



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

Census 2022:

Cape Town Profile

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

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Compiled by the Research Analytics, Policy and Strategy Department and 2022 Census data supplied by Statistics South Africa (based on 2022 census information available at the time of compilation, as released by Statistics South Africa).

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1. Cape Town 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.

Table 1: Population and Households summary - 2001, 2011 and 2022

Cape Town	Censuses			2001 to 2011	2011 to 2022
	2001	2011	2022	% Change	% Change
Population	2 892 243	3 740 025	4 772 846	29.3%	27.6%
Households	777 389	1 068 572	1 452 845	37.4%	36.0%
Average household size	3.7	3.5	3.3	-5.4%	-5.7%
Population density	1 182.7/km ²	1 529.3/km ²	1 951.7/km ²	29.3%	27.6%

2. Summary of Key Cape Town Statistics¹



Population characteristics

- The population is predominantly Black African (45.7%) and Coloured (35.0%).
- The median age is 31 years old.
- Dependency ratios:
 - youth dependency ratio²: 31.6
 - old dependency ratio³: 9.4
 - total dependency ratio⁴: 41.0



Housing characteristics

- 87.5% of households live in formal dwellings.
- 11.7% of households live in informal dwellings⁵



Basic services

- 98.3% of households have access piped water, either on the property or within 200m.
- 96.7% of households use electricity from the mains supply for lighting.
- 97.6% of households have access to a flush toilet, chemical toilet or a pit toilet with ventilation.
- 96.1% of households have refuse removed at least once a week.

¹Note: Basic services and housing conditions variables still need to be validated and can only be done with the 10% census sample and sub-metro data, which will be provided in 2024.

²Youth dependency is the number of people aged less than 15 to the population aged 15 to 64.

³Old age dependency is defined as the number of people aged 65 and over to the working age population (15 to 64).

⁴Total dependency ratio is the dependency of children (less than 15) and the elderly (65 and above) on those who are of working age in a population.

⁵Informal dwellings include informal settlements and additional dwelling informal (ADI).

3. Population Profile

The population in Cape Town is predominately **Black African** and **Coloured**.

