Census 2022: Cape Town Trends and Changes

Compiled by Research Analytics, Policy and Strategy Department, City of Cape Town

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Table of Contents

1. Overview

The census provides the most comprehensive data on population size, demographic trends, living conditions, and other service delivery-related information. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducted the latest census in February 2022, with the previous censuses conducted in October of 2011, 2001 and 1996. This data is foundational for data-driven decision-making and assists the City in effectively addressing the needs of its residents, while planning for a sustainable and inclusive future.

This initial release shows that that the population of Cape Town is 4 772 846 (27.6% higher than the 2011 Census, and a slowdown from previous intercensal period), and the number of households is 1 452 845 (36.0% higher than the previous census, and also a slowdown from previous intercensal period). Moreover, as can be seen in table 1 below, the average household size has declined further from 3.50 to 3.30 persons since the previous Census in 2011.

Table 1: Population and Households – Actual and Percentage change between censuses

Cape Town	1996	2001	2011	2022	% Change 2001 to 2011	% Change 2011 to 2022
Population	2 563 095	2 892 243	3 740 025	4 772 846	29.3%	27.6%
Households	653 099	777 389	1 068 515	1 452 845	37.4%	36.0%
Average Household Size	3.92	3.72	3.50	3.30		
Average Annualised Population Growth Rate[1]		2.4%	2.6%	2.4%		

Note: The % change shows the growth of population and households between each census.

The population figures in the table above and figure below are to be used and quoted as the official Cape Town numbers for 2022.

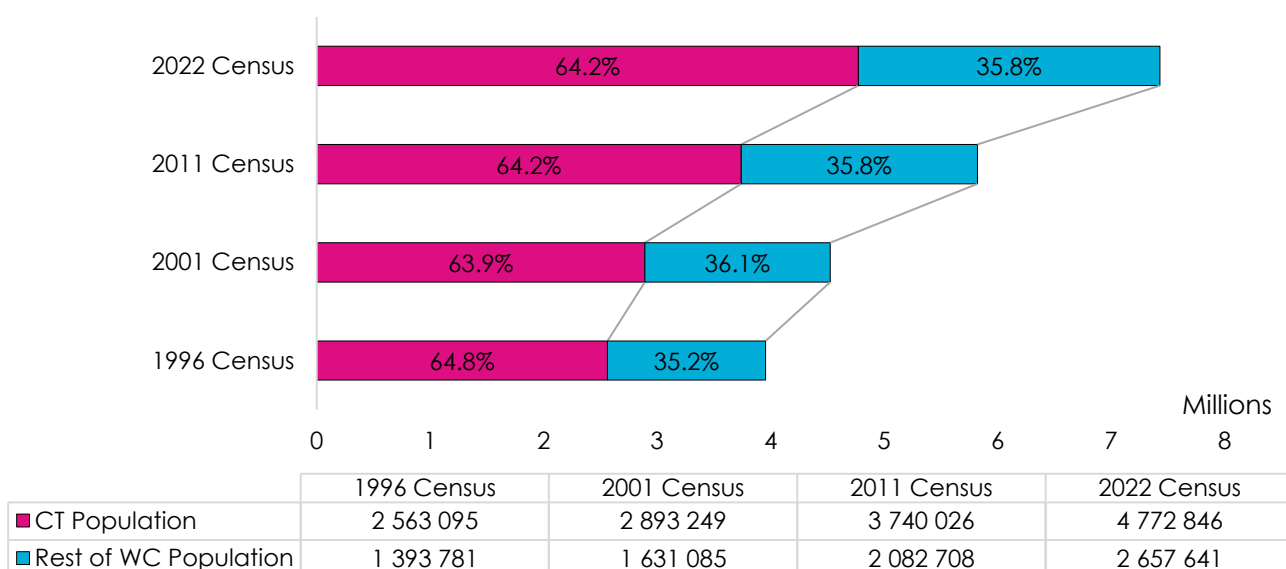|	1996 Census	2001 Census	2011 Census	2022 Census
■ CT Population	2 563 095	2 893 249	3 740 026	4 772 846
■ Rest of WC Population	1 393 781	1 631 085	2 082 708	2 657 641

Figure 1: Cape Town vs Western Cape population contribution - 1996, 2001, 2011 and 2022 Census

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[1] The Average Annualised population growth rate measures the mean annual growth rate of population for each year between each census.

2. Population Profile

The population profile provides a high-level snapshot of the city's demographic for age, sex and dependency ratios. It also shows the change of this composition between censuses.

2.1. Age

The population charts in figure 2 below, shows the age breakdown of each census. As can be seen over time, Cape Town is aging as the proportion of population in the lower age bands decreases and the higher age bands increases when looking at the trend from 2001 to 2022. Whilst Cape Town's population is still relatively young, i.e. 35.0% of the population are within the 15-34 age category, it is aging with the growth in the 35-59 and 60+ age brackets from Census 2011.

	0-4	5-14	15-34	35-59	60+
■ 2022	378 524	692 269	1 668 950	1 547 022	485 588
■ 2011	370 296	558 035	1 414 221	1 080 174	317 304
■ 2001	252 826	518 202	1 111 772	793 440	217 006

