18,6	19,2	19,1	19,3	19,3
Age 7-13	38,4	40,4	39,2	39,3	38,9	38,7	37,9	38,3	39,0	38,8
Age 0-6	42,4	40,4	41,2	40,5	41,4	42,7	42,9	42,6	41,6	41,9

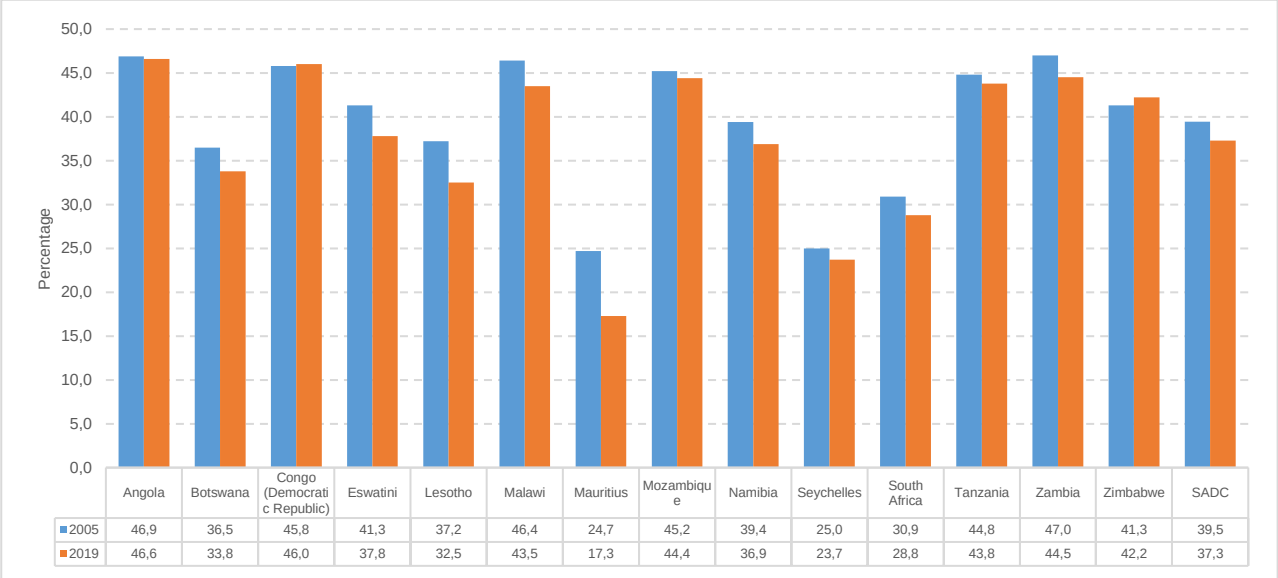
Source: Statistics South Africa, Mid-year population estimates 2018

Reflecting on the total distribution of the population in the country, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng were home to the majority of children in South Africa in 2018. Figure 1.4 shows minimal variation in the age distribution of children by province. Gauteng had the largest percentage of children aged 0–6 (42,9%) and the lowest percentage of children aged 7-13 (37,9%). Free State proportionally had the highest percentage of children aged 14–17 (20,2%).

1.4 South African demographic features compared to various regions

The SADC region had a total population of 362 million in 2020 (UNData, 2020). The top three countries as far as population size is concerned were the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, and South Africa, while Seychelles, Eswatini, and Mauritius had the smallest population. However, the population distributions by age are quite different, showing some countries have partially benefited from the population dividend with a decline in the share of the dependent young population and the increase of the share of the working-age population.

Figure 1.5: Percentage of the population under 15 years old in SADC countries, 2005 and 2019

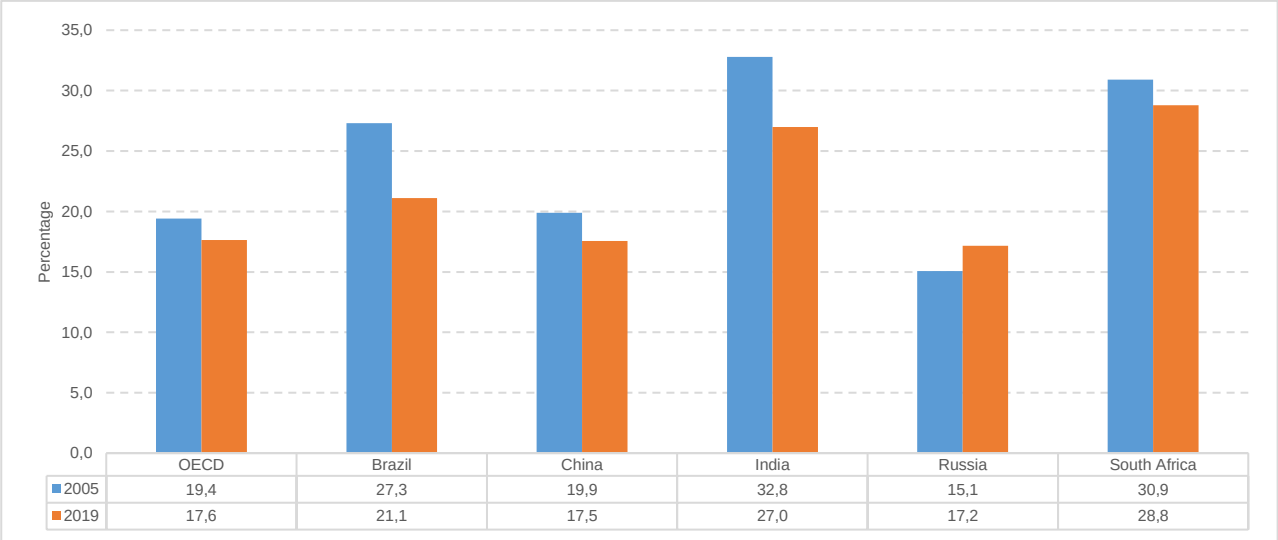


	Angola	Botswana	Congo (Democratic Republic)	Eswatini	Lesotho	Malawi	Mauritius	Mozambique	Namibia	Seychelles	South Africa	Tanzania	Zambia	Zimbabwe	SADC
2005	46,9	36,5	45,8	41,3	37,2	46,4	24,7	45,2	39,4	25,0	30,9	44,8	47,0	41,3	39,5
2019	46,6	33,8	46,0	37,8	32,5	43,5	17,3	44,4	36,9	23,7	28,8	43,8	44,5	42,2	37,3

Source: http://data.un.org/Default.aspx (Data extracted 15 September 2020)

The graph above shows that in 2019, more than one-third (37%) of the population in the SADC[3] region were below the age of 15 years. In 2019, the percentage of youth below 15 for the region ranged from 46,6% to 17,3%, with Angola having the highest and Mauritius having the lowest estimates. South Africa was ranked as the country with the third-lowest population below the age of 15 years with 30,9% in 2005, and 28,8% in 2019. Most of these countries are showing substantial changes in the size of their youth populations, while the size of their population is expected to continue to grow way beyond 2030.

Figure 1.6: Percentage of the population under 15 years old in BRICS countries and OECD regions, 2005 and 2019



	OECD	Brazil	China	India	Russia	South Africa
2005	19,4	27,3	19,9	32,8	15,1	30,9
2019	17,6	21,1	17,5	27,0	17,2	28,8

Source: https://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx (Data extracted on 15 Sep 2020 10:52 UTC (GMT) from OECD.Stat)

[3] SADC comprises of 16 member countries: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Madagascar and Comoros were excluded from the above analysis due to lack of data.

The youthfulness of the population in South Africa relative to the other BRICS[4] and OECD[5] countries is illustrated in Figure 1.6. There were large differences between these regions with regard to the percentage of youth below 15 years. In 2019, Russia and China had similar age dependency ratios to the averages of the OECD countries. During the same year, South Africa had the highest percentage of youth below 15 years (28,8%) compared to the rest of the OECD countries, followed by India (27,0%). Moreover, the graph shows that close to 18% of the population in the OECD region was below the age of 15 years in 2019, which is almost half of the percentage in this age group in SADC countries (37,3%). The high youth population has an impact on the education system and on the labour force.

1.5 Summary

This chapter took a closer look at the age structure of the South African population over the past decade. In 2018, the total South African population was estimated at 57,7 million and close to 34,5% (19,9 million) were estimated to be younger than 18 years old. The size of the child population showed growth by almost two million children from 2005 to 2018. While the age distribution of children followed similar patterns by population group, the age distribution by province was slightly different with Gauteng having a larger percentage of younger children (aged 0–6) and a lower percentage of children aged 7-13. Eastern Cape had the larger share of 7–13-year-olds compared to the national averages.

South Africa was ranked in the SADC region as the country with the third-lowest population below the age of 15 years, with 28,8% of its population being below the age of 15 in 2019. This was 8,5 percentage points lower than the SADC average of 37,3% in 2019. However, compared to the BRICS countries, in 2019, South Africa had the highest percentage of youth below 15 years, followed closely by India (27%). Moreover, during the same year, the percentage of youth below 15 years in South Africa was 11,4 percentage points higher than the OECD average of 17,6%. The high percentage of youth needs a greater investment in schooling and other services related to the care and well-being of children.

[4] BRICS consist of 5 countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
[5] OECD countries consist of 26 European countries: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Chapter 2: Child poverty and social protection

2.1 Introduction

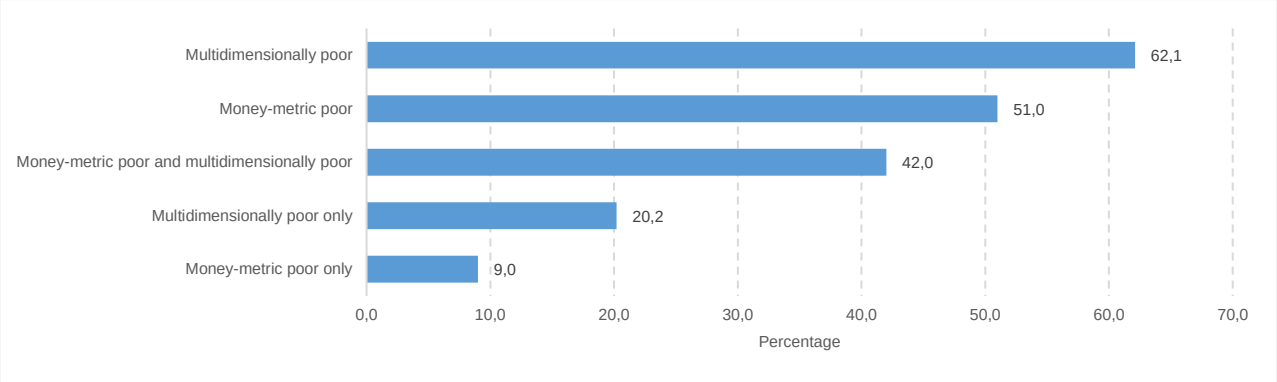
In the child poverty report released in 2020 by Stats SA, a child is considered money-metric poor if he/she is from a household whose income is below the lower-bound poverty line of R647 per person per month. A child is considered multi-dimensionally poor if he/she is deprived in three or more out of the seven dimensions[6] of well-being (Stats SA, 2020b). The report indicated that in 2015, three out of five children (62,1%) aged 0–17 years were multi-dimensionally poor, while more than half (51,0%) of the children in the same age group were money-metric poor. Furthermore, 42,0% children aged 0–17 years were both money-metric and multi-dimensionally poor (Stats SA, 2020b).

In a normal society, poverty among children translates in the proportion of children who would be excluded from opportunities and benefits which are considered typical in that particular society. It has been very well documented that poverty affects many aspects of child development and well-being as it affects directly the child's health, cognitive development, school attendance and achievement at school. It also has some consequences on post-school opportunities and employment prospects. A previous education report by Stats SA has shown that overall, 46,1% of Born-free Millennials[7] aged 19–24 years were not in education, employment, or training (NEET), with 23-year-olds having the highest percentage in this category (53,2%), mostly due to lack of opportunities (Stats SA 2020a). Children's well-being is also dependent on the availability of material goods to these children. Furthermore, the type of family environment and the relationship children enjoy with their family members are important determinants of well-being. It is more likely that children with absent fathers would be poor, especially when their mothers had lower educational and labour market outcomes. Monitoring overall economic and social well-being of children provides some understanding of policy effectiveness and guide discussions in future improvements of such policies.

2.2 Children living in poverty

In spite of all the efforts made by government, there were still many barriers that must be overcome so that we may attain equal opportunities for development and growth of all children in South Africa. One such barrier is financial poverty, which by implication, has effects on other forms of deprivation of one or more rights, which include education, information, water, sanitation, housing, and protection from child abuse.

Figure 2.1: Type of poverty experienced by children 0–17 years, 2015

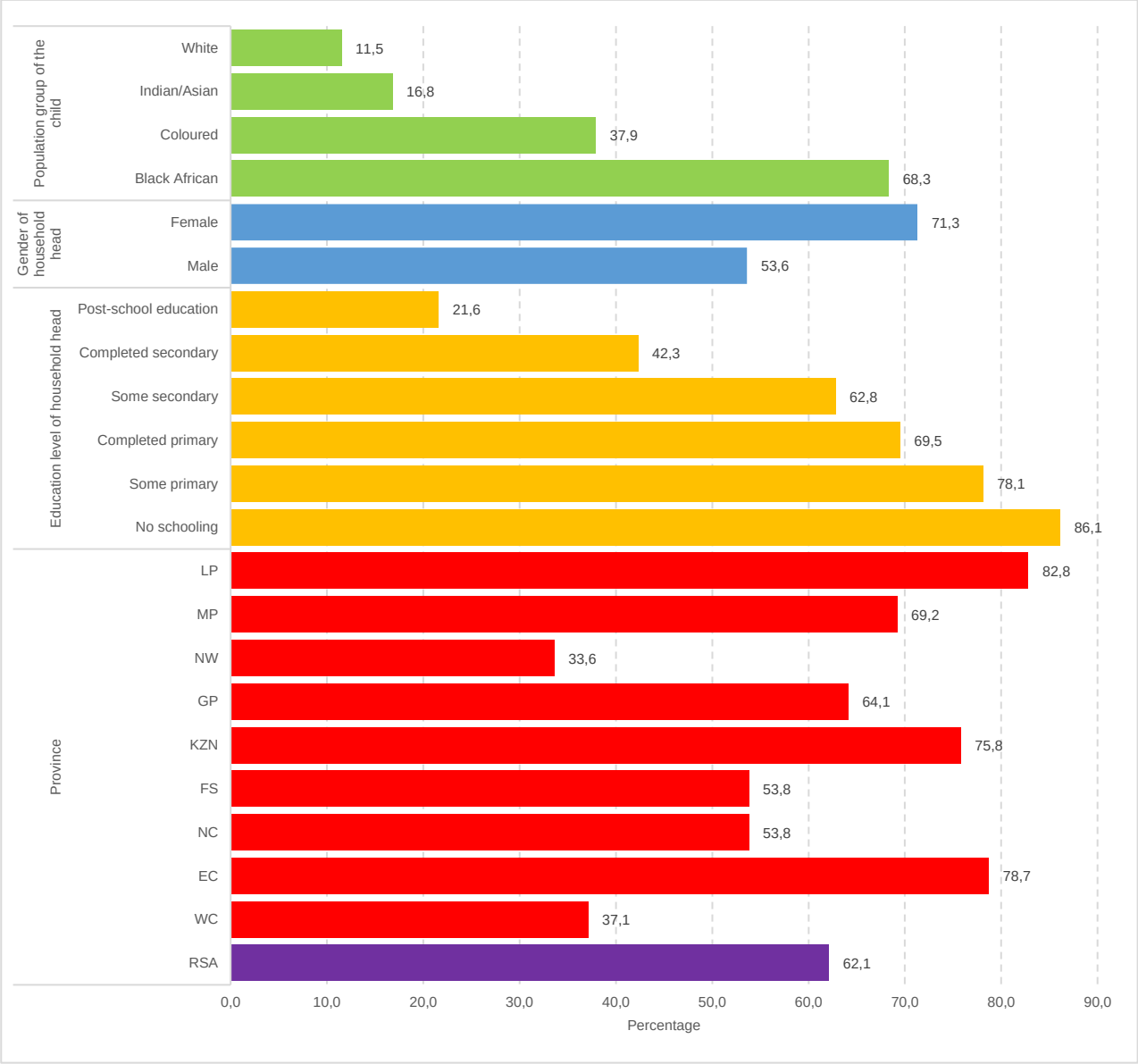


Source: Child poverty in South Africa: A multiple overlapping deprivation analysis report 2020 based on Living Conditions Survey 2015

[6] Dimensions of poverty used: WASH (drinking water source, sanitation, and waste disposal); Housing (shelter and energy); Nutrition (food security); Protection (safety); Health (distance to healthcare centre/facility and availability of road-to-health card); Information (access to information devices); Education (school attendance, delays in attendance, school facilities).
[7] Born-free generation born in 1994 and later.

Poverty statistics showed that in 2015, more than half (51%) of children aged 0–17 years were money-metric poor while close to 62% were multi-dimensionally[8] poor. Furthermore, 42% were both money-metric and multi-dimensionally poor, while close to 20% were multi-dimensionally poor only, and nine per cent were money-metric poor only. Higher rates of poverty were found among children living in rural areas (88,4%), followed by those living in non-metropolitan areas (73,7%), while a relatively lower percentage (39,6%) of children residing in metro areas were found to be multi-dimensionally poor (Stats SA, 2020b).

Figure 2.2: Multi-dimensional poverty headcount (k=3)[9] for children 0–17 years by child's characteristics, 2015



Source: Child poverty in South Africa: A multiple overlapping deprivation analysis report 2020 based on Living Conditions Survey 2015

The above figure presents the multi-dimensional deprivation headcount of children aged 0–17 for at least three dimensions of poverty in 2015. In 2015, more than two-thirds (68,3%) of black African children aged 0–17 years were found to be multi-dimensionally poor in at least three dimensions of poverty. Similarly, more than one-third (37,9%) of coloured children, 16,8% of Indian/Asian children and 11,5% of white children were multi-dimensionally deprived. Deprivation affected children who stayed in female-headed households severely, as

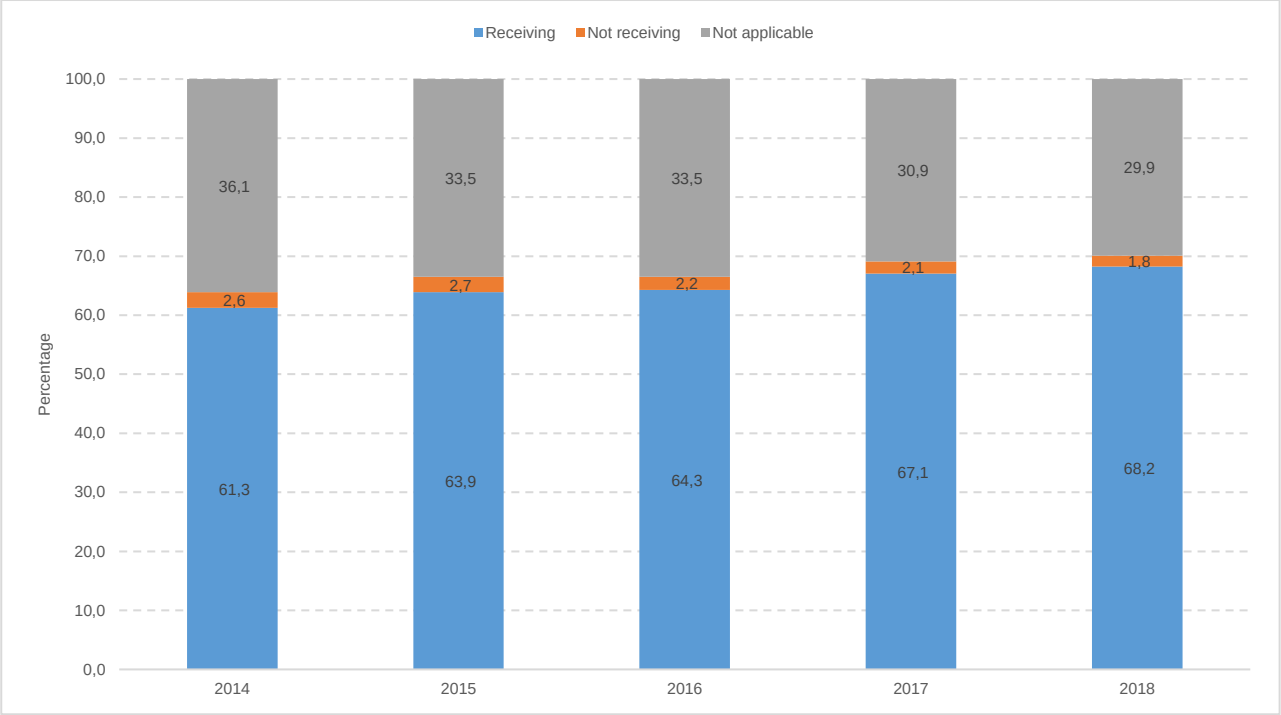
[8] K=3 means three dimensions of poverty out of seven were used.
[8] K=3 means three dimensions of poverty out of seven were used.

close to seven out of ten (71,3%) female-headed households with children were multi-dimensionally poor compared to close to five out of ten (53,6%) male-headed households with children which were multi-dimensionally poor. Children staying in households with uneducated or poorly educated heads experienced the most deprivation. Children's levels of deprivation drop as the household head's level of education increases. Close to six out of seven (86,1%) children staying in households which were headed by persons with no education were deprived, while seven out of nine (78,1%) children staying in households which were headed by persons with some primary education were deprived. Children who stayed in households whose head had a post-school education were the least vulnerable to deprivation (21,6%). Limpopo, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal were the provinces where the highest percentages of multi-dimensionally deprived children were residing (82,8%, 78,7% and 75,8%, respectively). Mpumalanga and Gauteng were home to a substantial percentage of multi-dimensionally deprived children (69,2% and 64,1%, respectively) compared to the national average of 62,1%. Children in Western Cape and North West were relatively less vulnerable to deprivation (37,1% and 33,6%) compared to the other provinces and the national average (62,1%).

2.3 Access to social grants and other income

According to the GHS, 44,3% of South African households benefited from one or more grants in 2018. Overall, grants were the second most important source of household income (Stats SA, 2019a). Households with children were increasingly becoming recipients of the child support grant.

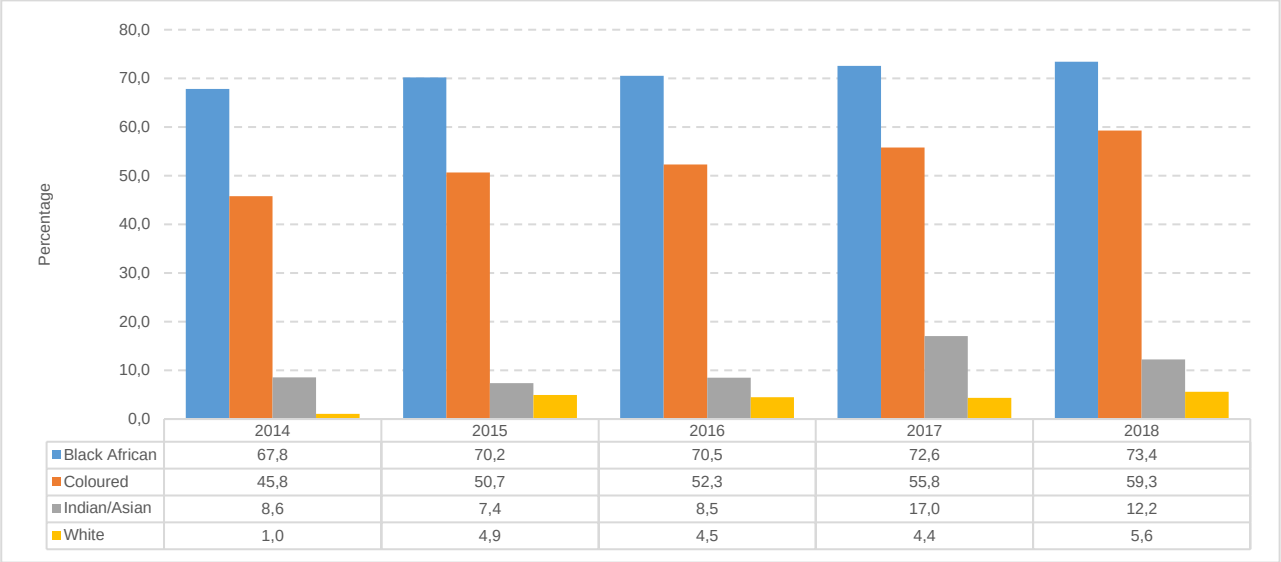
Figure 2.3: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who received the child support grant, 2014–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

The above graph shows the percentage of children aged 0–17 years who benefited from the child support grant. The data shows that access to the child support grant increased by close to seven percentage points from 61,3% in 2014 to 68,2% in 2018. Furthermore, the data shows that access to the child support grant among children aged 0–17 was nearly universal with almost all children eligible for the grant accessing it. In 2018, close to two per cent of children aged 0–17 years who were potentially eligible for the child support grant did not receive the grant.

Figure 2.4: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who received the child support grant by population group, 2014–2018

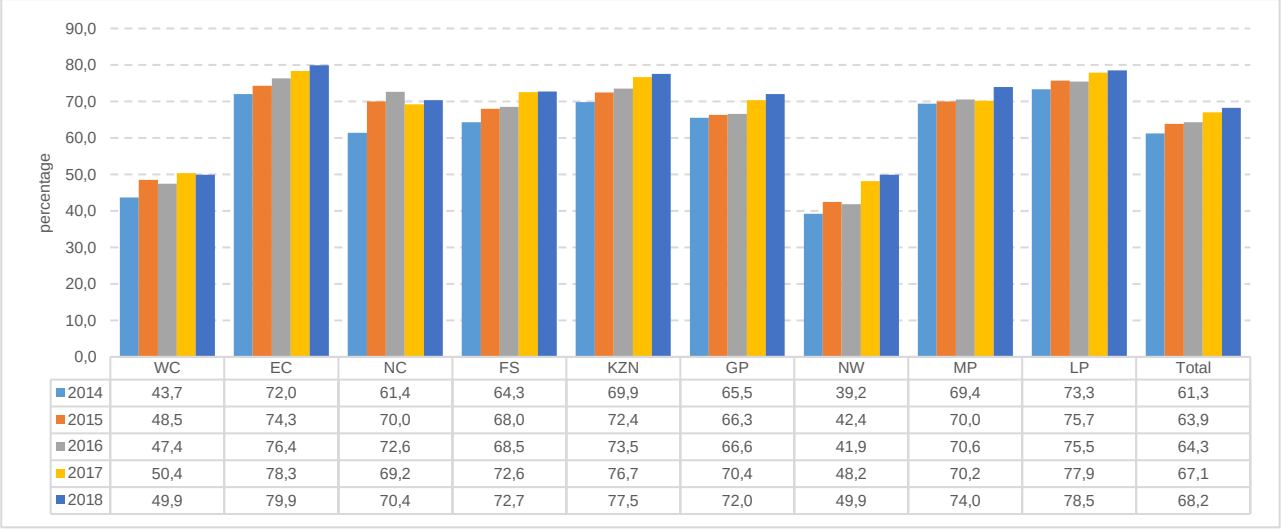


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Black African	67,8	70,2	70,5	72,6	73,4
Coloured	45,8	50,7	52,3	55,8	59,3
Indian/Asian	8,6	7,4	8,5	17,0	12,2
White	1,0	4,9	4,5	4,4	5,6

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

The above graph shows the percentage of children aged 0–17 years who benefited from the child support grant by population group. The data shows that access to the child support grant increased across all population groups, with the largest increase being among coloureds, which grew by close to 14 percentage points from 45,8% in 2014 to 59,3% in 2018. Among black Africans, access to the child support grant grew by close to seven percentage points from 67,8% in 2014 to 73,4% in 2018.

Figure 2.5: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who received the child support grant by province, 2014–2018

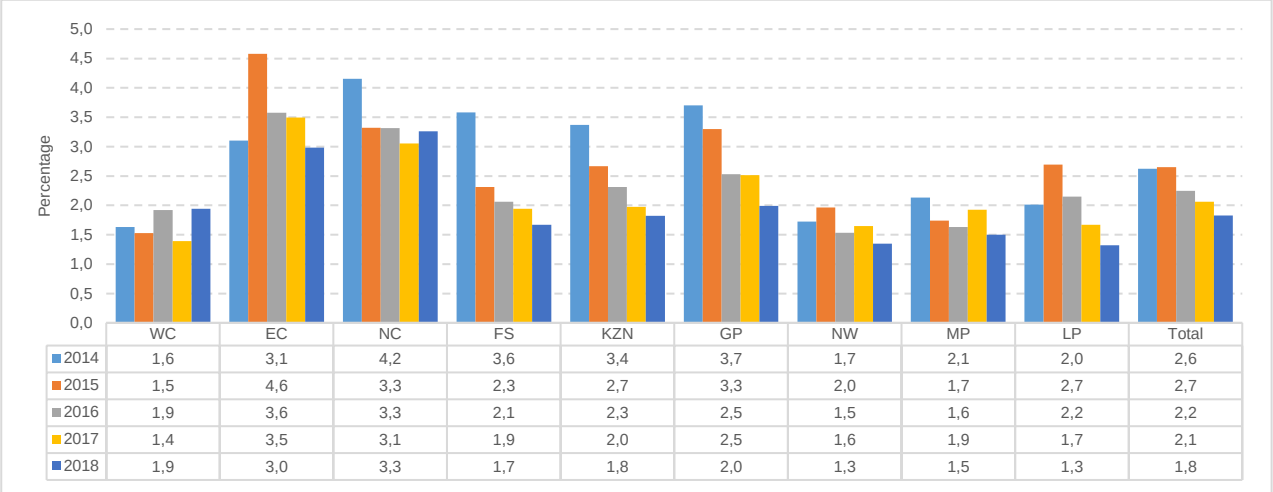


	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	GP	NW	MP	LP	Total
2014	43,7	72,0	61,4	64,3	69,9	65,5	39,2	69,4	73,3	61,3
2015	48,5	74,3	70,0	68,0	72,4	66,3	42,4	70,0	75,7	63,9
2016	47,4	76,4	72,6	68,5	73,5	66,6	41,9	70,6	75,5	64,3
2017	50,4	78,3	69,2	72,6	76,7	70,4	48,2	70,2	77,9	67,1
2018	49,9	79,9	70,4	72,7	77,5	72,0	49,9	74,0	78,5	68,2

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

The above graph shows the percentage of children aged 0–17 years who benefited from the child support grant by province. In all the years presented in the above graph, access to the child support grant was the highest in Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo. In both Eastern Cape and Limpopo, close to 80% of children aged 0–17 years were recipients of the child support grant. Access to the grant was the lowest in Western Cape and North West for all the years (2014–2018), and was below the national average in these provinces.

Figure 2.6: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who did not receive the child support grant by province, 2014–2018

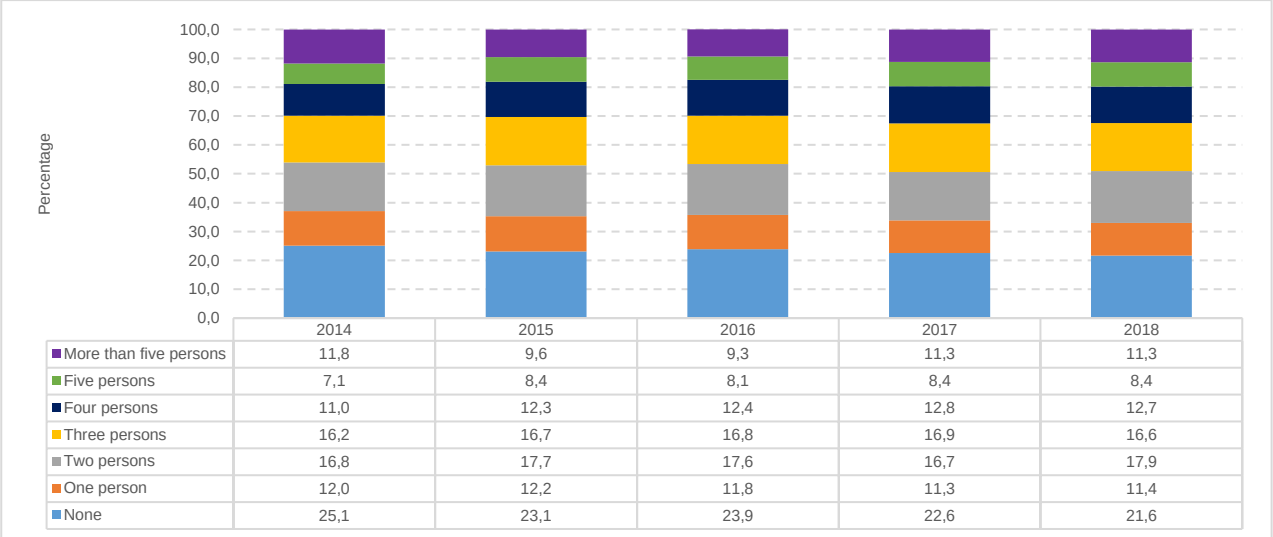


	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	GP	NW	MP	LP	Total
2014	1,6	3,1	4,2	3,6	3,4	3,7	1,7	2,1	2,0	2,6
2015	1,5	4,6	3,3	2,3	2,7	3,3	2,0	1,7	2,7	2,7
2016	1,9	3,6	3,3	2,1	2,3	2,5	1,5	1,6	2,2	2,2
2017	1,4	3,5	3,1	1,9	2,0	2,5	1,6	1,9	1,7	2,1
2018	1,9	3,0	3,3	1,7	1,8	2,0	1,3	1,5	1,3	1,8

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

The above graph shows the percentage of children aged 0–17 years who did not benefit from the child support grant by province. The overall trend shows that the percentage of children who did not receive the child support grant declined from 2014 to 2018. The largest declines were observed in Free State, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. Eastern Cape and Northern Cape had the largest percentage of children who did not receive the child support grant (3,0% and 3,3%, respectively) in 2018.

Figure 2.7: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years by the total number of people in the household who received a social grant, 2014–2018

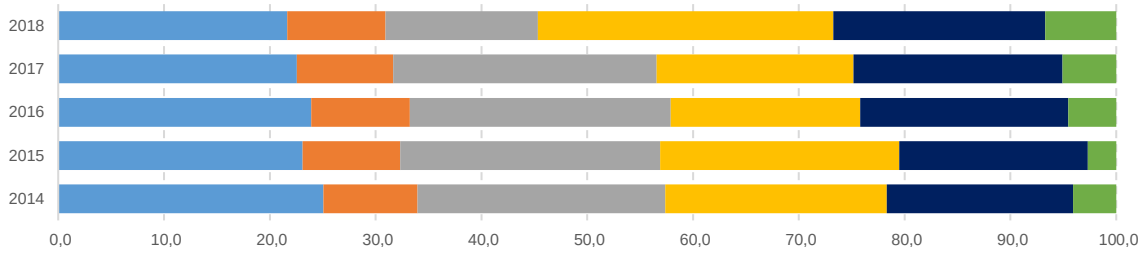


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
More than five persons	11,8	9,6	9,3	11,3	11,3
Five persons	7,1	8,4	8,1	8,4	8,4
Four persons	11,0	12,3	12,4	12,8	12,7
Three persons	16,2	16,7	16,8	16,9	16,6
Two persons	16,8	17,7	17,6	16,7	17,9
One person	12,0	12,2	11,8	11,3	11,4
None	25,1	23,1	23,9	22,6	21,6

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

The above graph shows the percentage of children aged 0–17 years by the total number of people in households who received a social grant. In 2014, close to a quarter (25,1%) of children aged 0–17 were residing in households where none of the members received a social grant, while the majority (three-quarters) of the children had at least someone in the household who received a social grant. In 2018, the percentage of children who were residing in a household where at least one member received a social grant increased to 78,4%. Furthermore, two-quarters of children resided in households with multiple members who were recipients of social grants in 2018.

Figure 2.8: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years by total monthly household social grant income, 2014–2018

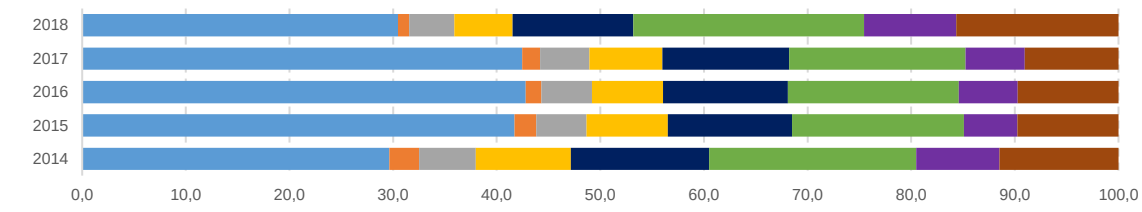


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
None	25,1	23,1	23,9	22,6	21,6
R1-R500	8,9	9,2	9,3	9,1	9,3
R501-R1000	23,4	24,6	24,6	24,9	14,4
R1001-R2000	20,9	22,6	17,9	18,6	27,9
R2001-R4000	17,6	17,8	19,7	19,8	20,1
R4001-R12000	4,1	2,7	4,5	5,1	6,7

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

As depicted previously in Figure 2.7, more than three-quarters of children aged 0–17 lived in households with at least one member being a beneficiary of a social grant, making this source of income an essential component of the total household social grant income. The percentage of children aged 0–17 with total monthly household social grant income of R1–R500 remained stable around nine per cent across all years, while the percentage of those receiving R501–R1 000 declined sharply from close to 25% in 2017 to 14,4% in 2018. However, the trend over the years seems rather to indicate a shift towards higher income brackets of R1 001–R4 000 and more than R4 000.

Figure 2.9: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years by total monthly salary for the household, 2014–2018

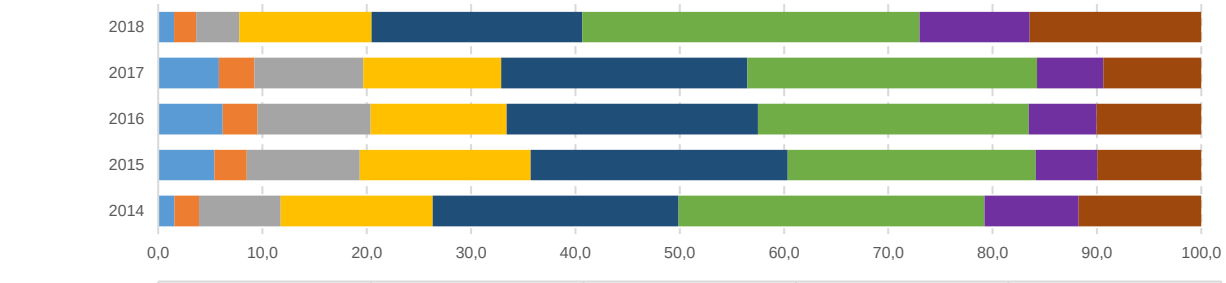


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
None	29,6	41,7	42,8	42,4	30,5
R1-R500	2,9	2,1	1,5	1,7	1,1
R501-R1000	5,5	4,9	4,9	4,8	4,3
R1001-R2000	9,2	7,8	6,9	7,0	5,6
R2001-R4000	13,3	12,0	12,0	12,2	11,6
R4001-R12000	20,0	16,6	16,5	17,0	22,3
R12001-R20000	8,0	5,2	5,7	5,7	8,9
More than R20000	11,5	9,8	9,7	9,1	15,7

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

The total monthly salary for the household includes overtime, allowances, bonuses and any deductions before tax. Although the data showed some fluctuations over the years, in all years, a large percentage of children aged 0–17 (varying from close to 30% to 43%) stayed in households that did not receive a monthly salary. Furthermore, the percentage of children staying in households with monthly household salaries of R4 000 or less declined over the years from 30,9% in 2014 to 22,7% in 2018. In all the years presented in Figure 2.9, the largest percentage of children aged 0–17 lived in a household that received a monthly salary of R4 001–R12 000.

Figure 2.10: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years by total monthly household income, 2014–2018



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
None	1,6	5,4	6,2	5,8	1,5
R1-R500	2,4	3,1	3,3	3,4	2,1
R501-R1000	7,8	10,8	10,9	10,4	4,2
R1001-R2000	14,6	16,4	13,0	13,2	12,7
R2001-R4000	23,6	24,6	24,1	23,6	20,2
R4001-R12000	29,3	23,8	25,9	27,8	32,3
R12001-R20000	9,0	5,9	6,5	6,3	10,6
More than R20000	11,8	10,0	10,1	9,4	16,4

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

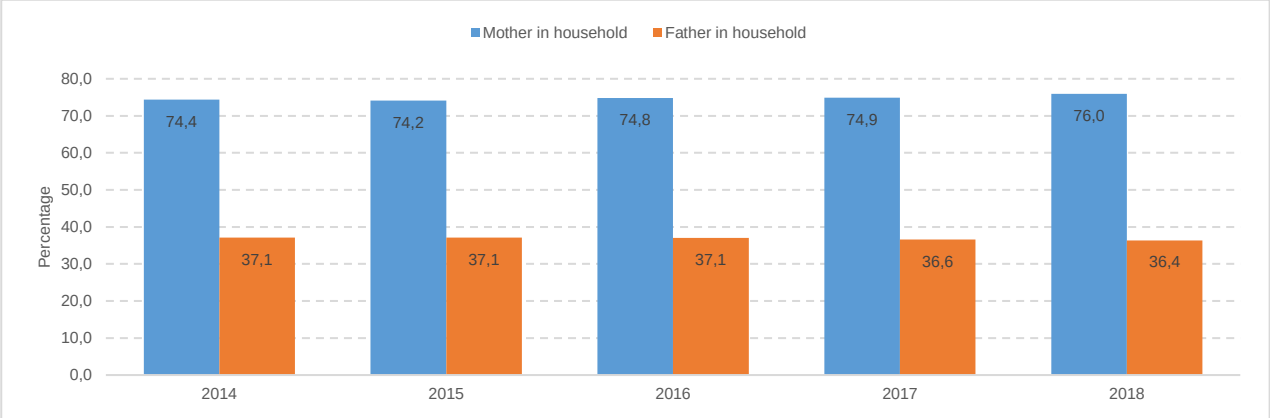
Fluctuations were observed over the years in monthly household income of children aged 0–17. However, the overall trend showed some increase in the percentage of children who lived in a household with a monthly income of more than R4 000 from 2014 to 2018 (50,1% in 2014 and 59,3% in 2018, respectively).

