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Child poverty in South Africa: A Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis

Overview of the multi-deprivation index on children



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About the report

The report seeks to provide insight on child poverty in South Africa using the [Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis \(MODA\) methodology](#). It provides information on:

Multidimensional child poverty levels in SA

Main contributors (dimensions) to the poverty situation of children in SA

Socio-economic and geographic characteristics of poor children in South Africa.

The report is based on data collected through the Living Conditions Survey (LCS) conducted in 2014/15

The LCS is a household-based survey conducted by Stats SA to measure poverty in the country

More than 25 000 households participated in the survey

The LCS 2014/15 collected data on:

Detailed income and expenditure

Education

Housing

Social welfare

Health and living circumstances



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Dimensions and indicators

MODA for South Africa used 7 dimensions and 14 indicators

Dimensions	Indicators	Age group
WASH	Sanitation Waste disposal Drinking water source	0 to 4 5 to 12 13 to 17
Housing	Shelter (materials used for roof, walls and floor) Energy (fuel for cooking and lighting)	0 to 4 5 to 12 13 to 17
Nutrition	Food security	0 to 4 5 to 12 13 to 17
Protection	Safety	0 to 4 5 to 12 13 to 17

Dimensions and indicators

MODA for South Africa used 7 dimensions and 14 indicators

Dimensions	Indicators	Age group
Health	Distance to healthcare centre Availability of RTHC	5 to 12 13 to 17 0 to 4 0 to 4
Information	Access to information devices	0 to 4 5 to 12 13 to 17
Child development	Child development (exposure to ECD for 0 to 2 years) ECE attendance (applicable to 3 to 4 years)	0 to 4
Education	School attendance Lateness in schooling School facilities	5 to 12 13 to 17

The **South African** population in **2021** is estimated at



up by **604 281 (1,01% change)**
from 2020 estimates

A light gray map of South Africa is shown in the background. Overlaid on the map is a large, dark blue circle with a white border. Inside the circle, the text '60, 1 Million' is written in white. The number '60, 1' is on the top line and 'Million' is on the bottom line.