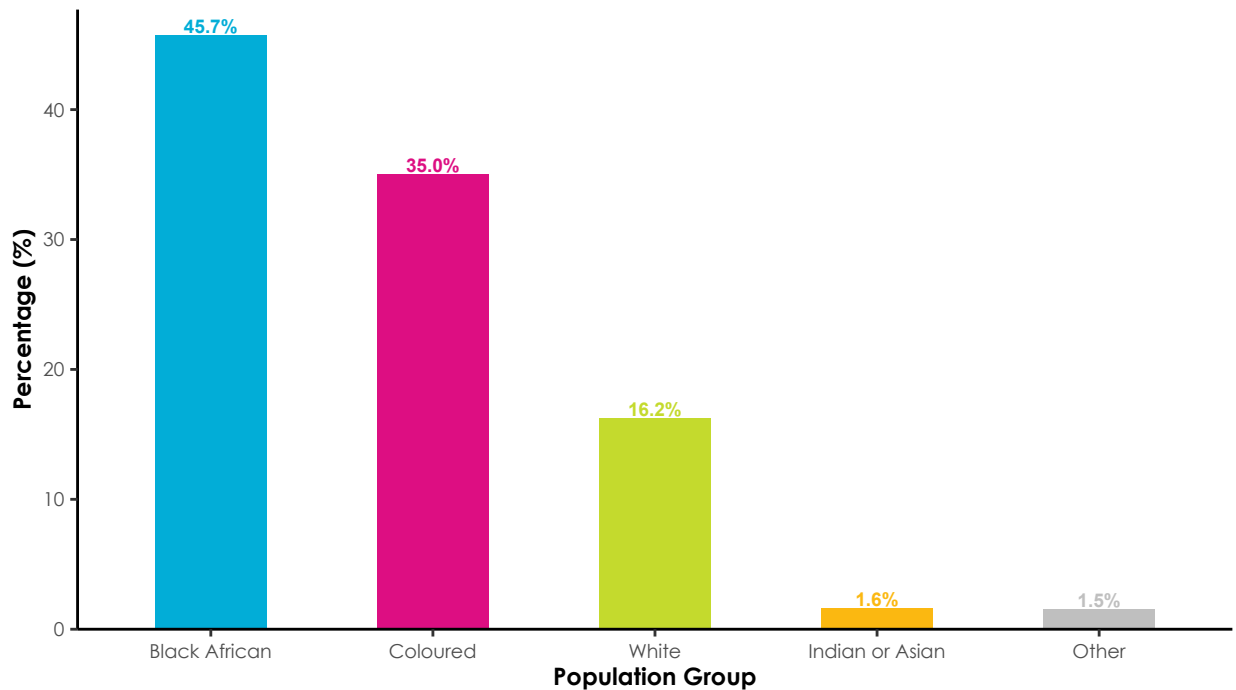


Figure 1: Population Group Composition (%)

The male and female contributions to the total population is relatively equal across population groups.

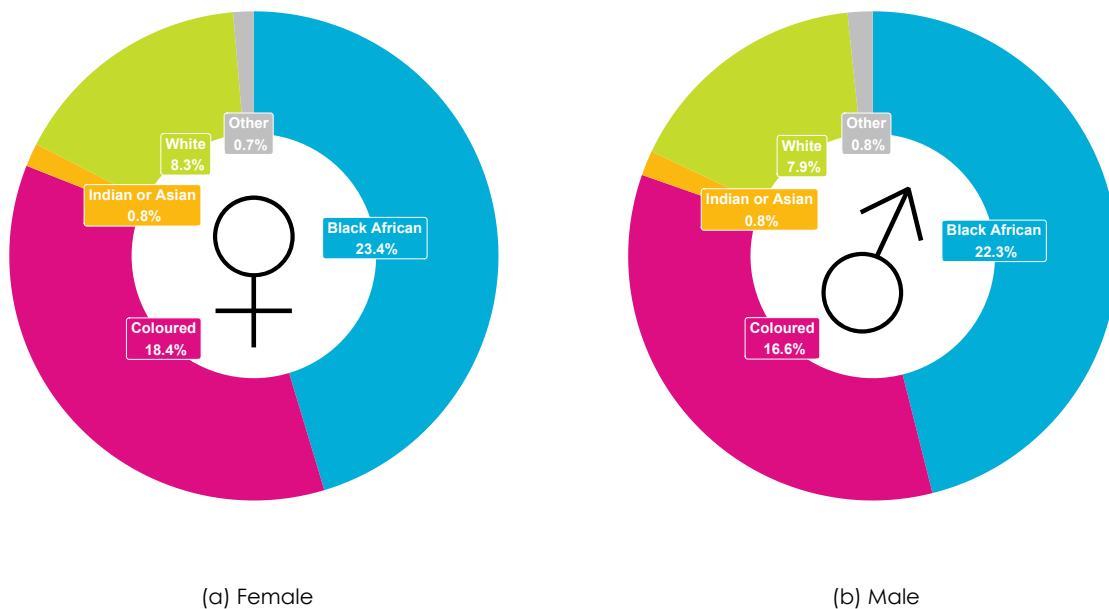


Figure 2: Sex and Population Group (%)

Females constitute the larger proportion of the population in older age brackets, i.e. from 45 and above.