2.4 Children family structure

The role of family members is important in the life of young children, as they are the people with whom they spend most of their time. Their understanding of the world is shaped through these interactions and their growth and learning is determined by the amount of stimulation received from these individuals. Parents are the first two people that a child interacts with and, thus, contribute the most to the way a child is loved, cared for and nurtured at home. While various household members may influence a child's development, these interactions may serve as a foundation that helps in shaping the future of a child.

According to the GHS 2018 report, in South Africa, 19,8% of children lived with neither their biological parents, while 33,8% lived with both parents, and 43,1% lived with their mothers. Approximately 11,7% of children were orphaned, having lost one or more parents (Stats SA, 2019a). This shows that most household structures differed from nuclear family structures where most children lived in multi-generational family households. The GHS 2018 shows that more than half of households in 2018 (51,8%) consisted of two or more generations, while 5,1% of households consisted of skip-generation households (Stats SA, 2019a).

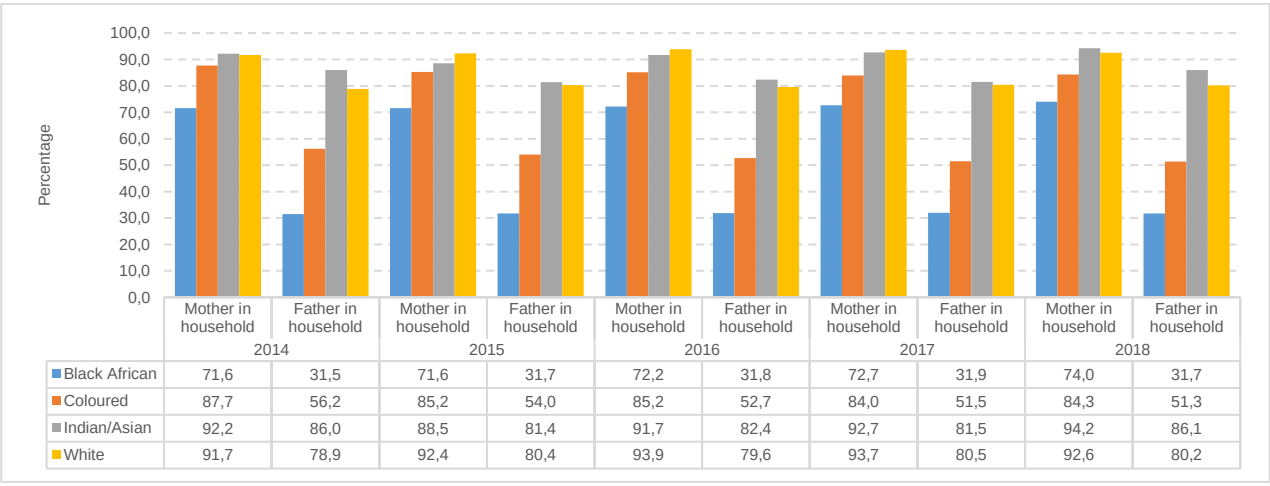
Figure 2.11: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who stayed in the same household as their parents, 2014–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

The above graph shows the percentage of children aged 0–17 years who stayed in the same household with their biological father or mother. There were twice as many children staying with their biological mother as there were who were staying with their biological father in all the years. The percentage of children aged 0–17 who lived with their biological mother increased from 74,4% in 2014 to 76,0% in 2018. However, the percentage of children aged 0–17 who lived with their biological father remained stagnated at close to 37% for all the years. While it would more than likely be true that children who stayed with their biological father also stayed with their biological mother, the reverse was less likely to be true.

Figure 2.12: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who stayed in the same household as their parents by population group, 2014-2018

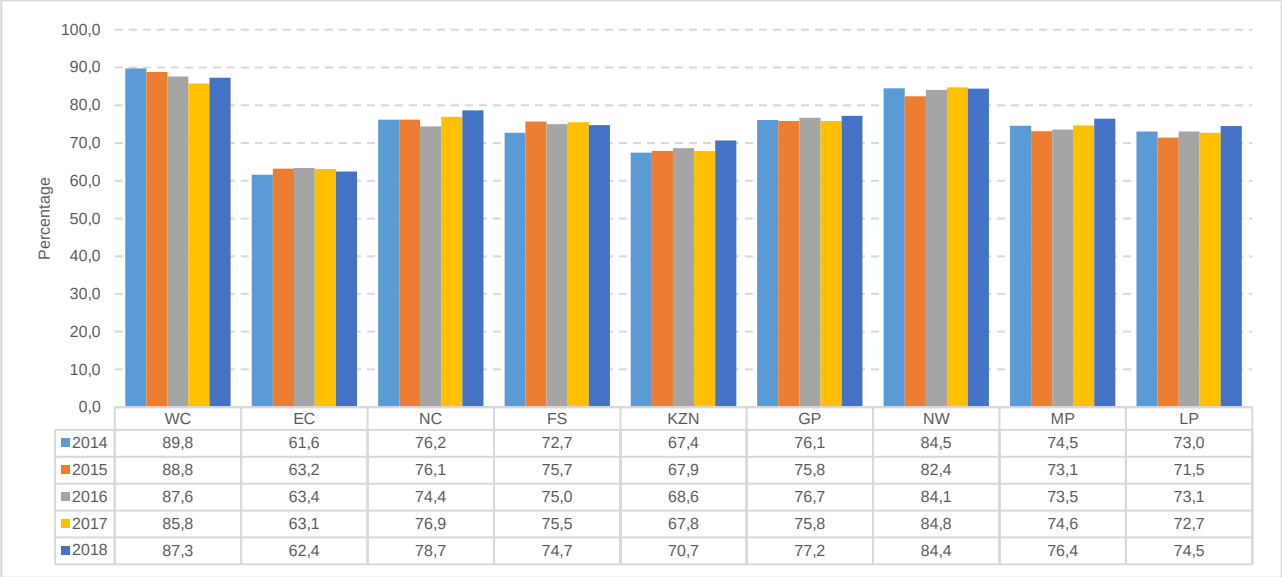


	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Mother in household	Father in household	Mother in household	Father in household	Mother in household	Father in household	Mother in household	Father in household	Mother in household	Father in household
Black African	71,6	31,5	71,6	31,7	72,2	31,8	72,7	31,9	74,0	31,7
Coloured	87,7	56,2	85,2	54,0	85,2	52,7	84,0	51,5	84,3	51,3
Indian/Asian	92,2	86,0	88,5	81,4	91,7	82,4	92,7	81,5	94,2	86,1
White	91,7	78,9	92,4	80,4	93,9	79,6	93,7	80,5	92,6	80,2

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

The distribution by population group of the percentage of children aged 0–17 years who stayed in the same household with their biological father or mother shows substantial differences. Unlike their white or Indian/Asian peers, black African children under age 17 were more likely to only have a co-resident biological mother for all the years. Furthermore, across all population groups, a higher percentage of children stayed with their biological mother compared to those who stayed with their biological father. In 2018, while 74,0% of black African children aged 0-17 years lived with their biological mother, 84,3% of coloured, 94,2% of Indian/Asian and 92,6% of white children aged 0–17 lived with their biological mother. By contrast, in 2018, the percentage of children who lived with their biological father was the lowest among black African children (31,7%) and the highest among Indian/Asian children (86,1%).

Figure 2.13: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who stayed in the same household as their mother by province, 2014-2018



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	GP	NW	MP	LP
2014	89,8	61,6	76,2	72,7	67,4	76,1	84,5	74,5	73,0
2015	88,8	63,2	76,1	75,7	67,9	75,8	82,4	73,1	71,5
2016	87,6	63,4	74,4	75,0	68,6	76,7	84,1	73,5	73,1
2017	85,8	63,1	76,9	75,5	67,8	75,8	84,8	74,6	72,7
2018	87,3	62,4	78,7	74,7	70,7	77,2	84,4	76,4	74,5

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

The percentage of children aged 0–17 years who lived in the same household with their biological mother showed a large variation by province. In all the years, Western Cape had the highest percentage of children who lived with their biological mother, followed by North West. Eastern Cape had substantially lower proportions of children who stayed with their biological mother.

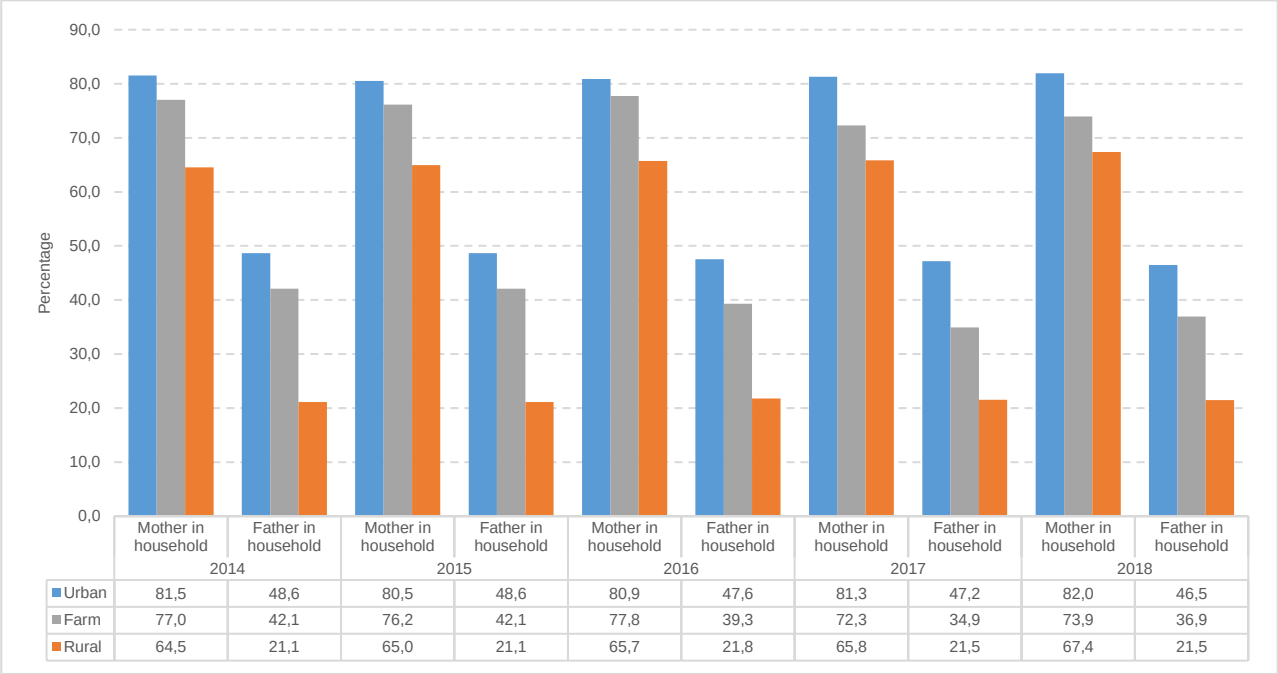
Figure 2.14: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who stayed in the same household as their father by province, 2014-2018

	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	GP	NW	MP	LP
2014	57,1	25,1	34,6	40,3	27,3	32,4	56,9	32,1	26,6
2015	55,7	23,9	36,7	38,6	28,2	34,9	53,4	35,2	28,6
2016	55,7	23,2	34,8	38,7	26,8	35,4	54,9	35,0	29,2
2017	56,4	23,8	36,2	35,3	25,3	36,1	53,2	34,5	27,7
2018	55,8	24,9	36,9	36,9	25,4	33,1	50,8	35,3	28,8

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

The percentage distribution of fathers who stayed with their biological children followed similar trends across the provinces for almost all the years. Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Gauteng and Northern Cape showed a slight increase in the percentage of fathers who stayed with their biological children. A decline in the percentage of fathers who stayed with their biological children was observed in the rest of the provinces, with North West presenting the largest percentage point decline (6,1) between 2014 and 2018.

Figure 2.15: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who stayed in the same household as their parents by geotype, 2014-2018

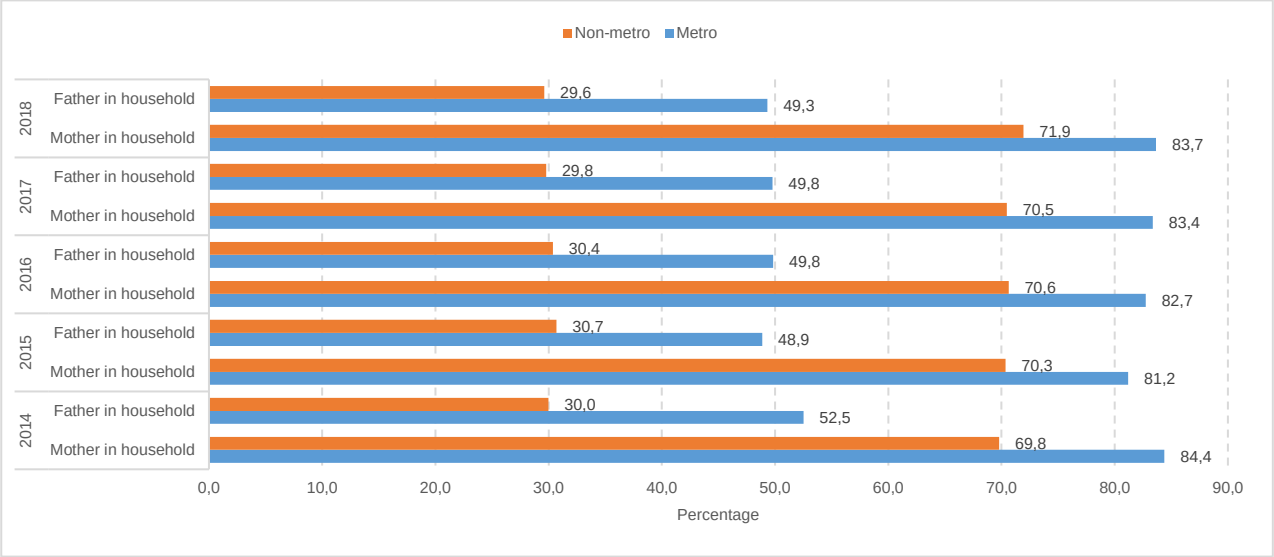


	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Mother in household	Father in household	Mother in household	Father in household	Mother in household	Father in household	Mother in household	Father in household	Mother in household	Father in household
Urban	81,5	48,6	80,5	48,6	80,9	47,6	81,3	47,2	82,0	46,5
Farm	77,0	42,1	76,2	42,1	77,8	39,3	72,3	34,9	73,9	36,9
Rural	64,5	21,1	65,0	21,1	65,7	21,8	65,8	21,5	67,4	21,5

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

The graph above shows important geographical differences in the percentage of children who lived with their biological parents. Children who lived in rural areas would least likely stay with their biological parents compared to children staying in farm or urban areas. Irrespective of the years, the percentage of children who lived with their biological mother in urban areas was substantially higher than the percentage of those staying in farm or rural areas. There was a slight shift in the percentage of children who lived in farm areas with their biological father, as it reduced from 42,1% in 2014 to 36,9% in 2018.

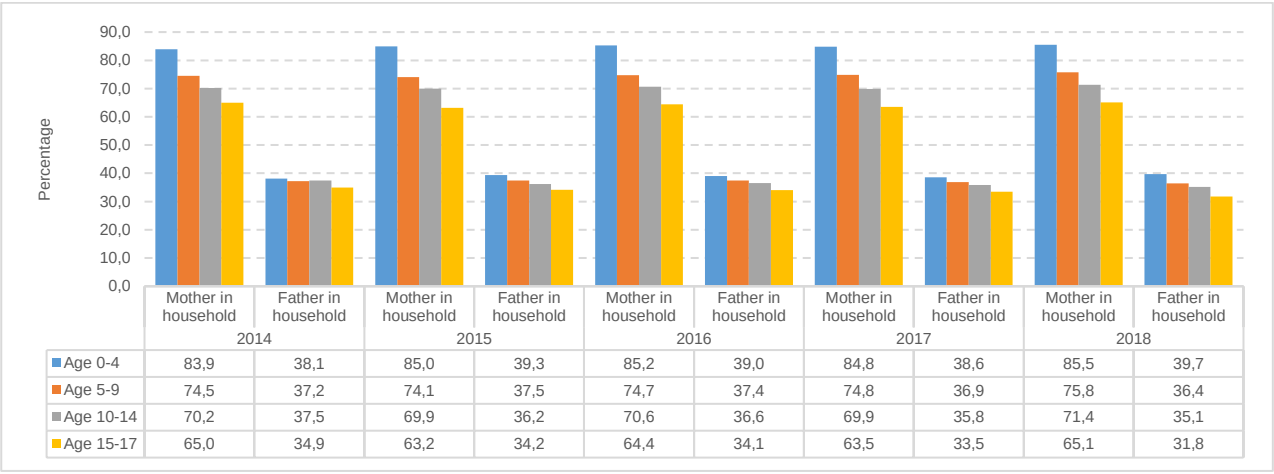
Figure 2.16: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who stayed in the same household as their parents by metro and non-metro, 2014–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

The figure above shows a considerable variation by metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas in the relative percentage of children who lived with their biological parents. Almost five in every six children who stayed in metropolitan areas lived with their biological mother for all the years presented. Similarly, almost five in every seven children who stayed in non-metropolitan areas lived with their biological mother. In contrast, almost five in every ten children who stayed in metropolitan areas lived with their biological father.

Figure 2.17: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who stayed in the same household as their parents by child's age, 2014-2018

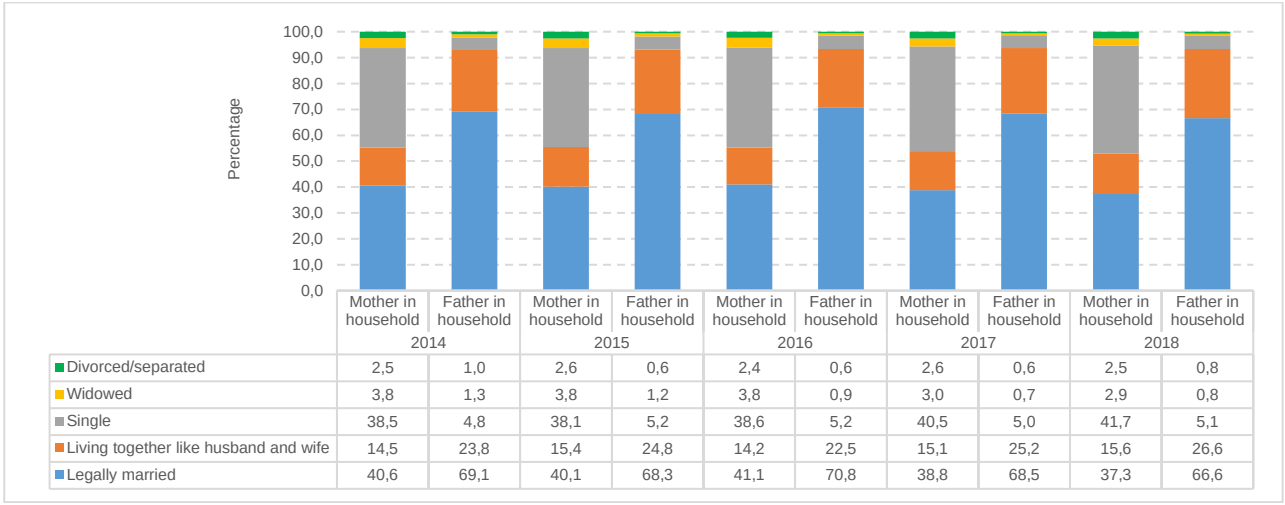


	Mother in household	Father in household	Mother in household	Father in household	Mother in household	Father in household	Mother in household	Father in household	Mother in household	Father in household
	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
Age 0-4	83,9	38,1	85,0	39,3	85,2	39,0	84,8	38,6	85,5	39,7
Age 5-9	74,5	37,2	74,1	37,5	74,7	37,4	74,8	36,9	75,8	36,4
Age 10-14	70,2	37,5	69,9	36,2	70,6	36,6	69,9	35,8	71,4	35,1
Age 15-17	65,0	34,9	63,2	34,2	64,4	34,1	63,5	33,5	65,1	31,8

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

The presence of biological parents in the households varied by the age of the children. The younger the child's age, the higher was the percentage of biological parents who lived with their children. In 2018, 85,5% of children aged 0–4 years stayed in the same household as their biological mother, while this percentage reduced to 75,8% among children aged 5–9 years. However, only 65,1% of children aged 15–17 years stayed in the same household as their biological mother. Similarly, in 2018, close to 40,0% of children aged 0–4 years stayed in the same household as their biological father, while close to 32,0% of children aged 15–17 years lived with their biological father.

Figure 2.18: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who stayed in the same household as their parents by marital status of the parents, 2014-2018

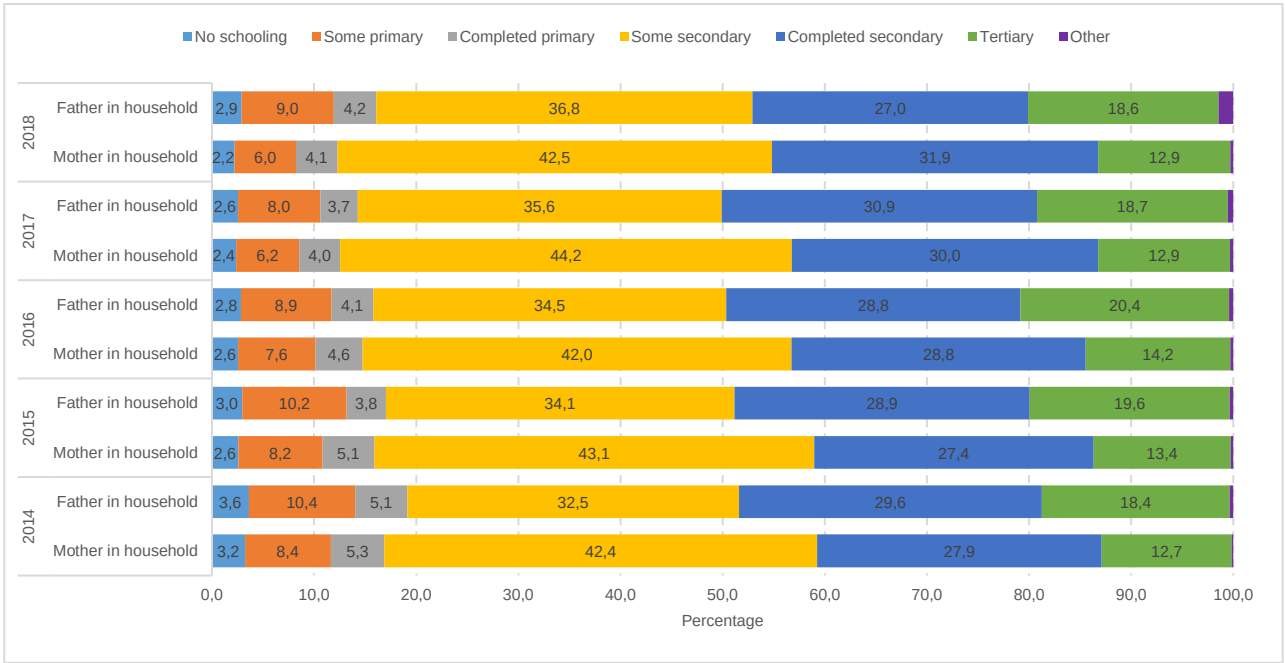


	Mother in household 2014	Father in household 2014	Mother in household 2015	Father in household 2015	Mother in household 2016	Father in household 2016	Mother in household 2017	Father in household 2017	Mother in household 2018	Father in household 2018
Divorced/separated	2,5	1,0	2,6	0,6	2,4	0,6	2,6	0,6	2,5	0,8
Widowed	3,8	1,3	3,8	1,2	3,8	0,9	3,0	0,7	2,9	0,8
Single	38,5	4,8	38,1	5,2	38,6	5,2	40,5	5,0	41,7	5,1
Living together like husband and wife	14,5	23,8	15,4	24,8	14,2	22,5	15,1	25,2	15,6	26,6
Legally married	40,6	69,1	40,1	68,3	41,1	70,8	38,8	68,5	37,3	66,6

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

The marital status of their biological parents was an important determinant of children's living arrangements. Parents who lived with their biological children would most likely be legally married or cohabiting, but there are notable gender differences. Whereas 52,9% of legally married or cohabiting mothers lived with their children in 2018, a larger proportion of legally married or cohabiting fathers (93,2%) lived with their children. In 2018, close to 42,0% of mothers who lived with their children were single.

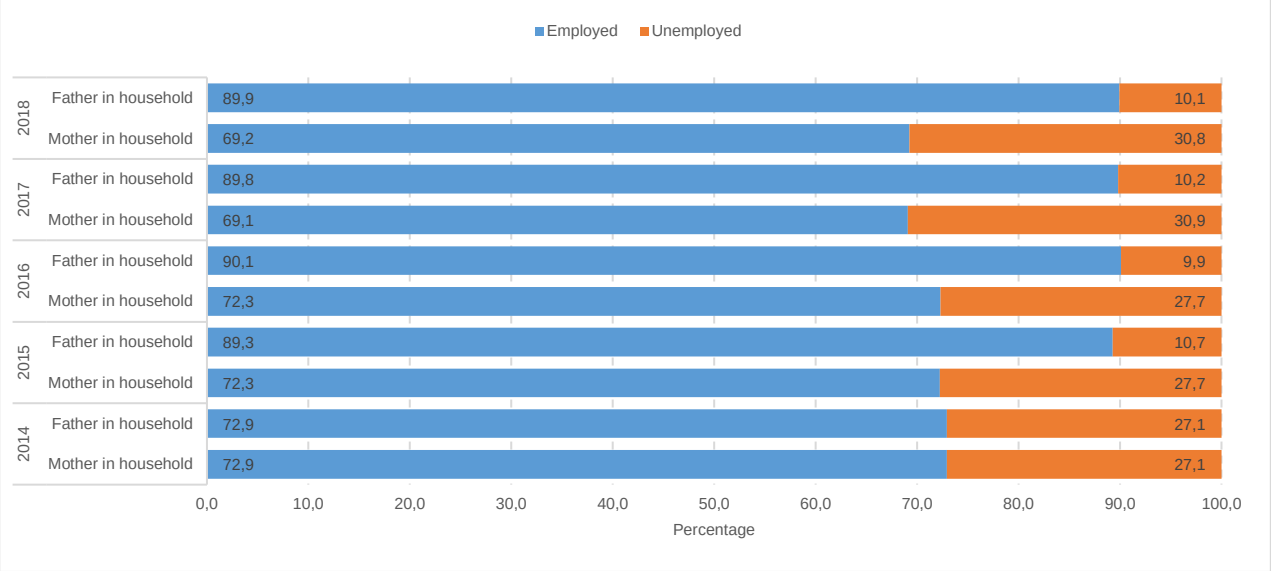
Figure 2.19: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who stayed in the same household as their parents by educational achievement of the parents, 2014–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

Figure 2.19 provides the education profile of parents who lived with their biological children. Gender differences in educational achievement were observed across all the years. However, this gap narrowed in 2018, with 45% of mothers and 46% of fathers achieving at least grade 12.

Figure 2.20: Percentage of children aged 0–17 years who stayed in the same household as their parents by educational achievement of the parents, 2014-2018



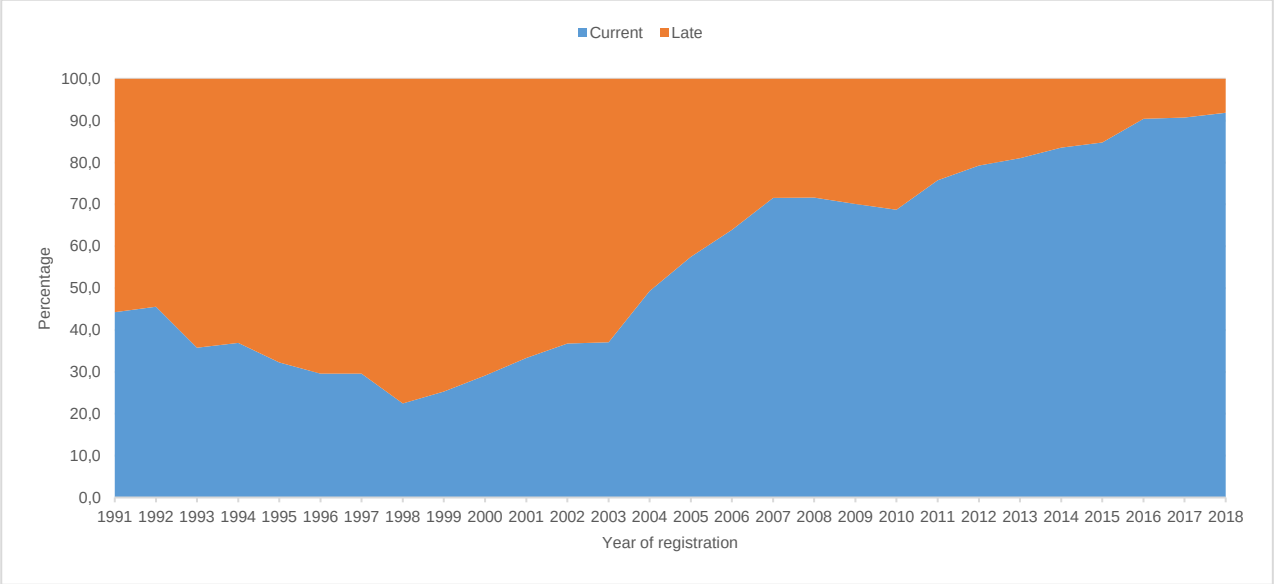
Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014-2018

The above graph shows the distribution of the labour market categories (employed and unemployed) for each biological parent. Reflecting on the segmentation of the South African labour market, the percentage of employed fathers who stayed with their biological children was higher than the percentage of employed mothers. The percentage of employed fathers who stayed with their biological children increased from close to 73% in 2014 to almost 90% in 2018. In contrast, the percentage of employed mothers who stayed with their biological children declined from close to 73% in 2014 to 69% in 2018.

2.5 Birth registration

Human rights conventions link the registration of birth to a new-born child's rights to an identity. The birth certificate of the child is also required for the child to access any benefits or services, such as healthcare, welfare, and education. Hence, not having a birth certificate easily exacerbates the condition of vulnerable children. While many developing countries struggle to register almost half of the births of their children, South Africa managed to significantly increase its birth registration coverage rate. In the past, existing disparities in underlying structural weaknesses caused delays in birth registrations; however, the country has managed to address key human resources and infrastructure related to birth registration services. In South Africa, the legal time frame for the registration of a live birth is within 30 days of birth, and earlier days of registration of live births was not nearly so well observed as it is at present. Birth registration in South Africa generates a birth certificate and the issuance of an identity number for the child on the spot. This section presents the birth registration trends in South Africa based on the Recorded Live Births releases published by Statistics South Africa.

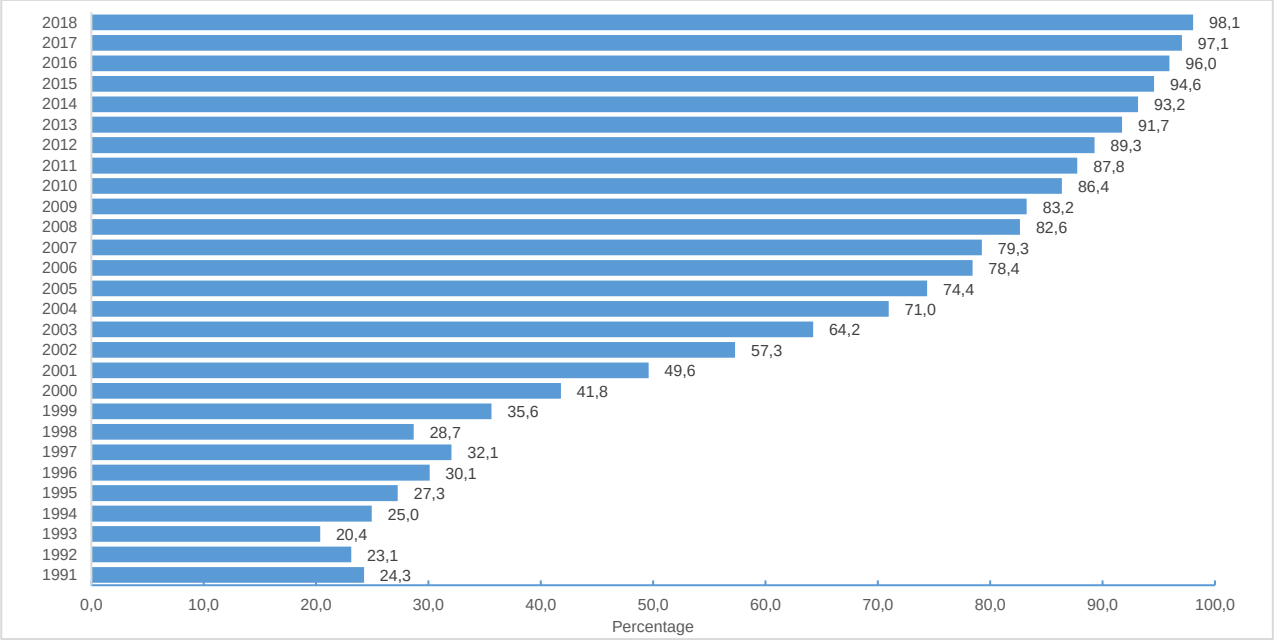
Figure 2.21: Percentage of current and late birth registrations, 1991-2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, Recorded live births, 2010-2018

In 1998, the biggest service received by children was the child support grant, for which all children qualify from birth until they reached seven years, as long as the financial situation of the primary caregiver is within the qualifying limits. Since the child's eligibility for the child support grant was mostly determined by age, the birth certificate was used as the major document for the application of the grant. As shown in the above graph, the percentage of current birth registrations started rising after 1998, and rose by 41,4 percentage points between 1998 and 2007. Furthermore, the percentage of current birth registrations increased by 34,5 percentage points from 2003 to 2007 – most likely in reaction to the relaxation of the household income eligibility and other criteria. In 2010, government increased the threshold for eligibility of the grant to children up to 18 years of age, which consequently magnified current birth registration in the country.

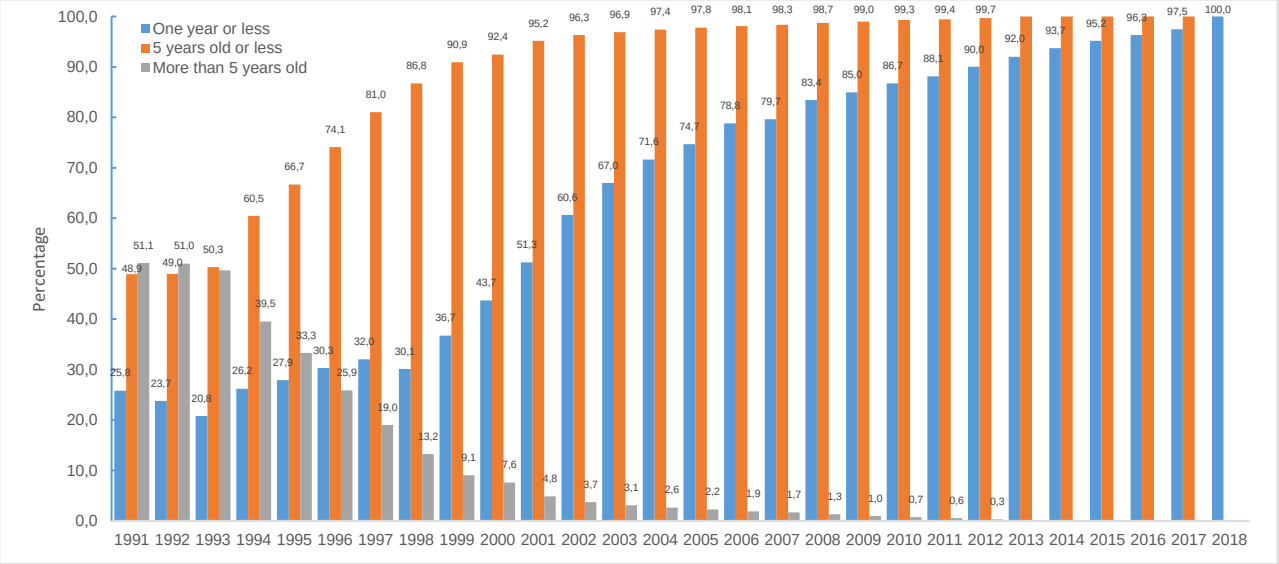
Figure 2.22: Percentage of birth occurrences registered within the year of birth, 1991–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, Recorded live births, 2010-2018

In the 28 years presented on this graph, the percentage of current birth registrations within the year of birth increased considerably by close to 74 percentage points from only 24,3% in 1991 to 98,1% in 2018. While the increase in the timely registration of births can be positively linked to access to the child support grant, in 2000, two years after its first introduction, only close to 42% of births were registered within the year of birth, while in 2004, seven out of ten births (71,0%) were registered within their year of birth.

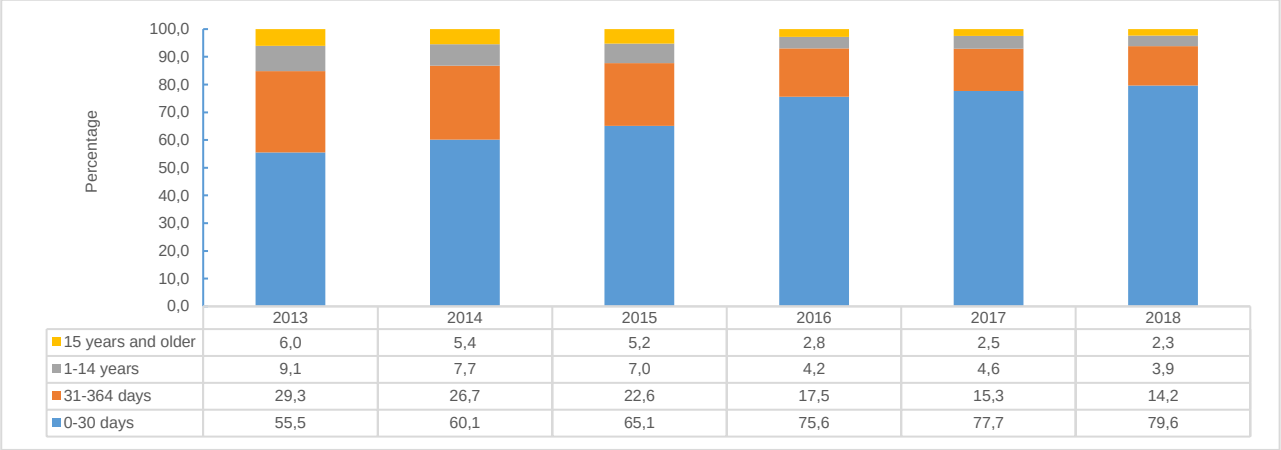
Figure 2.23: Percentage of live births that were registered by time of registration, 1991–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, Recorded live births, 2010-2018

A breakdown of the percentage of birth registrations by time of registration shows that birth registration in South Africa has become increasingly complete during the last few years, as is being presented in the above graph. The percentage of children whose births were registered when they were more than five years old was on a rapid decline while birth registration among children five years and lower was on a rise. However, there was a much higher increase in live births that were registered within one year (or less) of the birth in South Africa. Furthermore, the percentage of live births that were registered within one year (or less) of the birth in South Africa more than doubled (from 30,1% in 1998 to 67,0% in 2003). The percentage of children whose birth was registered when they were five years or under increased by 10,1 percentage points (from 86,8% in 1998 to 96,8% in 2003). The percentage of children whose birth was registered when they were more than five years old had a fourfold decrease (from 13,2% in 1998 to 3,1% in 2003). The rapid expansion in the registration of births was most likely in reaction to the government's extending the child support grant to 14-year-olds in 2003. During 2008, the threshold for household income eligibility was also relaxed to cut down on the number of children who were excluded from the grant. In 2010, government increased the threshold for eligibility of the grant to children up to 18 years of age, which augmented current birth registration in the country.