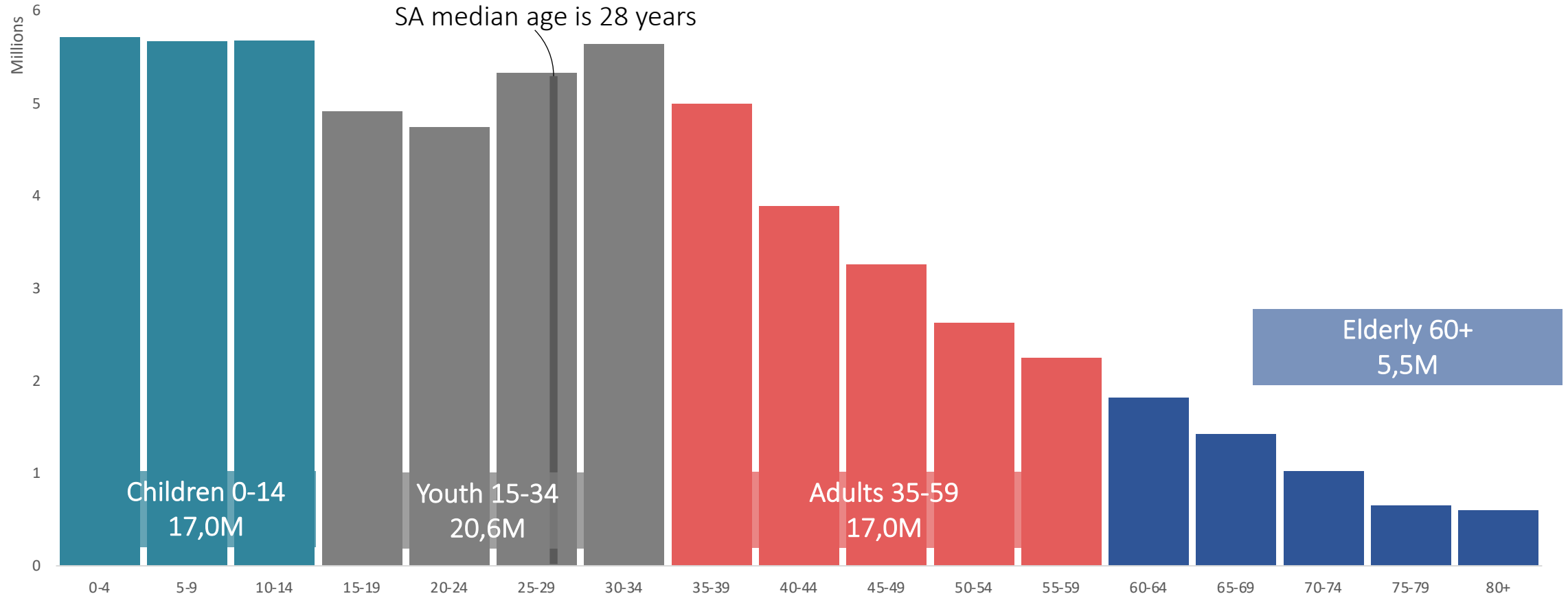
60, 1
Million

Source MYPE 2021

Children and youth amount to nearly 38 million in SA

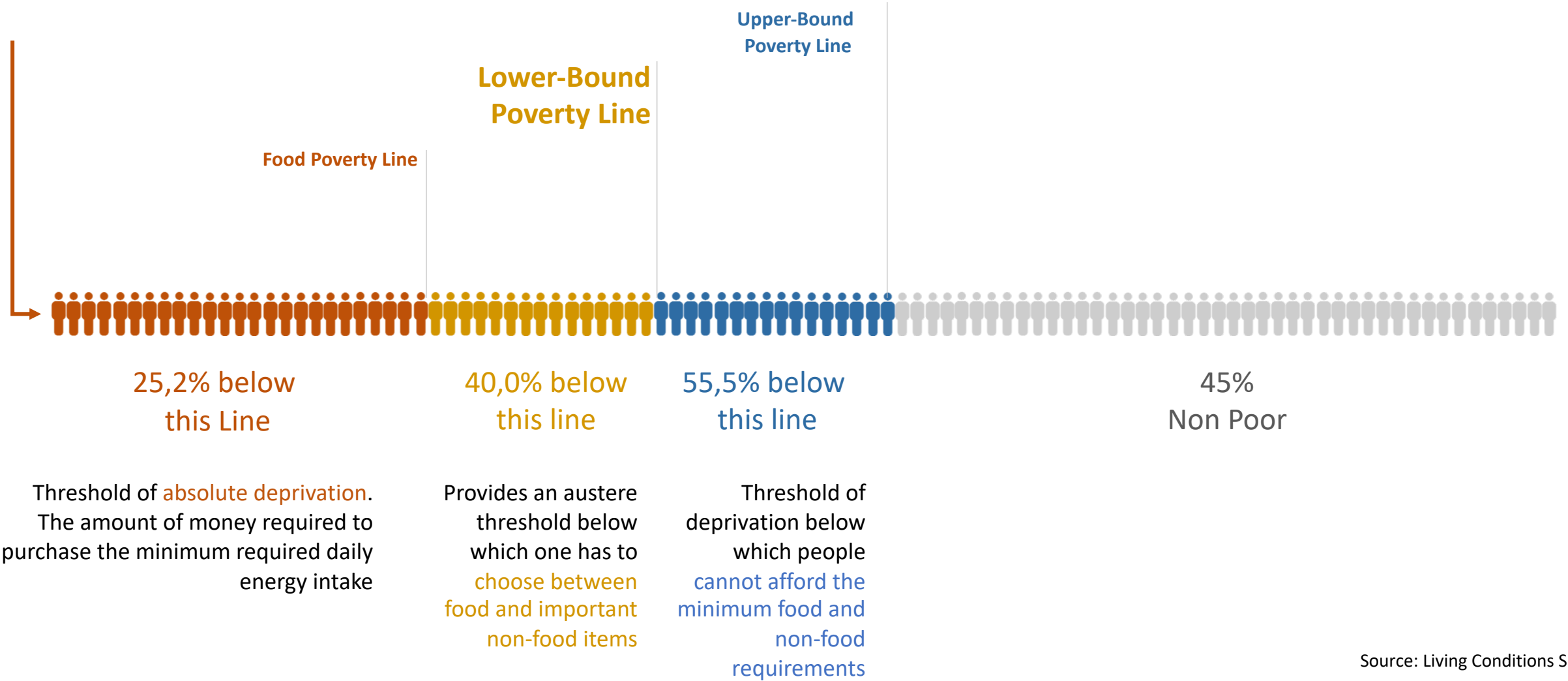
South Africa is a demographically youthful population with a median age of 28