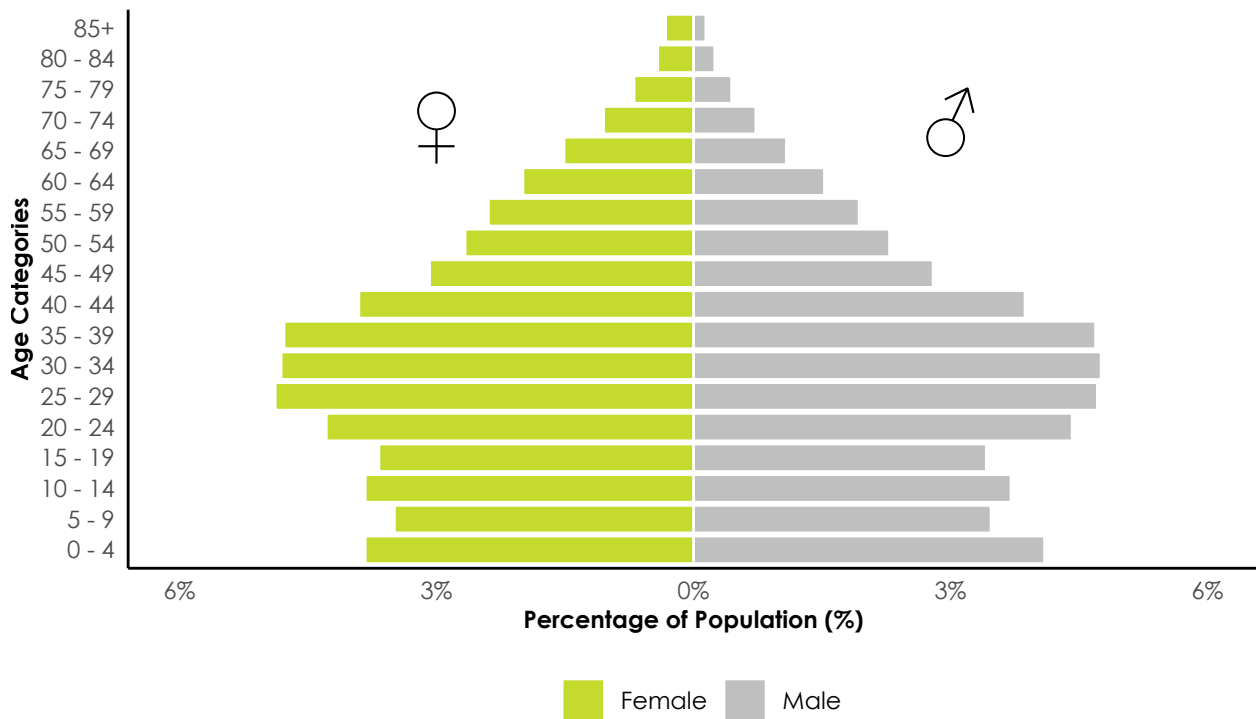


Figure 3: Population Pyramid

Majority of the population is of working age (**15-64 years**), across population groups.

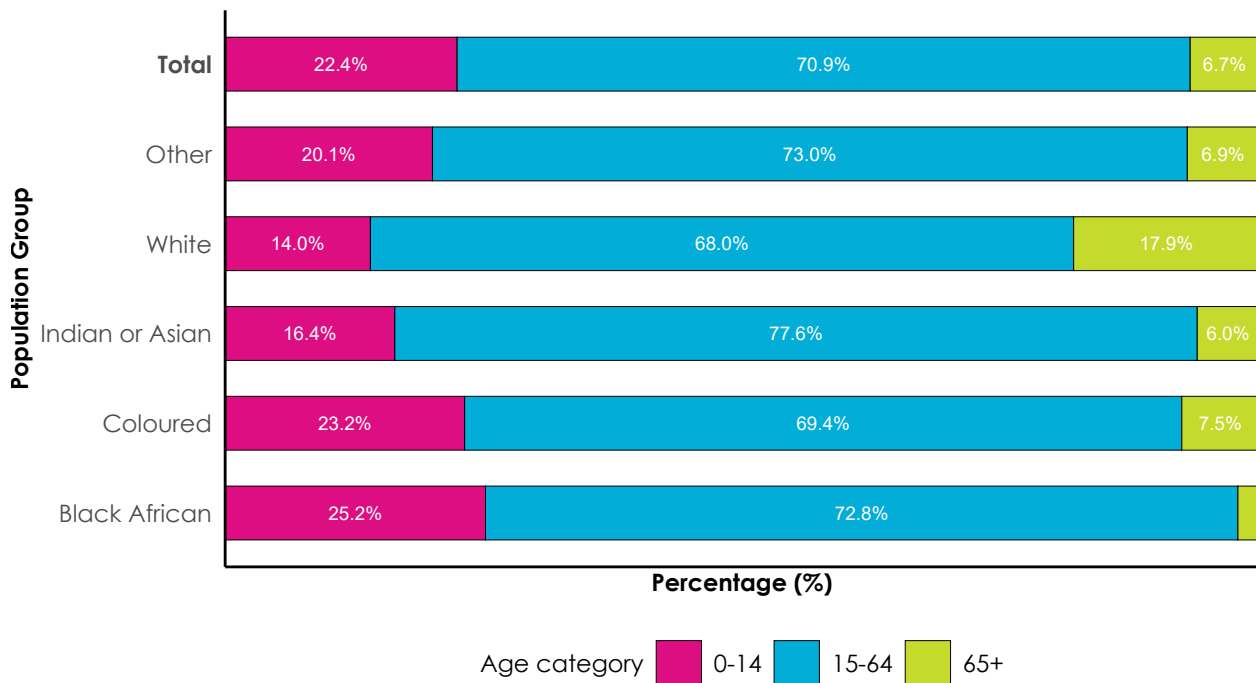


Figure 4: Age and Population Group (%)