■ 2022 ■ 2011 ■ 2001

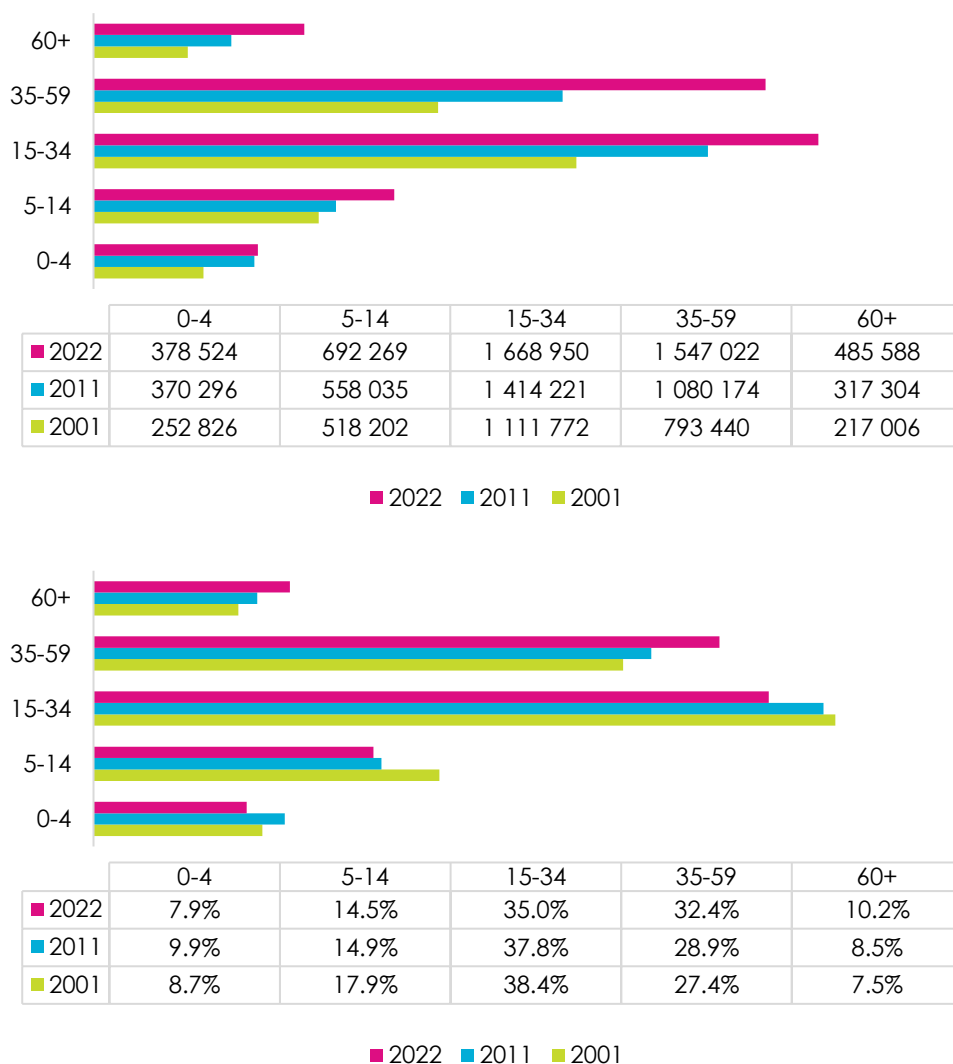|	0-4	5-14	15-34	35-59	60+
■ 2022	7.9%	14.5%	35.0%	32.4%	10.2%
■ 2011	9.9%	14.9%	37.8%	28.9%	8.5%
■ 2001	8.7%	17.9%	38.4%	27.4%	7.5%

■ 2022 ■ 2011 ■ 2001

Figure 2: Age of the Cape Town Population

2.2. Sex

The population charts in figure 3 below displays a similar proportion of males and females when comparing Census 2001, Census 2011 and Census 2022. Across the past three censuses, the proportion of males is between 48% and 49%, while the proportion of females is between 51% and 52%.

	Male	Female
■ 2022	2 307 628	2 465 218
■ 2011	1 830 701	1 909 330
■ 2001	1 389 285	1 503 963

■ 2022 ■ 2011 ■ 2001

	Male	Female
■ 2022	48.3%	51.7%
■ 2011	48.9%	51.1%
■ 2001	48.0%	52.0%

■ 2022 ■ 2011 ■ 2001

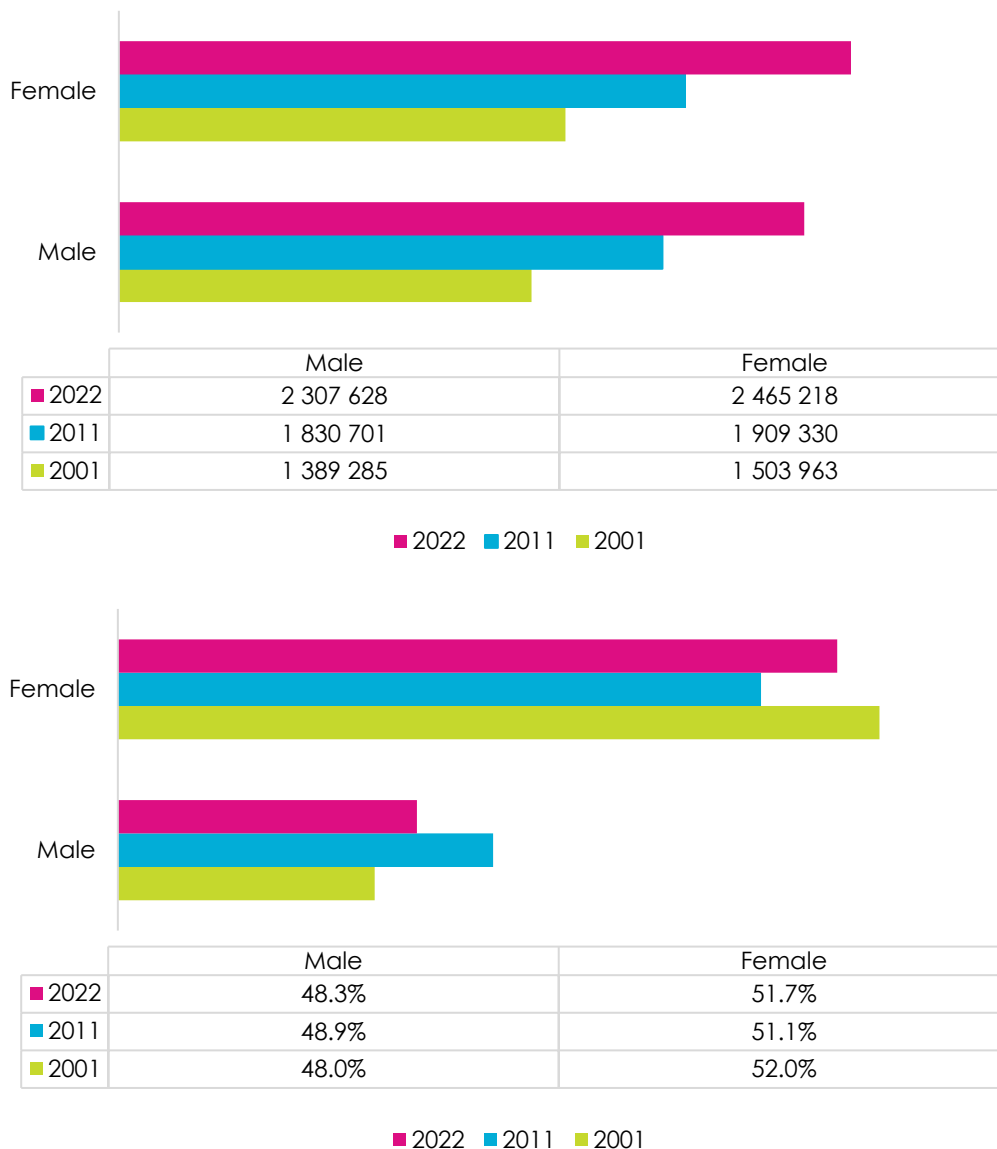Figure 3: Sex of the Cape Town Population