Figure 2.24: Percentage of live births that were registered within 30 days and delayed registrations, 2013–2018

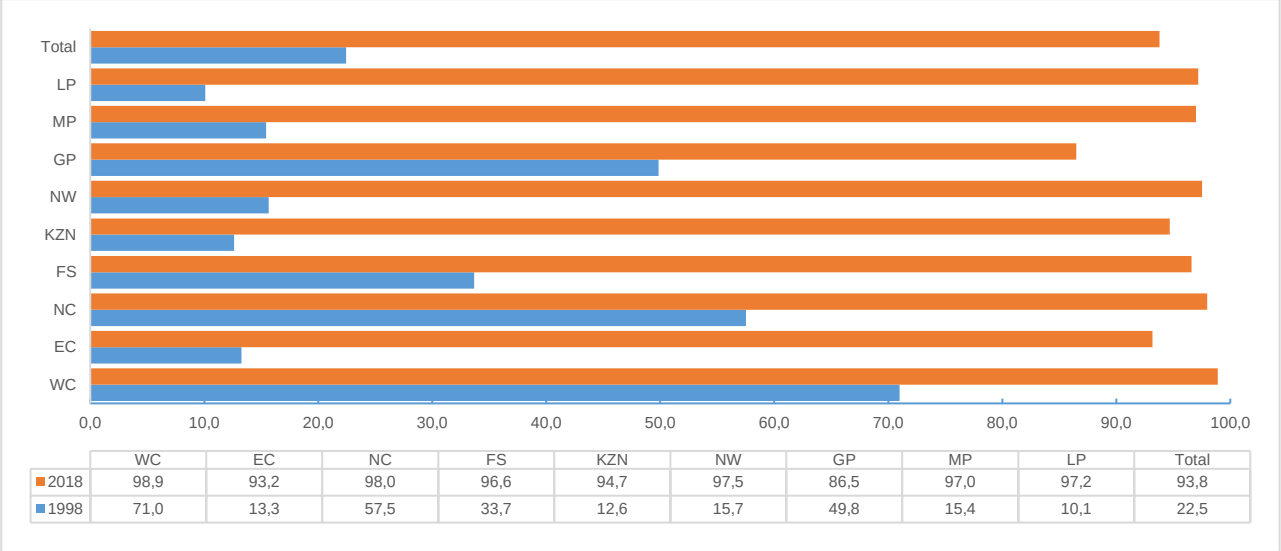


	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
15 years and older	6,0	5,4	5,2	2,8	2,5	2,3
1-14 years	9,1	7,7	7,0	4,2	4,6	3,9
31-364 days	29,3	26,7	22,6	17,5	15,3	14,2
0-30 days	55,5	60,1	65,1	75,6	77,7	79,6

Source: Statistics South Africa, Recorded live births, 2010-2018

A comparison of the timing of birth registration in the past six years from 2013 to 2018 shows a significant decrease in delayed registration. The percentage of live births that were registered after 30 days but within a year in South Africa decreased by 15,1 percentage points from 29,3% in 2013 to 14,2% in 2018. The percentage of live births that were registered after a year but within 14 years was reduced by 5,2 percentage points from 2013 to 2018. The percentage of live births that were registered after 15 years and longer was reduced by 3,7 percentage points during the same period. The data also shows that in the past six years there was a 24-percentage-point growth in the timely registration of live births.

Figure 2.25: Percentage of live births that were registered within the year of birth by province, 1998 and 2018



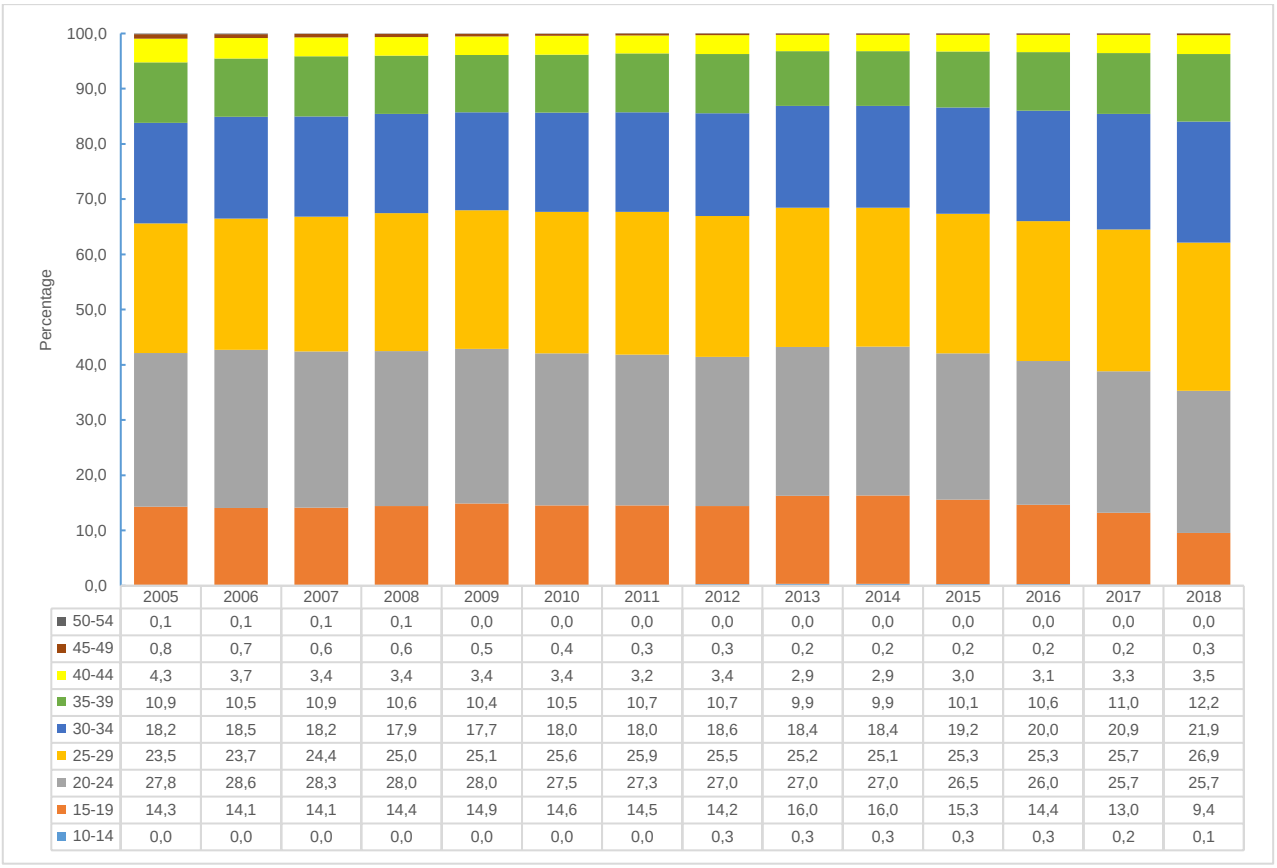
	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	Total
2018	98,9	93,2	98,0	96,6	94,7	97,5	86,5	97,0	97,2	93,8
1998	71,0	13,3	57,5	33,7	12,6	15,7	49,8	15,4	10,1	22,5

Source: Statistics South Africa, Recorded live births, 2010-2018
Note: Birth registrations with unspecified province were excluded from the analysis

The above graph shows that birth registration was biased against certain regions as long as it remained incomplete. As shown in the above graph, in 1998, live births that were registered within the year of birth were unusually high for Western Cape (71,0%), but disproportionately incomplete for Limpopo (10,1%), KwaZulu-Natal (12,6%) and Eastern Cape (13,3%). The proliferation of government services for citizens and the tightening of the legislation for enforcement of civil registration resulted in the overall increase in live birth registrations by 71,3 percentage points, from 22,5% in 1998 to 93,8% in 2018. In 2018, while Western Cape

reached near completeness with 98,9% of live births that were registered within the year of birth, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape birth registrations moved to 97,2%, 94,7% and 93,2% completeness, respectively. While Gauteng had above national average levels for the percentage of birth registrations in 1998 (49,8%), it reached only 86,5% of registered births in 2018, which was below the national average (93,8%).

Figure 2.26: Percentage of birth occurrences by age of the mother, 20015–2018

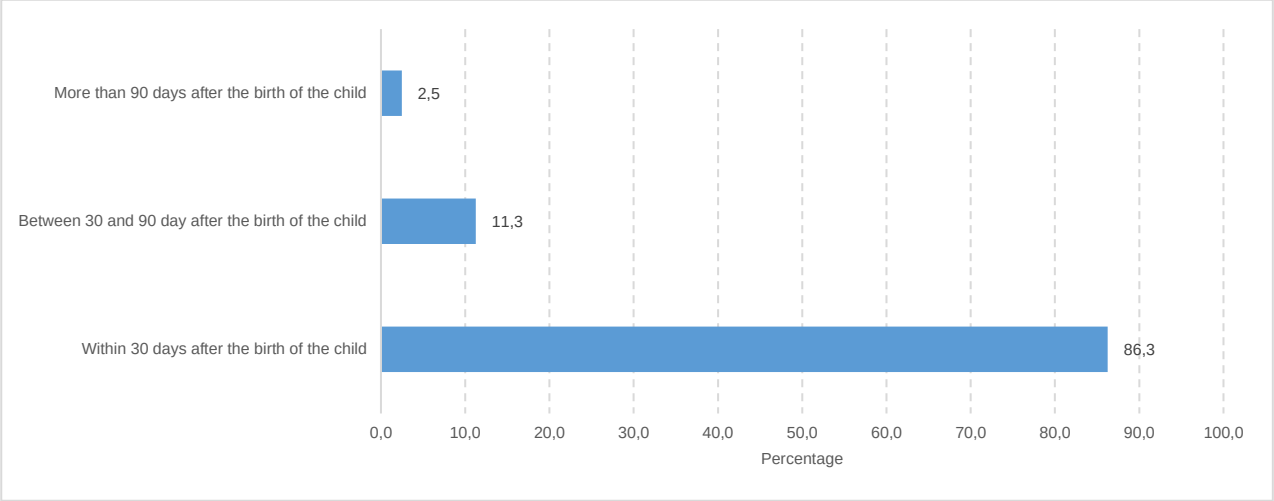


	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
50-54	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
45-49	0,8	0,7	0,6	0,6	0,5	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,3
40-44	4,3	3,7	3,4	3,4	3,4	3,4	3,2	3,4	2,9	2,9	3,0	3,1	3,3	3,5
35-39	10,9	10,5	10,9	10,6	10,4	10,5	10,7	10,7	9,9	9,9	10,1	10,6	11,0	12,2
30-34	18,2	18,5	18,2	17,9	17,7	18,0	18,0	18,6	18,4	18,4	19,2	20,0	20,9	21,9
25-29	23,5	23,7	24,4	25,0	25,1	25,6	25,9	25,5	25,2	25,1	25,3	25,3	25,7	26,9
20-24	27,8	28,6	28,3	28,0	28,0	27,5	27,3	27,0	27,0	27,0	26,5	26,0	25,7	25,7
15-19	14,3	14,1	14,1	14,4	14,9	14,6	14,5	14,2	16,0	16,0	15,3	14,4	13,0	9,4
10-14	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,1

Source: Statistics South Africa, Recorded live births, 2010-2018

The above graph shows the trends in childbearing by age in South Africa. The percentage of teenage childbearing remained stable in the 14-year period of 2005 to 2018, with teenage mothers aged 15–19 being responsible for close to 14%-15% of all births that occurred during the years. Teenage childbearing has negative consequences for the physical and economic wellbeing of the young mothers and their children. It also has negative effects on the educational outcome of the teenagers.

Figure 2.27: Timeline for receiving birth certificate among children aged 0–2, 2016



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2016

The figure above shows that in 2016, among children aged 0–2 years, 86,3% received their birth certificate within 30 days after the birth of the child, while close to 11% of children in this group received their birth certificate between 30 and 90 days after the birth of the child, and 2,5% received it three months after the birth of the child.

2.6 Summary

Caring for children can become financially challenging, especially if the number of children is high, and the family's socio-economic background is poor. This is because of the economic drain caused by housing, education costs and other costs involved in bringing up children. According to Stats SA data, in 2015, nearly nine per cent of children aged 0–17 years were money-metric poor, while 20,2% were multi-dimensionally poor only. Deprivation was high among children who stayed in female-headed households compared to male-headed households. More than two-thirds (68,2%) of children aged 0–17 in 2018 received the child support grant. Access to the child support grant is closely related to birth registration, as timely birth registration was nearly universal in 2018 (98,1%) compared to 24,1% in 1991. Parents need their children's birth certificate to apply for the child support grant.

More than three-quarters (76%) of children aged 0–17 stayed with their biological mother in 2018, while 36,4% stayed with both of their biological parents. However, national averages mask important variations in the percentage of children who stayed with their biological parents by population group and province. Black African children and children living in the Eastern Cape had the lowest percentage of children staying with their biological parents. It is the way a family interacts with a child that may help a child understand relationships better. He may learn how to feel comfortable, make friends or trust people from his own family only. The absence of one parent means a deficit in terms of parental time available to do the work of parenting (and all the other work in the household, which further restricts the available time for parenting).

Chapter 3: Child mortality

3.1 Introduction

The most vulnerable children experience adverse health outcomes that could lead to death – especially in poorer countries. Research has shown that during 1995 to 2012, under-five mortality in low- and middle-income countries decreased faster among the poorest, but progress in some countries lagged, especially with countries that had poor governance and health infrastructure (Eran Bendavid, 2014). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the global under-five mortality rate dropped from 91 deaths per 1 000 live births in 1990 to 43 in 2015, but did not reach the reduction level of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) target set for 2015. According to the WHO data, 45% of child deaths under the age of five years took place during the neonatal period due to birth asphyxia and infections. The main causes of death for under-five children in Africa were pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and malnutrition (WHO: https://www.afro.who.int/health-topics/child-health[10]).

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets regarding children's health aim at reducing neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 deaths per 1 000 live births and under-five mortality to at least as low as 25 deaths per 1 000 live births by 2030. Policy targets for 2030 that have a direct impact on children's well-being have been spelt out in the National Development Plan (NDP): To reduce infant mortality from 43 to below 20 deaths per 1 000 live births, and reduce under-five child mortality rate from 104 to below 30 deaths per 1 000 live births. Furthermore, policy targets include reducing injury, accidents and violence by 50% from 2010 levels. These include reducing violent crimes and inter-personal violence.

The under-five mortality rate for South Africa decreased from 48 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2010 to 30 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2015. The neonatal mortality rate for South Africa increased from 11 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2012 to 12 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2015. The infant mortality rate for South Africa decreased from 33,4 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2010 to 22,3 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2015 (Stats SA, 2017). In 2019, the under-five mortality rate was estimated at 30 deaths per 1 000 live births and the infant mortality rate was estimated at 22,1 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2019 (Stats SA, 2019d). According to Census 2011 data, the under-five mortality rate was estimated at 52,4 deaths per 1 000 live births for black Africans, 30,2 deaths for coloureds, 21,8 deaths for Indians/Asians and 14,8 deaths per 1 000 live births for whites (Stats SA, 2019c). This section presents trends in death occurrences among children in South Africa and the underlying causes of death of children.

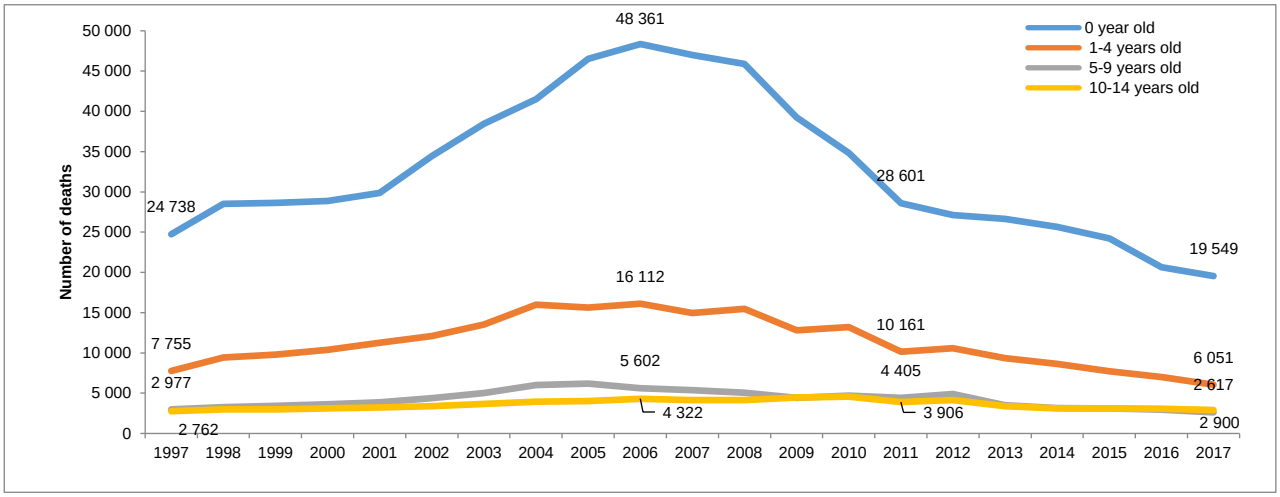
3.2 Death among children in South Africa

Death occurrences among children had great variations by age, population group and region. Mortality and causes of death data do not show the breakdown of the child's death by population group. However, as indicated earlier, Census 2011 data showed that child mortality was much higher among black African and coloured children which is in line with the country's population distribution. Over the past two decades, South Africa recorded reductions in death occurrences among children aged 0–14.[11] Death from injury related causes (including car accidents) was the leading cause of non-natural death among children.

[10] Accessed June 18, 2020

[11] Records with missing age or province information were excluded from the analysis. child deaths are incomplete in the civil registration and vital statistics system, hence estimates have been adjusted for incompleteness.

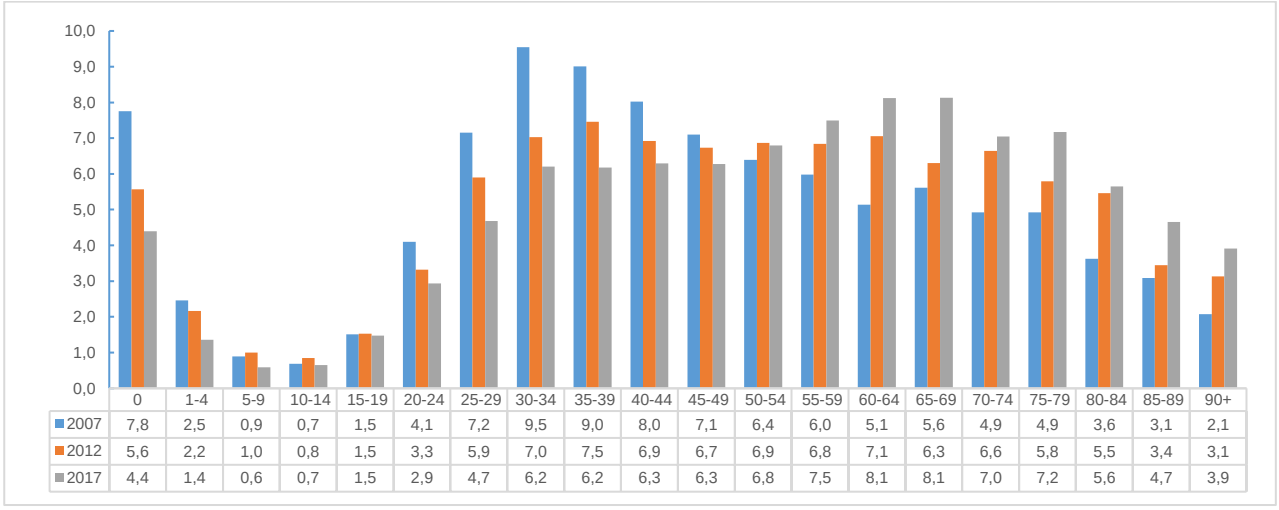
Figure 3.1: Number of death occurrences among children aged 0–14, 1997–2017



Source: Statistics South Africa, Mortality and causes of death, 2007–2017

In South Africa, the number of deaths among children aged 0–14 years was the highest among infants, with the maximum peak in mortality observed in 2006 (48 361 deaths). An overall reduction in the number of deaths among children was observed for all age groups. The biggest reduction was observed among infants, with a decrease of 28 812 deaths in 2017 from the most recent peak of 48 361 in 2006. The number of deaths among children aged 1–4 was more than double the number of deaths among children aged 5–9 for all the years presented in the above graph.

Figure 3.2: Percentage of total death occurrences by age, 2007, 2012 and 2017

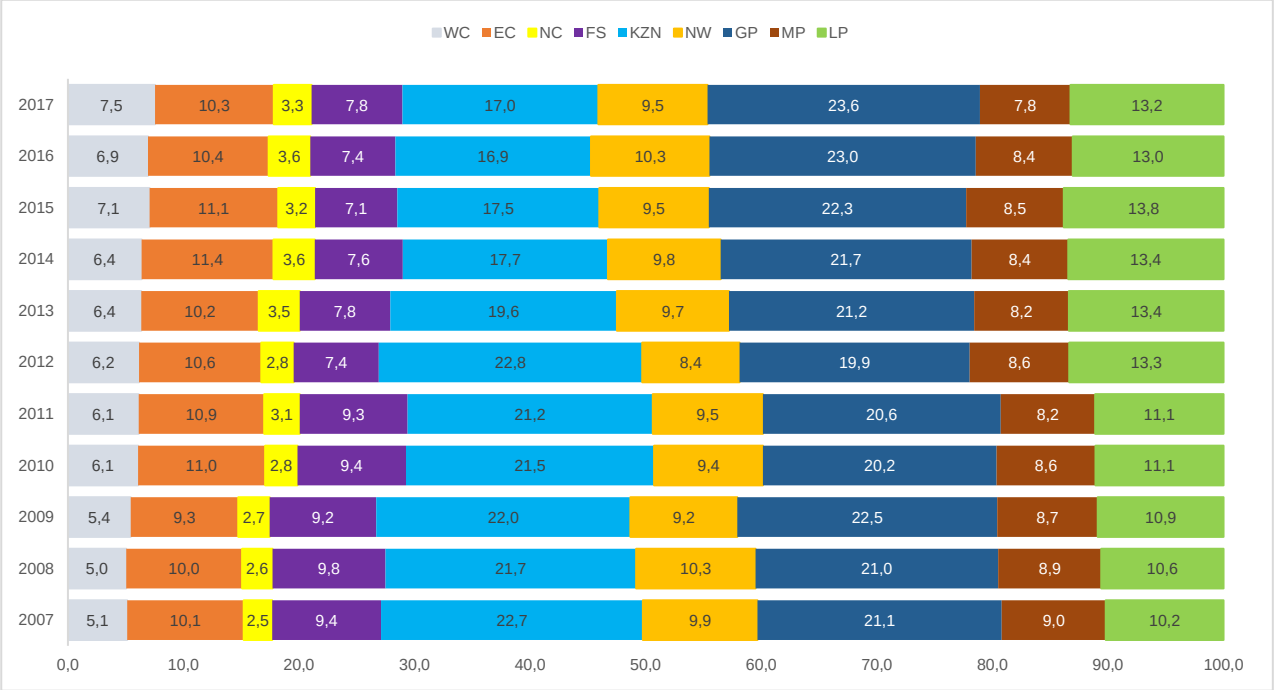


	0	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+
2007	7,8	2,5	0,9	0,7	1,5	4,1	7,2	9,5	9,0	8,0	7,1	6,4	6,0	5,1	5,6	4,9	4,9	3,6	3,1	2,1
2012	5,6	2,2	1,0	0,8	1,5	3,3	5,9	7,0	7,5	6,9	6,7	6,9	6,8	7,1	6,3	6,6	5,8	5,5	3,4	3,1
2017	4,4	1,4	0,6	0,7	1,5	2,9	4,7	6,2	6,2	6,3	6,3	6,8	7,5	8,1	8,1	7,0	7,2	5,6	4,7	3,9

Source: Statistics South Africa, Mortality and causes of death, 2007–2017

The trend in the percentage of total death occurrences by age and year was U-shaped among the age groups 0-29, and for all years presented above, with a rapid decline from age zero until it reached the lowest percentages at age 10–14. The percentage of the total under-5 children death occurrences was the highest in 2007 (10,3%) and reduced to 5,8% in 2017. However, the percentage of death occurrences among young people aged 15–19 increased to 1,5% for all the years presented in the graph. In 2007, deaths among children aged 0–14 accounted for close to 12% of all deaths in South Africa and only reduced to seven per cent in 2017.

Figure 3.3: Percentage of death occurrences among children aged 0–14 by province, 2007–2017



Source: Statistics South Africa, Mortality and causes of death, 2007–2017

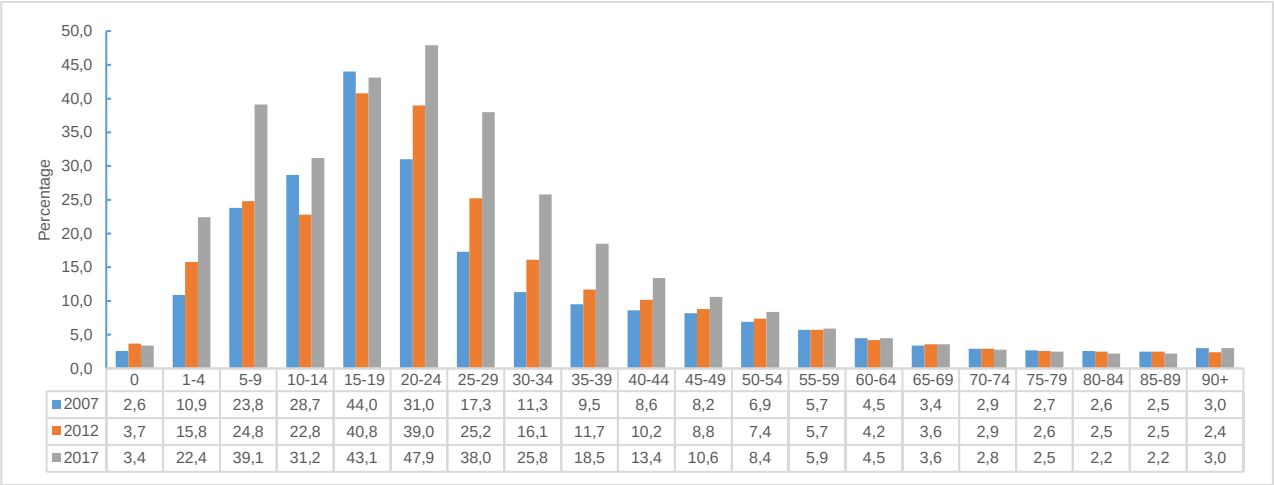
The province with the lowest percentage of death occurrences among children aged 0–14 for all years presented in the above graph was the Northern Cape, while the highest percentage of deaths occurrences was almost always in Gauteng. The percentage of death occurrences among children aged 0–14 declined in Free State and KwaZulu-Natal over the 11 years presented above, while during the same period, death occurrences among children aged 0–14 fluctuated in North West and Mpumalanga. The percentage of death occurrences among children aged 0–14 increased over the years for the rest of the provinces. The largest decline in the share of death occurrences was observed in KwaZulu-Natal, from 22,7% in 2007 to 17,0% in 2017. The largest increase in the share of death occurrences was observed in Limpopo, from 10,2% in 2007 to 13,2% in 2017.

3.3 Underlying causes of death among children

The decline in child deaths from infectious diseases was the result of early treatment of transmissions and increased access to immunisation services. In 2017, there were 31 117 deaths among children aged 0–14 in South Africa. Close to 13% resulted from non-natural causes,[12] which included death from injury-related causes, including motor vehicle crashes, assaults, and complications due to medical and surgical care. This section presents the leading causes of death in children aged 0–14.

[12] The death notification form had insufficient information to adequately classify non-natural causes of death in South Africa. This often resulted in an increase in the numbers pertaining to other external causes of accidental injury (Statistics South Africa, Mortality and causes of death in South Africa).

Figure 3.4: Percentage of non-natural total death occurrences by age, 2007, 2012 and 2017

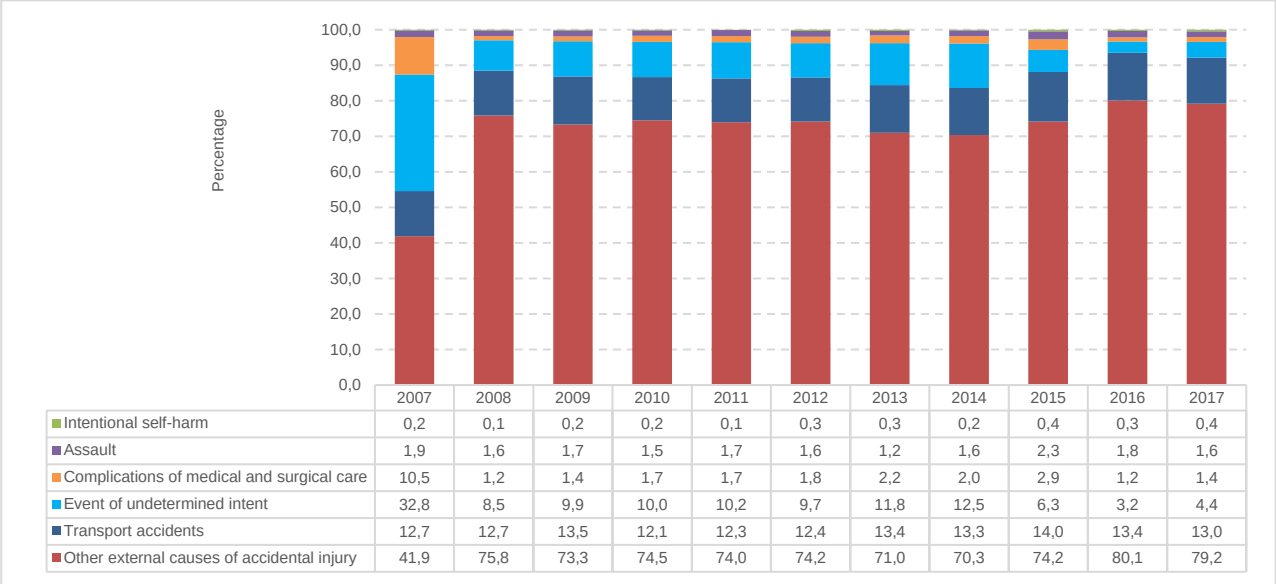


	0	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+
2007	2,6	10,9	23,8	28,7	44,0	31,0	17,3	11,3	9,5	8,6	8,2	6,9	5,7	4,5	3,4	2,9	2,7	2,6	2,5	3,0
2012	3,7	15,8	24,8	22,8	40,8	39,0	25,2	16,1	11,7	10,2	8,8	7,4	5,7	4,2	3,6	2,9	2,6	2,5	2,5	2,4
2017	3,4	22,4	39,1	31,2	43,1	47,9	38,0	25,8	18,5	13,4	10,6	8,4	5,9	4,5	3,6	2,8	2,5	2,2	2,2	3,0

Source: Statistics South Africa, Mortality and causes of death, 2007–2017

Non-natural causes of death among children rise with age and year and vary between younger and older children. Non-natural deaths among infants were relatively rare compared to the other child age groups. In 2007, 2,6% of deaths among infants aged zero were attributed to non-natural deaths, while non-natural death occurrences among toddlers aged 1–4 were four times more (10,9%), and nine times more (23,8%) among children aged 5–9. In 2017, non-natural causes of death among children aged 5–9 rose to 39,1% from 23,8% in 2007. In ten years' time, the percentage of toddlers aged 1–4 who died from non-natural causes more than doubled from 10,9% in 2007 to 22,4% in 2017. Similarly, non-natural deaths among under-one-year-olds rose from 2,6% in 2007 to 3,4% in 2017. In 2007, non-natural causes of death were reasons of death for more than a quarter (28,7%) of all deaths among children aged 10–14. Overall, the percentage of non-natural causes of death grew over time for all age groups. However, the percentage of non-natural death occurrences among children aged 5–9 showed the most notable changes over time, with a relative increase of 15,3 percentage points in the ten years presented in the figure above. The highest percentage of non-natural death occurrences were among teenage children aged 15–19, where non-natural causes of death represented close to 43% of the overall contribution to deaths in 2017.

Figure 3.5: Percentage of non-natural total death occurrences among individuals aged 0–14 by cause of death, 2007[13]–2017



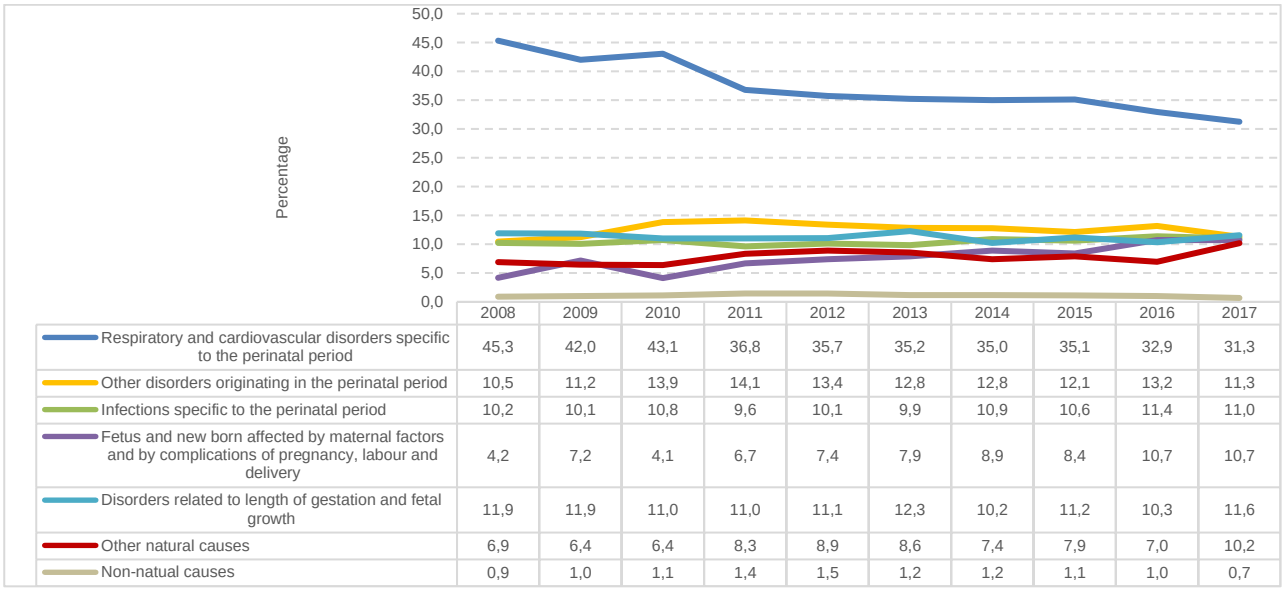
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Intentional self-harm	0,2	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,4	0,3	0,4
Assault	1,9	1,6	1,7	1,5	1,7	1,6	1,2	1,6	2,3	1,8	1,6
Complications of medical and surgical care	10,5	1,2	1,4	1,7	1,7	1,8	2,2	2,0	2,9	1,2	1,4
Event of undetermined intent	32,8	8,5	9,9	10,0	10,2	9,7	11,8	12,5	6,3	3,2	4,4
Transport accidents	12,7	12,7	13,5	12,1	12,3	12,4	13,4	13,3	14,0	13,4	13,0
Other external causes of accidental injury	41,9	75,8	73,3	74,5	74,0	74,2	71,0	70,3	74,2	80,1	79,2

Source: Statistics South Africa, Mortality and causes of death, 2007–2017

The leading non-natural causes of death among children aged 0–14 were classified as other external causes of accidental injury and transport accidents. Between 2007 and 2017, there was a 37,3-percentage-point increase in deaths related to other external causes of accidental injury. This upward trend in these causes of death could include an increased number of deaths among children by accidental drowning and submersion, and exposure to smoke, fire and flames. Transport accident related deaths among children aged 0–14 remained stable (around 13%) for all the years, while deaths related to assault persisted at around two per cent. Events of undetermined intent[14] were causes of death among close to 33% of children aged 0–14 in 2007, while they represented 4,4% of causes of death in 2017. These causes could include poisoning, firearm deaths or other deaths with undetermined intent among children.

[13] Complications of medical and surgical care in 2007 included circumcision and accidents in sports (Statistics South Africa, Mortality and causes of death in South Africa).
[14] Cover events where available information is insufficient to enable a medical or legal authority to make a distinction between accident, self-harm and assault. It includes self-inflicted injuries, but not poisoning, when not specified whether accidental or with intent to harm (X40-X49) (International Classification of Diseases (ICD code 10)).

Figure 3.6: Leading underlying causes of neonatal deaths (0–28 days old), 2007–2017

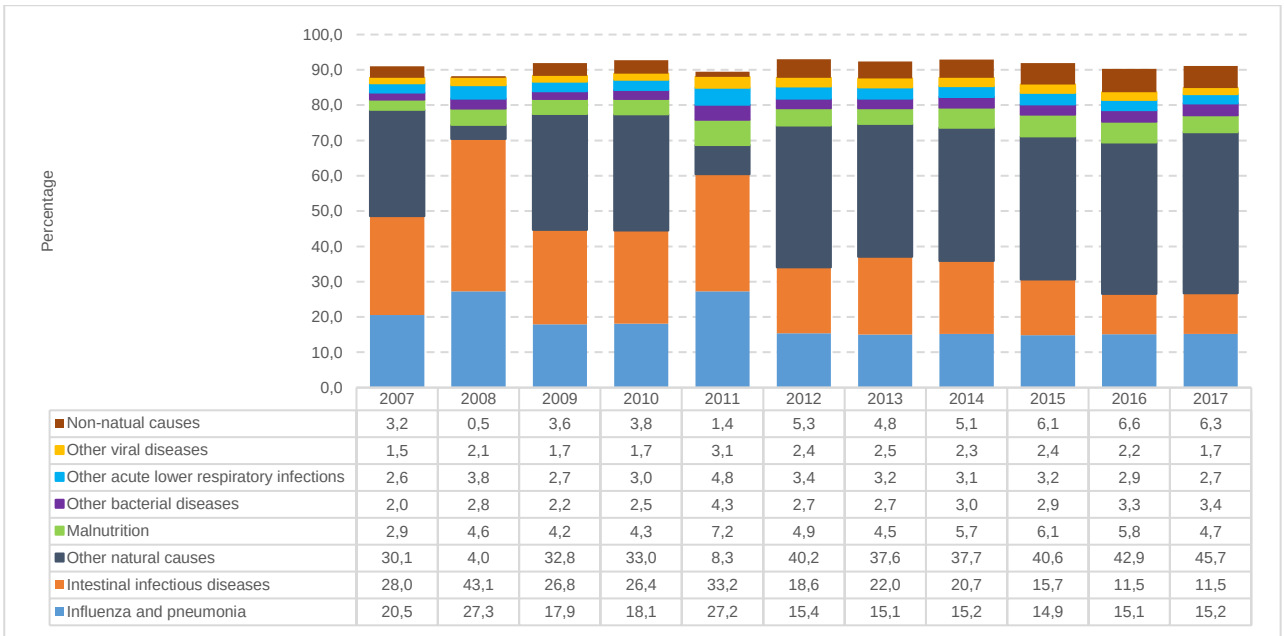


	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Respiratory and cardiovascular disorders specific to the perinatal period	45,3	42,0	43,1	36,8	35,7	35,2	35,0	35,1	32,9	31,3
Other disorders originating in the perinatal period	10,5	11,2	13,9	14,1	13,4	12,8	12,8	12,1	13,2	11,3
Infections specific to the perinatal period	10,2	10,1	10,8	9,6	10,1	9,9	10,9	10,6	11,4	11,0
Fetus and new born affected by maternal factors and by complications of pregnancy, labour and delivery	4,2	7,2	4,1	6,7	7,4	7,9	8,9	8,4	10,7	10,7
Disorders related to length of gestation and fetal growth	11,9	11,9	11,0	11,0	11,1	12,3	10,2	11,2	10,3	11,6
Other natural causes	6,9	6,4	6,4	8,3	8,9	8,6	7,4	7,9	7,0	10,2
Non-natual causes	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,4	1,5	1,2	1,2	1,1	1,0	0,7

Source: Statistics South Africa, Mortality and causes of death, 2007–2017

Neonatal deaths occur in the newborn's first four weeks of life. In 2017, neonatal deaths accounted for 39% of under-five deaths in South Africa. The main cause of death among infants within the neonatal period was by far respiratory and cardiovascular disorders specific to the perinatal period. Although deaths to this disease were on the decline, it was still responsible for almost one-third (31,3%) of all neonatal deaths in 2017. But there has also been very little progress in reducing neonatal deaths due to other disorders directly related to the perinatal period as shown in the graph above. Neonatal deaths could be saved through maternal health programmes and strengthening newborn care.

Figure 3.7: Leading underlying causes of postnatal deaths (29 days to 11 months), 2007–2017

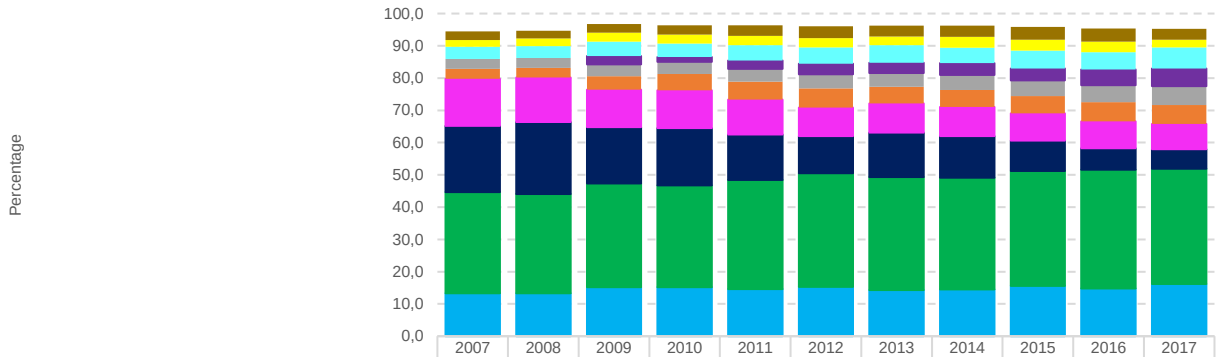


	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Non-natual causes	3,2	0,5	3,6	3,8	1,4	5,3	4,8	5,1	6,1	6,6	6,3
Other viral diseases	1,5	2,1	1,7	1,7	3,1	2,4	2,5	2,3	2,4	2,2	1,7
Other acute lower respiratory infections	2,6	3,8	2,7	3,0	4,8	3,4	3,2	3,1	3,2	2,9	2,7
Other bacterial diseases	2,0	2,8	2,2	2,5	4,3	2,7	2,7	3,0	2,9	3,3	3,4
Malnutrition	2,9	4,6	4,2	4,3	7,2	4,9	4,5	5,7	6,1	5,8	4,7
Other natural causes	30,1	4,0	32,8	33,0	8,3	40,2	37,6	37,7	40,6	42,9	45,7
Intestinal infectious diseases	28,0	43,1	26,8	26,4	33,2	18,6	22,0	20,7	15,7	11,5	11,5
Influenza and pneumonia	20,5	27,3	17,9	18,1	27,2	15,4	15,1	15,2	14,9	15,1	15,2

Source: Statistics South Africa, Mortality and causes of death, 2007–2017

Most deaths that occurred during the postnatal period were due to preventable conditions[15]. The above figure shows the top causes of postnatal deaths. Infections, influenza and pneumonia were the biggest causes of death among children aged 29 days to 11 months, accounting for close to 49% of deaths in 2007. There was an overall reduction of close to 27% in deaths from these causes in 2017. The rest of the leading causes of death among children in this age group include malnutrition (4,7% in 2017), bacterial diseases (3,4% in 2017), and other natural causes (which were responsible for close to 46% of deaths) in 2017. Deaths due to non-natural causes of death during the postnatal period almost doubled from 3,2% in 2007 to 6,3% in 2017.