4. Household Profile⁶

Most of the households in Cape Town live in **formal dwellings**, yet 22.0% of Black African-headed households live in **informal dwellings**

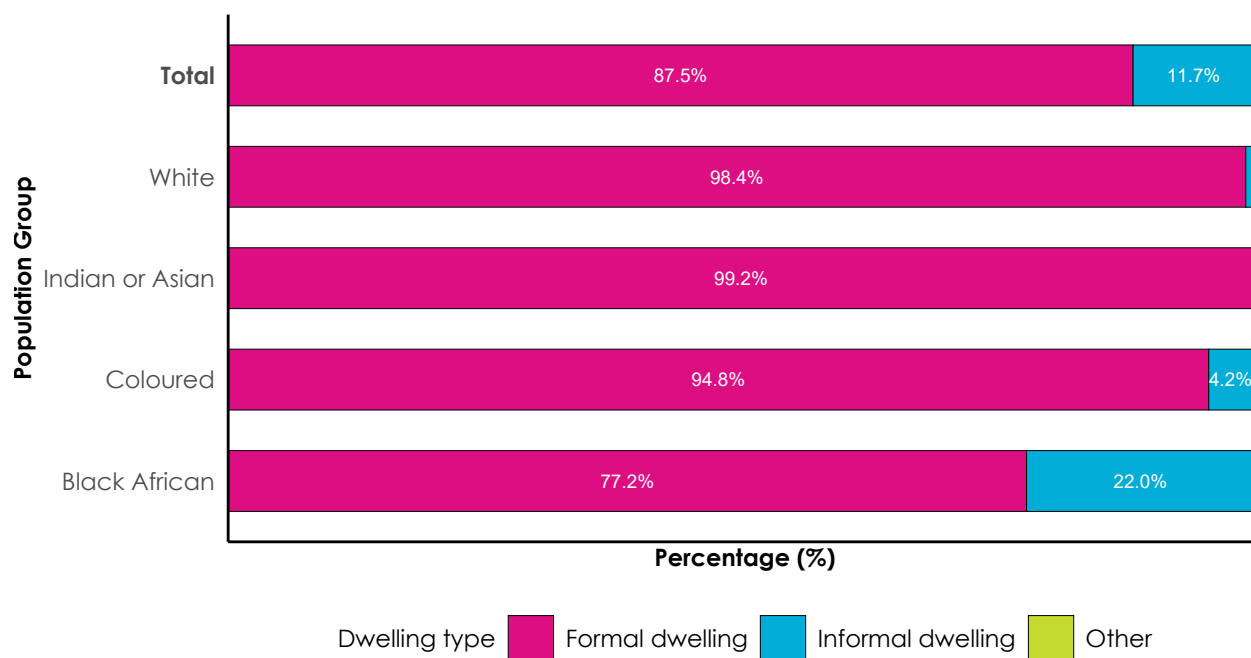


Figure 5: Main Dwelling Type (%)

More than 50% of households in Cape Town own (owned and fully paid off, as well as owned but not yet paid off) their house, with Black African-headed households having less homeownership than other population groups.

Table 2: Housing tenure by population group (%)

	Black African	Coloured	Indian or Asian	White	Total
Owned and fully paid off	28.4%	43.0%	32.3%	38.3%	35.3%
Rented from private individual	26.1%	17.2%	25.7%	24.0%	23.0%
Occupied rent-free	31.7%	9.8%	4.4%	2.8%	17.6%
Owned but not yet paid off	4.7%	19.4%	32.6%	31.3%	15.8%
Rented from other (including municipality and social housing)	5.6%	7.0%	2.6%	1.8%	5.1%
Other	2.9%	1.7%	1.0%	0.9%	2.0%
Do not know	0.6%	1.8%	1.5%	0.8%	1.1%

⁶Note: Unspecified responses were excluded from the housing tenure calculation due to a significant number of households, particularly Black Africans and Indian-headed household with unspecified responses. This likely stems from the substantial undercount in the 2022 Census. As such, the results in Figure 5 and Table 2 can only be verified after the census 10% sample and sub-metro level data is made available in 2024.