2.3. Dependency Ratio

As can be expected with an aging population, the child dependency ratio decreased to 31.6 (see figure 4 below) from 35.6 in Census 2011, with the old aged dependency increasing to 9.4 in Census 2022 from 8.0 in Census 2011 resulting to an overall dependency of 41.0 in 2022. The overall dependency ratio decreased from 43.6 in 2011 to 41.0 in 2022.
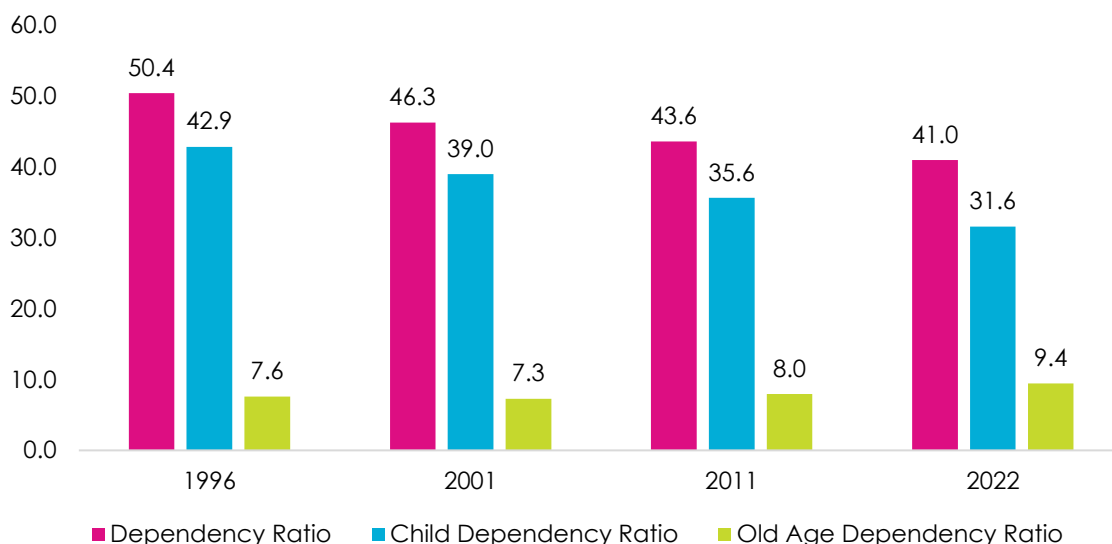
Figure 4: Dependency Ratios

Dependency ratio[2]: is an indicator of the potential dependency of children (0-14) and the elderly (65+) on those who are of working age in a population.

3. Household Profile

The household profile presents an overview of the city's residential landscape. It encompasses information such as the number of households, the rate of household growth, the average household size, types of dwellings households reside in, and tenure arrangements. The population and number of households in Cape Town have changed at different rates, with the number of households increasing at a higher rate than population.

Table 2: Households, Average Household Size and Household Growth between censuses

Year	Total Households	AHS	% Total Household Growth
1996	653 099	3.92	-
2001	777 389	3.72	19.0%
2011	1 068 515	3.50	37.4%
2022	1 452 845	3.30	36.0%

3.1. Average Household Size

The average household size in Cape Town has continuously decreased over the census periods, decreasing from 3.92 persons per household in 1996 to 3.30 persons per household in 2022 (see figure 5 below).

In figure 5 below, the average household size for Cape Town reflects notable shifts in residential patterns. The number of households are growing faster than the population highlighting the changing dynamics of urban living in the city, with potential implications for housing demand, infrastructure planning, and social support systems.

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[2] Dependency ratios: https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/03-19-08/03-19-082021.pdf
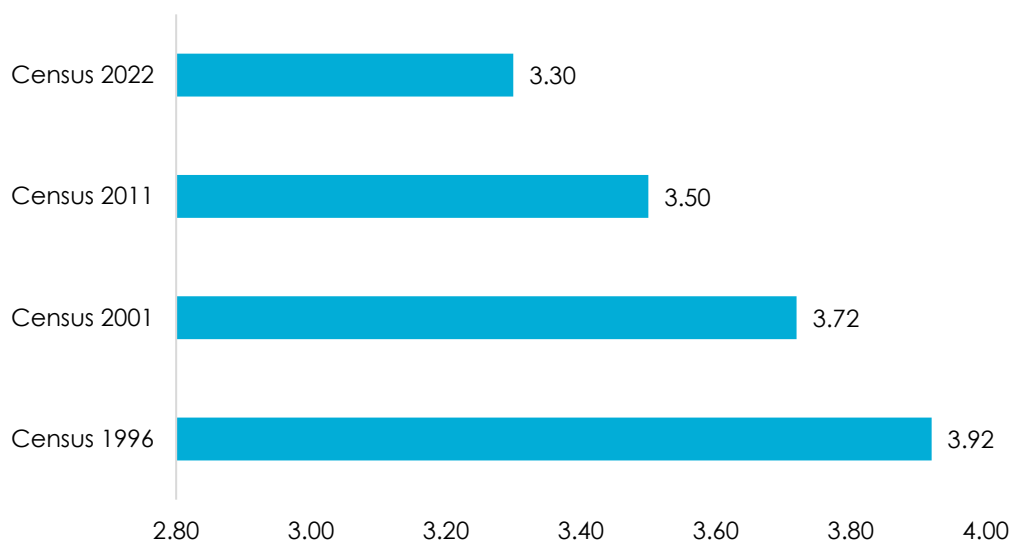
Figure 5: Households – Average household size per census

3.2. Type of Dwelling

The majority of households state they reside in formal dwellings, which has risen steadily from census to census. As per figure 6 below, 87.5% of the households now reside in formal dwellings whilst 11.7% reside in informal dwellings, and 0.8% in Other in 2022.

	Formal	Informal	Other
■ 2022	1 271 679	170 115	11 051
■ 2011	837 481	218 780	12 254
■ 2001	599 801	142 904	17 045