Figure 3.8: Selected leading underlying causes of death among children less than a year, 2007–2017



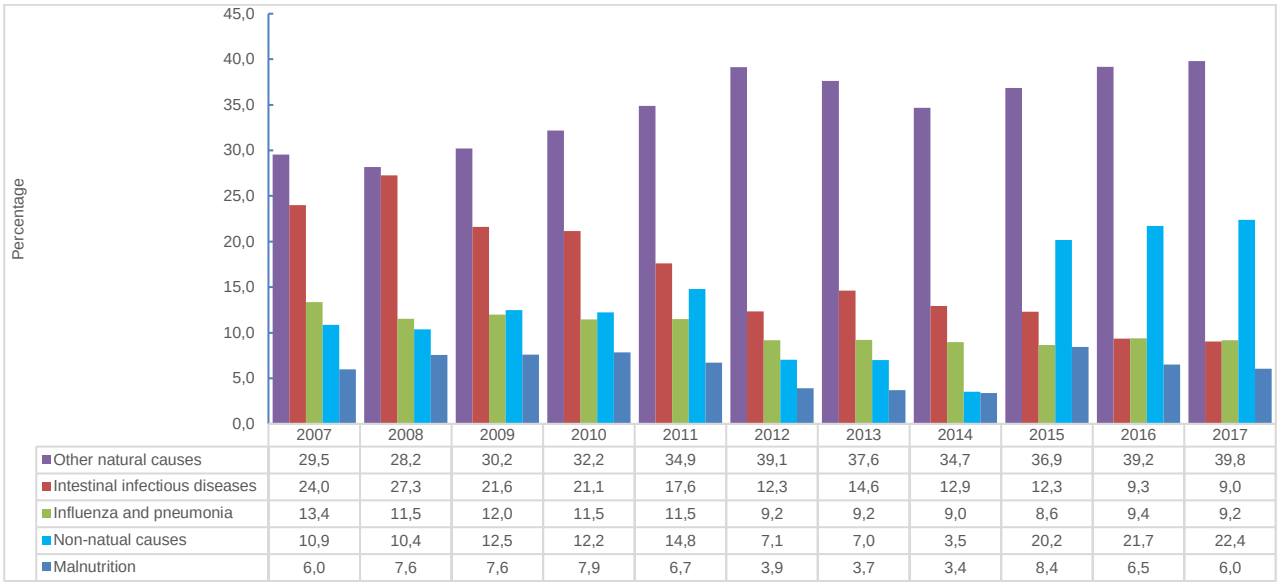
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Non-natual causes	2,6	2,4	2,7	2,9	3,2	3,7	3,3	3,5	3,9	4,1	3,4
Malnutrition	2,1	2,3	2,8	2,8	2,9	2,8	2,7	3,4	3,4	3,2	2,4
Disorders related to length of gestation and fetal growth	3,8	3,7	4,5	4,1	4,8	5,1	5,5	4,7	5,5	5,4	6,5
Fetus and new born affected by maternal factors and by complications of pregnancy, labour and delivery	0,0	0,0	2,6	1,5	2,6	3,2	3,2	3,7	3,7	4,8	5,5
Infections specific to the perinatal period	3,0	3,0	3,7	3,8	3,9	4,4	4,2	4,7	4,8	5,3	5,8
Other disorders originating in the perinatal period	3,1	3,0	4,1	5,0	5,6	5,9	5,2	5,2	5,4	5,9	5,9
Influenza and pneumonia	14,6	13,7	11,7	11,8	10,8	8,9	9,0	9,0	8,4	8,3	7,8
Intestinal infectious diseases	20,6	22,4	17,4	17,7	14,1	11,4	13,8	12,9	9,5	6,7	6,1
Other natural causes	31,3	30,7	32,2	31,5	33,9	35,2	35,0	34,7	35,6	36,8	35,7
Respiratory and cardiovascular disorders specific to the perinatal period	13,3	13,3	15,2	15,2	14,6	15,3	14,3	14,5	15,6	14,8	16,2

Source: Statistics South Africa, Mortality and causes of death, 2007–2017

The single most common killer of children younger than 1 year was respiratory and cardiovascular disorders specific to the perinatal period. Deaths due to this disease increased moderately by close to three percentage points from 13,3% in 2007 to 16,2% in 2017. Deaths due to intestinal infectious diseases decreased threefold from 20,6% in 2007 to 6,1% in 2017, while during the same period, deaths due to influenza and pneumonia were cut by almost half.

[15] Leading causes of death with lower percentages were removed from the graph.

Figure 3.9: Selected leading underlying causes of death among children aged 1–4 years, 2007–2017



	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Other natural causes	29,5	28,2	30,2	32,2	34,9	39,1	37,6	34,7	36,9	39,2	39,8
Intestinal infectious diseases	24,0	27,3	21,6	21,1	17,6	12,3	14,6	12,9	12,3	9,3	9,0
Influenza and pneumonia	13,4	11,5	12,0	11,5	11,5	9,2	9,2	9,0	8,6	9,4	9,2
Non-natual causes	10,9	10,4	12,5	12,2	14,8	7,1	7,0	3,5	20,2	21,7	22,4
Malnutrition	6,0	7,6	7,6	7,9	6,7	3,9	3,7	3,4	8,4	6,5	6,0

Source: Statistics South Africa, Mortality and causes of death, 2007–2017

The above figure shows the top causes of death among children aged 1–4, namely malnutrition, influenza, pneumonia, and intestinal infectious diseases which together accounted for 43% of deaths among children aged 1–4 in 2007. Deaths due to these diseases reduced to 24,2% in 2017 while deaths due to other natural causes increased from close to 30% in 2007 to close to 40% in 2017. Over the decade presented in the graph above, deaths due to non-natural causes grew by close to 12 percentage points from 10,9% in 2007 to 22,4% in 2017. Unlike in children younger than one year of age, malnutrition was responsible for more deaths among children aged 1–4, with six per cent deaths among children aged 1–4 in 2017.

3.4 Summary

South Africa recorded large declines in child morality over the past two decades, yet infant deaths were still very high. The three major causes of death among children under 5 years of age were respiratory and cardiovascular disorders specific to the perinatal period, influenza and pneumonia, and intestinal infectious diseases. The leading underlying causes of postnatal death among under one-year-olds included malnutrition, which was responsible for the death of 4,7% of babies aged 29 days to 11 months, and for the death of 2,4% of under one-year olds in 2017. These natural causes of death could easily be prevented by safe childbirth practices, improved hygiene and childcare, early and exclusive breastfeeding, and correcting inappropriate feeding practices. Care for pregnant women could also reduce poor health before birth, at birth, and in early life, which will have significant consequences for the development of the child.

The percentage of non-natural death occurrences among young children was on the rise and nearly doubled for those aged 1–4 (from 10,9% in 2007 to 22,4% in 2017). Leading causes of non-natural death among children were transport accidents and other external causes of accidental injury; missed prevention opportunities in these deaths could be corrected.

Chapter 4: Attendance of educational institution

4.1 Introduction

Children spend a substantial time of their life playing and attending a formal education institute. It is the most vulnerable period of their life since they are dependent on adults to access basic needs such as nutritious food, safe shelter, warm clothes and medical care. Hence, caregivers are expected to be responsive and create a stable environment where children do not experience anxiety, and have a strong foundation for positive learning, health, and good behaviour. Child development is categorised into three stages by child development specialists: early childhood (from birth to eight years old), middle childhood (from 8 to 12 years old) and adolescence (from 12 to 18 years old). Child development is measured through four broad areas of development: movement or physical skills, language skills, social and emotional skills, and mental or cognitive skills. In early and middle childhood, children learn skills with a lot of influence from adults or older children.

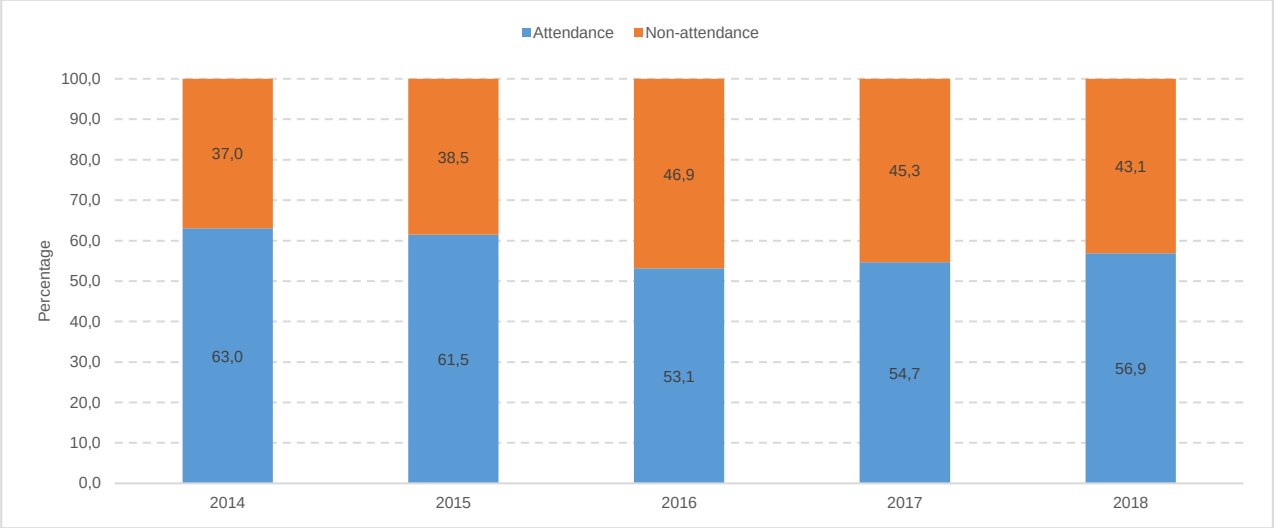
Learning does not only take place in classrooms – a lot of informal learning takes place at home and within communities. Parents and caregivers are expected to provide predictable routines and rituals for effective early learning at home. With the recent increased attention on early childhood development (ECD), the South African government has invested in preschool programmes as a means to narrow the readiness gap between children whose families can provide quality early learning environments for them and those whose families cannot. Grade R has also been instituted as a compulsory transition between kindergarten and first grade.

Opportunities for access to good quality education have not been equal to all children in South Africa, due to poor infrastructure and lack of well-trained teachers in rural and township schools. Schools in these areas would hardly impart the kind of education that modern times demand. This chapter assesses the education participation of children 0–17 years old with a view to providing insights into such concerns.

4.2 Early childhood development

The increased emphasis on early childhood development stems from scientific findings that early childhood experiences affect the brain formation by establishing either a strong or a fragile base for lifelong education, for the health outcome and the outlook that follow the child's life. The Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy in South Africa supports programmes from conception until the year before children enter formal school, by supporting children's early learning and nutrition to improve their readiness to succeed in school. In particular, it aims at addressing the issue of the non-access to ECD programmes by children from poor or disadvantaged backgrounds.

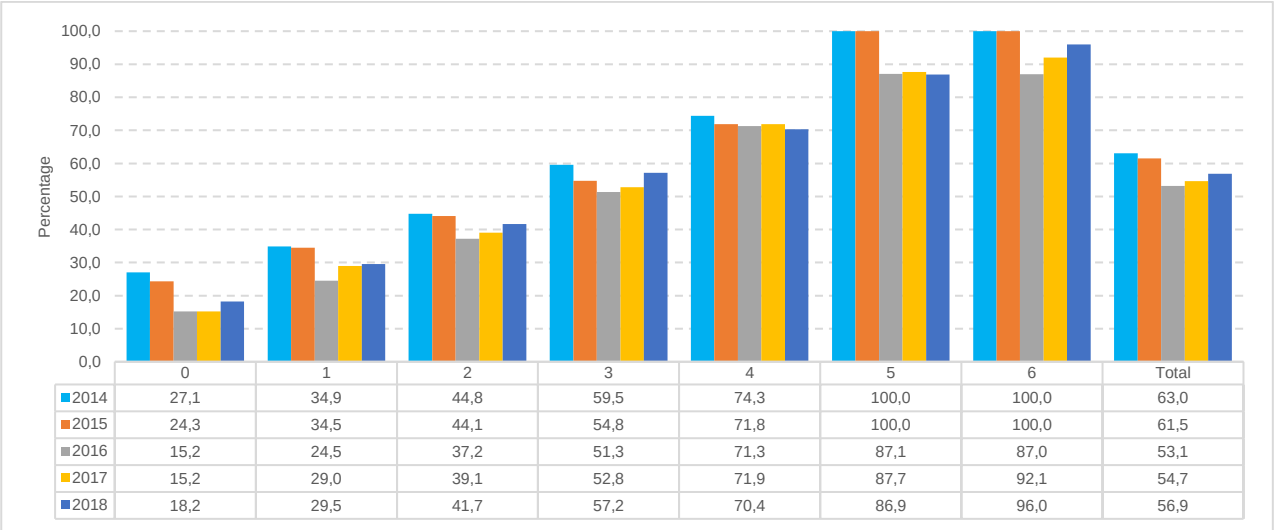
Figure 4.1: Attendance of an educational institution and/or programme by children aged 0–6, 2014–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above figure presents data on attendance of educational institutions and programmes by children aged 0–6. The data covers attendance of pre-school, nursery schools, crèches, and care received from day mothers, gogos or child minders, and participation in community or home play groups. While fluctuations exist in the percentage of children aged 0–6 who attended education institutions from 2014 to 2018, the general trend indicated a decrease of 6,1 percentage points of children who attended education institutions (from 63,0% in 2014 to 56,9% in 2018).

Figure 4.2: Attendance of an educational institution and/or programme by children aged 0–6 by age, 2014–2018

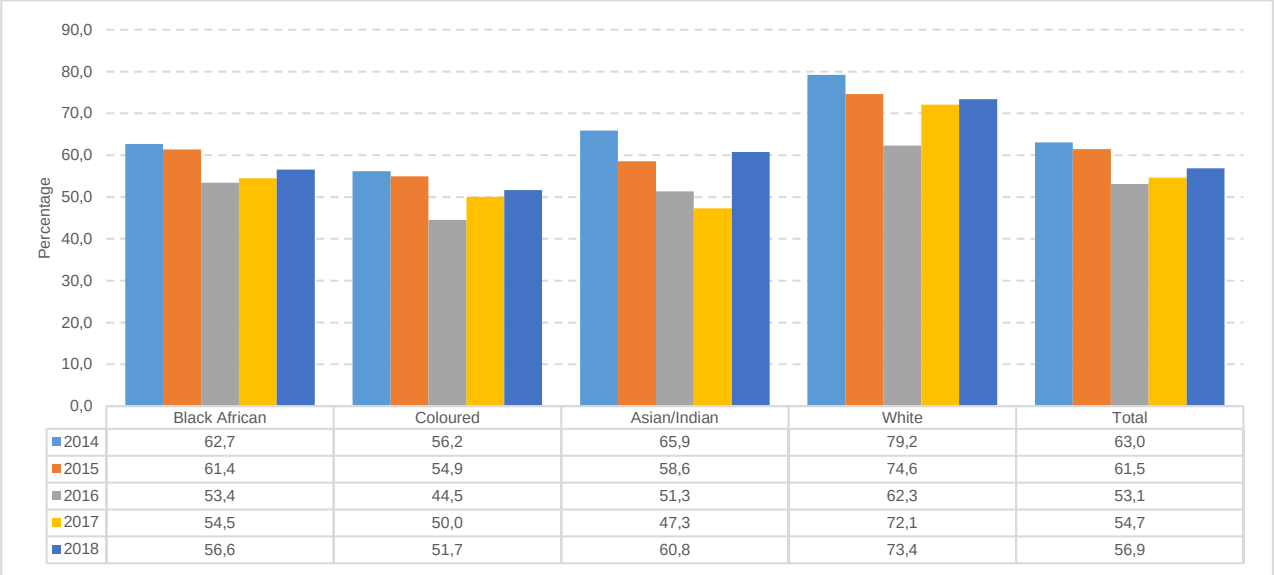


	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2014	27,1	34,9	44,8	59,5	74,3	100,0	100,0	63,0
2015	24,3	34,5	44,1	54,8	71,8	100,0	100,0	61,5
2016	15,2	24,5	37,2	51,3	71,3	87,1	87,0	53,1
2017	15,2	29,0	39,1	52,8	71,9	87,7	92,1	54,7
2018	18,2	29,5	41,7	57,2	70,4	86,9	96,0	56,9

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

Most children in South Africa come into education well before the age of five years. Already, over 57% of young children aged three, and over two-thirds of 4-year-olds (70,4%) were enrolled in education in 2018, and this figure rises to nearly 87% among five-year-olds. The highest level of enrolment of children less than one year of age in early childhood education and care programmes was observed in 2014 (27,1%) and declined to 18,2% in 2018.

Figure 4.3: Attendance of an educational institution and/or programme by children aged 0–6 by population group, 2014–2018

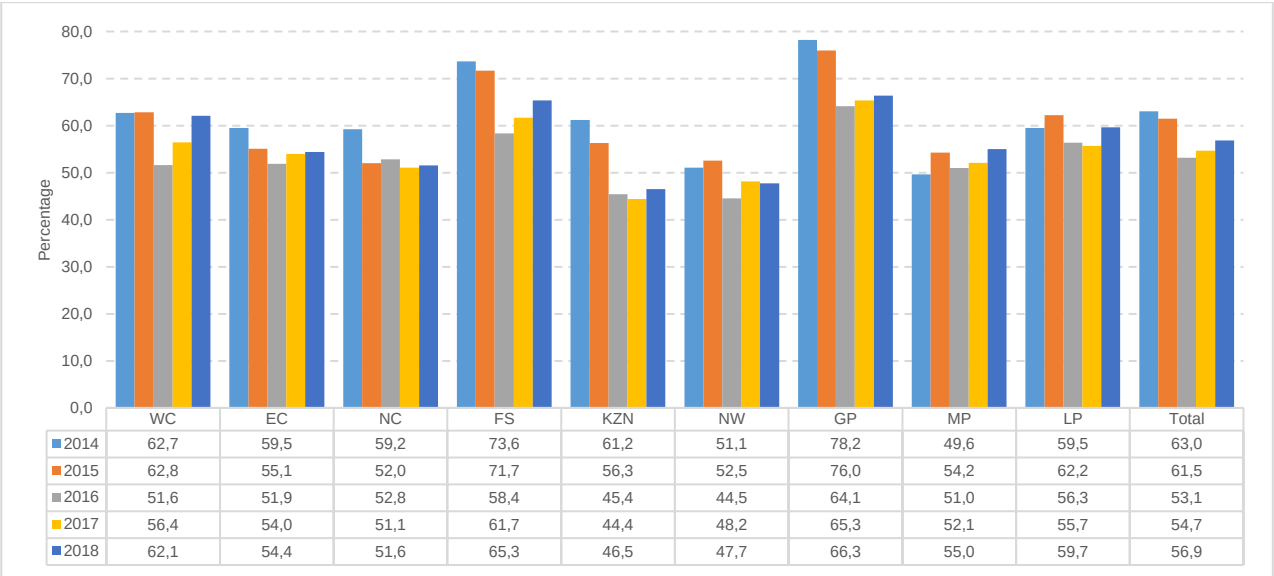


	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Total
2014	62,7	56,2	65,9	79,2	63,0
2015	61,4	54,9	58,6	74,6	61,5
2016	53,4	44,5	51,3	62,3	53,1
2017	54,5	50,0	47,3	72,1	54,7
2018	56,6	51,7	60,8	73,4	56,9

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph illustrates the attendance of education institutions and programmes for children aged 0–6 from 2014 to 2018, by population group. The graph shows a decline in attendance among all the population groups. The largest decline was observed among black African children (from 62,7% in 2014 to 56,6% in 2018). The lowest percentage of attendance was recorded among coloured children (51,7% in 2018). The highest percentage of attendance was recorded among white children (73,4% in 2018).

Figure 4.4: Attendance of an educational institution and/or programme by children aged 0–6 by province, 2014–2018



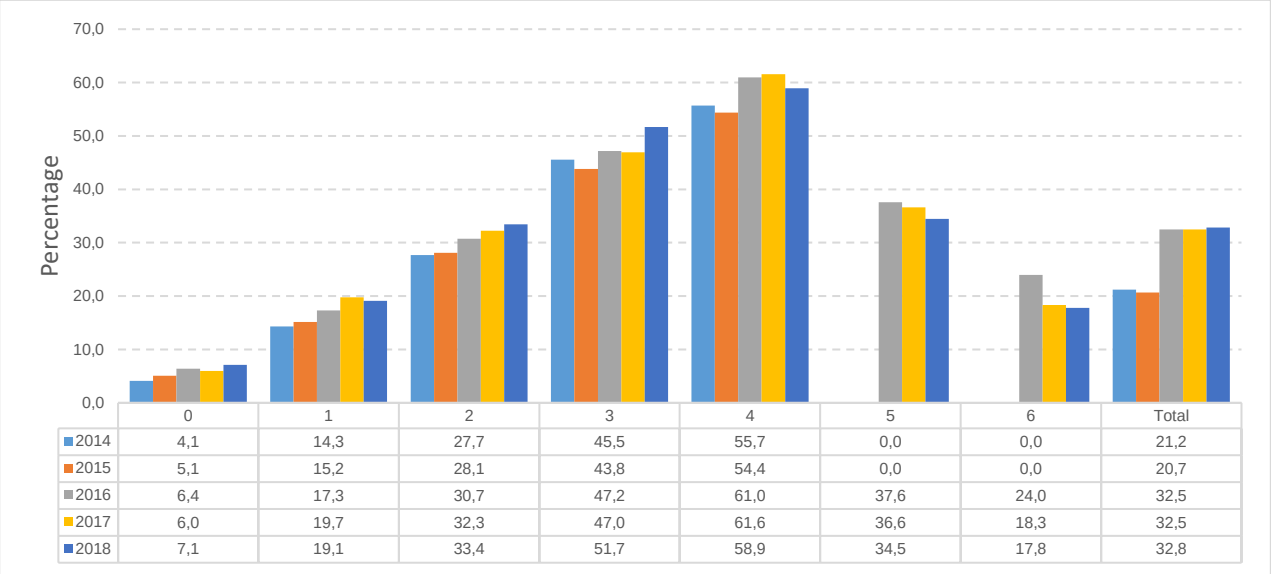
	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	Total
2014	62,7	59,5	59,2	73,6	61,2	51,1	78,2	49,6	59,5	63,0
2015	62,8	55,1	52,0	71,7	56,3	52,5	76,0	54,2	62,2	61,5
2016	51,6	51,9	52,8	58,4	45,4	44,5	64,1	51,0	56,3	53,1
2017	56,4	54,0	51,1	61,7	44,4	48,2	65,3	52,1	55,7	54,7
2018	62,1	54,4	51,6	65,3	46,5	47,7	66,3	55,0	59,7	56,9

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The graph above shows that in 2018, the percentage of attendance of early childhood education institutions or programmes ranged from over 60% in Gauteng, Free-State and Western Cape, at one end of the spectrum, to less than half of that in North West and KwaZulu-Natal (47,7% and 46,5%, respectively). The graph also shows a decline in the percentage of children's attendance from 2014 to 2018 in all provinces except in

Mpumalanga, where there was a rise in the percentage of children's attendance, and Western Cape and Limpopo where the percentage of children's attendance remained stable. A decline of 14,7 percentage points occurred in KwaZulu-Natal from 2014 to 2018. This decline was the largest compared to the other provinces, followed by a decline of 11,9 percentage points in Gauteng and 8,3 percentage points in Free State. By comparison, a rise of 5,4 percentage points in the percentage of children's attendance was observed in Mpumalanga from 2014 to 2018 (from 49,6% in 2014 to 55% in 2018).

Figure 4.5: Attendance of early childhood education institution by children aged 0–6 by age, 2014–2018

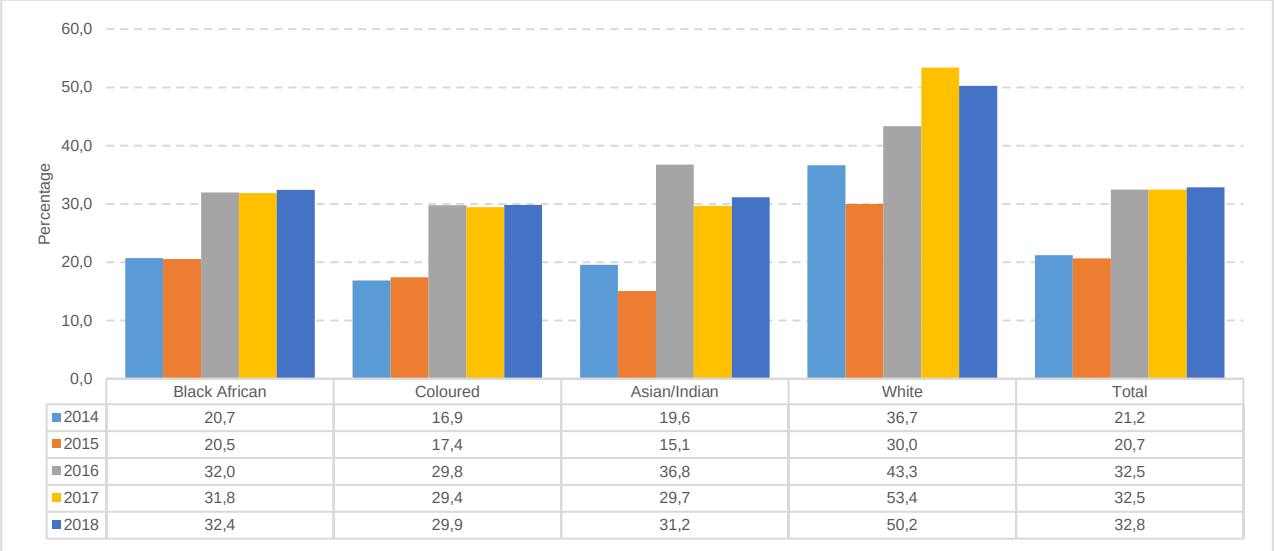


	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2014	4,1	14,3	27,7	45,5	55,7	0,0	0,0	21,2
2015	5,1	15,2	28,1	43,8	54,4	0,0	0,0	20,7
2016	6,4	17,3	30,7	47,2	61,0	37,6	24,0	32,5
2017	6,0	19,7	32,3	47,0	61,6	36,6	18,3	32,5
2018	7,1	19,1	33,4	51,7	58,9	34,5	17,8	32,8

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above figure presents data on attendance of ECD facilities by children aged 0–6. The data covers attendance of pre-schools, nursery schools and crèches. As shown in the graph, the percentage of attendance of ECD facilities increases with the age of the children, reaching its peak at age four, after which it then declines. Although the data showed a rising trend in the percentage of attendance for most age groups over the five-year period, the increase was moderate. Among three-year-olds, the percentage of attendance increased by 6,2 percentage points from 45,5% in 2014 to 51,7% in 2018. Similarly, the percentage of attendance increased by 3,2 percentage points from 55,7% in 2014 to 58,9% in 2018 among four-year-olds.

Figure 4.6: Attendance of an early childhood education institution by children aged 0–6 by population group, 2014–2018

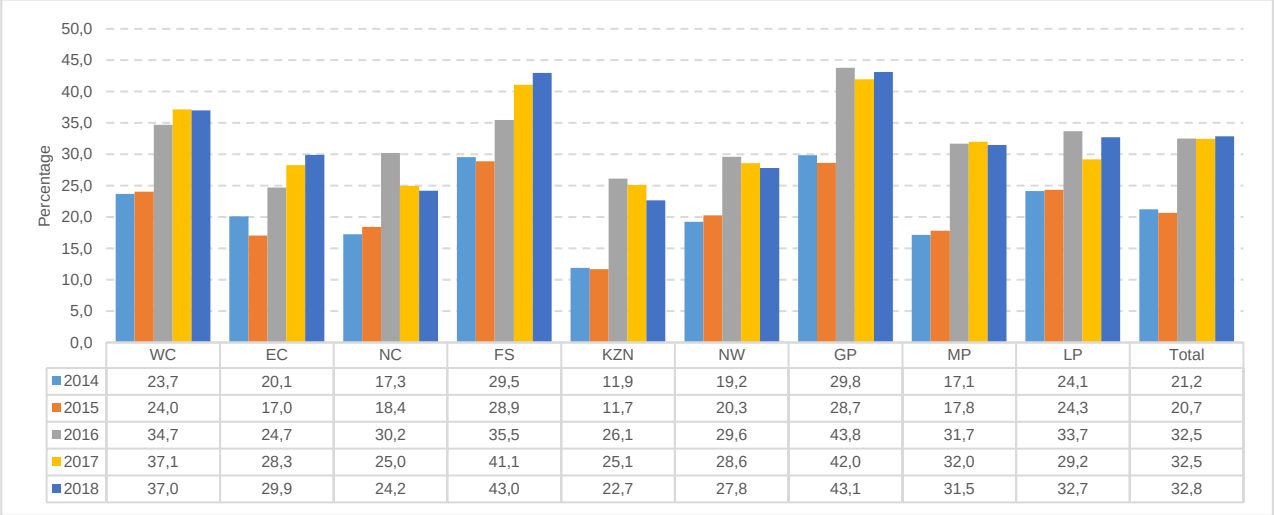


	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Total
2014	20,7	16,9	19,6	36,7	21,2
2015	20,5	17,4	15,1	30,0	20,7
2016	32,0	29,8	36,8	43,3	32,5
2017	31,8	29,4	29,7	53,4	32,5
2018	32,4	29,9	31,2	50,2	32,8

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The learning loss incurred due to non-attendance of early childhood education institutions would most likely affect socio-economically disadvantaged children more than it would other children. Among white children aged 0–6, five out of ten children (50,2%) were participating in early childhood education compared to only three out of ten non-white children attending such education in 2018 (32,4% among black African, 29,9% among coloured and 31,2% among Asian/Indian children).

Figure 4.7: Attendance of an early childhood education institution by children aged 0–6 by province, 2014–2018

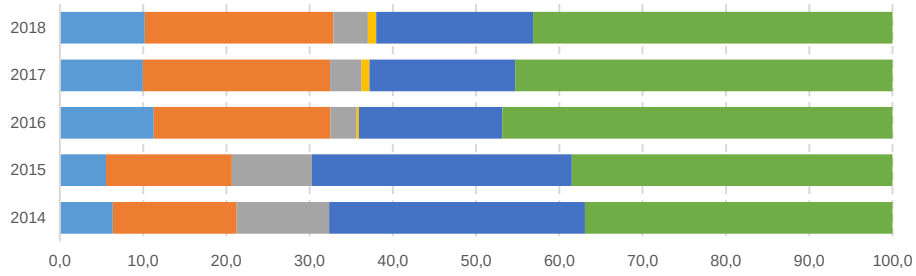


	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	Total
2014	23,7	20,1	17,3	29,5	11,9	19,2	29,8	17,1	24,1	21,2
2015	24,0	17,0	18,4	28,9	11,7	20,3	28,7	17,8	24,3	20,7
2016	34,7	24,7	30,2	35,5	26,1	29,6	43,8	31,7	33,7	32,5
2017	37,1	28,3	25,0	41,1	25,1	28,6	42,0	32,0	29,2	32,5
2018	37,0	29,9	24,2	43,0	22,7	27,8	43,1	31,5	32,7	32,8

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

In comparison with the rest of the country, children aged 0–6 living in Gauteng and Free State were more likely to attend ECD facilities across all the years. In 2014, close to 30% of children in this age group were attending ECD facilities in these provinces compared to only 21,2% in the country as a whole. From 2014 to 2018, the percentage attendance of ECD facilities rose by close to 13 percentage points in both provinces. KwaZulu-Natal, on the other hand, had the lowest percentage of children aged 0–6 who attended ECD facilities for all the years presented. The province started at a lower base with 11,9% in 2014, and the ECD facilities attendance rate increased to only 22,7% in 2018.

Figure 4.8: Type of education institution attended by children aged 0–6, 2014–2018

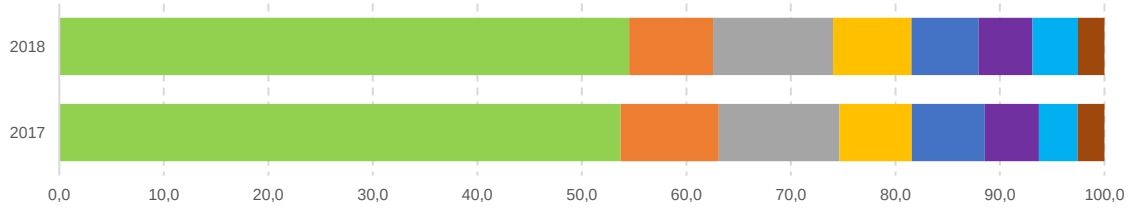


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Pre-school/nursery school/Grade 00/Grade 000	6,4	5,6	11,3	10,0	10,2
Crèche/educare centre	14,9	15,1	21,2	22,5	22,6
Day mother/gogo/	11,1	9,6	3,2	3,8	4,2
Home/community play group			0,2	0,9	1,0
School	30,7	31,2	17,2	17,5	18,8
None	37,0	38,5	46,9	45,3	43,1

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The type of education institutions attended by children aged 0–6 years are summarised in the above graph. The graph shows that in 2014, nearly one-third (30,7%) attended school, close to 11% were under the care of day mothers or gogos, close to 15% were attending crèches or educare centres, close to six per cent were attending pre-school, and 37% were out-of-school. Even though the numbers fluctuated over time, the overall decline between 2014 and 2018 of those who were out-of-school was nearly six percentage points; the decline among those who were attending school was close to 12 percentage points; and the percentage of those who were cared for by day mothers or gogos was cut by more than half.

Figure 4.9: Percentage of monthly fees paid by household for children aged 0–6 to attend an education institution, 2017–2018

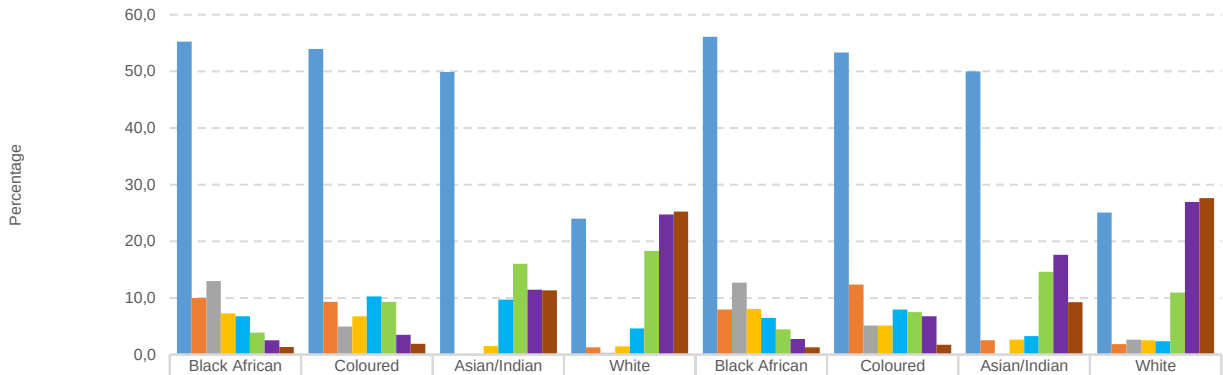


	2017	2018
None	53,7	54,5
R1-R100	9,4	8,0
R101-R200	11,6	11,5
R201-R300	6,9	7,5
R301-R500	7,0	6,4
R501-R1000	5,2	5,2
R1001-R2000	3,7	4,3
More than R2000	2,6	2,5

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2017–2018

Figure 4.9 shows similar trends in the percentage of monthly fees paid by households with children aged 0–6 years to attend education institutions. In both 2017 and 2018, more than half of households reported that they did not pay tuition fees for their children to attend education institutions (53,7% in 2017 and 54,5% in 2018). Furthermore, the percentage of those paying R300 at most remained stable at around 28% in 2017 and 27% in 2018.

Figure 4.10: Percentage of monthly fees paid by household for children aged 0–6 to attend an education institution by population group, 2017–2018



	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White
	2017				2018			
None	55,2	53,9	49,9	24,0	56,1	53,3	50,0	25,1
R1-R100	10,0	9,3	0,0	1,3	8,0	12,4	2,5	1,9
R101-R200	13,0	5,0	0,0	0,4	12,7	5,1	0,0	2,6
R201-R300	7,3	6,8	1,5	1,4	8,1	5,1	2,7	2,5
R301-R500	6,7	10,3	9,7	4,6	6,5	8,0	3,3	2,4
R501-R1 000	3,9	9,3	16,0	18,3	4,5	7,5	14,6	10,9
R1 001-R2 000	2,5	3,5	11,5	24,7	2,8	6,8	17,6	27,0
More than R2 000	1,3	1,9	11,4	25,3	1,3	1,8	9,3	27,6

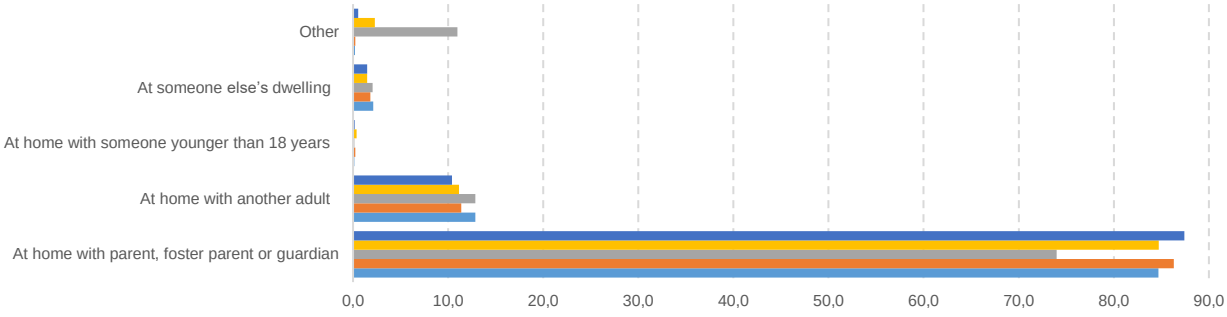
Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2017–2018

The monthly fees paid by households for children aged 0–6 are summarised by population group in the above graph. The amount of monthly fees paid varied by population group and remained stable over time. In both years, more than half of black African, more than half of coloured, and half of Indian/Asian children aged 0–6 did not pay tuition fees to attend education institutions (55,2% in 2017 and 56,1% in 2018; 53,9% in 2017 and 53,3% in 2018; and 49,9% in 2017 and 50% in 2018, respectively). However, in both years, only a quarter of white children did not pay tuition fees to attend education institutions (24% and 25,1%, respectively). Furthermore, in 2017, close to four per cent of the monthly fees paid for black African children aged 0–6 to attend education institutions amounted to more than R1 000, while this was true for close to five per cent of coloureds, close to 23% of Indians/Asians, and 50% of whites.

4.3 Place of stay of children during the day

Many children have no access to ECD institutions and programmes – not only due to the parents or caregivers not being able to afford to enrol their children in such programmes, but also due to the unavailability of these settings in their areas. Furthermore, children do not attend ECD institutions and programmes due to lack of parents' awareness on the importance of early investment in education. Close to 3,4 million children aged 0–6 years did not attend any ECD programme in 2018. In the context where children did not access ECD facilities or programmes, this section presents data on where children spent most of their time during the day.

Figure 4.11: Percentage of children aged 0–6 by place of stay during the day for most of the time, 2014–2018



	At home with parent, foster parent or guardian	At home with another adult	At home with someone younger than 18 years	At someone else's dwelling	Other
2018	87,4	10,4	0,2	1,5	0,5
2017	84,7	11,1	0,4	1,5	2,3
2016	74,0	12,9	0,1	2,0	11,0
2015	86,3	11,4	0,2	1,8	0,2
2014	84,7	12,9	0,1	2,1	0,2

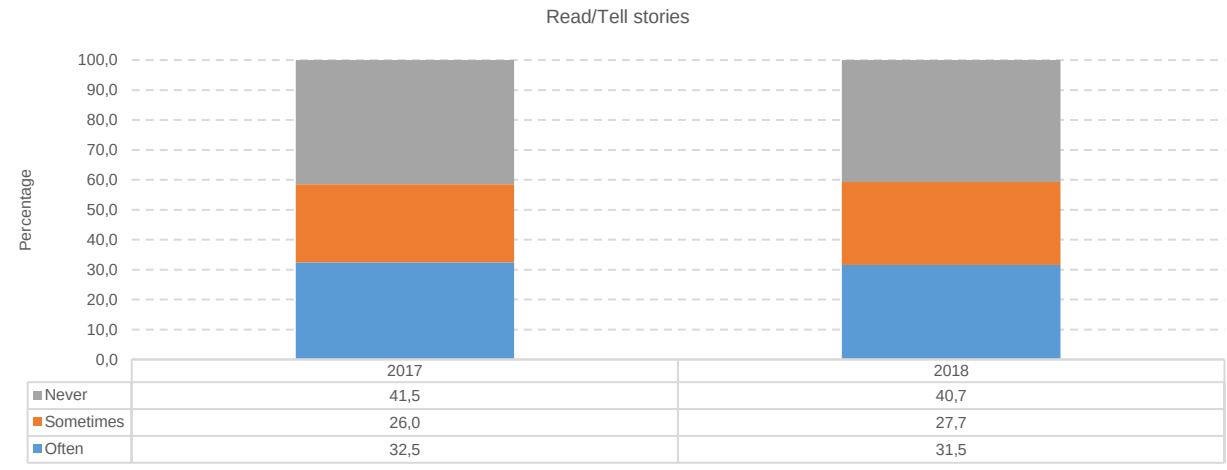
Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

In 2018, seven out of eight children (87,4%) aged 0–6 years spent most of their time during the day at home with their parents, foster parents or guardian. Although fluctuations seem to be observed over the years, this option is still the most common one for the majority of the children. However, on average, across all the years, one in ten children spent most of their time during the day at home with another adult, while on average, across all the years, close to two per cent of the children spent most of their time during the day at someone else's dwelling.