Almost 25% of **Black African** and **White**-headed households are 1 person households.

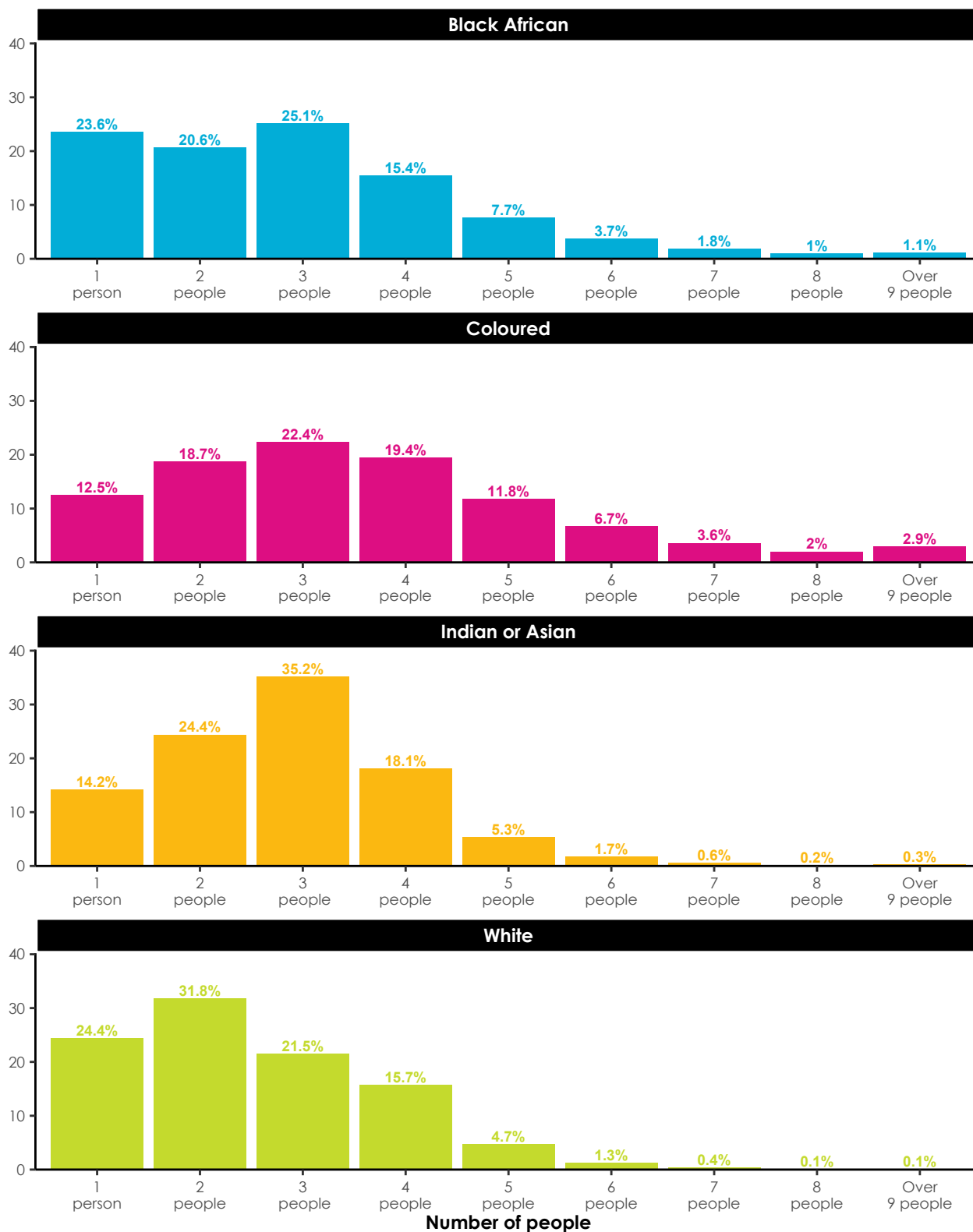


Figure 6: Household Composition (%) and Average Household Size per Population Group

5. Basic Services

Black African-headed households are the only population group falling below the total level for access to all basic services.