	Formal	Informal	Other
■ 2022	87.5%	11.7%	0.8%
■ 2011	78.4%	20.5%	1.1%
■ 2001	78.9%	18.8%	2.2%
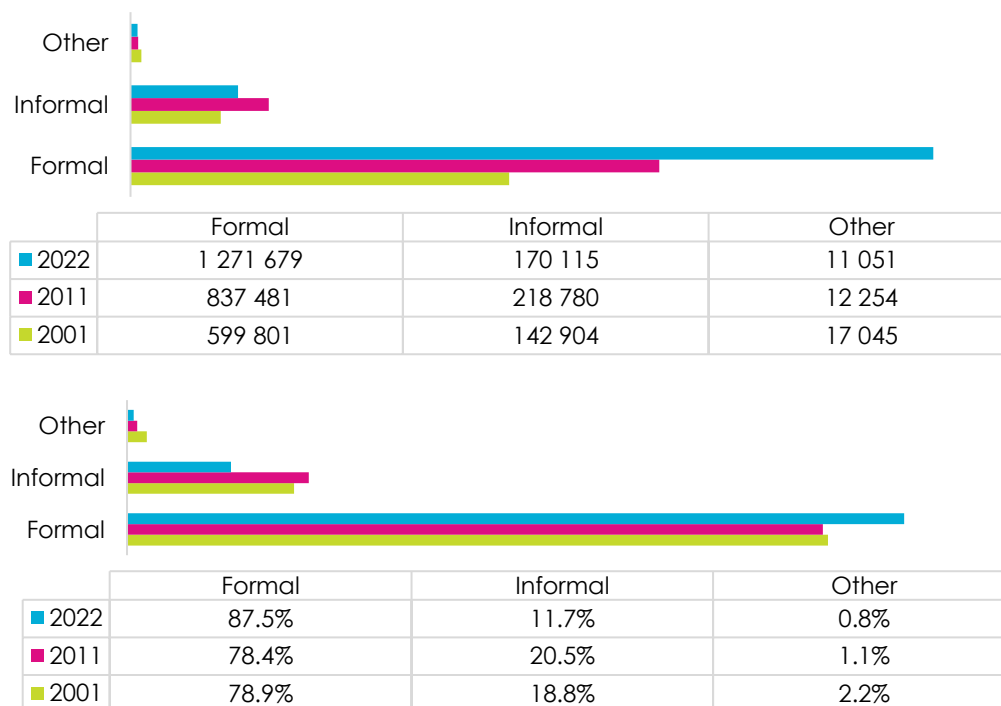
Figure 6: Households – Households living in Dwellings (number and percentage)
Note: A **formal dwelling** is a structure built according to approved building plans, i.e. house on a separate stand, flat or apartment, townhouse, room in backyard, rooms or flatlet elsewhere. An **informal dwelling** is a makeshift structure not erected according to approved architectural plans, for example shacks or shanties in informal settlements, serviced stands or proclaimed townships. They can also be in the backyards of other dwelling types. Informal dwellings are also referred to as a shack or shanty.

4. Education

This section provides a trend on the level of education of residents aged 20 years and older in the city over the past 3 censuses, and categorises the level in seven different categories.

4.1. Highest level of educational (20+ years)

As can be seen in figure 7 below, the categories of Grade 12 and Higher Education has increased from 2011. The Grade 12 category increased from 30.2% in 2011 to 36.5% in 2022, equating to an increase from 737 663 to 1 003 037. The Higher Education category increased from 16.2% in 2011 to 20.0% in 2022, equating to an increase from 395 442 in 2011 to 612 161 in 2022.

In addition, the percentage of residents over 20 years with No Schooling has decreased since 2001, but increased slightly from 1.8% in 2011 to 1.9% in 2022 which equates to an increase from 42 954 in 2011 to 57 805 in 2022, keeping in mind that those with the Other level of education also increased from 0.5% in 2011 to 1.1% in 2022 (i.e. 13 433 in 2011 to 35 146 in 2022). The Other equates to an increase of 21 713.

	No Schooling	Some Primary	Completed Primary	Some Secondary	Grade 12	Higher Education	Other
2022	57 805	140 554	93 766	1 003 037	1 115 504	612 161	35 146
2011	42 954	197 634	113 000	944 799	737 663	395 442	13 433
2001	77 144	216 445	130 356	713 345	466 555	231 004	0

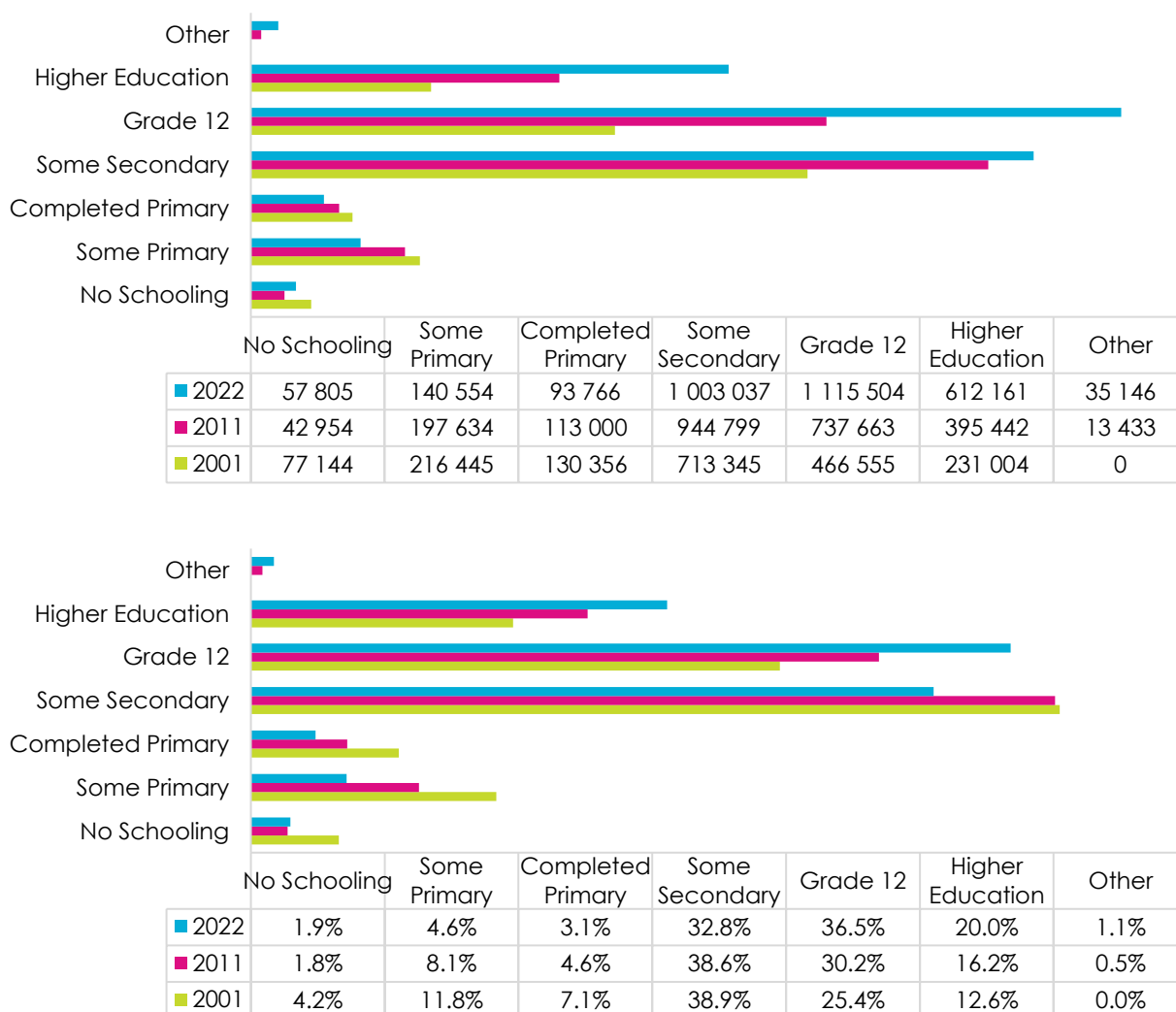|	No Schooling	Some Primary	Completed Primary	Some Secondary	Grade 12	Higher Education	Other
2022	1.9%	4.6%	3.1%	32.8%	36.5%	20.0%	1.1%
2011	1.8%	8.1%	4.6%	38.6%	30.2%	16.2%	0.5%
2001	4.2%	11.8%	7.1%	38.9%	25.4%	12.6%	0.0%