4.4 Type of stimulation received in the household by children aged 0–6

Young children learn though observation, imitation and play. The type of stimulation used for young children can develop their curiosity, attention, focus and love of learning. Language stimulation through talks and singing can also develop the cognitive ability of the child by enhancing their communication skills, and develop their thinking and intelligence. Reading to children regularly, telling them stories, teaching them letters, words and numbers also build their literacy skills.

Figure 4.12: Percentage of children aged 0–6 who are read or are told stories by someone in the household, 2017–2018



	2017	2018
Never	41,5	40,7
Sometimes	26,0	27,7
Often	32,5	31,5

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2017–2018

Literacy development during early age requires reading to children at least three times a week. For both years presented above, close to one-third of children aged 0–6 had someone in the household who often read or told them stories while four out of ten children were never read or told stories by someone in the household. Among children aged 0–6 in 2018, 40,7% were never read to, or were never told stories at home.

Figure 4.13: Percentage of children aged 0–6 who are read or are told stories by someone in the household by population group, 2017–2018

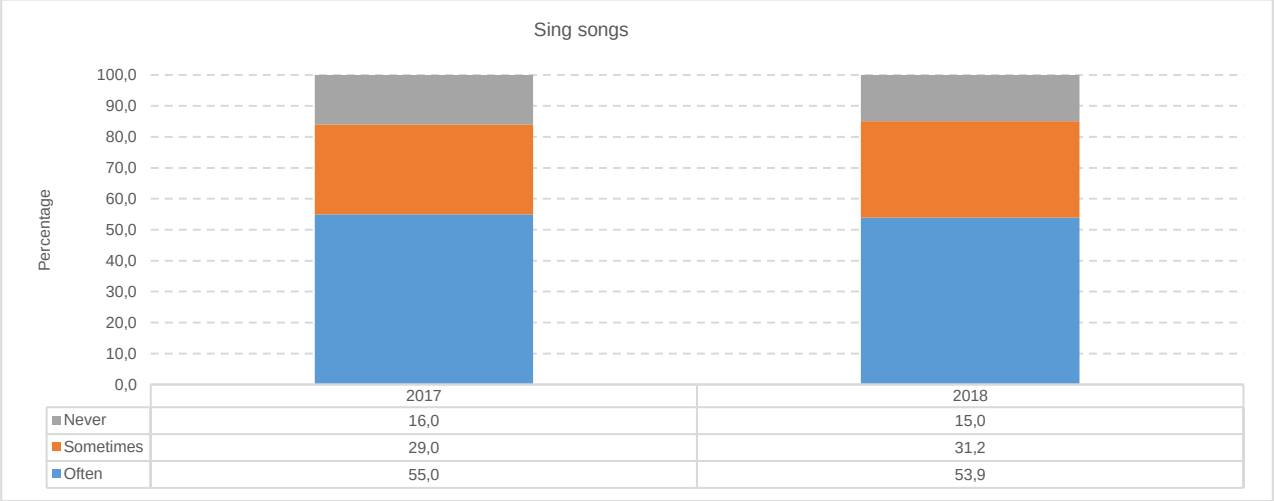
	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Total
2018	27,5	46,6	51,2	75,1	31,5
2017	28,5	47,4	43,9	76,2	32,5

	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Total
2018	43,5	32,1	16,9	11,7	40,7
2017	44,5	28,3	29,8	12,4	41,5

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2017–2018

Among black African children aged 0–6 in 2018, 27,5% were often read to, or often told stories at home. That fraction rises to 46,6% among coloureds, 51,2% among Asians/Indians compared with 75,1% for white children. Furthermore, among black African children aged 0–6 in 2018, 43,5% were never read to, or were never told stories at home, compared with just 11,7% for white children.

Figure 4.14: Percentage of children aged 0–6 who have someone in the household who sings with them, 2017–2018

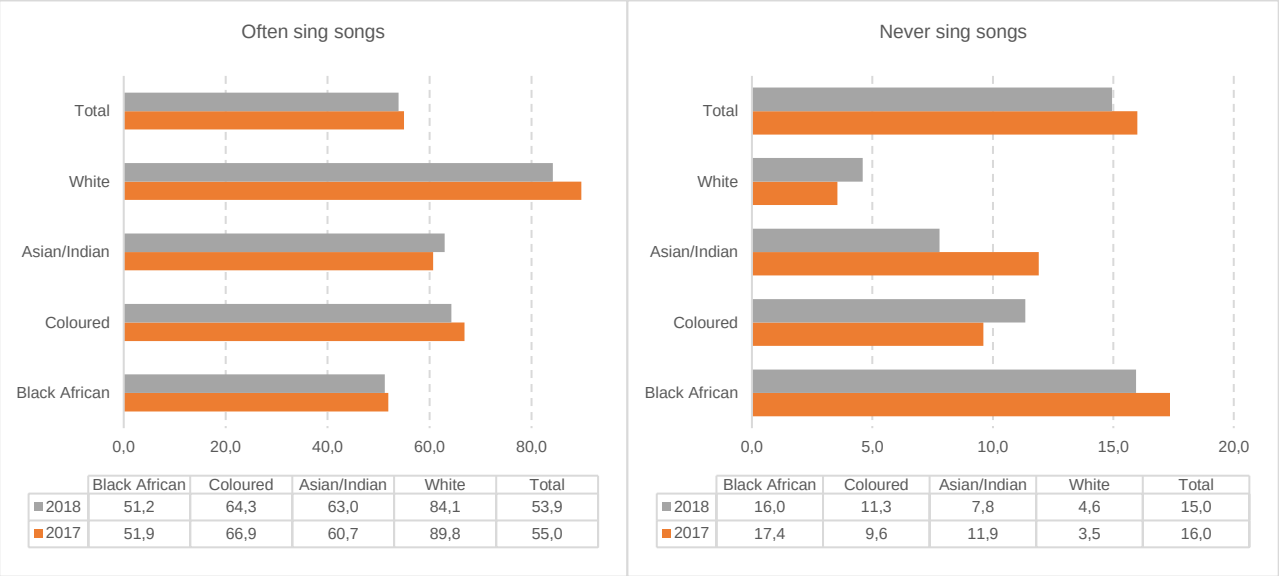


	2017	2018
Never	16,0	15,0
Sometimes	29,0	31,2
Often	55,0	53,9

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2017–2018

Singing to young children with a soft voice and a lot of expression not only soothes and entertains the children but also teaches them language skills. Figure 4.14 presents the percentage of children aged 0–6 who had someone in the household who sang with them for 2017 and 2018. The trends remain similar for both years as more than half of the children had someone in the household that often sang for them. However, in 2018, nobody in the household sang for 15% of children aged 0–6, while 31,2% of children had someone in the household that sometimes sang for them, and 53,9% had someone in the household that often sang for them.

Figure 4.15: Percentage of children aged 0–6 who have someone in the household who sings with them by population group, 2017–2018



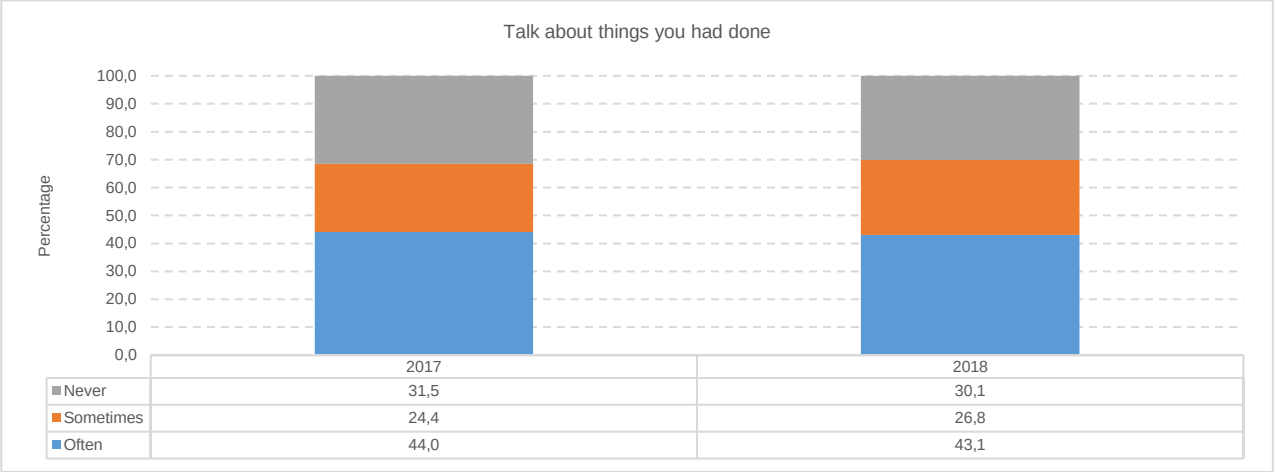
	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Total
2018	51,2	64,3	63,0	84,1	53,9
2017	51,9	66,9	60,7	89,8	55,0

	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Total
2018	16,0	11,3	7,8	4,6	15,0
2017	17,4	9,6	11,9	3,5	16,0

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2017–2018

In 2018, overall, close to 54% of children aged 0–6 had someone in the household who often sang for them. The rate was 51,2% among black African children, 64,3% for coloured children, 63,0% for Asian/Indian children and 84,1% for white children. Conversely, in 2018, close to 16% of black African children did not have someone in the household who sang for them compared to just 4,6% for white children.

Figure 4.16: Percentage of children aged 0–6 who have someone in the household who talks with them about things they have done, 2017–2018

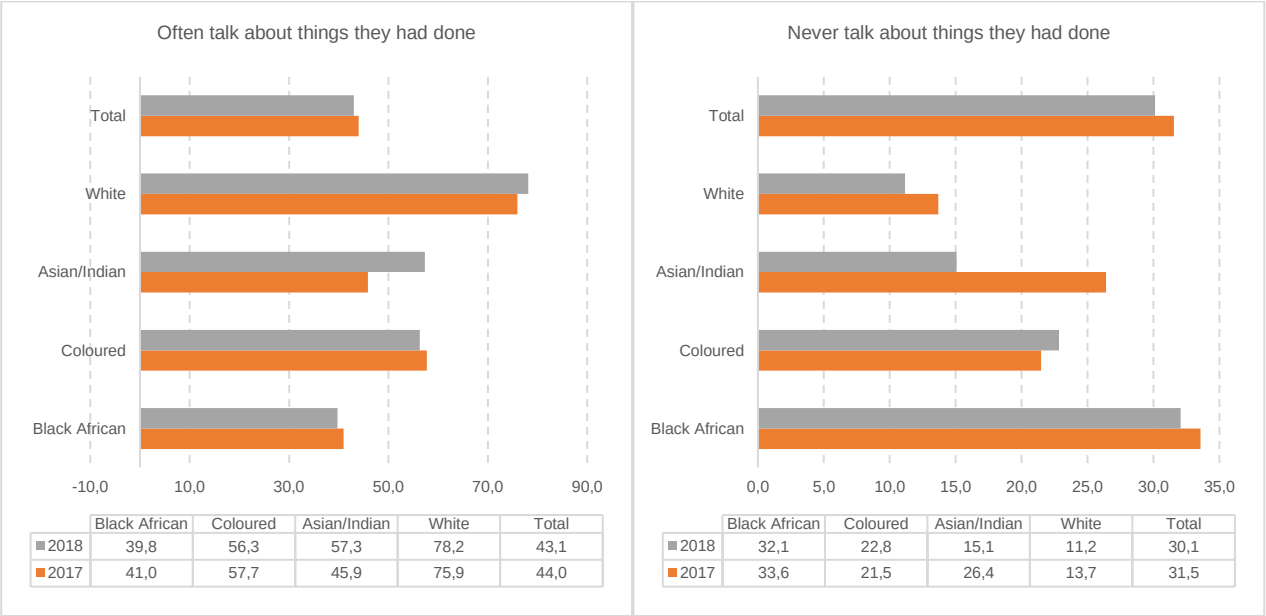


	2017	2018
Never	31,5	30,1
Sometimes	24,4	26,8
Often	44,0	43,1

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2017–2018

Having conversations with young children is important because not only is it a confirmation that they are worthy of adults' attention, but it also enhances their communication skills and teaches them problem-solving skills. For both years, nearly three in ten children did not have someone in the household who talked with them about things they had done during the day. Furthermore, close to a quarter of children, in 2017, had someone in the household who sometimes talked with them about the things they had done during the day. This category increased by 2,4 percentage points in 2018.

Figure 4.17: Percentage of children aged 0–6 who have someone in the household who talks with them about things they have done by population group, 2017–2018



	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Total
2018	39,8	56,3	57,3	78,2	43,1
2017	41,0	57,7	45,9	75,9	44,0

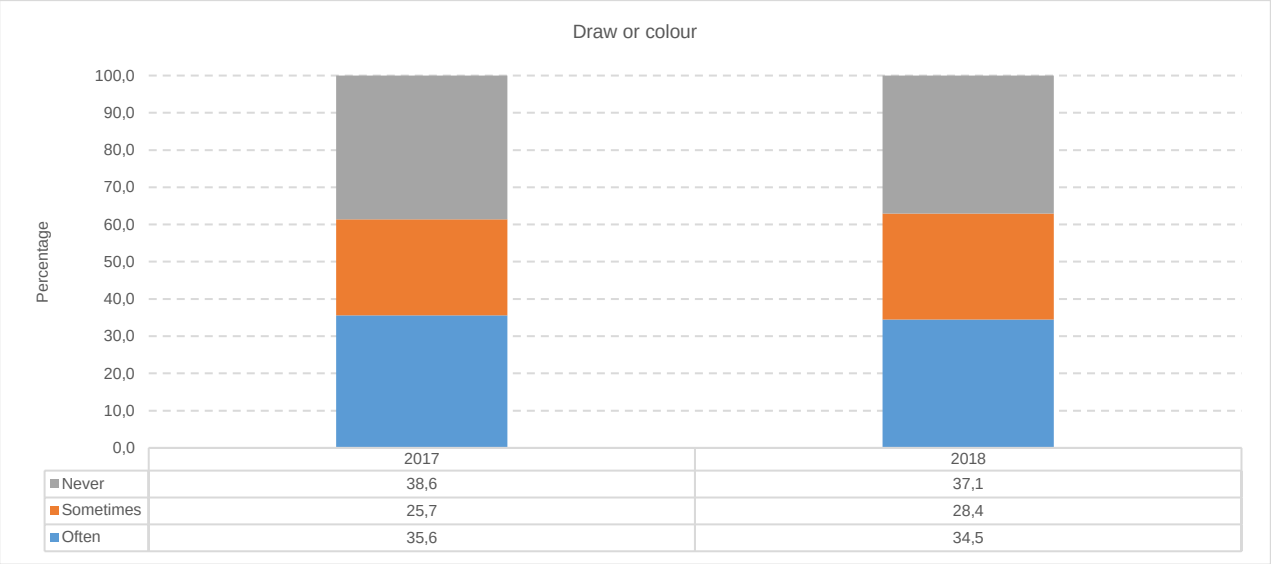
	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Total
2018	32,1	22,8	15,1	11,2	30,1
2017	33,6	21,5	26,4	13,7	31,5

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2017–2018

The above two graphs compare children who had someone in the household who often talked with them about things they had done with children who never had this opportunity. There is a substantial variation by population group in the extent of conversations children have with other people in the household. In general, young white children were more likely to have someone in the household who talked with them about things they had done compared to the other population groups. In 2017, more than three-quarters of white children (75,9%) had

someone in the household that often talked to them about the things they had done; this percentage increased to 78,2% in 2018. In contrast, young black African children were less likely to have a household member who talked with them about things they had done (41% in 2017 and 39,8% in 2018). Furthermore, close to one-third of black African young children never talked to anyone in the household about things they had done (33,6% in 2017 and 32,1% in 2018).

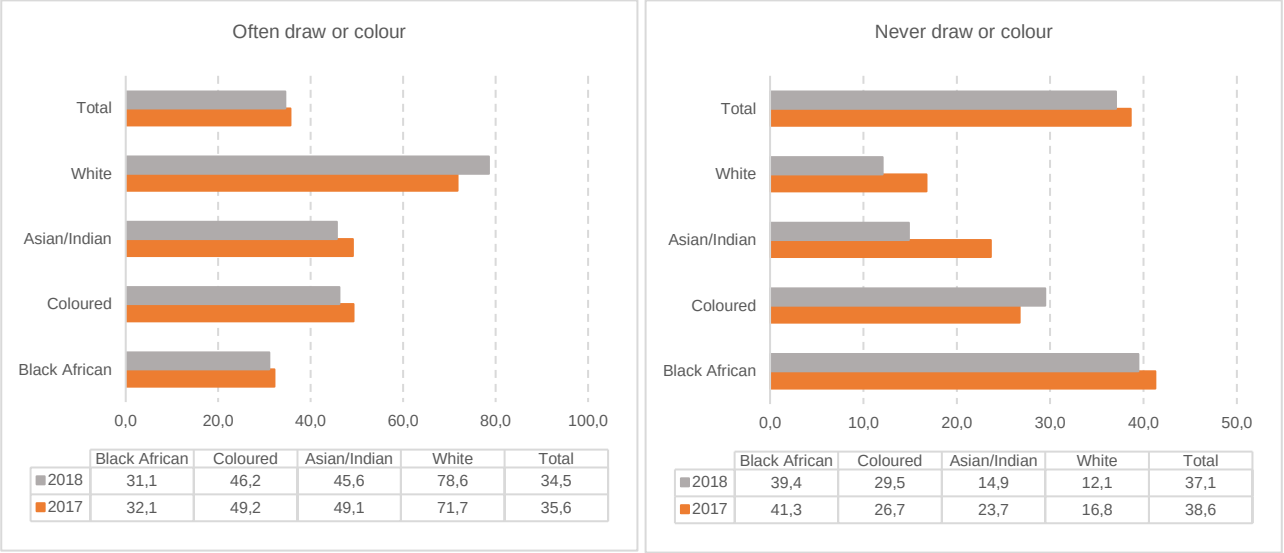
Figure 4.18: Percentage of children aged 0–6 who have someone in the household who draws or colours with them, 2017–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2017–2018

Drawing and colouring stimulates creativity. It teaches children about colours and shapes. Drawing and colouring develops skills in pencil grip and helps children improve their physical capabilities. The above chart illustrates the percentage of children aged 0–6 who had someone in the household who drew or coloured with them for 2017 and 2018. For both years, slightly more than one-third of children had someone in the household that often drew or coloured with them, while close to 39% in 2017 and 37% in 2018 never had the opportunity to draw or colour with someone in the household.

Figure 4.19: Percentage of children aged 0–6 who have someone in the household who draws or colours with them by population group, 2017–2018



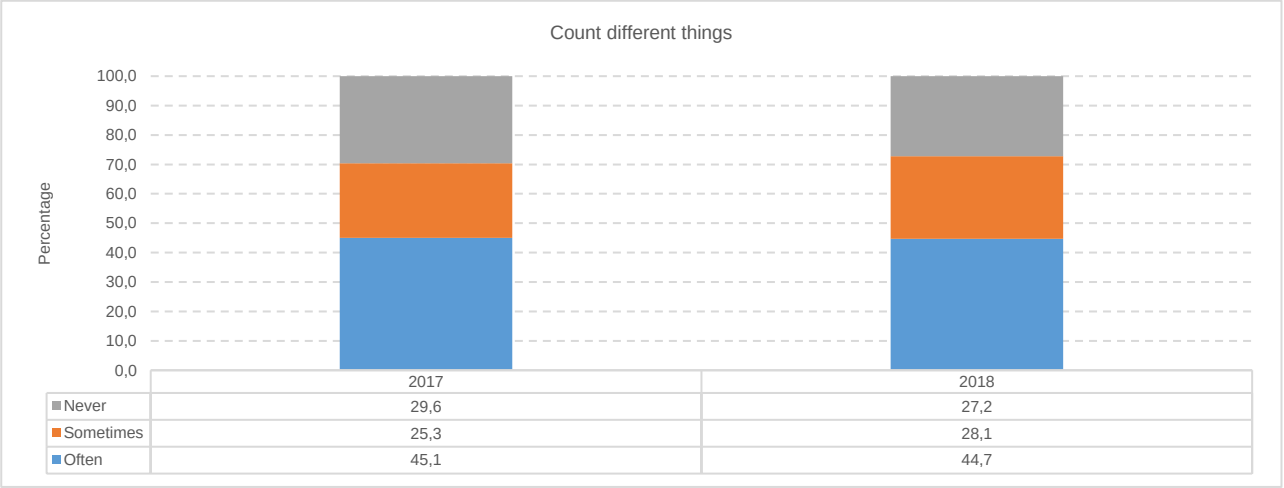
	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Total
2018	31,1	46,2	45,6	78,6	34,5
2017	32,1	49,2	49,1	71,7	35,6

	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Total
2018	39,4	29,5	14,9	12,1	37,1
2017	41,3	26,7	23,7	16,8	38,6

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2017–2018

The above figures demonstrate that white children aged 0–6 spent significantly more time than the children in the other population groups, drawing or colouring with someone in the household (71,7% in 2017 which grew to 78,6% in 2018). About only one-third of black African children aged 0–6 had someone in the household who drew or coloured with them (32,1% in 2017 and 31,1% in 2018). Coloured and Asian/Indian children had similar opportunities to often draw or colour (close to 49% in 2017 and 46% in 2018). However, close to two out of five black African children never had the opportunity to draw or colour with someone in the household in 2017 (41,3%) and 2018 (39,4%).

Figure 4.20: Percentage of children aged 0–6 who have someone in the household who can count different things with them by population group, 2017–2018

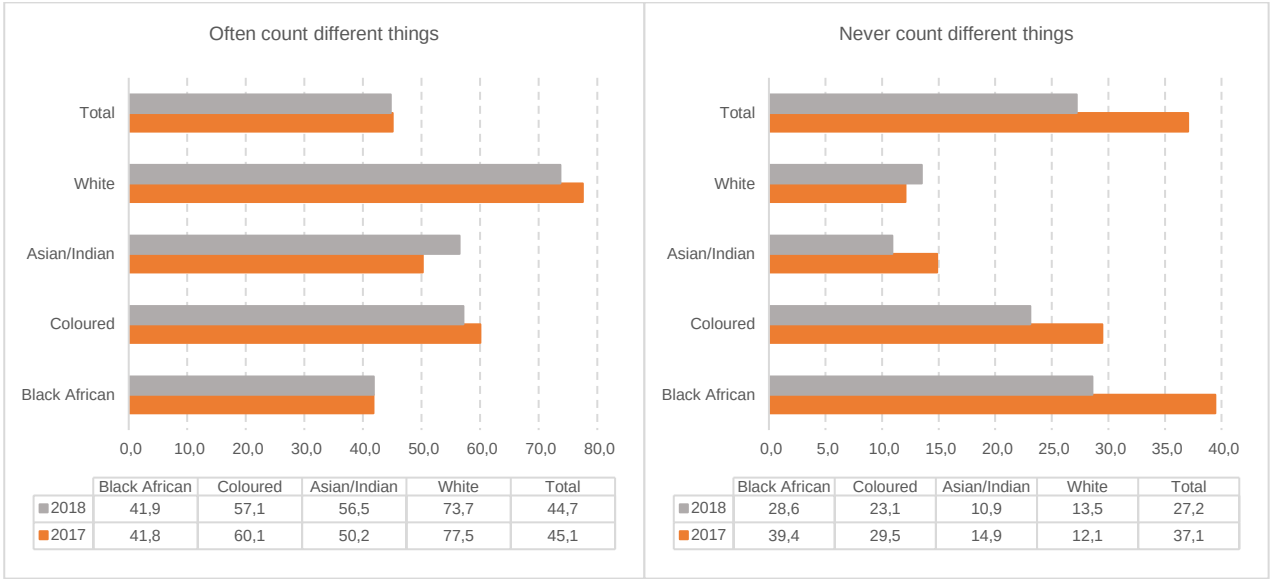


	2017	2018
Never	29,6	27,2
Sometimes	25,3	28,1
Often	45,1	44,7

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

Children build early numeracy skills with everyday counting that can be practised through nursery rhymes or games that involve counting fingers, toes and toys. The share of children aged 0–6 who had someone in the household who often counted different things with them remained stable between 2017 and 2018 at 45,1% and 44,7%, respectively. However, each year, more than half of the children either never had or only had limited opportunities to count with someone in the household.

Figure 4.21: Percentage of children aged 0–6 who have someone in the household who can count different things with them by population group, 2017–2018



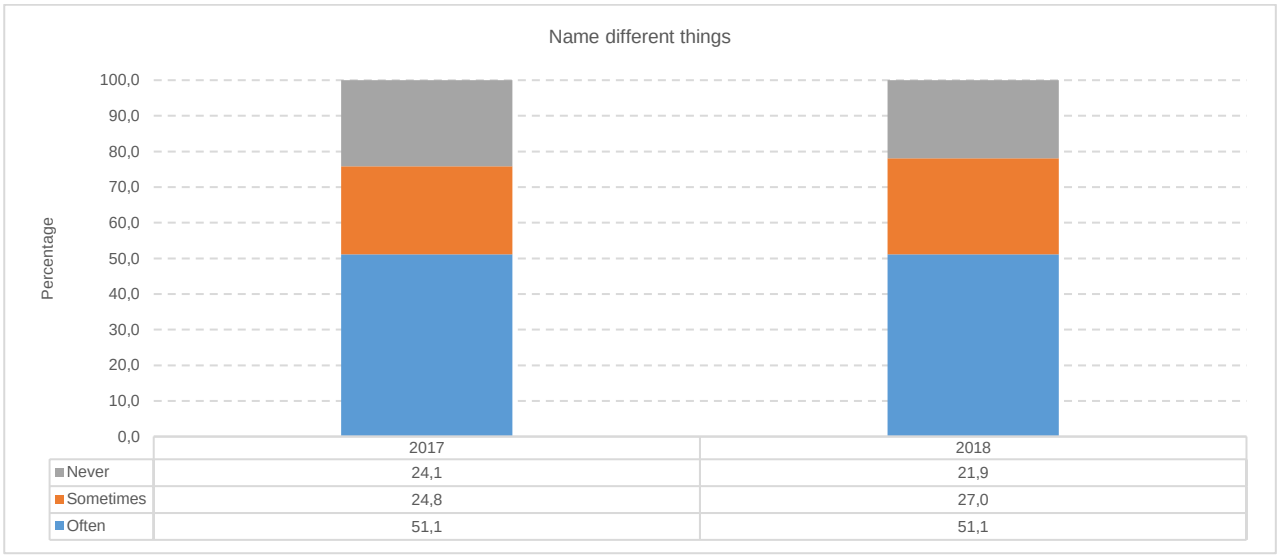
	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Total
2018	41,9	57,1	56,5	73,7	44,7
2017	41,8	60,1	50,2	77,5	45,1

	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Total
2018	28,6	23,1	10,9	13,5	27,2
2017	39,4	29,5	14,9	12,1	37,1

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2017–2018

Both in 2017 and 2018, close to 42% of black African children had someone in the household who often counted different things with them, while the vast majority of white children (77,5% in 2017 and 73,7% in 2018) had such a household member. In 2018, more than half of coloured children (57,1%) and Asian/Indian children (56,5%) had someone in the household who often counted different things with them. On the other hand, black African and coloured children were disadvantaged, as in 2017, 39,4% and 29,5% respectively had never had anyone in the household who counted different things with them. However, in 2018, these figures reduced to 28,6% for black African children and 23,1% for coloured children.

Figure 4.22: Percentage of children aged 0–6 who have someone in the household who can name different things with them, 2017–2018



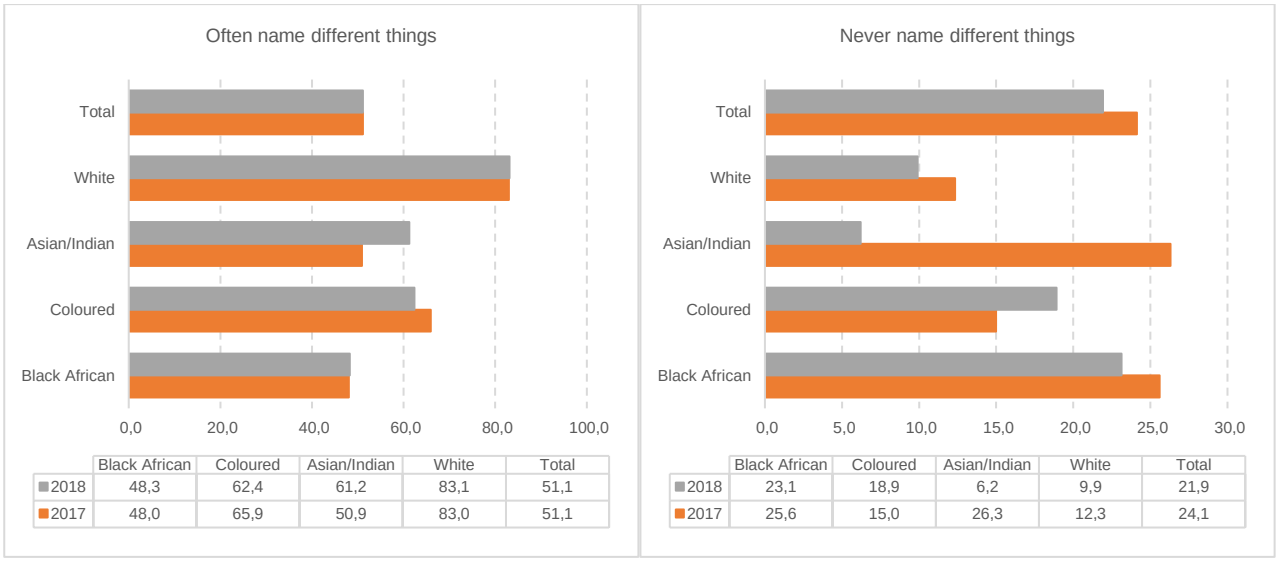
	2017	2018
Never	24,1	21,9
Sometimes	24,8	27,0
Often	51,1	51,1

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2017–2018

Children start saying their first words even before they reach their first birthday. Language development is mostly based on practising it, and dependent on the amount of stimulation received by the children. Caregivers are often encouraged to engage children by teaching the names of the various objects around them, animals

and their body parts. Figure 4.22 illustrates the percentage of children aged 0–6 by the amount of such stimulation received at home for 2017 and 2018. For both years, more than half (51,1%) of children aged 0–6 had someone in the household who often could name different things with them. However, in 2017, almost a quarter of the children (24,1%) never had someone in the household who could often name different things with them. This proportion reduced by 2,2 percentage points the following year.

Figure 4.23: Percentage of children aged 0–6 who have someone in the household who can name different things with them by population group, 2017–2018



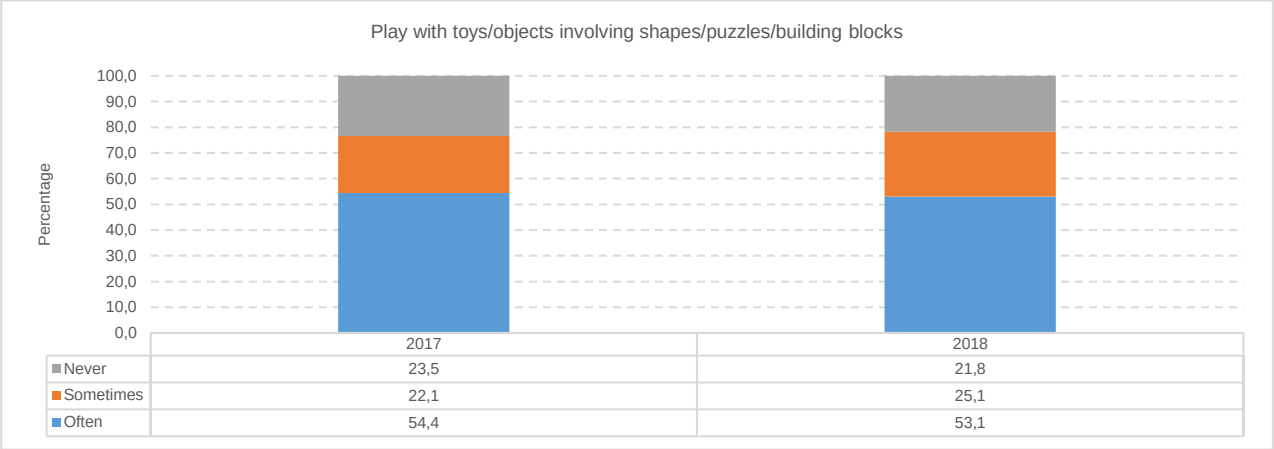
	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Total
2018	48,3	62,4	61,2	83,1	51,1
2017	48,0	65,9	50,9	83,0	51,1

	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Total
2018	23,1	18,9	6,2	9,9	21,9
2017	25,6	15,0	26,3	12,3	24,1

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2017–2018

White children continue to do much better in the extent of stimulation received in the area of language development compared to the other population groups, as shown in the above graphs. In both 2017 and 2018, white children were highly more likely (83%) to have someone in the household who can often name different things with them. Furthermore, in 2018, nearly six out of ten coloured and Asian/Indian children had someone in the household who can often name different things with them. Among black African children, in both years, only close to 48% had someone in the household who can often name different things with them. Only 6,2% of Asian/Indian and 9,9% of white children never had someone in the household who can name different things with them in 2018.

Figure 4.24: Percentage of children aged 0–6 who have someone in the household who can play with toys/objects involving shapes/puzzles/building blocks with them, 2017–2018

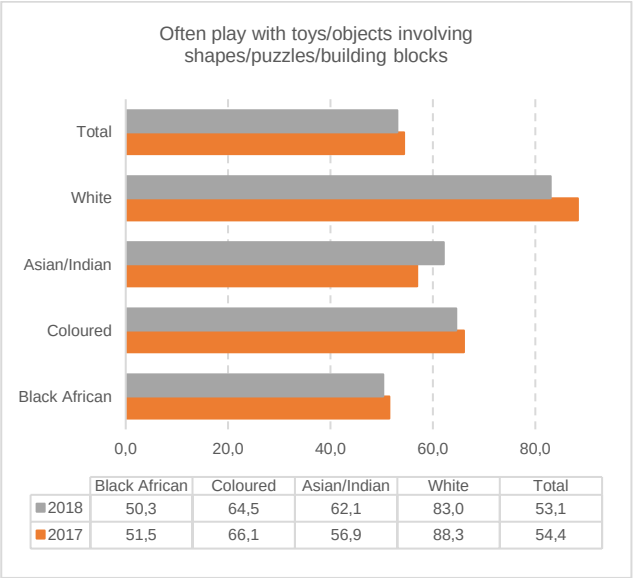


	2017	2018
Never	23,5	21,8
Sometimes	22,1	25,1
Often	54,4	53,1

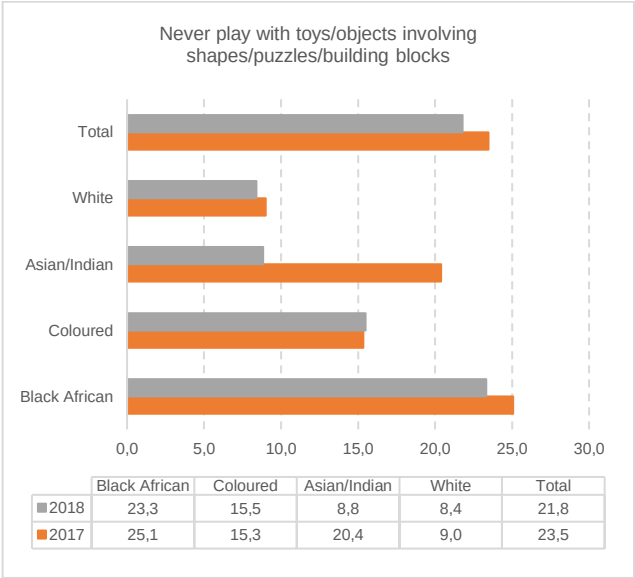
Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2017–2018

Playing supports child development as it has been found to stimulate brain development in all developmental areas such as problem-solving skills, hand-eye coordination, fine-motor skills, shape recognition, memory, spatial-awareness skills and more. The above graph shows the rate at which children had someone in the household who can play with toys, objects involving shapes, puzzles and building blocks with them. More than half of children aged 0–6 had someone in the household who can often play with them (54,4% in 2017 and 53,1% in 2018). However, close to 24% in 2017 and close to 22% in 2018 did not have anyone in the household who could play with them.

Figure 4.25: Percentage of children aged 0–6 who have someone in the household who can play with toys/objects involving shapes/puzzles/building blocks with them by population group, 2017–2018



	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Total
2018	50,3	64,5	62,1	83,0	53,1
2017	51,5	66,1	56,9	88,3	54,4



	Black African	Coloured	Asian/Indian	White	Total
2018	23,3	15,5	8,8	8,4	21,8
2017	25,1	15,3	20,4	9,0	23,5

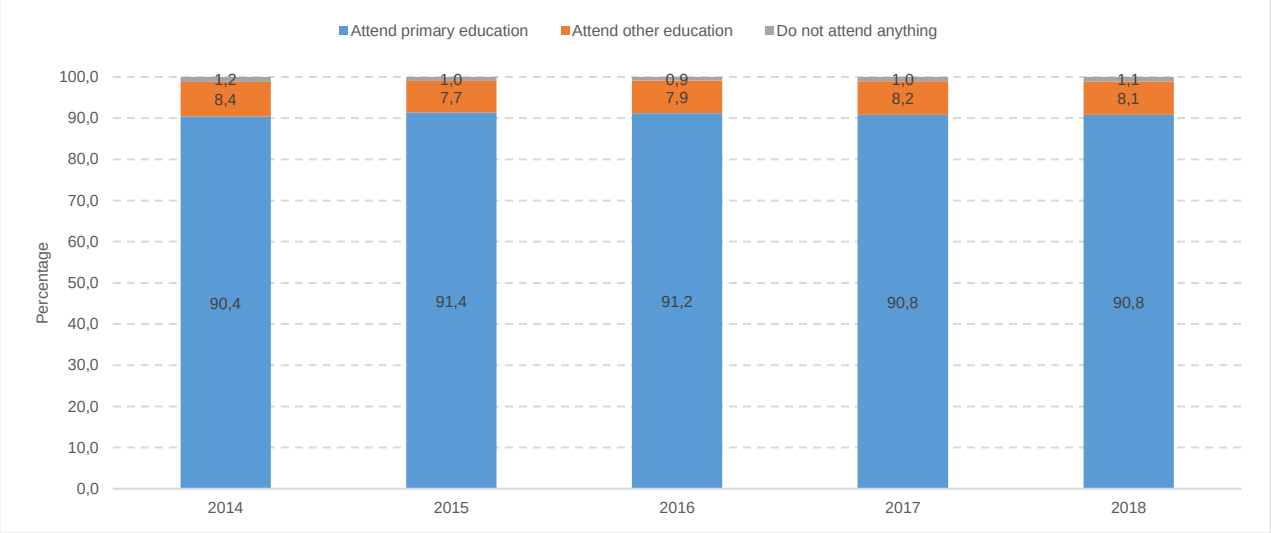
Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2017–2018

Nearly more than half of black African children aged 0–6 had someone in the household who often played with them in 2017 (51,5%) and in 2018 (50,3%). However, the uptake of such games was the highest among white children, followed by coloureds and Asians/Indians. In contrast, a relatively high percentage of black African children in 2017 (25,1%) had nobody who could play with them. Although this number reduced to 23,3% in 2018 for black African children, it is still almost three times higher compared to white children (8,4% in 2018).

4.5 Primary school

South Africa has very good education policies and funding which guarantee universal access and completion of both primary and secondary education. While the MDGs recorded near universal attendance and completion of primary education, grade repetition (especially among male learners) at primary school was a challenge. The primary education phase includes most of the grades of compulsory education (Grades 1 to 7 out of Grades 1 to 9), which explains the high rate of attendance. Most children in South Africa start Grade 1 at age six or seven. In 2018, the number of children aged 6–13 who were attending primary school was estimated to be 8,2 million, whereas 730 423 children in this age group were attending other phases of schooling, including secondary schooling. Furthermore, 97 836 children in the age group 6–13 were estimated to be out-of-school children. For some young children, the reason for their non-attendance was due to delays in their entry into formal education.

Figure 4.26: Percentage of children aged 6–13 by attendance of an education institution, 2014–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph presents the percentage of children aged 6–13 who were attending an education institution over a 5-year period from 2014 to 2018. Overall, there was widespread (close to 99%) school attendance during these years, out of which close to 91% was primary school attendance, and 8,1% attendance of either pre-primary, secondary or other special schools. However, close to one per cent of children aged 6–13 were out-of-school during the period presented in the graph above.