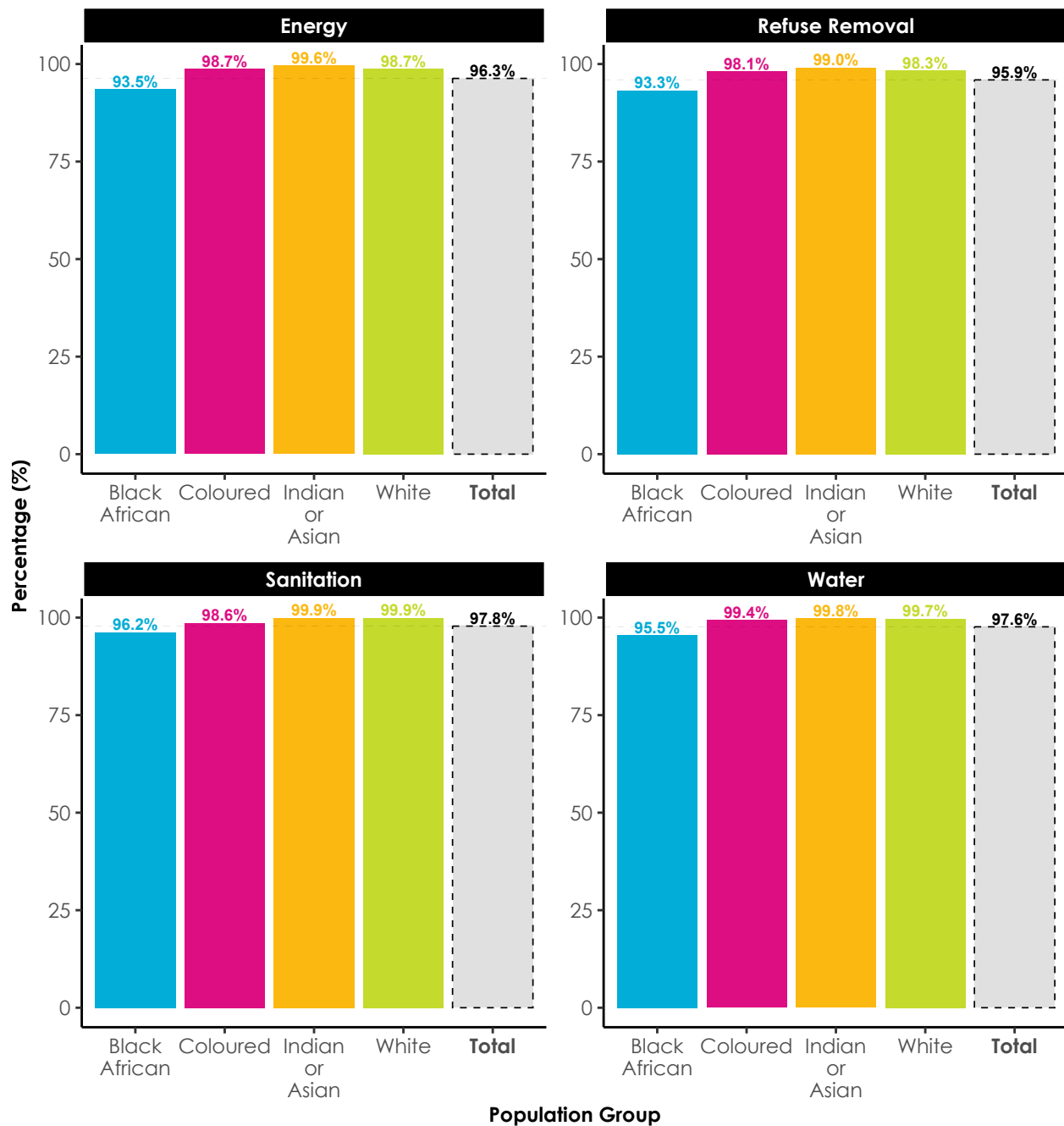


Figure 7: Summary of Access to Basic Services by Population Group (%)

Definitions:

- **Access to energy** is the use of electricity from mains supply for lighting.
- **Access to water** is piped water, either on the property or within 200 m.
- **Access to sanitation** is a flush toilet, a chemical toilet or a pit toilet with ventilation.
- **Access to refuse removal** is a removal service at least once a week.