Figure 7: Highest level of education (20+ years) (number and percentage)

5. Household Services Profile[3]

In this section service delivery to households are viewed which consists of six areas of service delivery which includes source of water for household use, access to piped water in the dwelling, toilet facilities, weekly refuse removal, energy for cooking, and energy for lighting. Weekly refusal removal includes an answer in 2022 which was not used in the previous censuses.

5.1. Source of Water for Household Use

As can be seen from figure 8 below, while most households' source of water is from a regional/local water scheme (1 407 703 in 2022 from 1 039 796 in 2011), the overall percentage of households' with the source of water for household use from a regional/local water scheme has decreased (96.9% in 2022 from 97.3% in 2011). Households are therefore looking to use other sources of water as well.

	Regional/local water scheme	Other
2022	1 407 703	45 142
2011	1 039 796	28 719
2001	767 500	9 886

	Regional/local water scheme	Other
2022	96.9%	3.1%
2011	97.3%	2.7%
2001	98.7%	1.3%
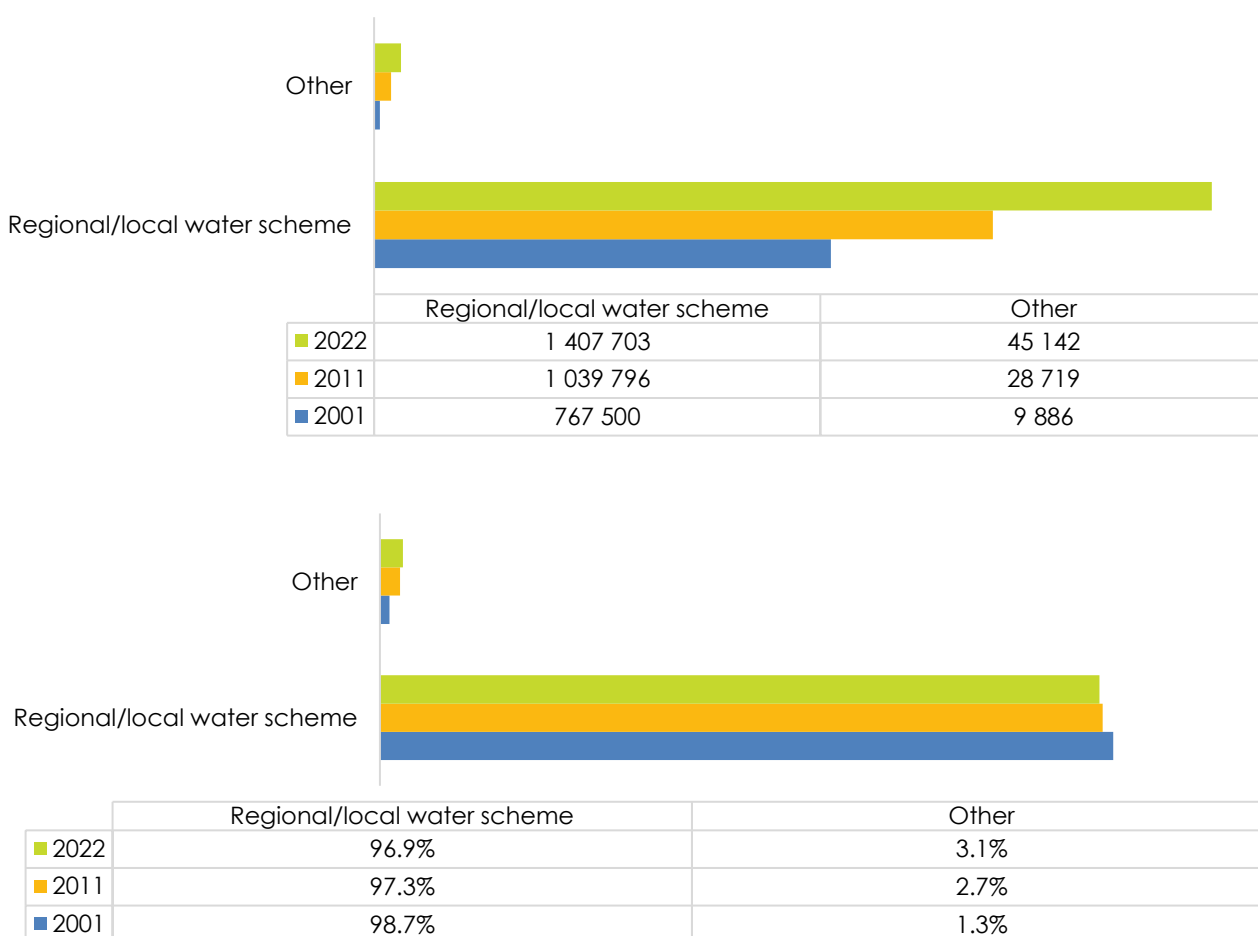
Figure 8: Source of Water (number and percentage)

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[3] Questions for household services:
- **Access to piped water** - In which way does this household mainly get piped water for household use
- **Source of Water** – What is the household's main source of water for household use
- **Toilet Facility** – What is the main type of toilet facility used by this household
- **Weekly Refuse Removal** – How is the refuse/rubbish of this household mainly disposed of/removed
- **Energy for cooking –** What is the household's main source of energy for cooking
- **Energy for lighting –** What is the household's main source of energy for lighting

5.2. Access to Piped Water in the Dwelling

As can been seen from figure 9 below, the City has made a massive improvement in the number of households with piped water inside the dwelling (1 240 088 in 2022 from 801 744 in 2011, representing an improvement from 75.0% to 85.4%), while piped water inside the yard has decreased (106 423 in 2022 to 130 952 in 2011, representing a decrease from 12.3% to 7.3%). Piped water on community stand has also decreased from 128 660 in 2011 to 94 103 in 2022, however no access to piped water had a slight increase from 7 218 to 12 321.