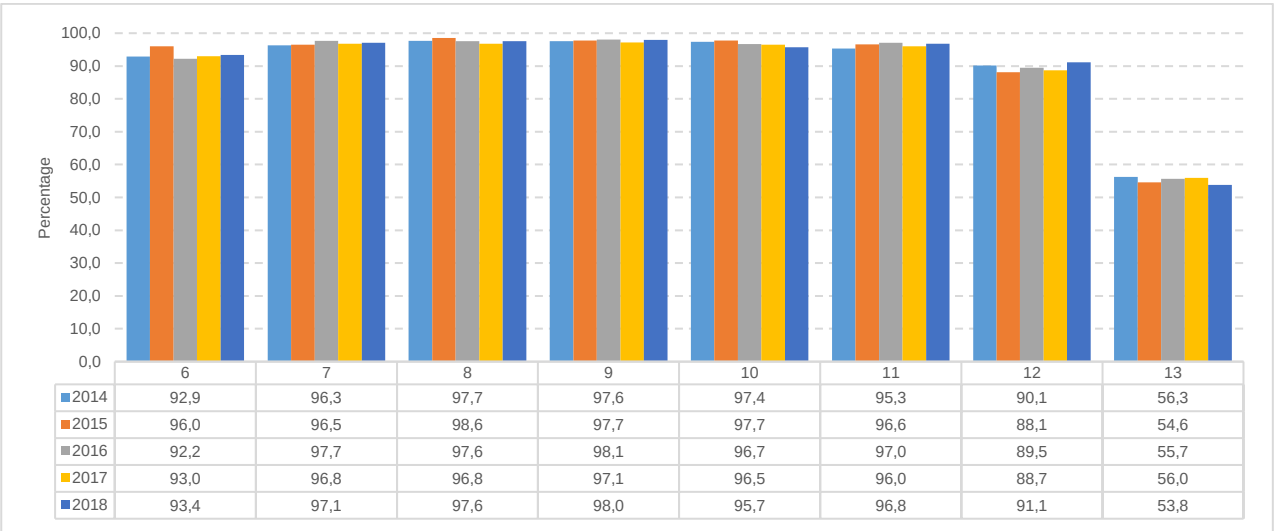
Figure 4.27: Percentage of children aged 6–13 by attendance of an education institution and gender, 2014–2018

	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
Do not attend anything	1,3	1,0	1,0	1,0	0,8	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,0
Attend other education	7,3	9,5	6,4	9,0	7,0	8,8	6,9	9,4	7,2	9,0
Attend primary education	91,4	89,5	92,6	90,1	92,2	90,2	92,1	89,5	91,6	90,1

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph provides the gender breakdown of the percentage of children aged 6–13 who were attending an education institution from 2014 to 2018. The graph shows variability in primary school attendance by gender. Among children aged 6–13, relatively more males in this age group attended primary education institutions than females. Furthermore, females in this age group were more likely than males to attend education institutions outside the primary school phase. However, the percentage of out-of-school children was similar for both genders and was estimated at one per cent across the years.

Figure 4.28: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who attend a primary education institution by age, 2014–2018

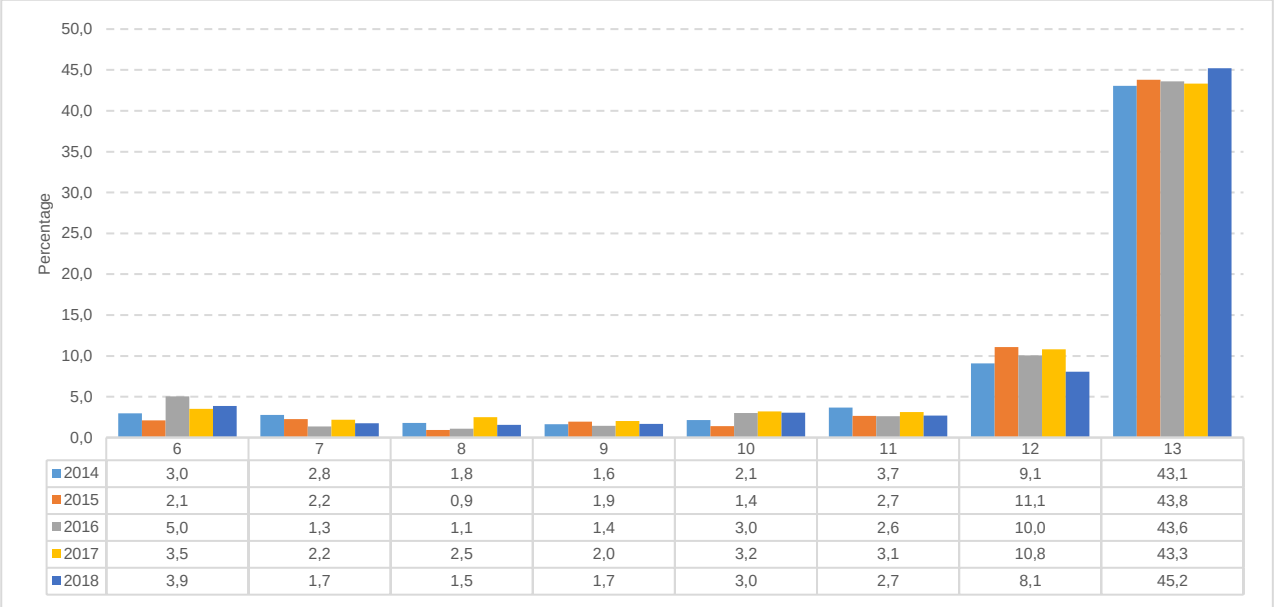


	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2014	92,9	96,3	97,7	97,6	97,4	95,3	90,1	56,3
2015	96,0	96,5	98,6	97,7	97,7	96,6	88,1	54,6
2016	92,2	97,7	97,6	98,1	96,7	97,0	89,5	55,7
2017	93,0	96,8	96,8	97,1	96,5	96,0	88,7	56,0
2018	93,4	97,1	97,6	98,0	95,7	96,8	91,1	53,8

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph shows the percentage of primary school attendance by children aged 6–13 by single age. Nearly nine out of ten children aged 7–11 were attending primary school in all the years. However, attendance of primary school started declining by age 12, and nearly half of the 13-year-olds did not attend primary school. While high attendance levels were observed among six-year-olds, the percentage of attendance seemed to level off at around 93% over the 3-year period from 2016 to 2018.

Figure 4.29: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who attend another education institution by age, 2014–2018

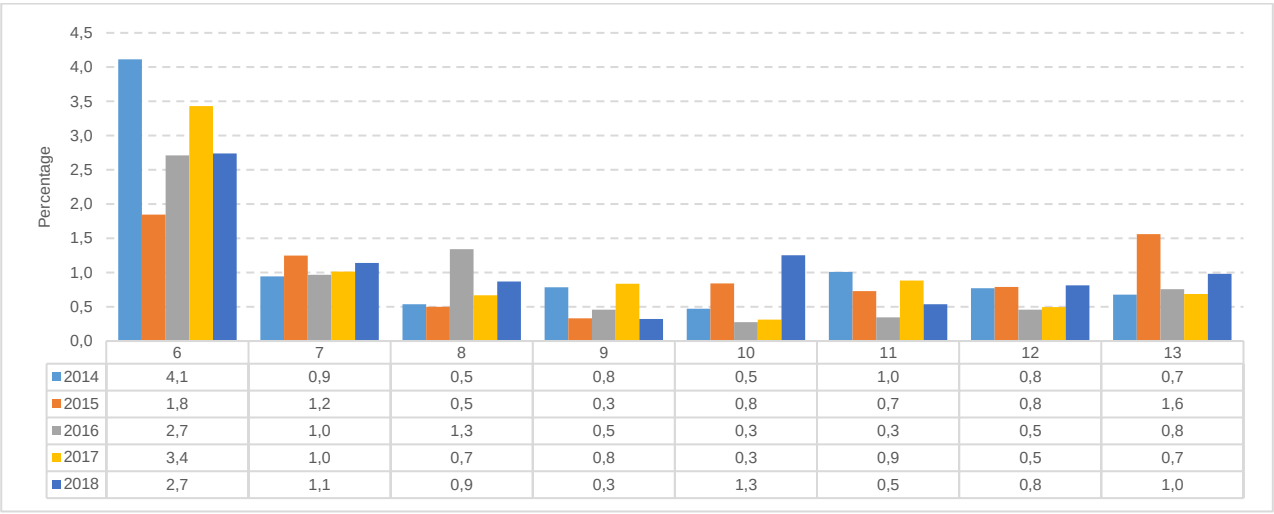


	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2014	3,0	2,8	1,8	1,6	2,1	3,7	9,1	43,1
2015	2,1	2,2	0,9	1,9	1,4	2,7	11,1	43,8
2016	5,0	1,3	1,1	1,4	3,0	2,6	10,0	43,6
2017	3,5	2,2	2,5	2,0	3,2	3,1	10,8	43,3
2018	3,9	1,7	1,5	1,7	3,0	2,7	8,1	45,2

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph shows the percentage of children aged 6–13 who attended an educational institution outside the primary school phase. Attendance of other education institutions typically remained at around one to three per cent for all children, except for 6-, 12- and 13-year-olds. In 2018, close to four per cent of six-year-olds attended pre-school or ECD facilities, and close to eight per cent of 11-year-olds attended secondary school or other special schools. The same was true for 45,2% of children aged 13 years.

Figure 4.30: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who did not attend any education institution by age, 2014–2018

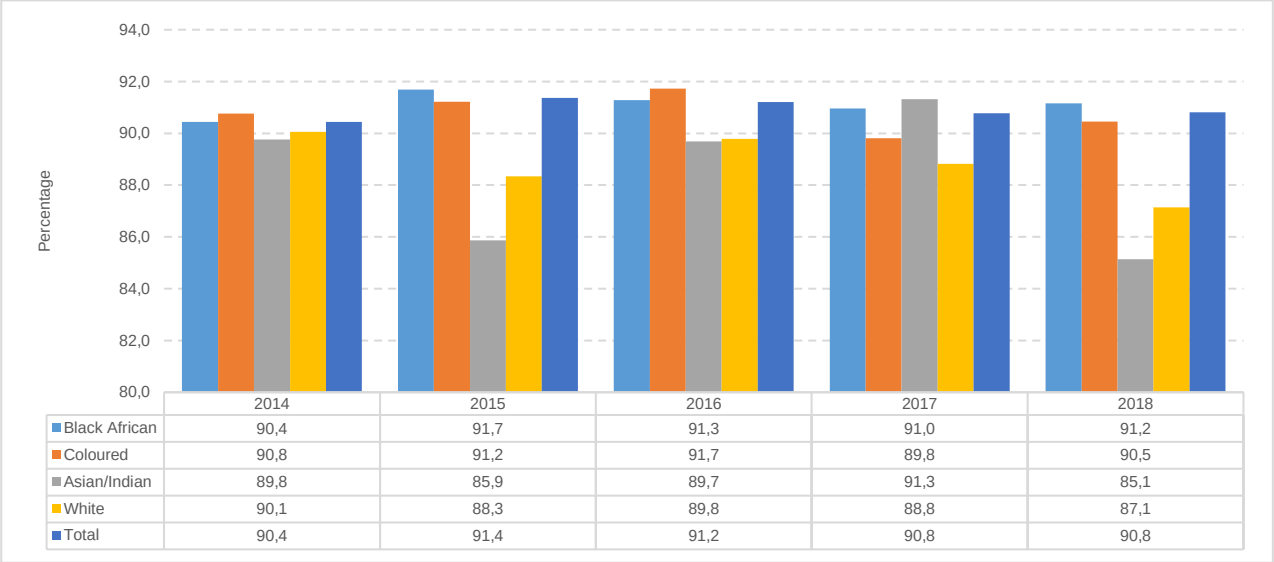


	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2014	4,1	0,9	0,5	0,8	0,5	1,0	0,8	0,7
2015	1,8	1,2	0,5	0,3	0,8	0,7	0,8	1,6
2016	2,7	1,0	1,3	0,5	0,3	0,3	0,5	0,8
2017	3,4	1,0	0,7	0,8	0,3	0,9	0,5	0,7
2018	2,7	1,1	0,9	0,3	1,3	0,5	0,8	1,0

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

Non-attendance of education institutions was mostly prominent among children aged six, which encompasses the children who ought to be in pre-school or ECD facilities, and in the first year of primary school. The percentage of six-year-olds who were out-of-school ranged from two to four per cent. The percentage of out-of-school children was mostly less than one per cent for the rest of the age groups across all years.

Figure 4.31: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who attend a primary education institution by population group, 2014–2018

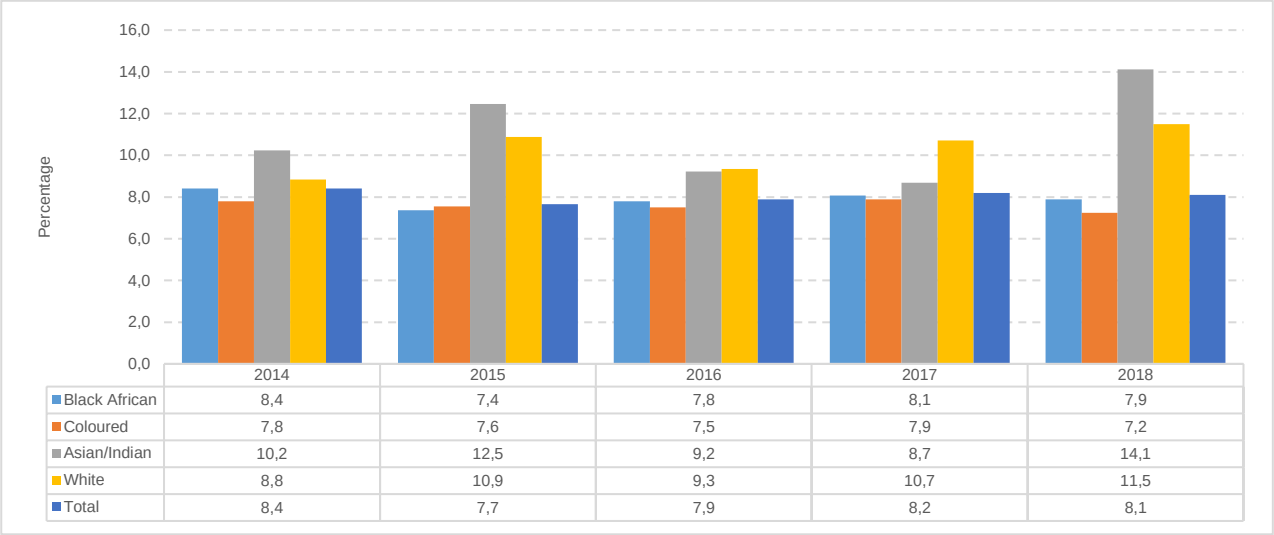


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Black African	90,4	91,7	91,3	91,0	91,2
Coloured	90,8	91,2	91,7	89,8	90,5
Asian/Indian	89,8	85,9	89,7	91,3	85,1
White	90,1	88,3	89,8	88,8	87,1
Total	90,4	91,4	91,2	90,8	90,8

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph shows the percentage of children aged 6–13 who attended primary education institutions by population group. Black African children aged 6–13 had overall the highest percentage of children in this age group attending primary education across all the years. This shows black African children had the highest percentage of children who attended primary school education by the appropriate age for grade.

Figure 4.32: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who attend another education institution by population group, 2014–2018

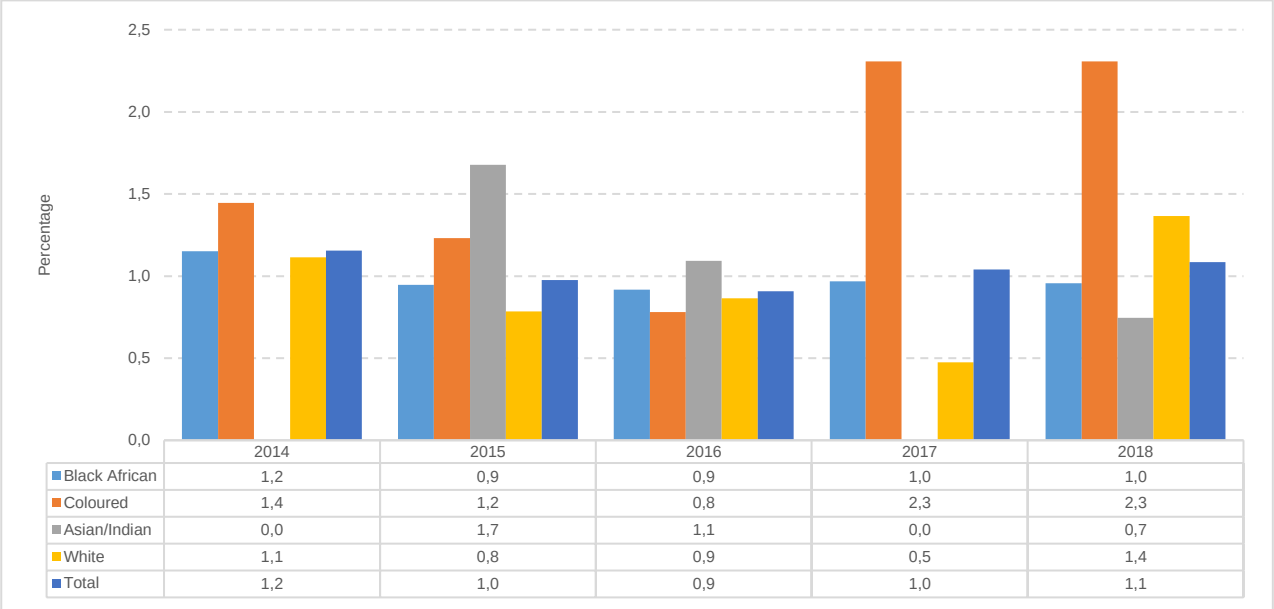


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Black African	8,4	7,4	7,8	8,1	7,9
Coloured	7,8	7,6	7,5	7,9	7,2
Asian/Indian	10,2	12,5	9,2	8,7	14,1
White	8,8	10,9	9,3	10,7	11,5
Total	8,4	7,7	7,9	8,2	8,1

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

As shown earlier, children at the age of beginning of primary and at the age of the final years of primary were likely to attend education institutions outside the primary education phase. On the graph presented above, in 2018, 14,1% of Indian/Asian children and 11,5% of white children were attending education institutions outside the primary education phase, and were most likely attending secondary education.

Figure 4.33: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who do not attend any education institution by population group, 2014–2018

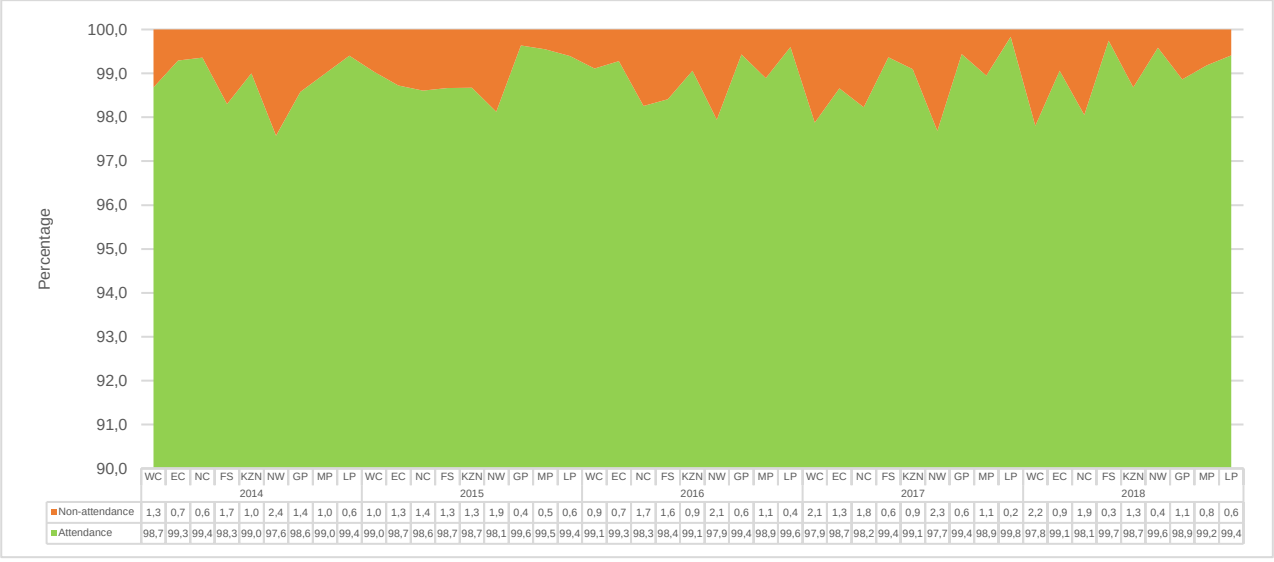


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Black African	1,2	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0
Coloured	1,4	1,2	0,8	2,3	2,3
Asian/Indian	0,0	1,7	1,1	0,0	0,7
White	1,1	0,8	0,9	0,5	1,4
Total	1,2	1,0	0,9	1,0	1,1

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

In spite of the fact that South Africa is quite near the universalisation of primary schooling, the percentage of children aged 6–13 who were out-of-school showed the country was still not completely able to meet this target. The one per cent who remained out-of-school in 2018 represented around 100 000 children from 6 to 13 years old. The most affected children in the most recent years were coloured children (2,3% in both 2017 and 2018).

Figure 4.34: Percentage of children aged 6–13 by attendance of an education institution and province, 2014–2018

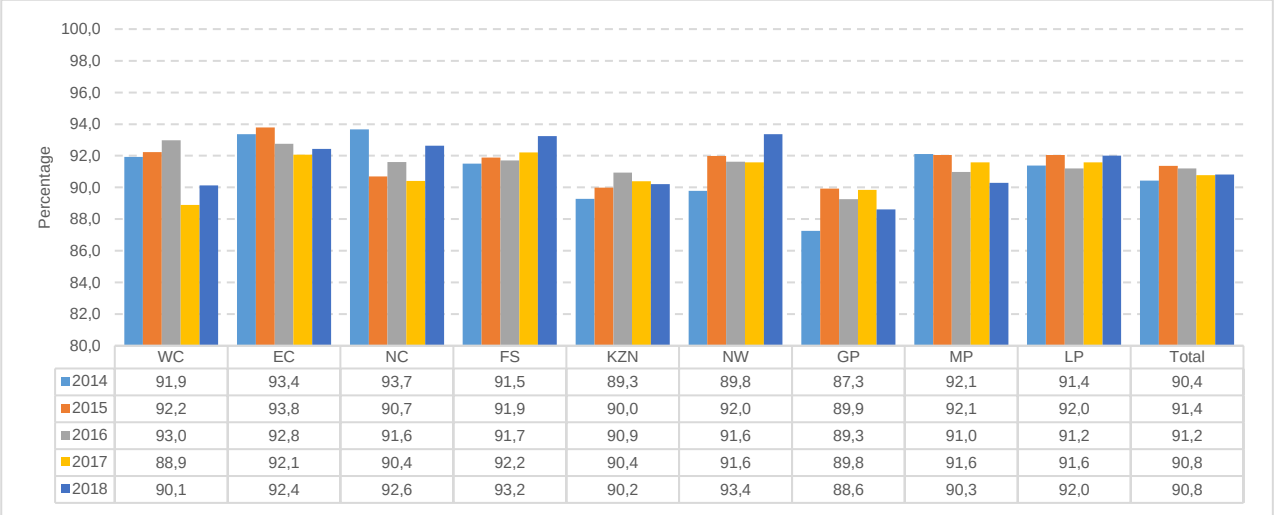


	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP
	2014									2015									2016									2017									2018								
Non-attendance	1,3	0,7	0,6	1,7	1,0	2,4	1,4	1,0	0,6	1,0	1,3	1,4	1,3	1,3	1,9	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,9	0,7	1,7	1,6	0,9	2,1	0,6	1,1	0,4	2,1	1,3	1,8	0,6	0,9	2,3	0,6	1,1	0,2	2,2	0,9	1,9	0,3	1,3	0,4	1,1	0,8	0,6
Attendance	98,7	99,3	99,4	98,3	99,0	97,6	98,6	99,0	99,4	99,0	98,7	98,6	98,7	98,7	98,1	99,6	99,5	99,4	99,1	99,3	98,3	98,4	99,1	97,9	99,4	98,9	99,6	97,9	98,7	98,2	99,4	99,1	97,7	99,4	98,9	99,8	97,8	99,1	98,1	99,7	98,7	99,6	98,9	99,2	99,4

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The percentage of children aged 6–13 who were out-of-school varied by province. North West and Western Cape had the highest percentage of out-of-school children for some of the years, while Limpopo and Gauteng had the lowest percentage of out-of-school children.

Figure 4.35: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who attend a primary education institution by province, 2014–2018

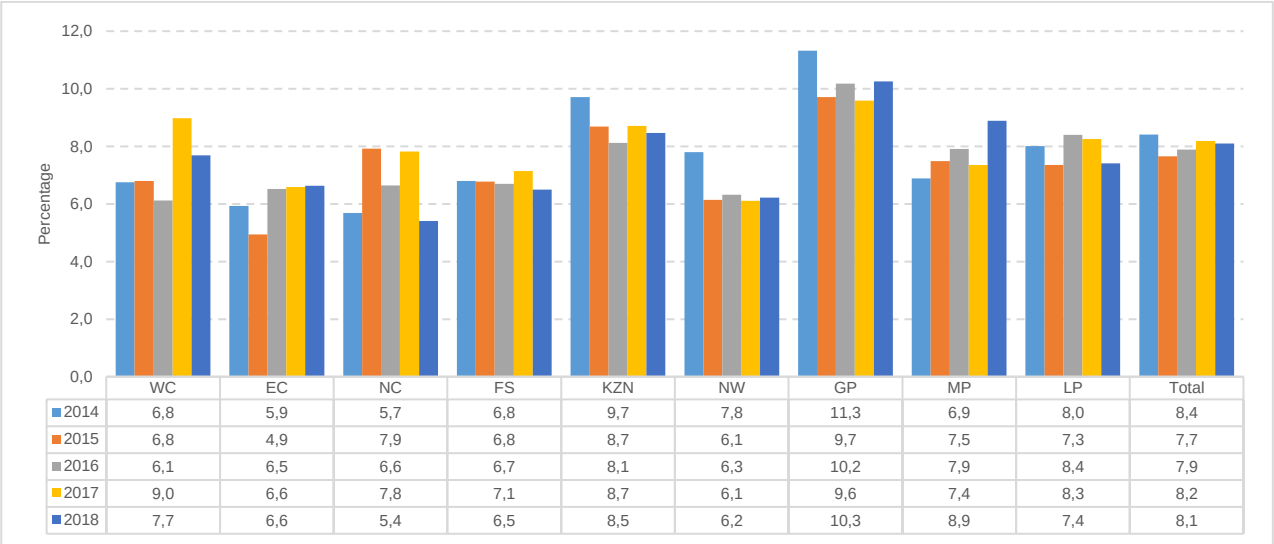


	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	Total
2014	91,9	93,4	93,7	91,5	89,3	89,8	87,3	92,1	91,4	90,4
2015	92,2	93,8	90,7	91,9	90,0	92,0	89,9	92,1	92,0	91,4
2016	93,0	92,8	91,6	91,7	90,9	91,6	89,3	91,0	91,2	91,2
2017	88,9	92,1	90,4	92,2	90,4	91,6	89,8	91,6	91,6	90,8
2018	90,1	92,4	92,6	93,2	90,2	93,4	88,6	90,3	92,0	90,8

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph illustrates the trend in regional variations in the attendance of primary education institutions by children aged 6–13 from 2014 to 2018. The graph shows that only slight provincial variations exist in the percentage of primary school participation by children aged 6–13 across all the years. Eastern Cape accounted for the largest and Gauteng for the lowest percentages of children in this age group who attended primary school education for most of the years. This shows Eastern Cape had the highest and Gauteng the lowest percentage of children who attended primary school education by the appropriate age.

Figure 4.36: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who attend another education institution by province, 2014–2018

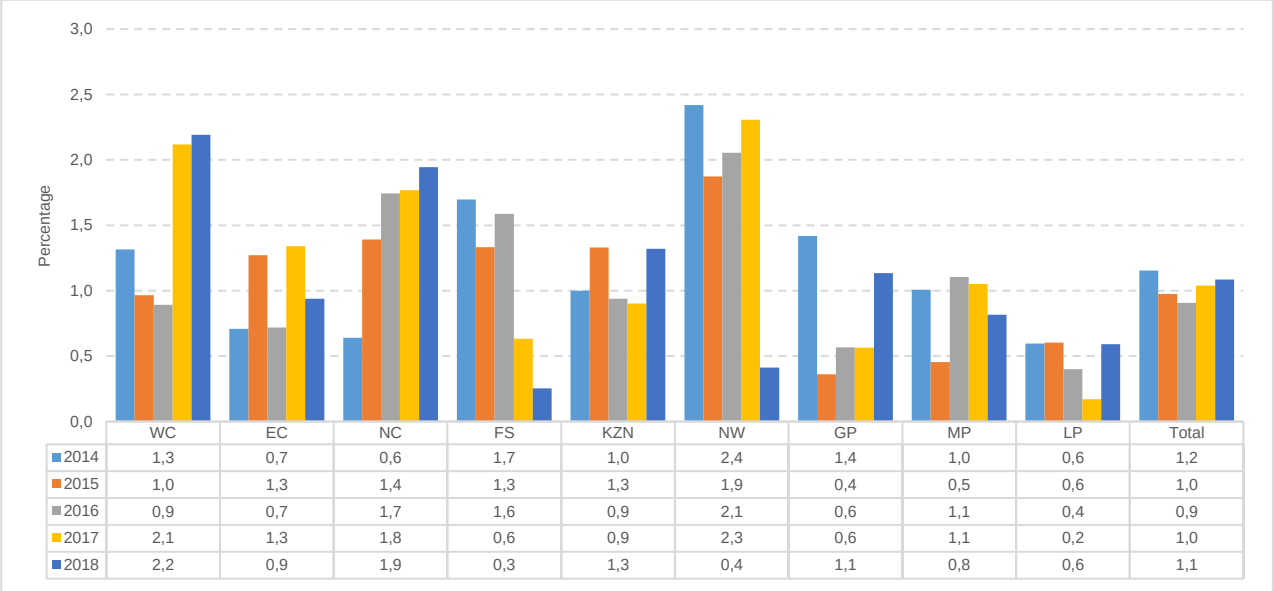


	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	Total
2014	6,8	5,9	5,7	6,8	9,7	7,8	11,3	6,9	8,0	8,4
2015	6,8	4,9	7,9	6,8	8,7	6,1	9,7	7,5	7,3	7,7
2016	6,1	6,5	6,6	6,7	8,1	6,3	10,2	7,9	8,4	7,9
2017	9,0	6,6	7,8	7,1	8,7	6,1	9,6	7,4	8,3	8,2
2018	7,7	6,6	5,4	6,5	8,5	6,2	10,3	8,9	7,4	8,1

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The percentage of children aged 6–13 attending education institutions outside the primary school phase was the highest in Gauteng across all the years. In Gauteng, for all the years, one out of ten children aged 6–13 attended education institutions outside the primary school phase. Eastern Cape and North West had the lowest percentages of children aged 6–13 who attended education institutions outside the primary school phase.

Figure 4.37: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who do not attend any education institution by province, 2014–2018

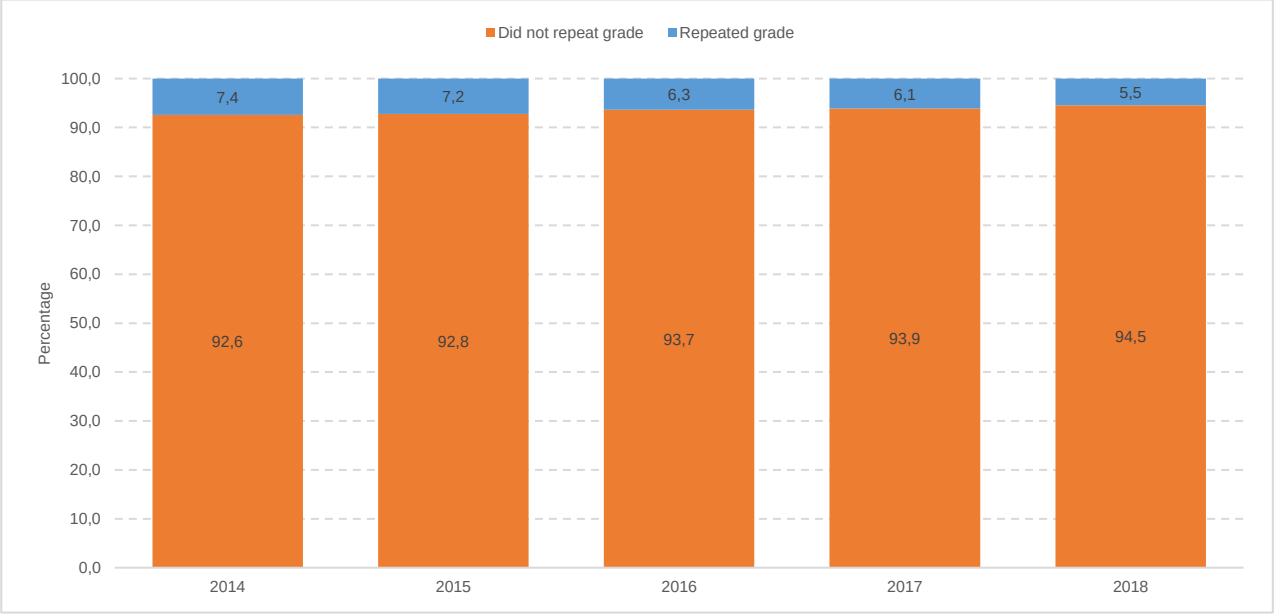


	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	Total
2014	1,3	0,7	0,6	1,7	1,0	2,4	1,4	1,0	0,6	1,2
2015	1,0	1,3	1,4	1,3	1,3	1,9	0,4	0,5	0,6	1,0
2016	0,9	0,7	1,7	1,6	0,9	2,1	0,6	1,1	0,4	0,9
2017	2,1	1,3	1,8	0,6	0,9	2,3	0,6	1,1	0,2	1,0
2018	2,2	0,9	1,9	0,3	1,3	0,4	1,1	0,8	0,6	1,1

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph presents the regional variation of the percentage of children aged 6–13 who were out-of-school. The lowest percentage of out-of-school children in this age group were found in Gauteng and Limpopo, while the highest percentage was found in North West. Furthermore, though no clear trend was observed across the years in all the other provinces, the percentage of out-of-school children was on the rise in Northern Cape.

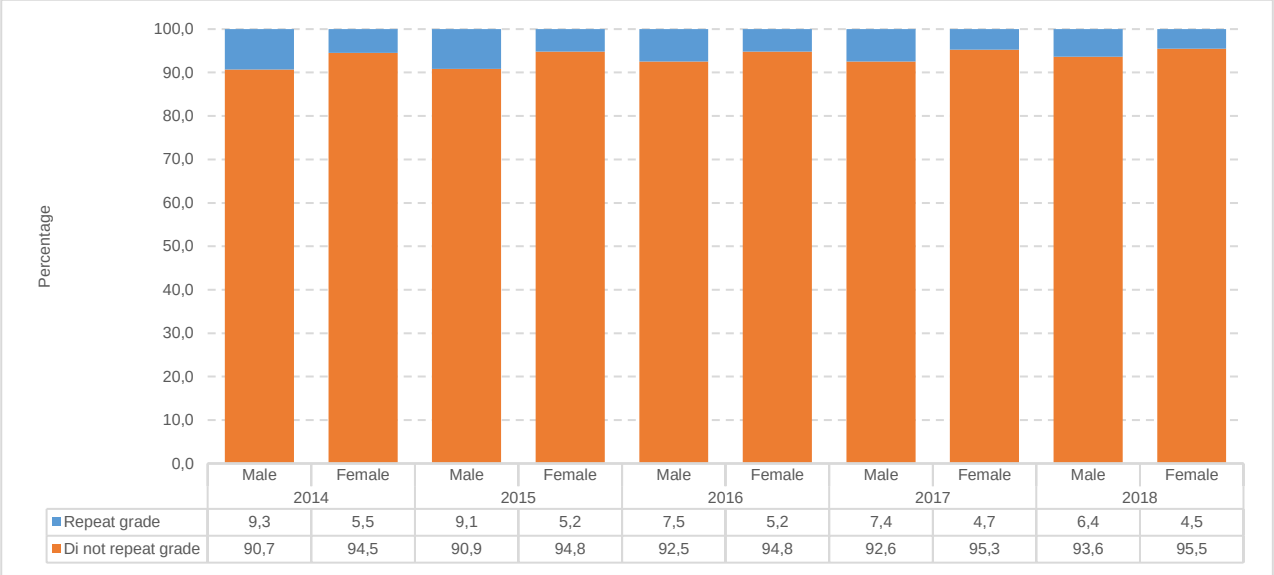
Figure 4.38: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who attend the same grade as they did previously, 2014–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

Grade repetition or retention in the primary school phase would most likely be used as a remedial solution for inefficiency in learning or to correct developmental delays. However, grade retention does not occur much in early years of schooling, as shown in the above graph. The above graph shows that the percentage of grade repetition among children aged 6–13 declined from 7,4% in 2014 to 5,5% in 2018.

Figure 4.39: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who attend the same grade as they did previously by gender, 2014–2018

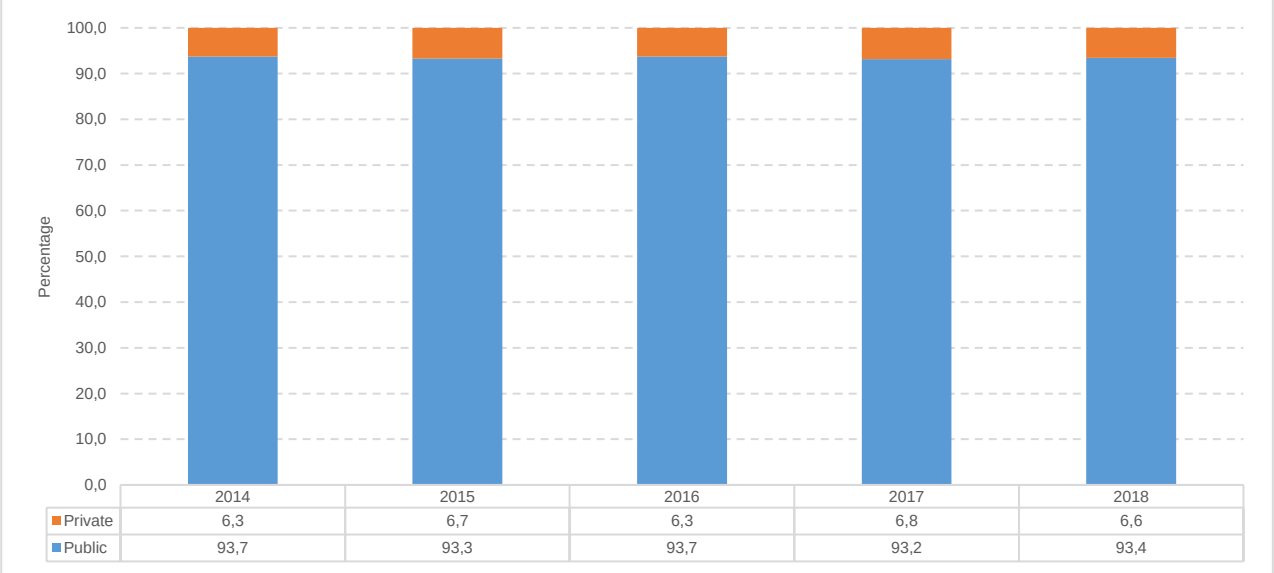


	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Repeat grade	9,3	5,5	9,1	5,2	7,5	5,2	7,4	4,7	6,4	4,5
Di not repeat grade	90,7	94,5	90,9	94,8	92,5	94,8	92,6	95,3	93,6	95,5

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph shows the percentage of children aged 6–13 who repeated the same grade they were attending. Males were most likely to repeat the same grade compared to females in all the years, although the gender gap narrowed across the years. The percentage of grade repeaters declined for both genders, but the decline was marginal between subsequent years and highest from 2014 to 2018 (2,3% for males and one per cent for females).

Figure 4.40: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who attend school by type of school attended, 2014–2018

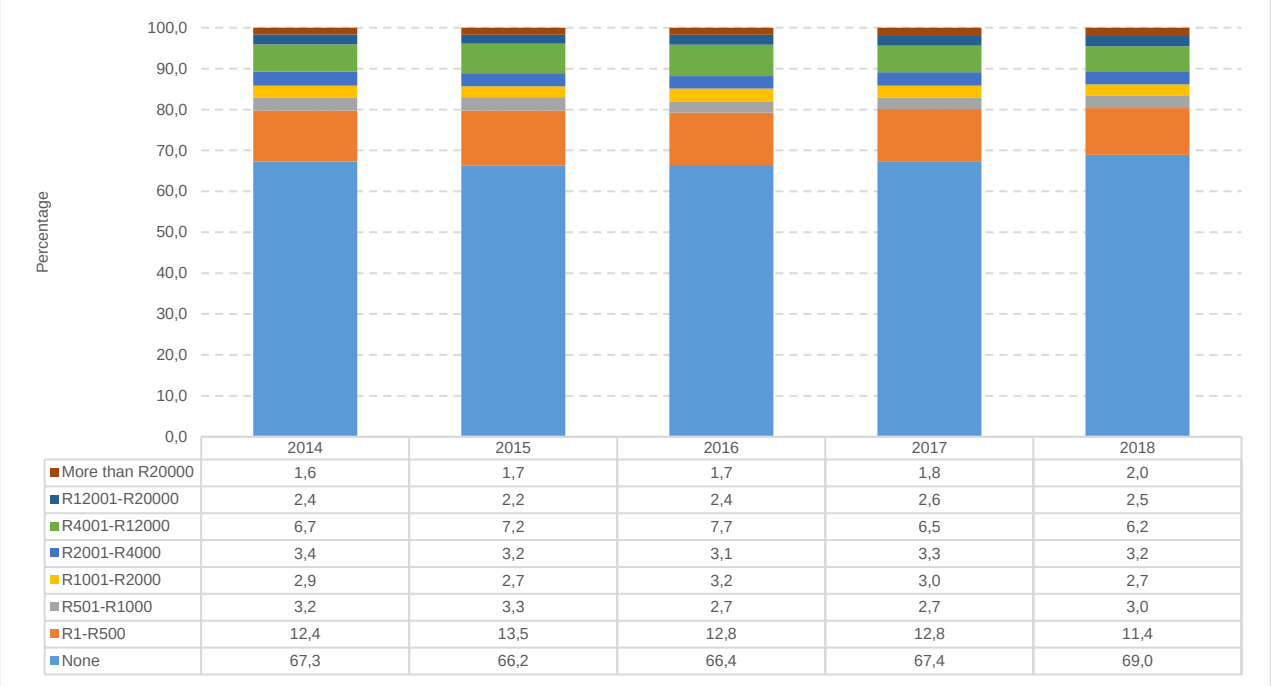


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Private	6,3	6,7	6,3	6,8	6,6
Public	93,7	93,3	93,7	93,2	93,4

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph presents the percentage of children aged 6–13 attending public or private primary education institutions. Nine out of ten children in this age group attended public primary education institutions (93% to 94% across all years).