Table 3: Energy source for Lighting (%)

	Black African	Coloured	Indian or Asian	White	Total
Electricity from mains	93.5%	98.7%	99.6%	98.7%	96.3%
Candles	2.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%
Paraffin	2.5%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
Other source of electricity (e.g. generator etc.)	0.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%
Gas	0.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%
Solar	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.8%	0.3%
None	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Other	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%

Table 4: Energy source for Cooking (%)

	Black African	Coloured	Indian or Asian	White	Total
Electricity from mains	60.0%	74.3%	24.2%	63.7%	63.8%
Gas	36.1%	24.6%	75.5%	35.5%	33.8%
Paraffin	3.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	1.5%
Other source of electricity (e.g. generator etc.)	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%
None	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Wood	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Other	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Solar	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%
Coal	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Animal dung	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 5: Type of Refuse Removal (%)

	Black African	Coloured	Indian or Asian	White	Total
Removed by local authority/private company/community members at least once a week	84.6%	97.1%	98.5%	97.7%	91.4%
Communal container/central collection point	8.7%	1.0%	0.5%	0.7%	4.5%
Removed by local authority/private company/community members less often	1.6%	1.0%	0.5%	0.9%	1.2%
Dump or leave rubbish anywhere (no rubbish disposal)	2.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
Own refuse dump	1.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.8%
Communal refuse dump	1.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.7%
Other	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%

Table 6: Type of Sanitation (%)

	Black African	Coloured	Indian or Asian	White	Total
Flush toilet connected to a public sewerage system	86.3%	97.2%	99.3%	98.3%	92.4%
Bucket toilet (collected by municipality)	5.9%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%
Chemical toilet	3.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%
None	1.9%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Flush toilet connected to a septic tank or conservancy tank	1.0%	0.7%	0.4%	1.5%	1.0%
Bucket toilet (emptied by household)	1.2%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
Other	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Pit latrine/toilet without ventilation pipe	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Pit latrine/toilet with ventilation pipe (VIP)	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Ecological toilet (e.g. urine diversion, enviroloo, etc)	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%

Table 7: Access to Piped Water (%)

	Black African	Coloured	Indian or Asian	White	Total
Piped (tap) water inside the dwelling	72.7%	95.2%	98.9%	97.9%	85.4%
Piped (tap) water inside the yard	12.7%	3.5%	0.8%	1.5%	7.3%
Piped (tap) water on community stand: distance less than 200m from dwelling	10.1%	0.6%	0.1%	0.2%	5.0%
Piped (tap) water to community stand: distance less than 200m and 500m from dwelling	2.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	1.0%
No access to piped (tap) water	1.5%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.8%
Piped (tap) water to community stand: distance less than 500m and 1000m from dwelling	0.5%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%
Piped (tap) water on community stand: distance greater than 1000m (1 km) from dwelling	0.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%

6. Education

Almost 70% of children in Cape Town attend an early childhood development⁷ (ECD) facility.