	Piped (tap) water inside the dwelling	Piped (tap) water inside the yard	Piped (tap) water on community stand	No access to piped water
2022	1 240 088	106 423	94 103	12 231
2011	801 744	130 952	128 660	7 218
2001	538 860	117 320	111 323	9 892

	Piped (tap) water inside the dwelling	Piped (tap) water inside the yard	Piped (tap) water on community stand	No access to piped water
2022	85.4%	7.3%	6.5%	0.8%
2011	75.0%	12.3%	12.0%	0.7%
2001	69.3%	15.1%	14.3%	1.3%

Figure 9: Access to Piped Water (number and percentage)

Notes: Seeks to determine the main source of water for households, and assesses whether the majority of households receive water inside their dwellings, on-site or at communal areas.

5.3. Toilet Facilities

As can been seen from figure 10 below, the City has improved access to flush toilets from 963 835 in 2011 to 1 356 649 in 2022, representing an increase from 90.2% to 93.4%. Pit toilets have decreased slightly from 4 122 in 2011 to 3 939 in 2022, however bucket toilets remain increased from 48 510 in 2011 to 53 308 in 2022. It is encouraging to see the drop in Other from 10 698 in 2011 to 3 378 in 2022, and None from 29 068 in 2011 to 14 383 in 2022.

	Flush toilet	Chemical toilet	Pit toilet	Bucket toilet	Other	None
2022	1 356 649	21 193	3 939	53 308	3 373	14 383
2011	963 835	12 341	4 122	48 510	10 698	29 068
2001	678 782	1 649	6 780	34 310	0	55 864

	Flush toilet	Chemical toilet	Pit toilet	Bucket toilet	Other	None
2022	93.4%	1.5%	0.3%	3.7%	0.2%	1.0%
2011	90.2%	1.2%	0.4%	4.5%	1.0%	2.7%
2001	87.3%	0.2%	0.9%	4.4%	0.0%	7.2%
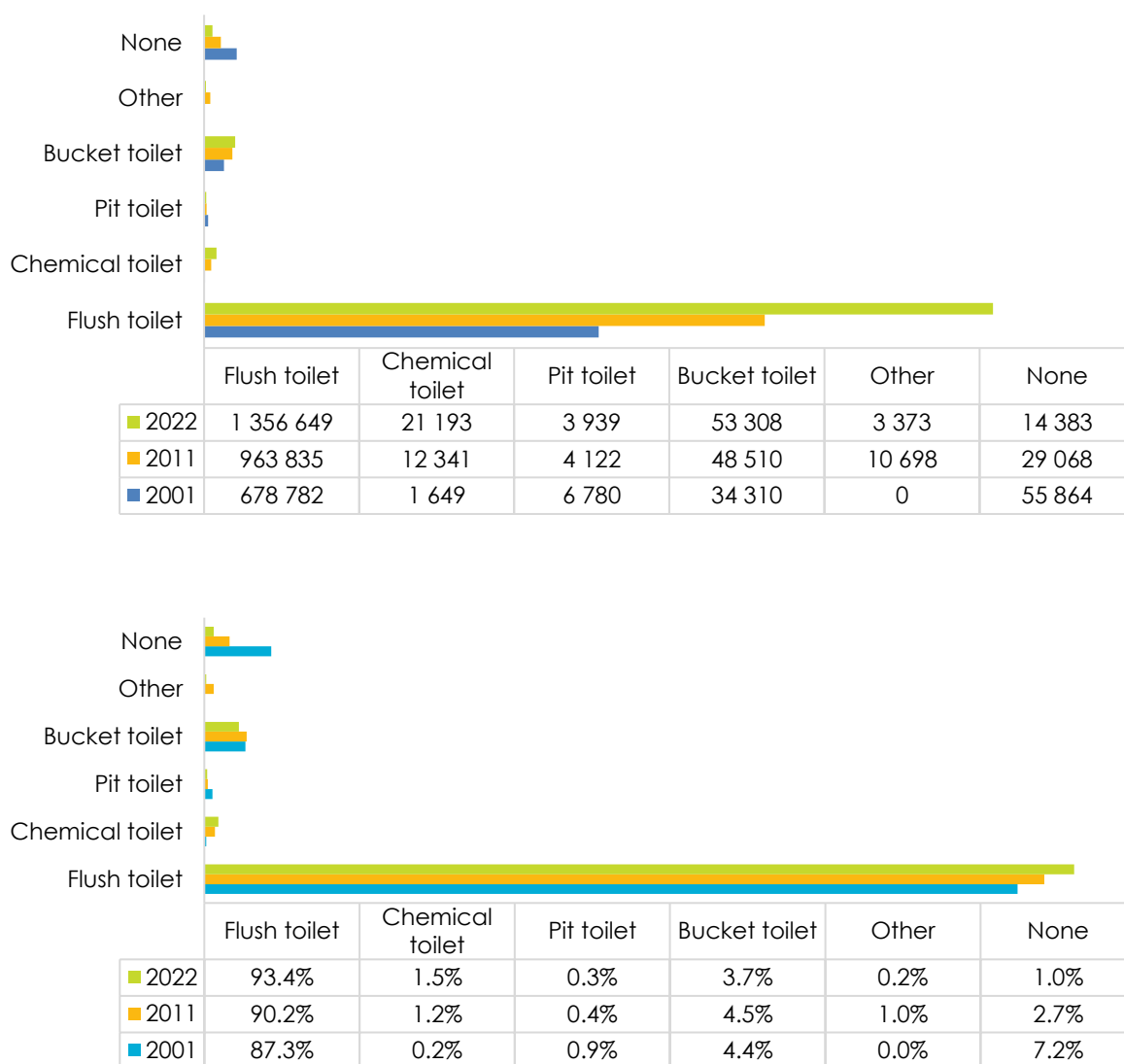
Figure 10: Toilet Facilities per Census (number and percentage)

5.4. Weekly Refuse Removal Service

As per figure 11 below, although households had an increase in refuse removed by a local authority at least once a week (1 311 036 in 2022 from 1 007 289 in 2011, representing a decrease in overall percentage movement from 94.3% to 90.2%). There was an increase in refuse being removed by a local authority less often (17 973 in 2022 from 7 261 in 2011), and also a new variable named "communal container/central collection point" in the Census 2022 survey which resulted in 82 749 using this type of method for refuse collection.