Figure 4.41: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who attend an education institution by amount of tuition fees paid by household for the year, 2014–2018

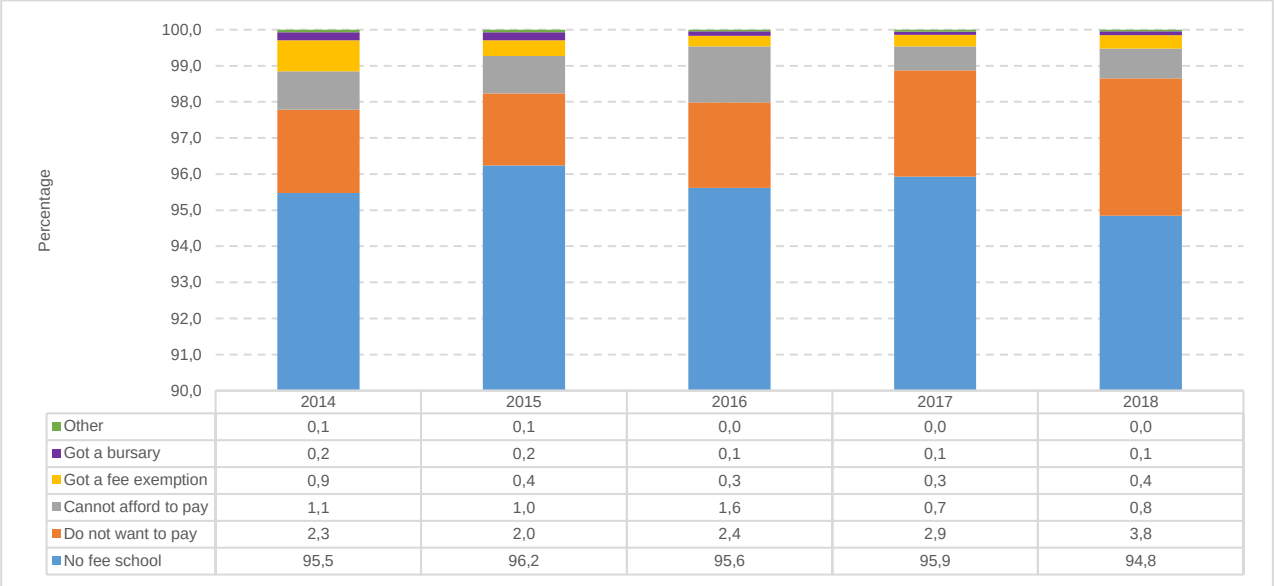


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
More than R20000	1,6	1,7	1,7	1,8	2,0
R12001-R20000	2,4	2,2	2,4	2,6	2,5
R4001-R12000	6,7	7,2	7,7	6,5	6,2
R2001-R4000	3,4	3,2	3,1	3,3	3,2
R1001-R2000	2,9	2,7	3,2	3,0	2,7
R501-R1000	3,2	3,3	2,7	2,7	3,0
R1-R500	12,4	13,5	12,8	12,8	11,4
None	67,3	66,2	66,4	67,4	69,0

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph presents the percentage of children aged 6–13 who attended education institutions by the amount of school fees paid by the household for the year. As shown in the graph, across all the years, more than two-thirds of children did not pay tuition fees to attend school, while on average around 12% paid R500 or less annually. Furthermore, the percentage of children aged 6–13 whose household paid more than R12 000 marginally rose from 4,0% in 2014 to 4,5% in 2018. These fees do not include the cost of uniforms, books and other learning materials, accommodation fees, sport fees and transport fees.

Figure 4.42: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who attend an education institution by reason why tuition fees were not paid, 2014–2018

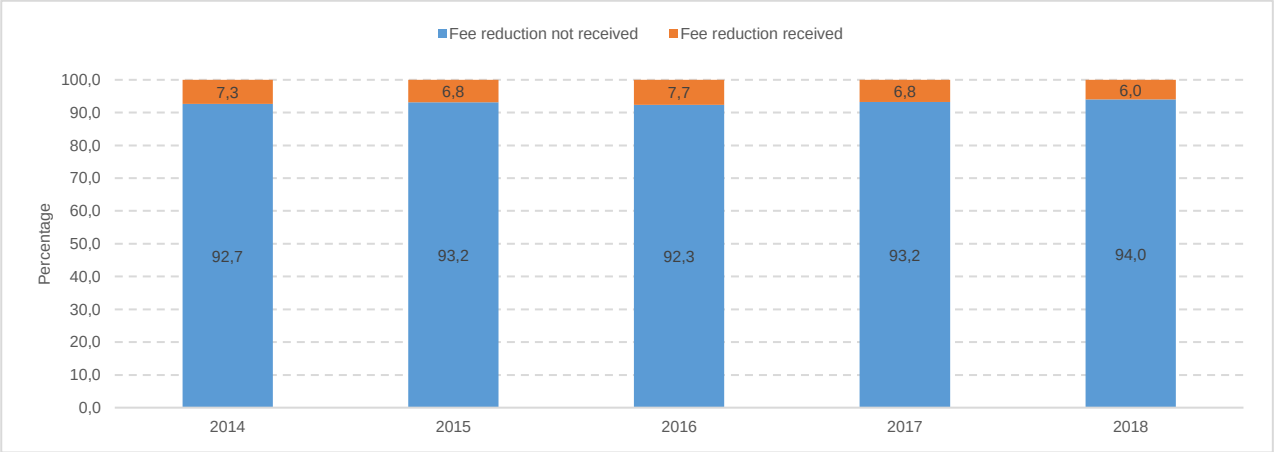


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Other	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0
Got a bursary	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,1
Got a fee exemption	0,9	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,4
Cannot afford to pay	1,1	1,0	1,6	0,7	0,8
Do not want to pay	2,3	2,0	2,4	2,9	3,8
No fee school	95,5	96,2	95,6	95,9	94,8

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

As shown earlier, the vast majority of children aged 6–13 years attended public schools and two-thirds did not pay tuition fees. The above graph provides information on reasons why tuition fees were not paid. The majority of children aged 6–13 (more than 95%) in all the years presented above, were attending no-fee schools, and hence households were not expected to pay school fees. Furthermore, close to two per cent of children stayed in households that did not want to pay school fees in 2014; this category also increased to close to four per cent in 2018. Moreover, every year, close to one per cent of children in this age group stayed in households that did not pay tuition fees because they could not afford them.

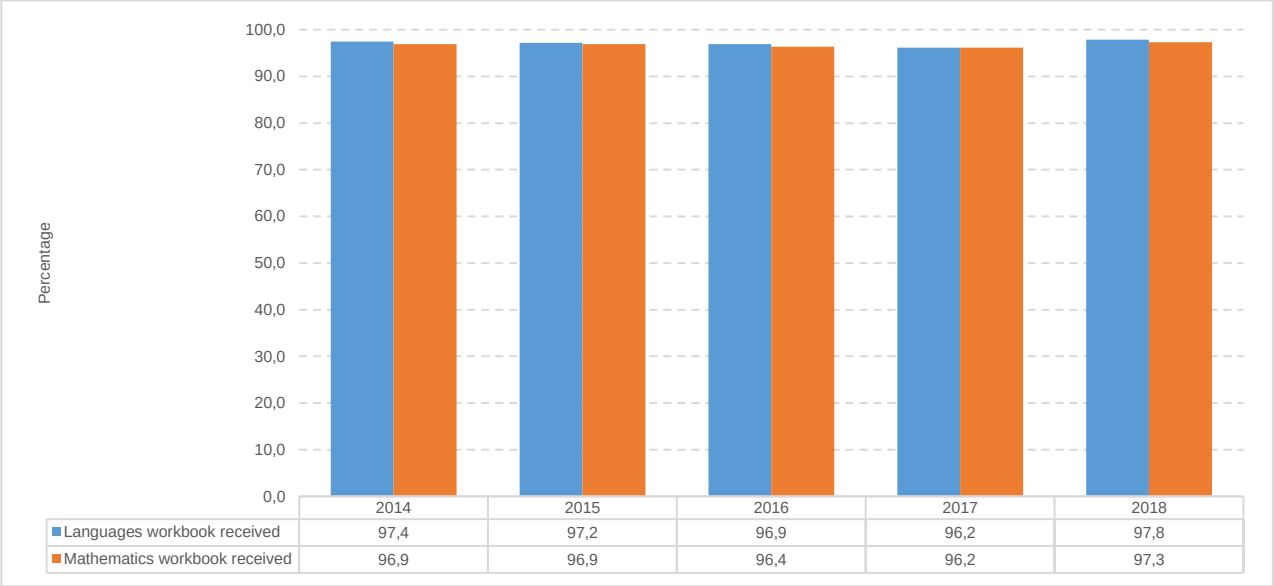
Figure 4.43: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who attend an education institution and receive a tuition fee reduction, 2014–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The percentage of children aged 6–13 who received fee reductions or benefited from a partial bursary remained low (less than 8%) during all the years presented in the above graph. Only six per cent of children aged 6–13 received a fee reduction in 2018.

Figure 4.44: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who attend an education institution by type of workbooks received, 2014–2018

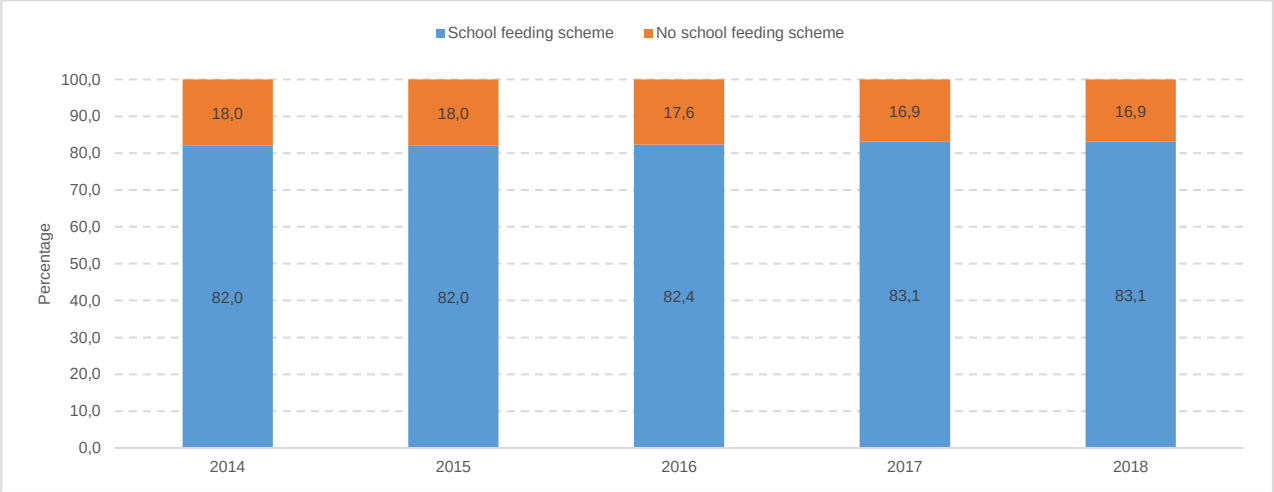


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Languages workbook received	97,4	97,2	96,9	96,2	97,8
Mathematics workbook received	96,9	96,9	96,4	96,2	97,3

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The percentage of children aged 6–13 who received national workbooks in languages and mathematics was high and remained steady at around 97% throughout the years. In 2018, more than 97% of children aged 6–14 received their mathematics workbook and close to 98% received their language workbook.

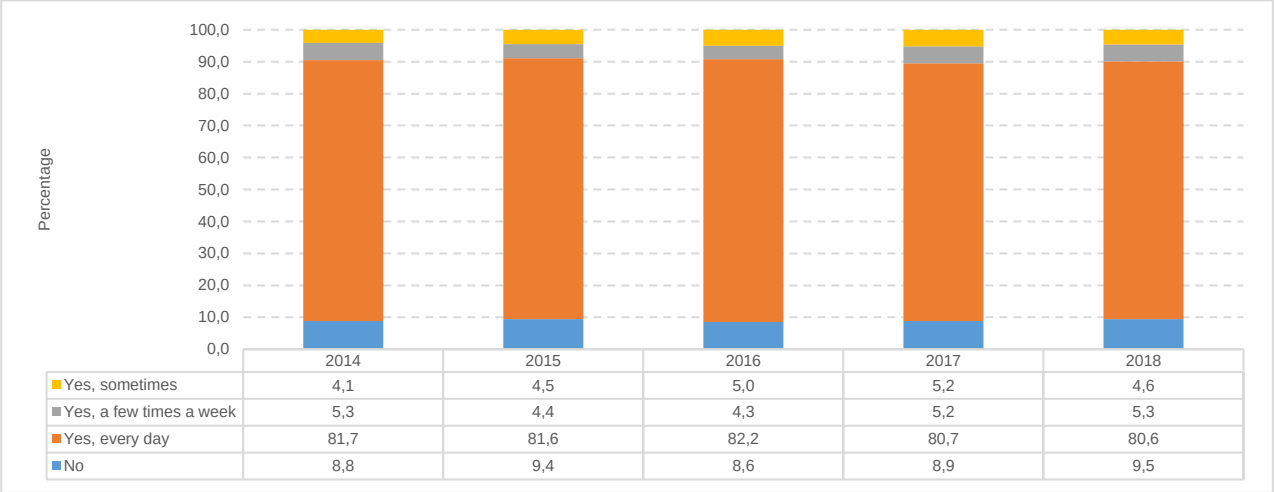
Figure 4.45: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who attend an educational institution where food is given as part of the school feeding scheme, 2014–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

Eight out of ten children aged 6–13 attended education institutions where food was given as part of the school feeding scheme. The percentage of children who attended schools where food was given as part of the school feeding scheme rose from 82% in 2014 to 83% in 2018.

Figure 4.46: Percentage of children aged 6–13 who attend an education institution where food is given as part of the school feeding scheme by the frequency of food consumption, 2014–2018



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Yes, sometimes	4,1	4,5	5,0	5,2	4,6
Yes, a few times a week	5,3	4,4	4,3	5,2	5,3
Yes, every day	81,7	81,6	82,2	80,7	80,6
No	8,8	9,4	8,6	8,9	9,5

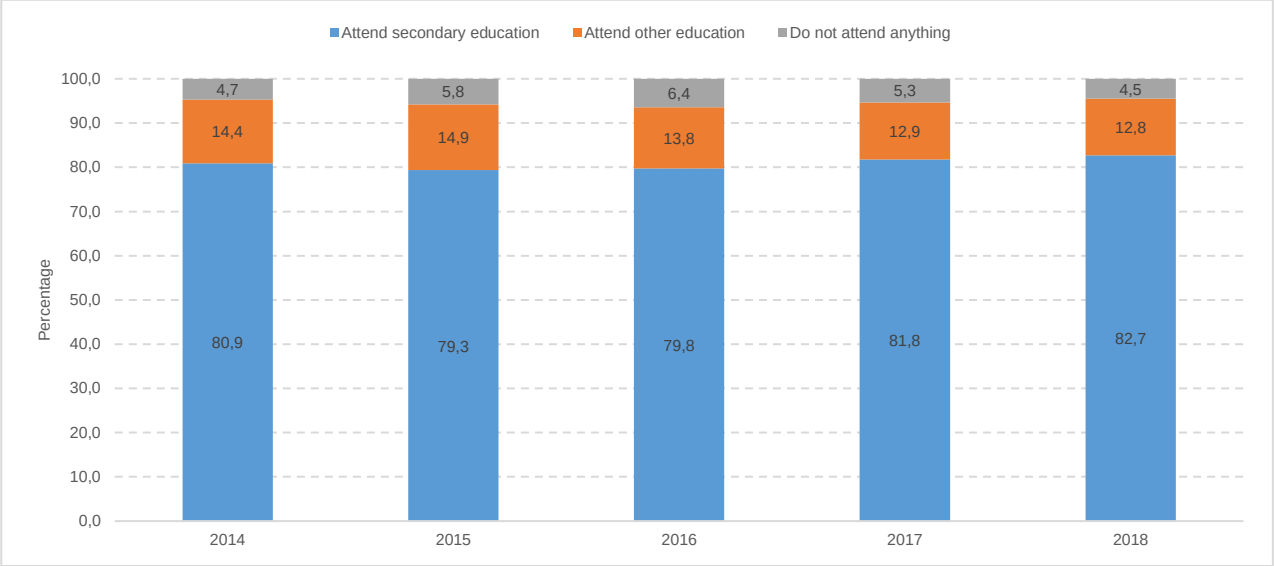
Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The participation in school nutrition programmes by children aged 6–13 was overall high in all the years, but every day participation in the programme was declining. The percentage of children aged 6–13 who daily consumed the food provided as part of the school feeding scheme reduced from 81,7% in 2014 to 80,6% in 2018. Furthermore, the percentage of children who “sometimes” ate or ate the food “just a few times a week” rose by one percentage point from 2014 to 2018.

4.6 Secondary school

Secondary school attendance was quite high in South Africa compared to other sub-Saharan countries, despite school absenteeism and dropouts at the end of the compulsory school phase. In 2017, close to 81% of learners who enrolled in Grade 11 had enrolled in Grade 10 during the previous year, and 73% of learners who enrolled in Grade 12 had enrolled in Grade 11 during the previous year (Stats SA, 2019e). In 2018, the number of children aged 14–17 who were attending secondary school was estimated to be close to 3 million, whereas 471 743 children in this age group were attending other phases of schooling, including primary schooling. Furthermore, 164 933 children in the age group 14–17 were estimated to be out-of-school children.

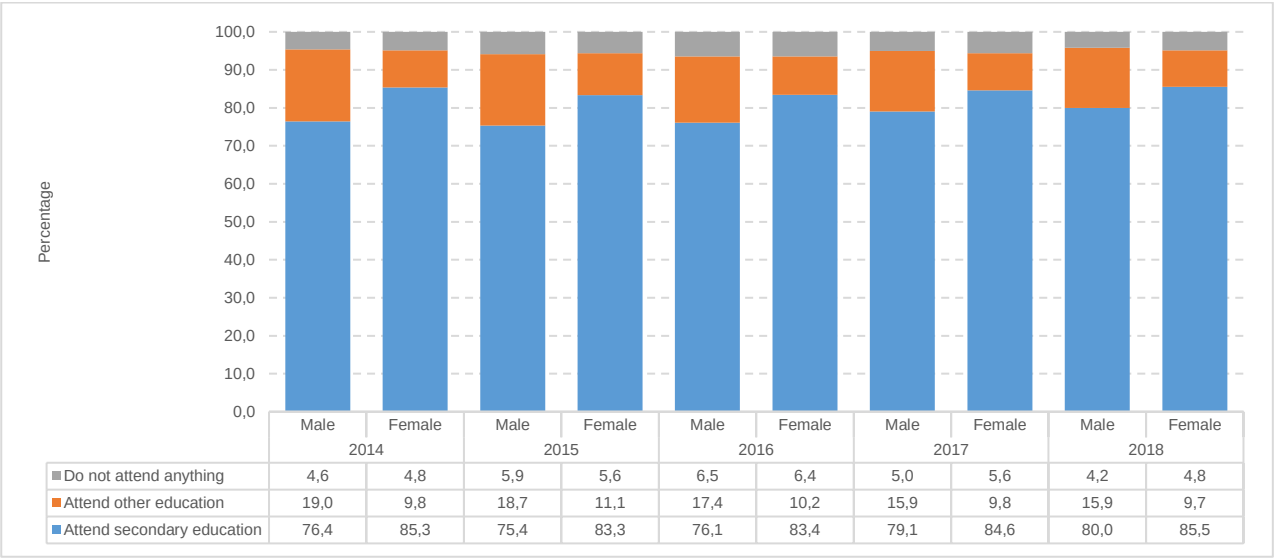
Figure 4.47: Percentage of children aged 14–17 by attendance of an educational institution, 2014–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph presents the percentage of children aged 14–17 who were attending an education institution over a 5-year period from 2014 to 2018. Secondary school attendance ranged from 79% to 83% during these years, while attendance of other education institutions ranged from 13% to 15%. Furthermore, the percentage of children aged 14–17 who were out-of-school was noticeably high (5% to 6%) compared to children aged 6–13.

Figure 4.48: Percentage of children aged 14–17 by attendance of an education institution and gender, 2014–2018



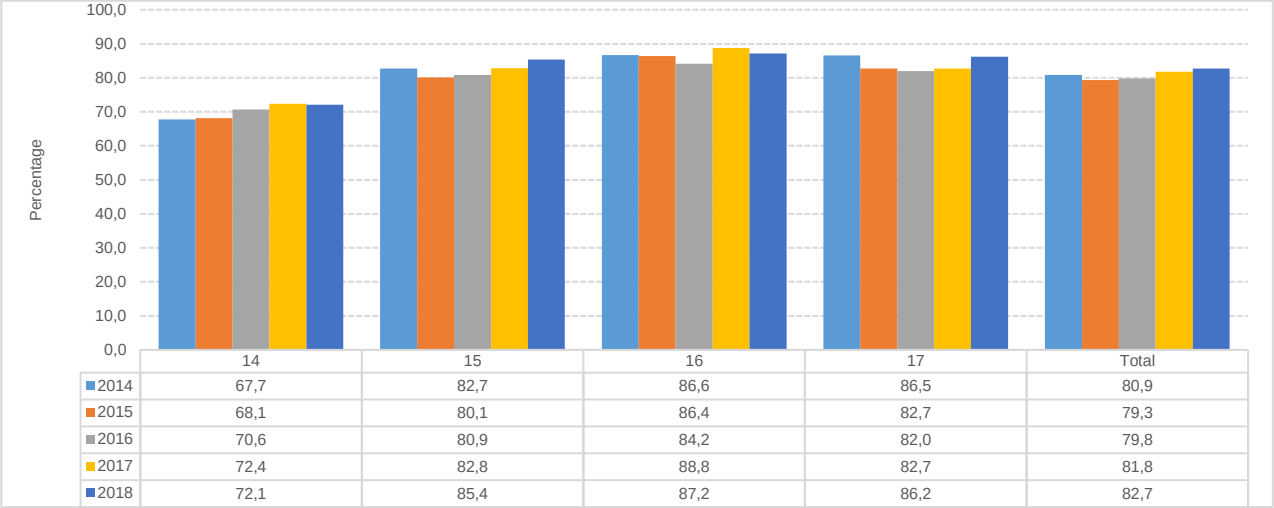
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
Do not attend anything	4,6	4,8	5,9	5,6	6,5	6,4	5,0	5,6	4,2	4,8
Attend other education	19,0	9,8	18,7	11,1	17,4	10,2	15,9	9,8	15,9	9,7
Attend secondary education	76,4	85,3	75,4	83,3	76,1	83,4	79,1	84,6	80,0	85,5

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph provides the gender breakdown of the percentage of children aged 6–13 who were attending an education institution from 2014 to 2018. The graph shows a larger gender gap in secondary school attendance among children aged 14–17. Among children in this age group, relatively more females attended secondary education institutions than males. Furthermore, males in this age group were more likely than females to attend education institutions outside the secondary school phase. The percentage of males attending education institutions outside the secondary school phase declined from 19% in 2014 to 16% in

2018. However, the percentage of females attending education institutions outside the secondary school phase remained stable at around ten per cent during all the years. Furthermore, the percentage of out-of-school children was similar for both genders at about six to seven per cent across all the years.

Figure 4.49: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who attend a secondary education institution by age, 2014–2018

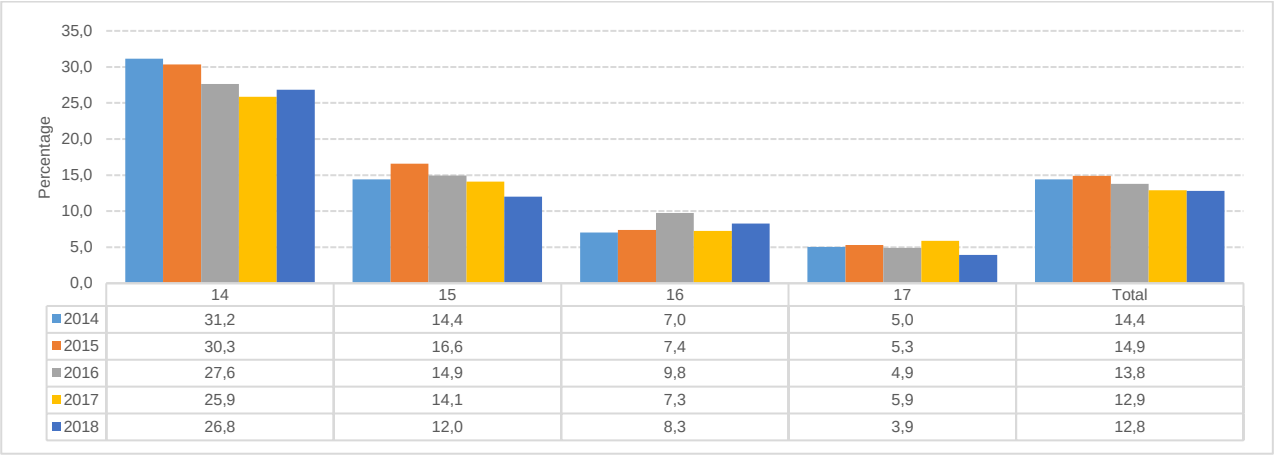


	14	15	16	17	Total
2014	67,7	82,7	86,6	86,5	80,9
2015	68,1	80,1	86,4	82,7	79,3
2016	70,6	80,9	84,2	82,0	79,8
2017	72,4	82,8	88,8	82,7	81,8
2018	72,1	85,4	87,2	86,2	82,7

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph shows the percentage of secondary school attendance by children aged 14–17 by single age. The data shows age variations in the percentage of children who attended secondary school, as the percentage of 14-year-olds who attended secondary school was relatively low compared to the other age groups. Furthermore, the percentage of secondary school attendance increased with age, and peaked at age 16 for all the years presented above, after which it remained stable or declined.

Figure 4.50: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who attend another education institution by age, 2014–2018

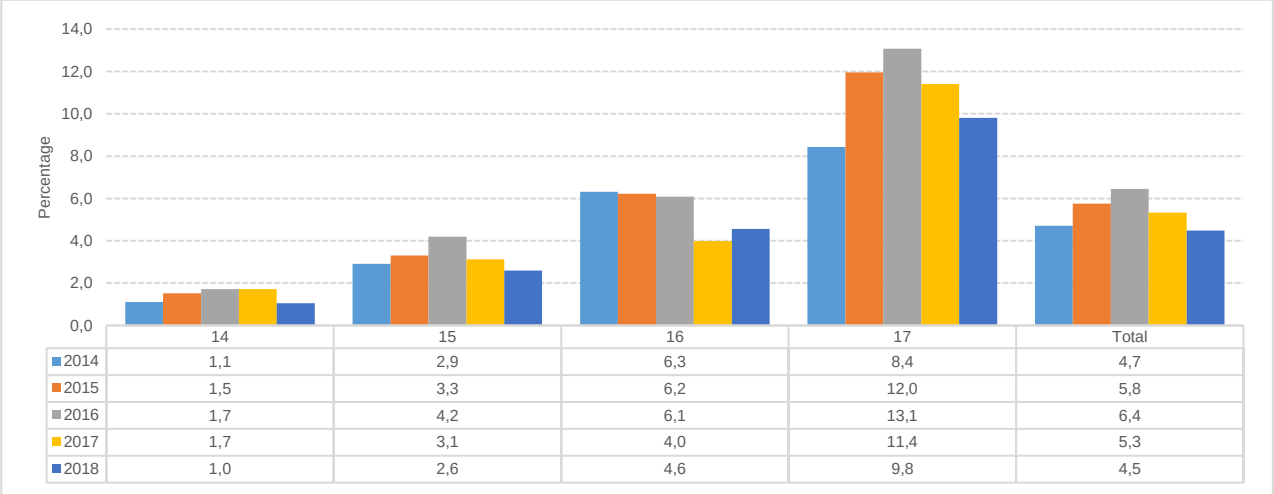


	14	15	16	17	Total
2014	31,2	14,4	7,0	5,0	14,4
2015	30,3	16,6	7,4	5,3	14,9
2016	27,6	14,9	9,8	4,9	13,8
2017	25,9	14,1	7,3	5,9	12,9
2018	26,8	12,0	8,3	3,9	12,8

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph shows the percentage of children aged 14–17 who attended education institutions outside the secondary school phase. The graph shows that across all the years, more than a quarter of children aged 14 years were most likely attending primary school, while these percentages were reduced by almost half among 15-year-olds, and were three times less among 16-year-olds. The percentage of 17-year-old children who attended education institution outside the secondary school phase reduced from five per cent in 2014 to 3,9% in 2018.

Figure 4.51: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who do not attend any education institution by age, 2014–2018

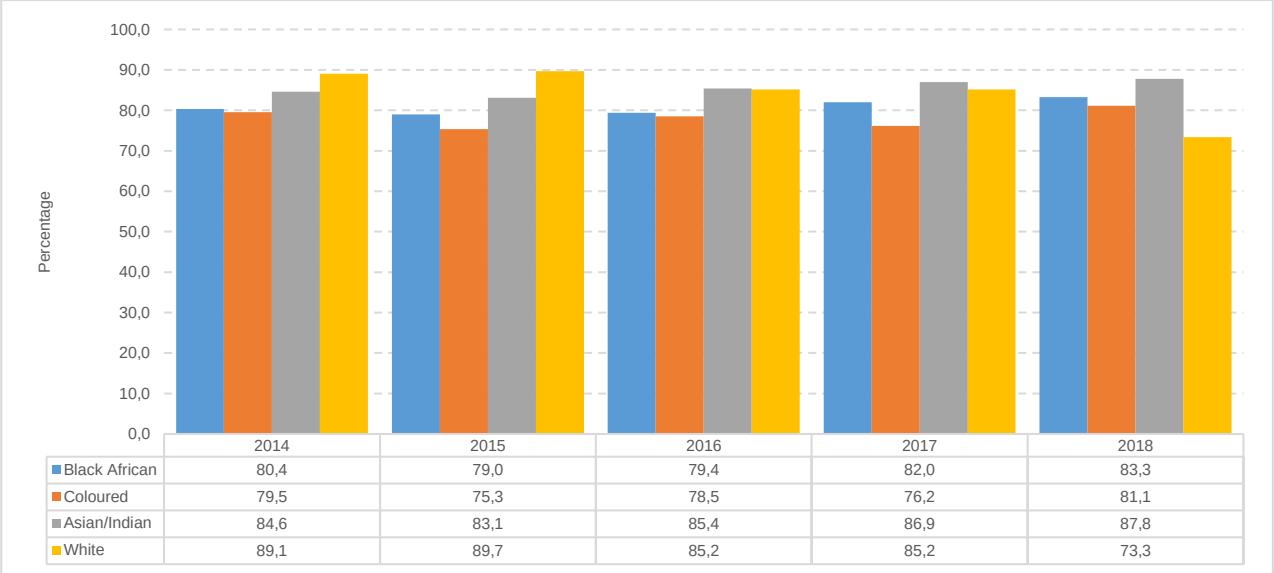


	14	15	16	17	Total
2014	1,1	2,9	6,3	8,4	4,7
2015	1,5	3,3	6,2	12,0	5,8
2016	1,7	4,2	6,1	13,1	6,4
2017	1,7	3,1	4,0	11,4	5,3
2018	1,0	2,6	4,6	9,8	4,5

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

Age 15 signifies the end of compulsory schooling, and contributes to a significant drop in adolescents' school attendance. Compared to age 14, the percentage of non-attendance among 15-year-olds grew by more than half in all the years presented above. The percentage of out-of-school children continued to increase with age with 4,6% of 16-year-olds and 9,8% of 17-year-olds being out-of-school in 2018. Adolescents who quit the school system at age 14–17 leave with poor literacy and numeracy skills and with limited post-school options.

Figure 4.52: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who attend a secondary education institution by population group, 2014-2018

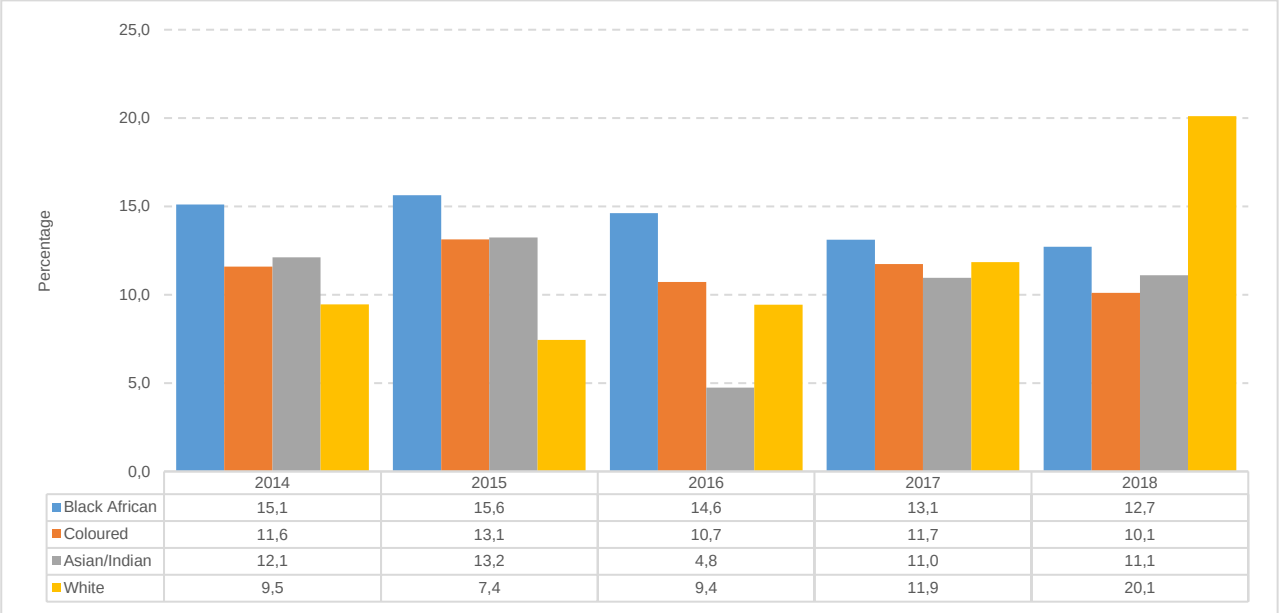


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Black African	80,4	79,0	79,4	82,0	83,3
Coloured	79,5	75,3	78,5	76,2	81,1
Asian/Indian	84,6	83,1	85,4	86,9	87,8
White	89,1	89,7	85,2	85,2	73,3

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph illustrates the percentage of children aged 14–17 who attended secondary school by population group. The percentage of secondary school attendance was lower for black African and coloured children aged 14–17 years than for Asian/Indian and white children, in all the years. The percentage of secondary school attendance of Asian/Indian children increased by 3,2 percentage points, from 84,6% in 2014 to 87,8% in 2020. Attendance of secondary education among whites declined from 89,1% in 2014 to 73,3% in 2018, while overall attendance among whites still remained high.

Figure 4.53: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who attend another education institution by population group, 2014–2018

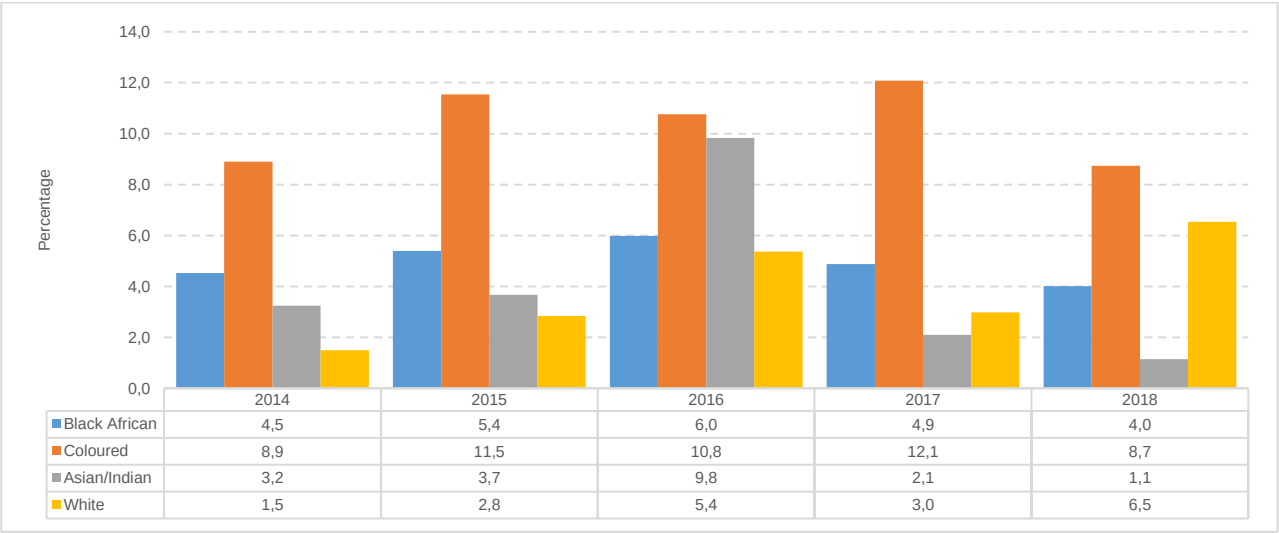


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Black African	15,1	15,6	14,6	13,1	12,7
Coloured	11,6	13,1	10,7	11,7	10,1
Asian/Indian	12,1	13,2	4,8	11,0	11,1
White	9,5	7,4	9,4	11,9	20,1

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The graph above shows the percentage of children aged 14–17 who attended education institutions outside the secondary phase. For all the years, black African children had the highest percentage of children aged 14–17 attending school outside the secondary phase, followed by coloureds and Asians/Indians. This is most likely because they were still attending primary school. Furthermore, while white children in this age group were still most likely attending primary school, others were receiving education based on home learning. Furthermore, in 2018, some white children aged 14–17 were also attending tertiary education institutions including colleges, thus the high percentage of children in this category (20,1%).

Figure 4.54: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who do not attend any education institution by population group, 2014–2018

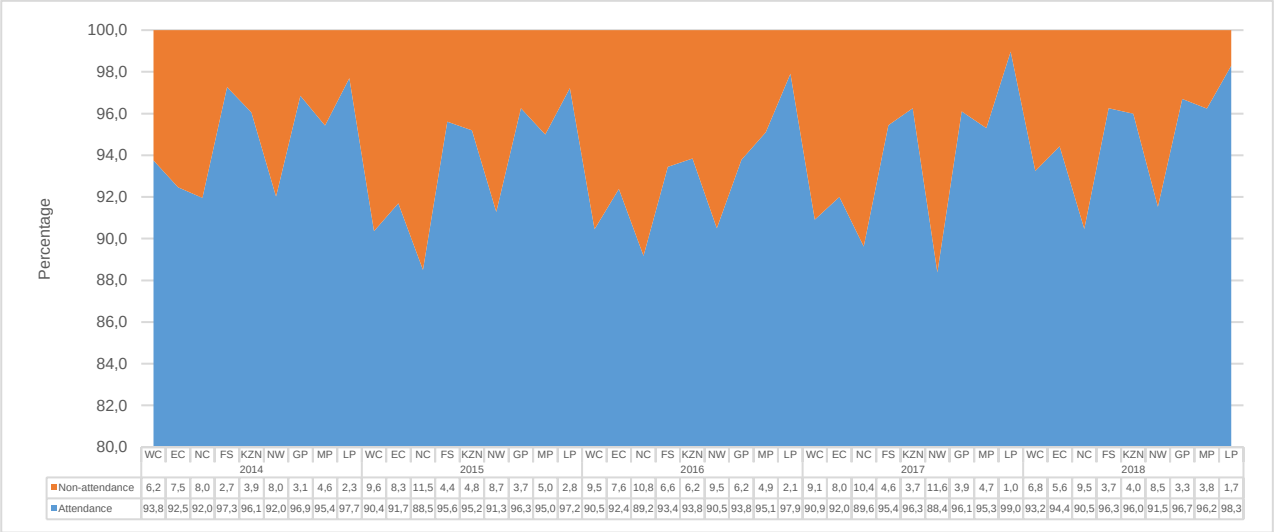


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Black African	4,5	5,4	6,0	4,9	4,0
Coloured	8,9	11,5	10,8	12,1	8,7
Asian/Indian	3,2	3,7	9,8	2,1	1,1
White	1,5	2,8	5,4	3,0	6,5

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

Figure 4.54 presents the percentage of children aged 14–17 who did not attend any education institution by population group. Across all the years presented above, the school non-attendance rate was the highest among coloured children compared to other population groups.