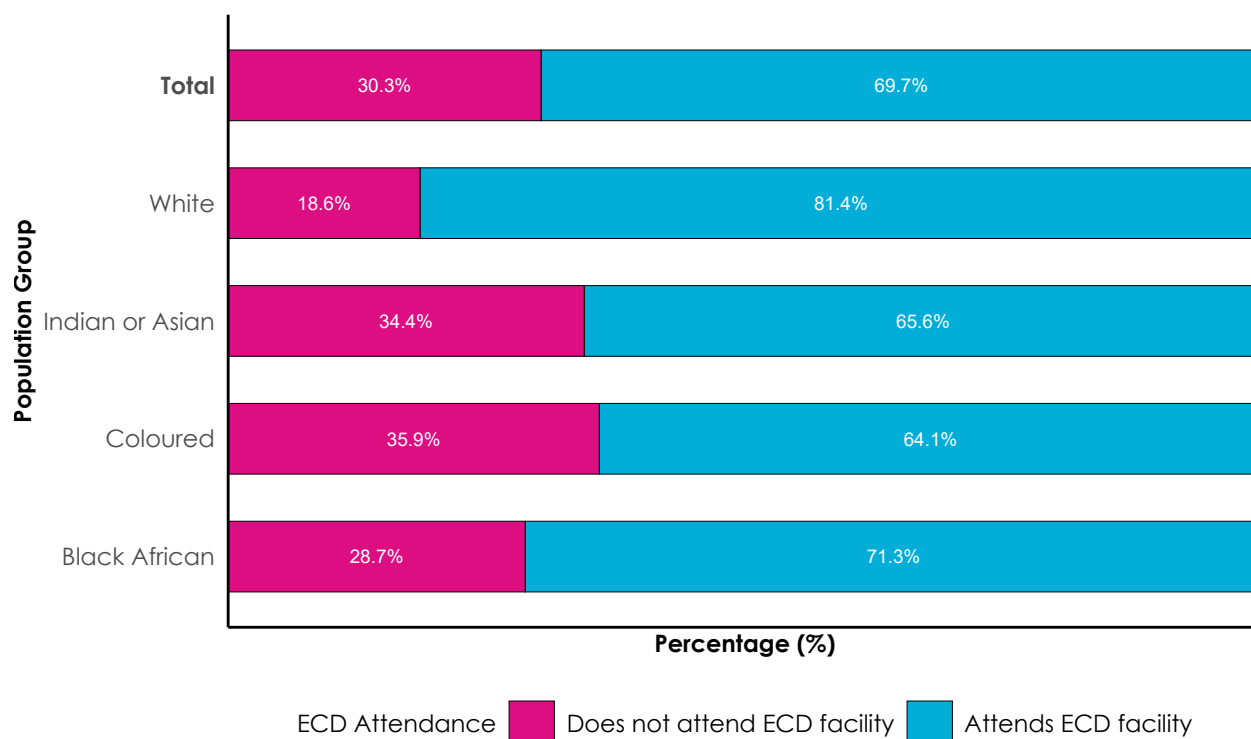


Figure 8: Early Childhood Development Attendance (%)

Over a third (36.5%) of Cape Town's population aged 20 and above holds a matric qualification, with 20.0% holding tertiary level education. All population groups have more than 31.0% with matric.

Table 8: Highest Education Level of the Adult population Aged 20 years and older (%)

	Black African	Coloured	Indian or Asian	White	Total
No schooling	2.4%	1.8%	1.8%	0.7%	1.9%
Some primary	5.1%	6.6%	1.4%	0.3%	4.6%
Completed Primary	2.9%	4.9%	1.0%	0.2%	3.1%
Some Secondary	40.0%	37.9%	11.7%	9.2%	32.8%
Grade 12	39.0%	34.9%	31.1%	34.1%	36.5%
Higher	9.8%	13.1%	51.3%	52.9%	20.0%
Other	0.7%	0.9%	1.7%	2.5%	1.1%

⁷Statistics South Africa (2022) defines ECD as the holistic nurturing of children (0-4), encompassing their emotional, cognitive, sensory, spiritual, moral, physical, social, and communication growth. The 2022 census classifies four categories as ECD: creche/educare center, pre-school/nursery school/Grade 00/Grade 000/Grade R, day mother/Gogo/childminder, and home/community playgroup.

The Black African and Coloured population have the highest level of illiteracy, while Black African population have the highest levels of total illiteracy, and Coloured population have the highest levels of functional illiteracy.

Table 9: Illiteracy Level of the population Aged 15 years and older (%)

	Black African	Coloured	Indian or Asian	White	Total
Functionally illiterate (not completed at least grade 7)	4.8%	6.3%	1.4%	0.4%	4.4%
Totally illiterate (no schooling)	2.3%	1.7%	1.7%	0.7%	1.8%
Illiterate (Total)	7.1%	8.0%	3.2%	1.0%	6.2%

7. Internet

Almost 90% of Cape Town residents have access to internet, with Black African and Coloured-headed households having less access than other population groups.

Table 10: Type of Internet Access (%)

	Black African	Coloured	Indian or Asian	White	Total
Use Cellphone or any other mobile device	62.1%	39.1%	15.7%	10.4%	42.3%
Home with an internet connection in the dwelling	11.0%	39.3%	77.0%	83.5%	37.5%
No access to internet services	16.1%	16.6%	3.6%	2.8%	13.1%
Public Wi-Fi	6.8%	3.0%	2.1%	1.8%	4.4%
Other	1.2%	1.1%	0.8%	0.8%	1.1%
From an internet café	1.7%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.9%
From place of work	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%
From a library/community hall/Thusong centre	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%
From school/university/college	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%