	Removed by local authority at least once a week	Removed by local authority less often	Communal refuse dump	Communal container/central collection point	Own refuse dump	No Rubbish Disposal	Other
2022	1 311 036	17 973	10 676	82 749	12 137	15 845	2 429
2011	1 007 289	7 261	29 613	0	14 682	7 209	2 519
2001	732 271	9 498	9 728	0	15 147	10 751	0

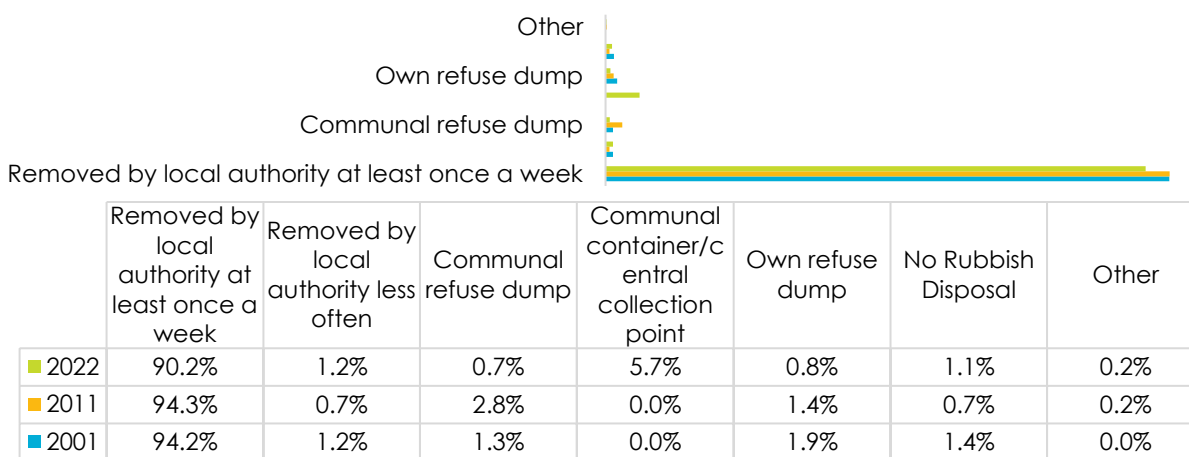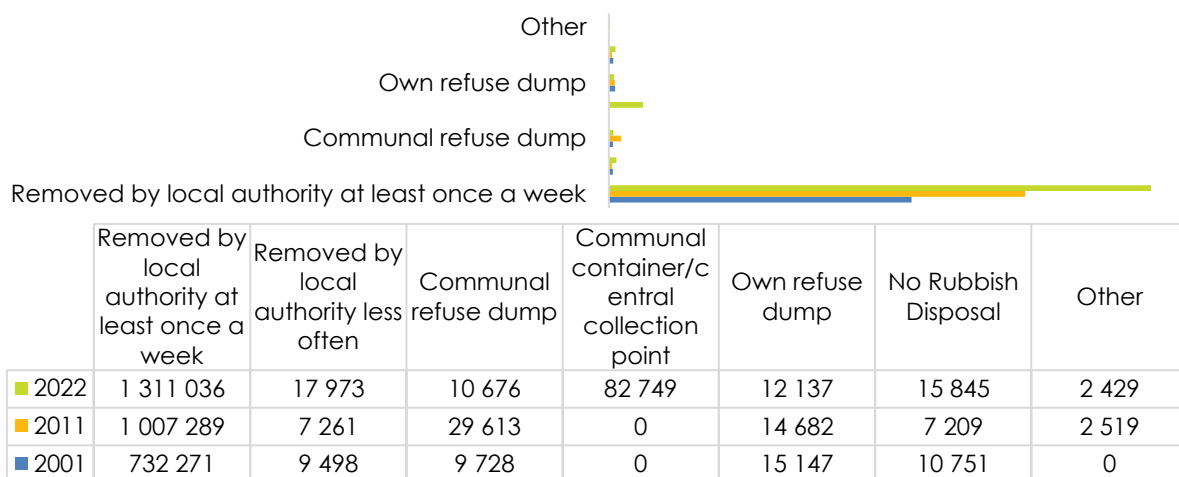|	Removed by local authority at least once a week	Removed by local authority less often	Communal refuse dump	Communal container/central collection point	Own refuse dump	No Rubbish Disposal	Other
2022	90.2%	1.2%	0.7%	5.7%	0.8%	1.1%	0.2%
2011	94.3%	0.7%	2.8%	0.0%	1.4%	0.7%	0.2%
2001	94.2%	1.2%	1.3%	0.0%	1.9%	1.4%	0.0%

Figure 11: Refuse Removal per Census (number and percentage)

***Notes:** Determines how the household refuse or rubbish is removed. If more than one method is used to remove refuse/rubbish, the intention is to consider the one that offers better service.

5.5. Energy for Cooking

As per figure 12 below, Gas increased to 33.7% of households using this type of energy for cooking totaling 491 776 households. Electricity still remained the number one source of energy for cooking while all other type of energies used for cooking decreased from the previous census.
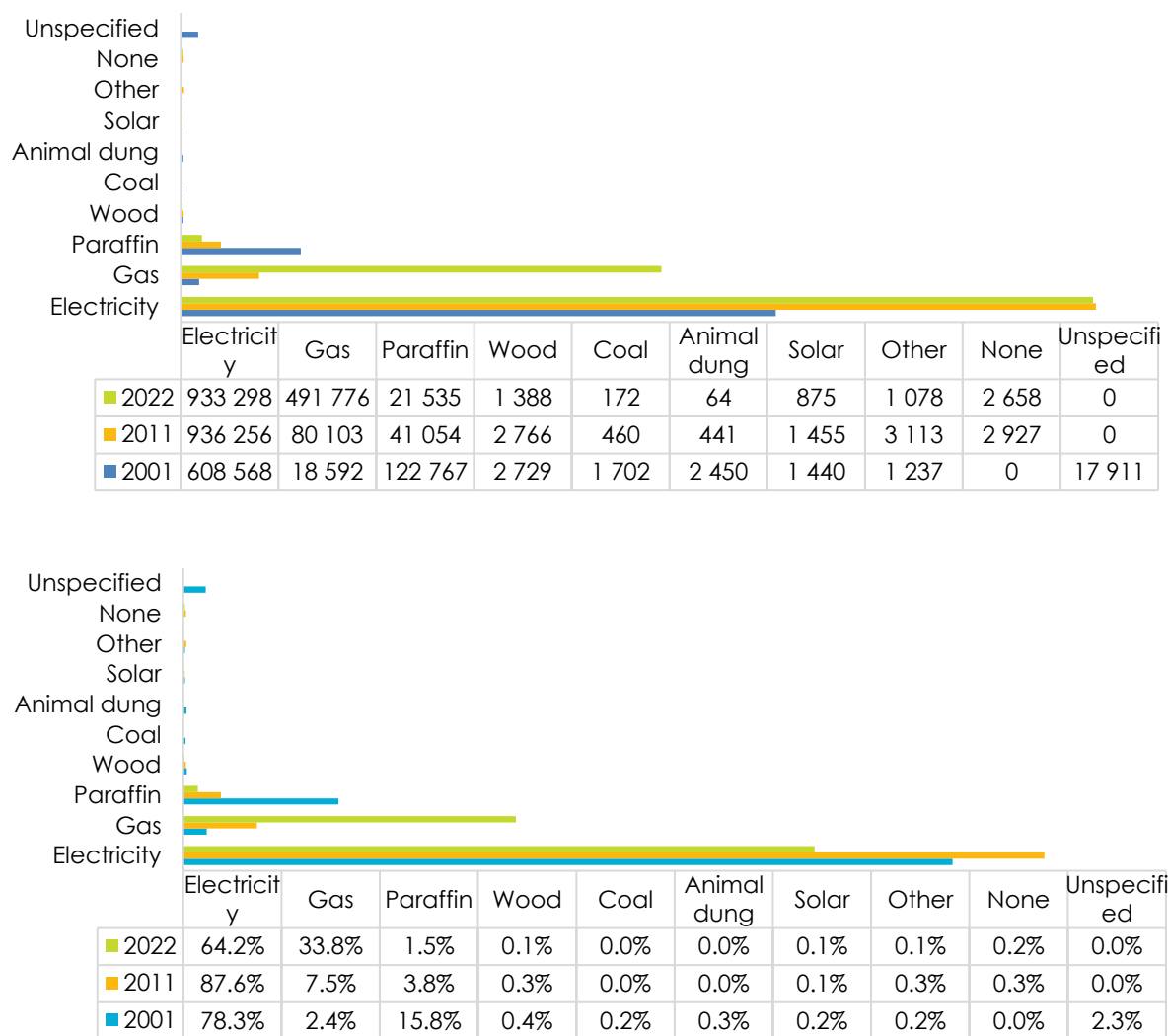
	Electricity	Gas	Paraffin	Wood	Coal	Animal dung	Solar	Other	None	Unspecified
2022	933 298	491 776	21 535	1 388	172	64	875	1 078	2 658	0
2011	936 256	80 103	41 054	2 766	460	441	1 455	3 113	2 927	0
2001	608 568	18 592	122 767	2 729	1 702	2 450	1 440	1 237	0	17 911