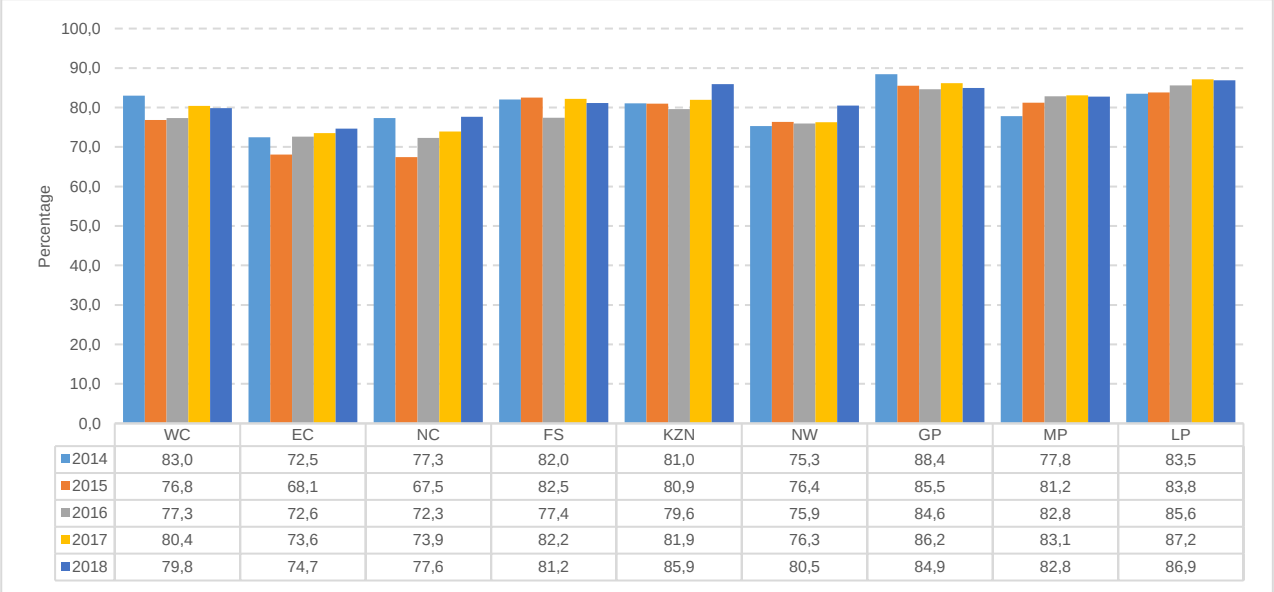
Figure 4.55: Percentage of children aged 14–17 by attendance of an education institution and province, 2014–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph presents the provincial distribution of education institution attendance rates of children aged 14-17 over a 5-year period from 2014 to 2018. Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, and North West had the highest percentage of non-attendance over most of the years, while Limpopo had the highest percentage of attendance during the same period.

Figure 4.56: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who attend a secondary education institution by province, 2014–2018



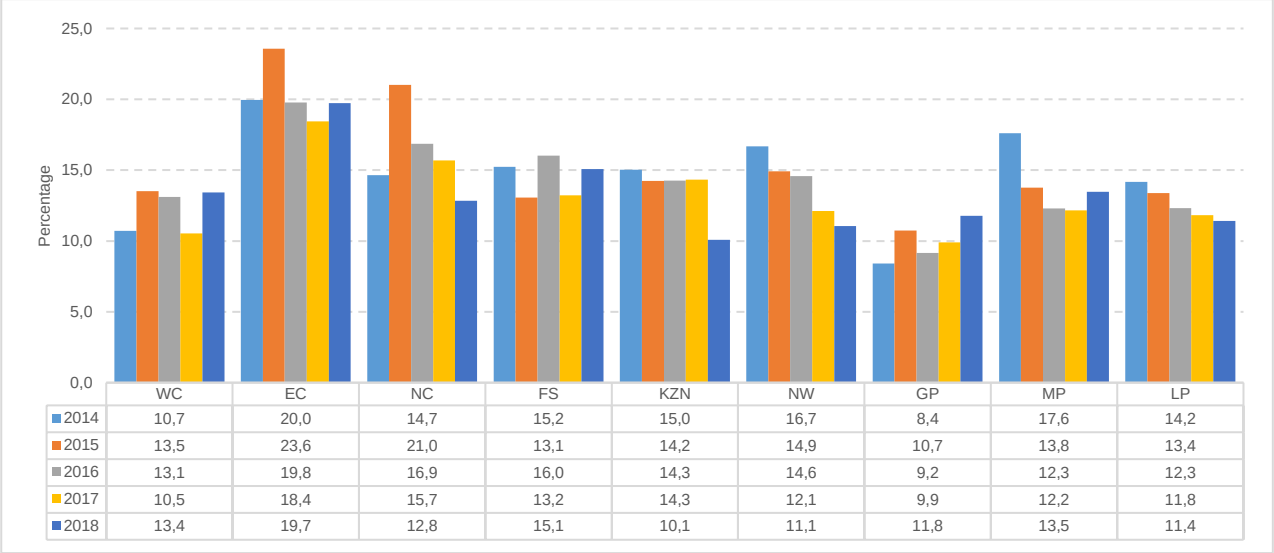
	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP
2014	83,0	72,5	77,3	82,0	81,0	75,3	88,4	77,8	83,5
2015	76,8	68,1	67,5	82,5	80,9	76,4	85,5	81,2	83,8
2016	77,3	72,6	72,3	77,4	79,6	75,9	84,6	82,8	85,6
2017	80,4	73,6	73,9	82,2	81,9	76,3	86,2	83,1	87,2
2018	79,8	74,7	77,6	81,2	85,9	80,5	84,9	82,8	86,9

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph shows provincial comparisons of children aged 14–17 years who attended secondary school from 2014 to 2018. The highest percentage of children aged 14–17 years attending secondary education lived in KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo. The lowest percentage of children in this age group attending secondary

education lived in Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and North West. One of the factors driving regional gaps in education participation is the difference in school resources available to learners. Some schools are often less able to employ specialist teachers or offer specialist subjects or programmes, because they have difficulty to recruit and retain qualified teachers. Some schools may even practise multi-grade classes.

Figure 4.57: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who attend another educational institution by province, 2014–2018

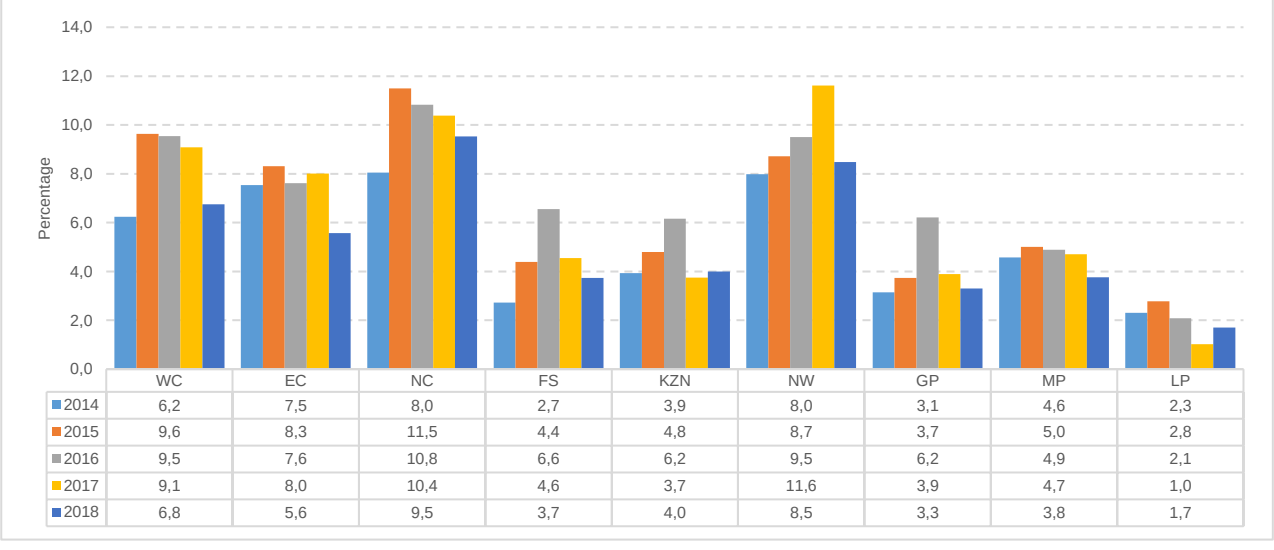


	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP
2014	10,7	20,0	14,7	15,2	15,0	16,7	8,4	17,6	14,2
2015	13,5	23,6	21,0	13,1	14,2	14,9	10,7	13,8	13,4
2016	13,1	19,8	16,9	16,0	14,3	14,6	9,2	12,3	12,3
2017	10,5	18,4	15,7	13,2	14,3	12,1	9,9	12,2	11,8
2018	13,4	19,7	12,8	15,1	10,1	11,1	11,8	13,5	11,4

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The graph above presents the percentage of children aged 14–17 who were attending an education institution outside the secondary school phase. The lowest attendance of secondary school within this age group was observed in Eastern Cape for all the years. These children were most likely still attending primary school. Furthermore, Gauteng had relatively the lowest percentage of children in the age group 14–17 attending school outside the secondary school phase for all the years presented.

Figure 4.58: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who do not attend any education institution by province, 2014–2018

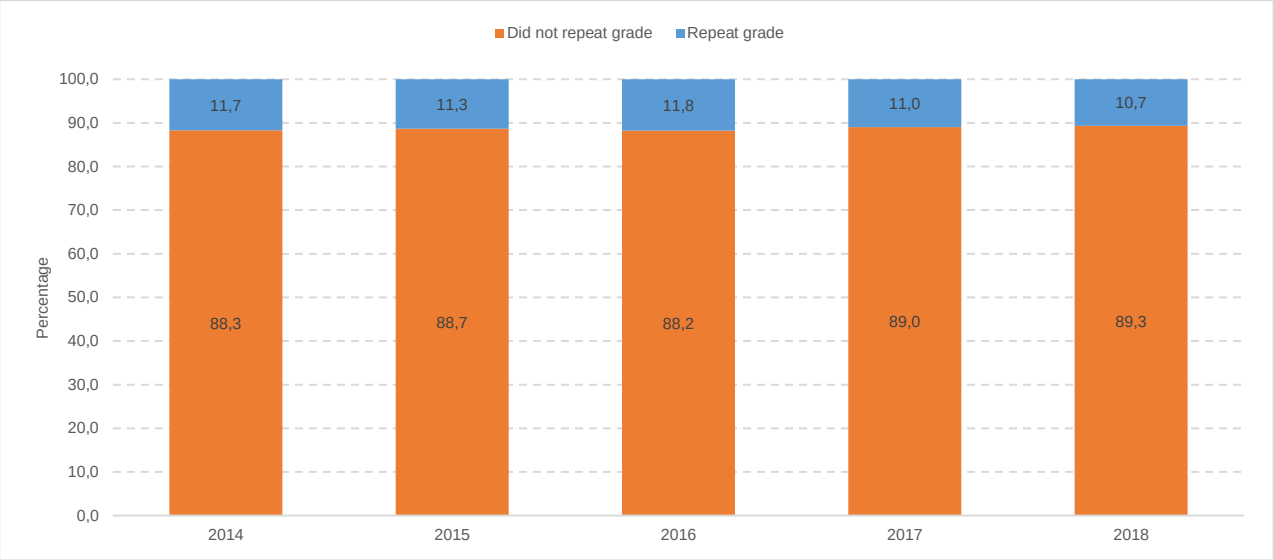


	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP
2014	6,2	7,5	8,0	2,7	3,9	8,0	3,1	4,6	2,3
2015	9,6	8,3	11,5	4,4	4,8	8,7	3,7	5,0	2,8
2016	9,5	7,6	10,8	6,6	6,2	9,5	6,2	4,9	2,1
2017	9,1	8,0	10,4	4,6	3,7	11,6	3,9	4,7	1,0
2018	6,8	5,6	9,5	3,7	4,0	8,5	3,3	3,8	1,7

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

Figure 4.58 presents the percentage of children aged 14–17 who were not attending an education institution by province. The graph shows that a regional attendance gap existed mostly around schools in the Cape areas and the North West compared to the other provinces, with these provinces having percentages of out-of-school children that were at least one and a half times higher than the national average for each year. This is an especial concern in the Northern Cape. The lowest percentage of out-of-school children in the age group 14–17 was observed in Limpopo. Some young people aged 15–17 years may have left the education system early to seek employment.

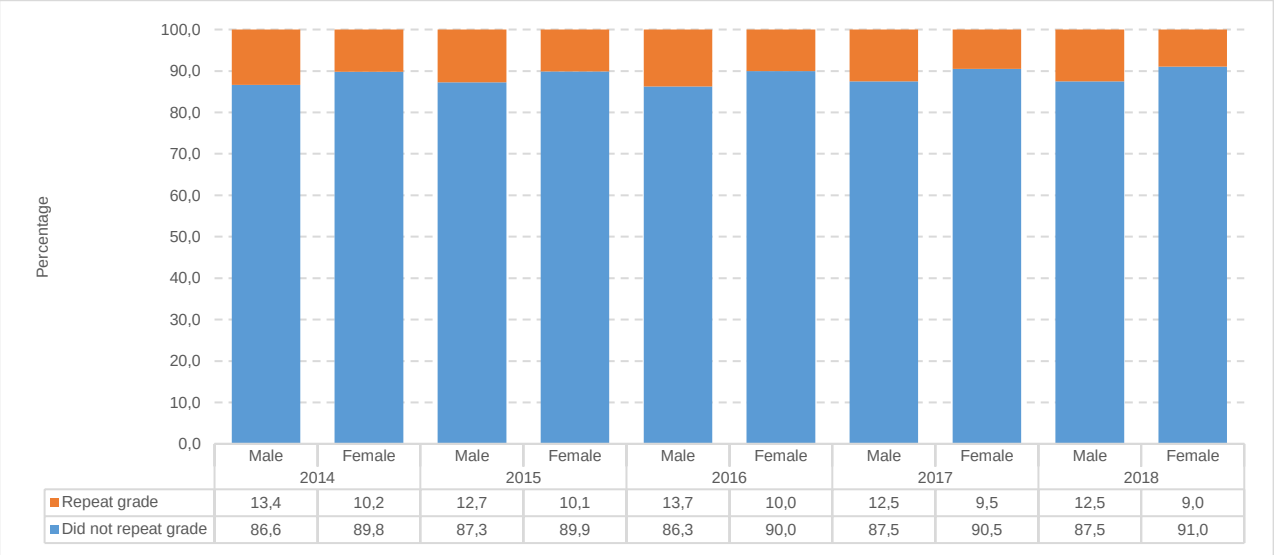
Figure 4.59: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who attend the same grade as they did previously, 2014–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph shows the extent of grade repetition among children aged 14–17. Each year, on average, 11 out of 100 children aged 14–17 repeated grades. Compared to children aged 6–13 years, children aged 14–17 years were twice at risk of repeating a grade.

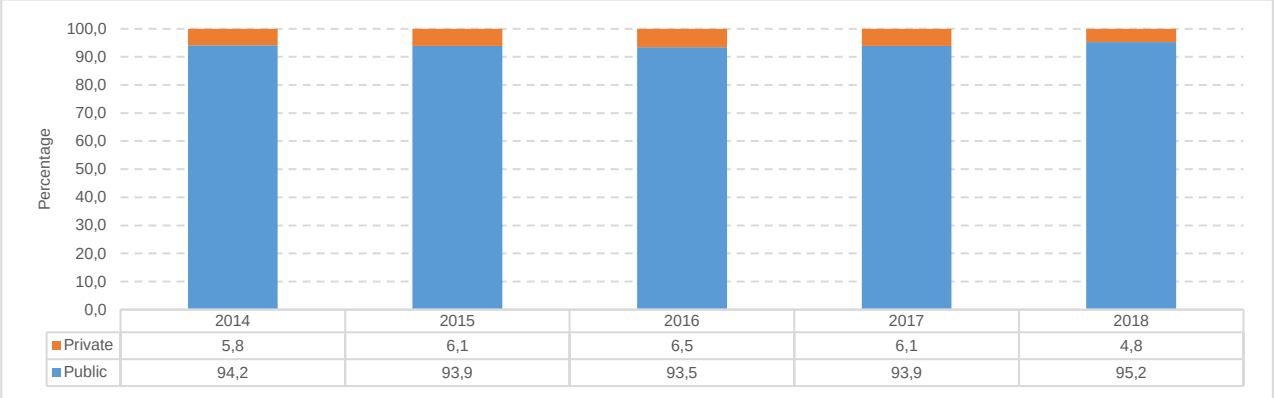
Figure 4.60: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who attend the same grade as they did previously by gender, 2014–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

Figure 4.60 shows the percentage of children aged 14–17 who repeated the same grade they were attending. Similar to the figures for children aged 6–13, males aged 14–17 were most likely to repeat the same grade compared to females in the same age group, but the gender gap remained stable at about three or four percentage points. Furthermore, the percentage of grade repeaters declined by close to one percentage point for both genders, from 2014 to 2017.

Figure 4.61: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who attend an education institution by type, 2014–2018

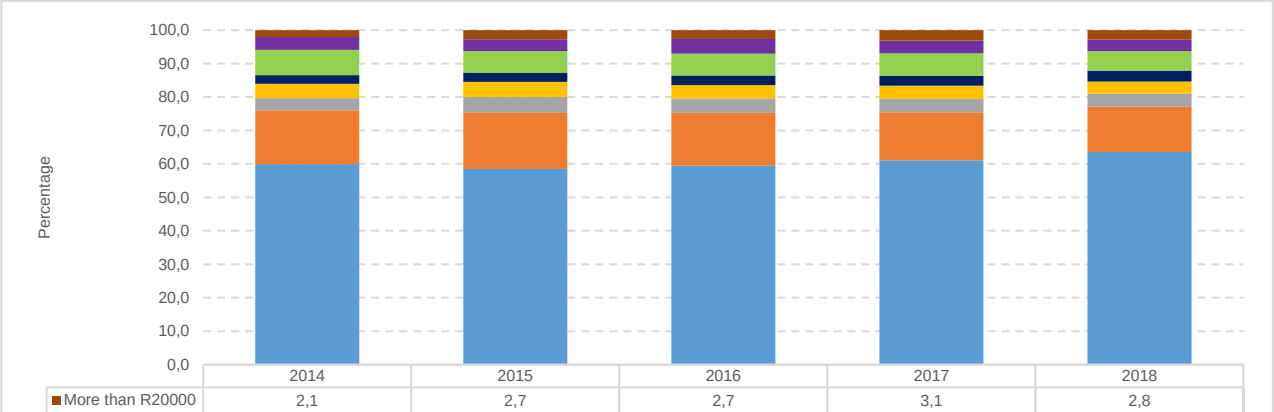


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Private	5,8	6,1	6,5	6,1	4,8
Public	94,2	93,9	93,5	93,9	95,2

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

In South Africa, on average across all the years, about six per cent of 14–17-year-olds attended private schools while the majority were attending public schools. Government subsidises a large portion of the costs associated with schooling, while parents must still pay for their children to attend, including covering costs of school uniforms and other costs related to extra-curricular activities. However, private schools generally charge higher tuition fees, they are not government subsidised, and operate for profit.

Figure 4.62: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who attend an education institution by amount of tuition fees paid by household for the year, 2014–2018

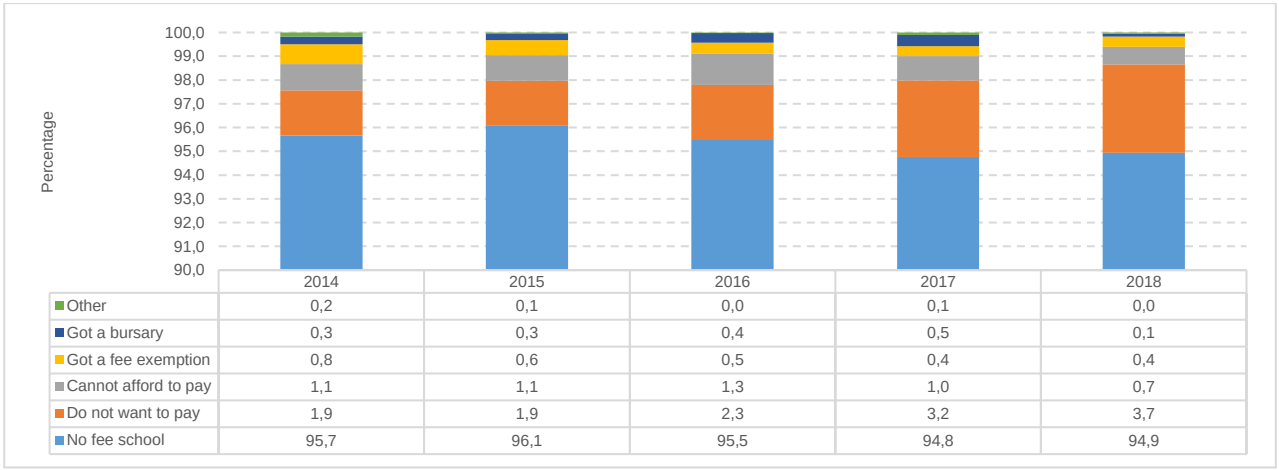


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
More than R20000	2,1	2,7	2,7	3,1	2,8
R12001-R20000	3,8	3,6	4,4	3,8	3,4
R4001-R12000	7,5	6,4	6,5	6,7	5,8
R2001-R4000	2,6	2,8	2,9	2,9	3,3
R1001-R2000	4,4	4,4	4,0	4,0	3,6
R501-R1000	3,6	4,7	4,3	3,9	3,8
R1-R500	16,1	16,9	15,9	14,4	13,6
None	60,0	58,5	59,4	61,1	63,6

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

Figure 4.62 presents the annual amount of tuition fees paid by the household for children aged 14–17 who attended an education institution. The data shows that the majority of children in this age group did not pay school fees to attend school. The percentage of children aged 14–17 who did not pay school fees grew by close to four percentage points, from 60,0% in 2014 to 63,6% in 2018. The percentage of children who paid R1–R500 declined from 16,1% in 2014 to 13,6% in 2018. The third highest cost incurred was R4 001–R12 000 with 7,5% of children aged 14–17 paying this amount in 2014 and 5,8% in 2018. In 2014, close to two per cent of children aged 14–17 paid more than R20 000 in 2014 to attend school and 2,8% paid the same amount in 2018.

Figure 4.63: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who attend an education institution by reason why tuition fees were not paid, 2014–2018

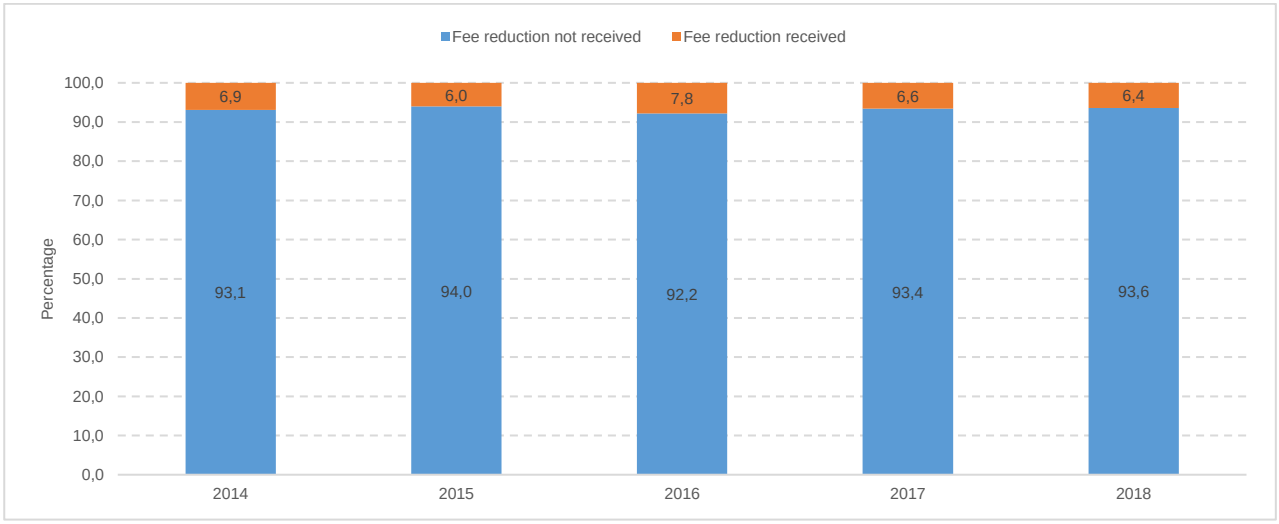


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Other	0,2	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,0
Got a bursary	0,3	0,3	0,4	0,5	0,1
Got a fee exemption	0,8	0,6	0,5	0,4	0,4
Cannot afford to pay	1,1	1,1	1,3	1,0	0,7
Do not want to pay	1,9	1,9	2,3	3,2	3,7
No fee school	95,7	96,1	95,5	94,8	94,9

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above graph presents the reasons why households with children aged 14–17 who attended school did not pay school fees. In 2014–2016, close to 96% of children aged 14–17 who attended school and did not pay school fees attended no-fee schools. This percentage declined to close to 95% in both 2017 and 2018. In 2014, close to two per cent of children aged 14–17 who attended school did not pay school fees because they did not want to pay schools fees. This percentage almost doubled to 3,7% in 2018.

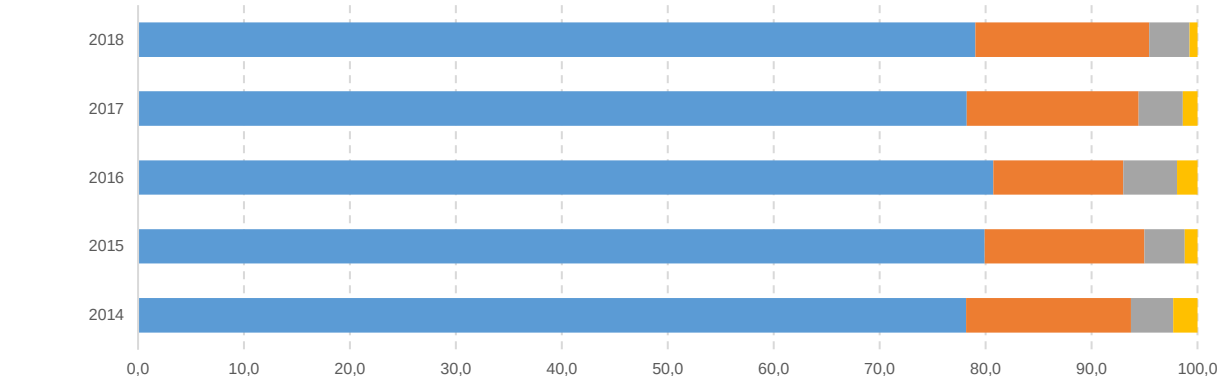
Figure 4.64: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who attend an education institution and receive a tuition fee reduction, 2014-2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

On average, over 93% of children aged 14–17 who were attending an education institution did not benefit from any fee reductions or partial bursaries. In 2018, 6,4% of children in this age group had received a reduction in fees or they received a partial bursary.

Figure 4.65: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who attend an education institution by textbooks received, 2014–2018

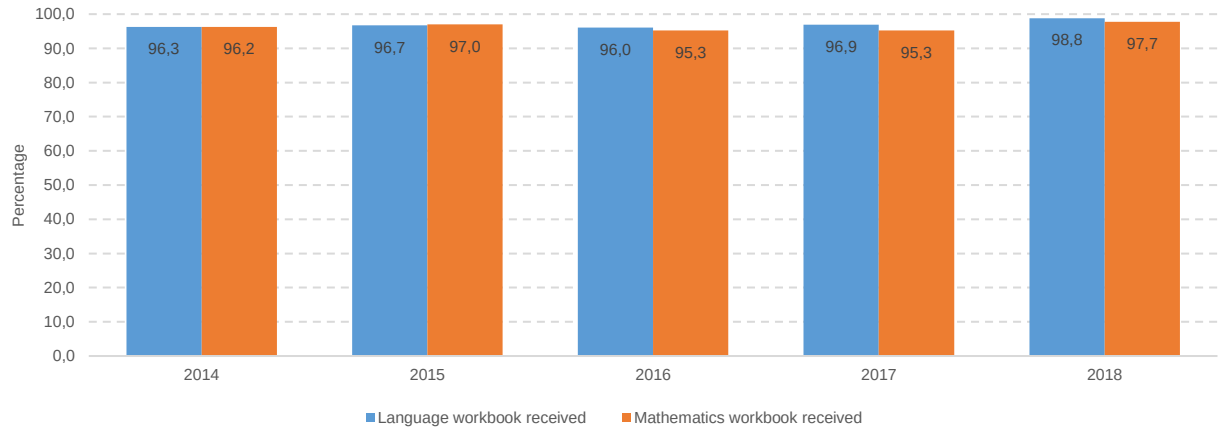


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
All subjects	78,2	79,9	80,7	78,2	79,0
Most subjects	15,5	15,1	12,3	16,2	16,4
Some subjects	4,0	3,8	5,1	4,2	3,8
None	2,3	1,2	1,9	1,4	0,7

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The percentage of children aged 14–17 attending an education institution and who received their text books is presented in the above graph. In 2018, while 79% of children received their books in all subjects, close to 16% received their books in most subjects, close to four per cent received them for some subjects and less than one per cent did not receive any of their books.

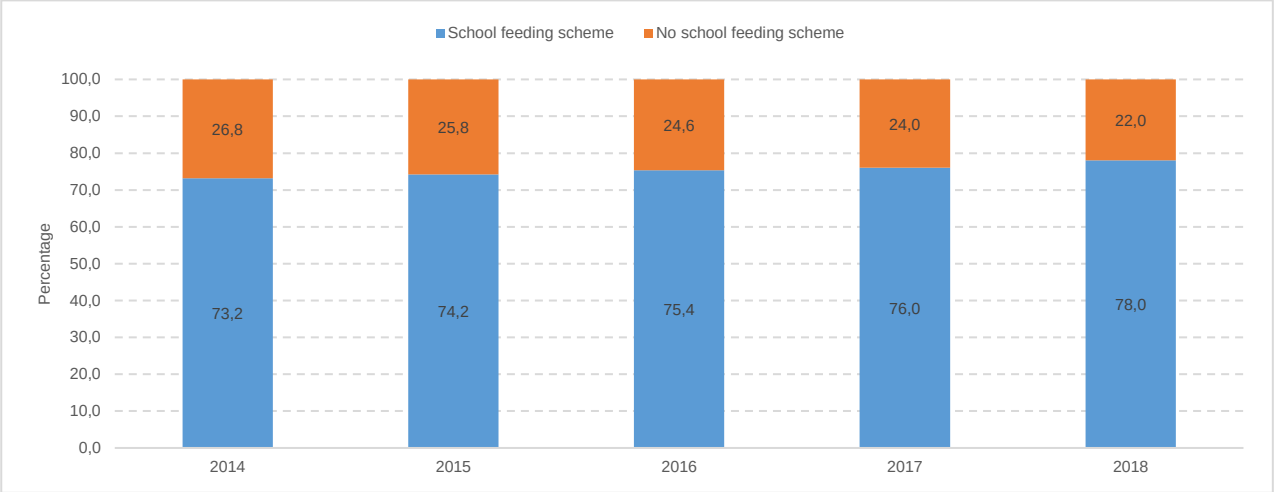
Figure 4.66: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who attend an education institution by type of workbooks received, 2014-2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The percentage of children aged 14–17 who received national workbooks in languages increased from 96,3% in 2014 to 98,8% in 2018. Similarly, close to 98% of children received their mathematics workbook in 2018 which was a two-percentage-point increase from 2014.

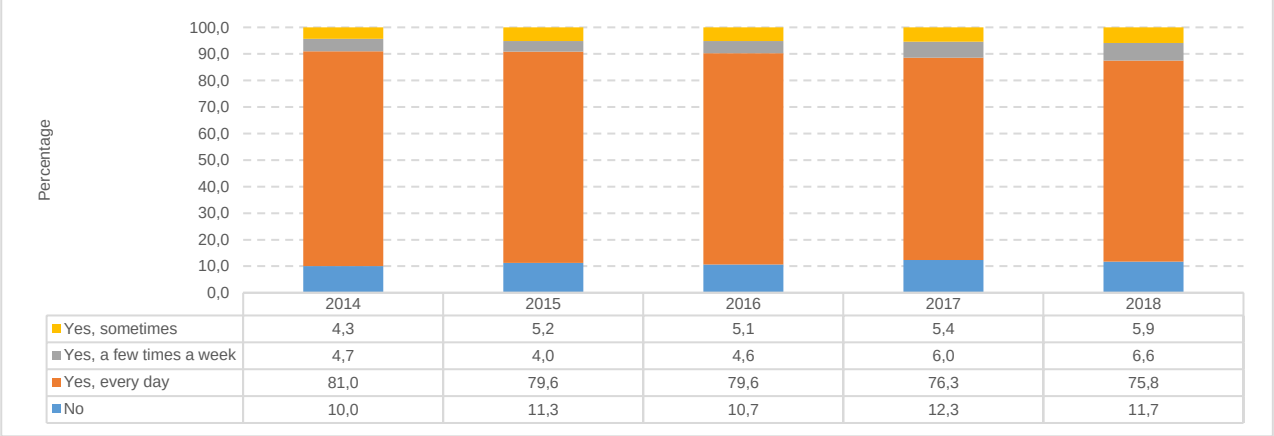
Figure 4.67: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who attend an education institution where food is given as part of the school feeding scheme, 2014–2018



Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The above figure provides data with regard to children aged 14–17 attending schools that benefited from nutrition programmes from 2014 to 2018. The percentage of children attending schools with nutrition programmes increased by 4,8 percentage points from 73,2% in 2014 to 78,0% in 2018.

Figure 4.68: Percentage of children aged 14–17 who attend an education institution where food is given as part of the school feeding scheme by the frequency of food consumption, 2014–2018



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Yes, sometimes	4,3	5,2	5,1	5,4	5,9
Yes, a few times a week	4,7	4,0	4,6	6,0	6,6
Yes, every day	81,0	79,6	79,6	76,3	75,8
No	10,0	11,3	10,7	12,3	11,7

Source: Statistics South Africa, GHS 2014–2018

The participation in school nutrition programmes by children aged 14–17 was overall slightly lower in all the years, compared to children aged 6–13. However, daily participation in the programme was declining. The percentage of children aged 14–17 who daily consumed the food provided as part of the school feeding scheme reduced from 81% in 2014 to 75,8% in 2018. Furthermore, there was an almost four-percentage-point reduction in the percentage of children who sometimes ate or consumed the food just a few times a week.

4.7 Summary

In South Africa, significant progress has been made over the past two decades to make education accessible to poor learners through policies and programmes such as the child support grant, no-fee schools, and school nutrition programmes. This resulted in the near universal attendance of children at the primary education phase and the senior phase (Grades 8–9). The percentage of out-of-school children aged 6–13 years remained stable

at close to one per cent during the period 2014–2018, while it was much higher (five to six per cent) among 14–17-year-olds during the same period. At both primary and secondary school phases, a substantial percentage of children were attending grades outside the recommended age for their grades. Grade repetitions were more likely to occur in later years of school compared to the early years of school. Furthermore, grade repetitions were more likely to occur among males compared to females.

Attendance of ECD education programmes was still not adequate, as in 2018, only 56,9% of children aged 0–6 were attending. However, during the same year, three-thirds of four-year-olds were enrolled in ECD programmes. Non-attendance of ECD education exacerbates social class differences in cognitive development among young children and impacts on future learning ability. Furthermore, young children need stimulation and adult support for learning as they need to be shown how to use some toys or learn how to sing songs and count different things. In 2018, 15% of children aged 0–6 had no-one in the household who could sing songs for them, and close to 27% had nobody in the household who could count different things with them.

Chapter 5: Summary and conclusion

In 2018, children and adolescents (0 to 17 years of age) represented almost one-third of the total estimated South African population (34,5%), with close to 14% of the children as a proportion of the total population being aged 0-6, almost 13% of the children as a proportion of the total population being aged 7–13 and close to seven per cent of the children as a proportion of the total population being aged 14–17. Furthermore, four out of ten (41,9%) children in the age range of 0–17 were six years old or younger, while a further four out of ten children (38,8%) were aged 7–13 years. Since children are a substantial segment of the population, they need substantial resources to be raised and to develop with the aim to create capable future resources that can take over the country's economy, governance and others. Hence, it is imperative that targeted investment in their development takes place. However, in spite of high government spending to alleviate chronic poverty and address other basic services needs, South African households remain locked in a cycle of poverty that goes on for generations. In 2015, more than half (51%) of children aged 0–17 years were classified as money-metric poor, while close to 62% were multi-dimensionally poor (meaning that they are deprived of basic goods and services in at least three dimensions, such as access to water, sanitation, refuse disposal, access to housing, food security, safety, health, access to information and education). Children staying in households headed by individuals with lower educational achievements and female-headed households were particularly vulnerable as they experienced the most deprivation. Furthermore, more than two-thirds (68,3%) of black African children and more than one-third (37,9%) of coloured children aged 0–17 were classified as multi-dimensionally poor in 2015. Mpumalanga and Gauteng were the two provinces in the country where the highest percentage of multi-dimensionally deprived children were found.

Social grants were the second most important source of household income, and in particular, most households with children received the child support grant. The percentage of children aged 0–17 who received the child support grant increased from 61,3% in 2014 to 68,2% in 2018. Close to three-quarters (73,4%) of black African children aged 0–17 were recipients of the child support grant in 2018, while 59,3% of coloureds, 12,2% of Indians/Asians and 5,6% of whites were recipients of the grant. Almost seven out of ten children aged 0–17 years in most of the provinces (except Western Cape and North West) benefited from the child support grant. In spite of the relatively low amount of the grant, this source of income has been associated with positive outcomes in low-income families, but was most likely augmented with additional income, through employment, remittances or pension money (Stats SA, 2018a). Hence, children staying in low-income households but with multiple working adults or adults benefiting from pensions, old-age or other grants were relatively better off. In 2018, more than 78% of children aged 0–17 lived in households that had at least one member who received a grant, and two-thirds of children lived with multiple members who received grants. Furthermore, in 2018, more than a quarter of children (26,8%) lived in households that made more than R2 000 monthly from social grants, and close to one-third (32,3%) of children had a total monthly household income of R4 001–R12 000.

In South Africa, the extent to which parents, and especially fathers, were absent from children's lives was large. The reason for this absence was mostly labour migration and the high rate of single motherhood. In 2018, more than three-quarters (76%) of children aged 0–17 stayed with their biological mother in the same household while 36,4% stayed with their biological father. In 2018, white children aged 0–17 were more likely to have a co-resident biological father, compared to black African and coloured children aged 0–17. In 2018, Eastern Cape had the lowest percentage of children aged 0–17 with a co-resident biological mother (62,4%), while Western Cape had the highest (87,3%). Moreover, children aged 0–17 residing in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal had the lowest percentage of co-resident biological fathers. Most co-resident fathers were legally married (66,6%) and most co-resident mothers were single (41,7%) in 2018. Children not staying with their father would lack exposure both to an adult male role model and to the skills and processes involved in a committed adult relationship, and would most likely suffer from lack of some of the resources that they would have been entitled to.

Disadvantages in early childhood have implications not only for the survival of the child, but also for their future emotional and health related outcomes. Child death is an important health issue in South Africa with death occurrences among children younger than one year being the highest compared to other child deaths. Furthermore, in spite of the decline in child deaths from infectious diseases as a result of early treatment of transmissions and increased access to immunisation services, neonatal deaths accounted for 39% of under-five deaths in 2017, in South Africa, with the main cause of death being respiratory and cardiovascular disorders specific to the perinatal period. One of the leading causes of death during the postnatal period was malnutrition, which was responsible for close to five per cent of deaths in 2017. In 2017, the percentage of non-natural death occurrences as a proportion of total deaths was the highest among teenage children aged 15–19. Among non-natural causes of death for children aged 0–14, transport accidents accounted for 13% of deaths, while other external causes of accidental injury were the bulk of the problem (79,2%) in 2017. Hence, most child deaths were from preventable conditions or causes that could be prevented by better maternal and child healthcare programmes.

As indicated earlier, these indicators of disadvantages which affect many children and households have an effect on how prepared children are when they first enter school at kindergarten level. School readiness includes cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development. Primary and secondary education is free in most public schools in South Africa; yet, in practice, parents are forced to incur some auxiliary expenses on uniforms, books and stationery, extra lessons, exam fees, or funds to support some school activities. In some cases, due to the lack of access to good functioning public schools, parents have no choice but to send their children to private education institutions with the risk of making themselves poor in their efforts to get their children access to better education opportunities. This is especially true for the ECD phase, which is not free. However, more than half of three-year-olds (57%) and over two-thirds of four-year-olds (70,4%) were enrolled in education in 2018. In 2018, among children aged 0–6, 18,8% attended school, close to four per cent were under the care of a day mother or gogo, while one per cent attended home/community play groups, close to 23% were attending crèches or educare centres, close to ten per cent were attending pre-school, and the majority (43,1%) were out-of-school. Furthermore, a low socio-economic background in South Africa offers limited opportunities for young children to access quality childcare services and social interactions that could stimulate children, and that are very important for their development. In spite of the fact that school attendance was high, the net rates of class attendance show that the country is still far from the goal in relation to children 6–13 years old, and to the adolescents from 14 to 17 years old – that is in terms of participation in primary and secondary school phases. In 2018, one per cent of children aged 6–13 years were out-of-school children, and close to five per cent of out-of-school children were aged 14–17 years. Additionally, in 2018, close to eight per cent of children aged 6–13 and close to 13% of children aged 14–17 were attending grades outside their age-to-grade appropriate levels. Females performed much better than males, as they would be less likely to repeat grades in both the primary and secondary phases.

Public policies and programmes exist to provide for better care and education of children in South Africa. However, programmes must be more precise, better funded, and reliably resourced to reach vulnerable children and adolescents to fulfil their right to a family environment and healthy living arrangements, and to limit preventable causes of death. South Africa has to increasingly rely on its intellectual capital to strengthen economic development, and hence, investment in producing highly skilled workers – especially in science and technology – is expected to grow.

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