	Electricity	Gas	Paraffin	Wood	Coal	Animal dung	Solar	Other	None	Unspecified
2022	64.2%	33.8%	1.5%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%
2011	87.6%	7.5%	3.8%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%
2001	78.3%	2.4%	15.8%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	2.3%

Figure 12: Energy for Cooking per Census (number and percentage)

5.6. Energy for Lighting

As per figure 13 below, candles and paraffin have decreased as an energy source for lighting due to consecutive increases of electricity used as the energy source for lighting from 690 279 households in 2001 (88.8%), to 1 004 328 in 2011 (94.0%), to 1 405 055 in 2022 (96.7%). Solar energy has started to increase from 1 877 in 2011 to 3 748 in 2022.

	Electricity	Gas	Paraffin	Candles	Solar	Other	None
2022	1 405 055	5 227	17 477	18 249	3 748	1 215	1 874
2011	1 004 328	2 718	41 064	16 193	1 877	0	2 391
2001	690 279	2 751	67 015	16 222	576	554	0

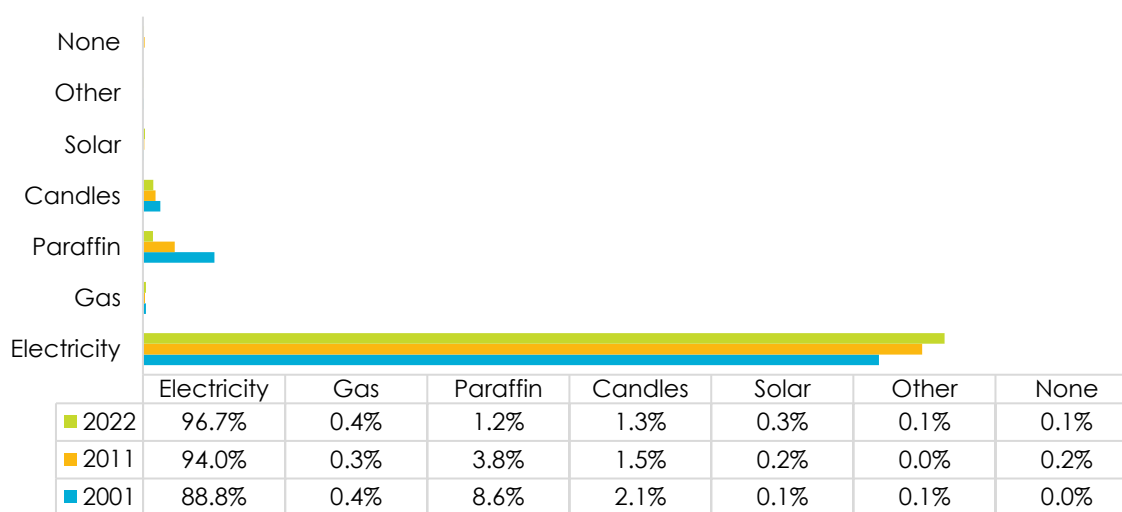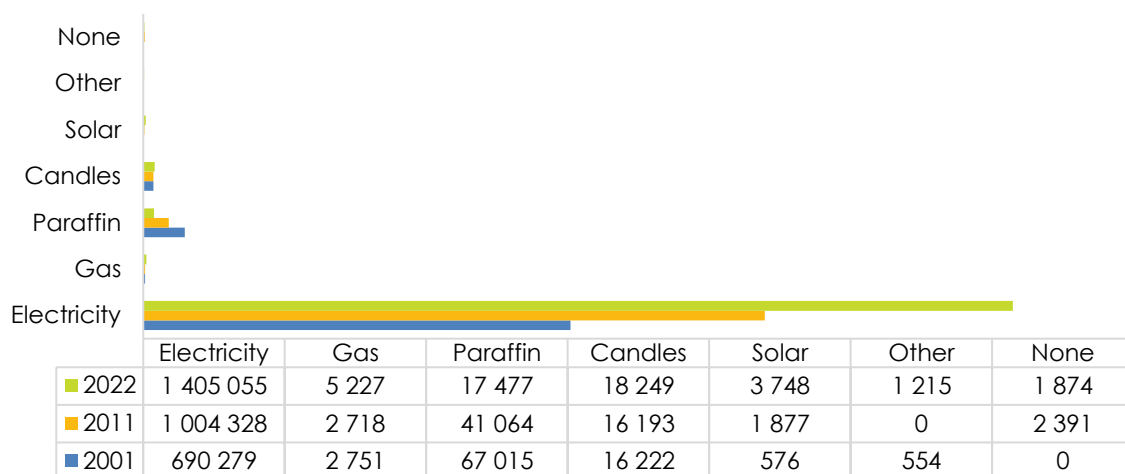|	Electricity	Gas	Paraffin	Candles	Solar	Other	None
2022	96.7%	0.4%	1.2%	1.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%
2011	94.0%	0.3%	3.8%	1.5%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
2001	88.8%	0.4%	8.6%	2.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%

Figure 13: Energy for Lighting per Census (number and percentage)