Population age structure 5 year groupings, 2021



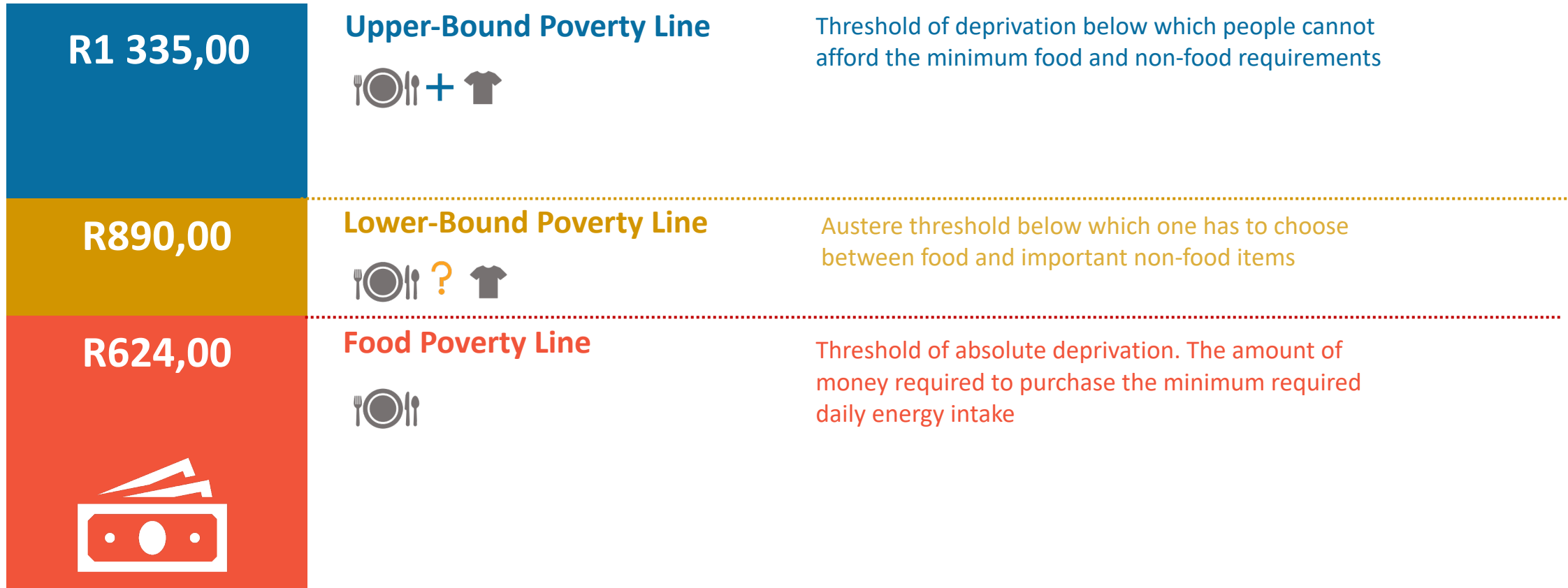
In 2015, more than a quarter of the population were living below the food poverty line

Money-metric Poverty headcounts in 2015



Source: Living Conditions Survey

Inflation-adjusted national poverty lines for 2021 *(per person per month in Rands)*



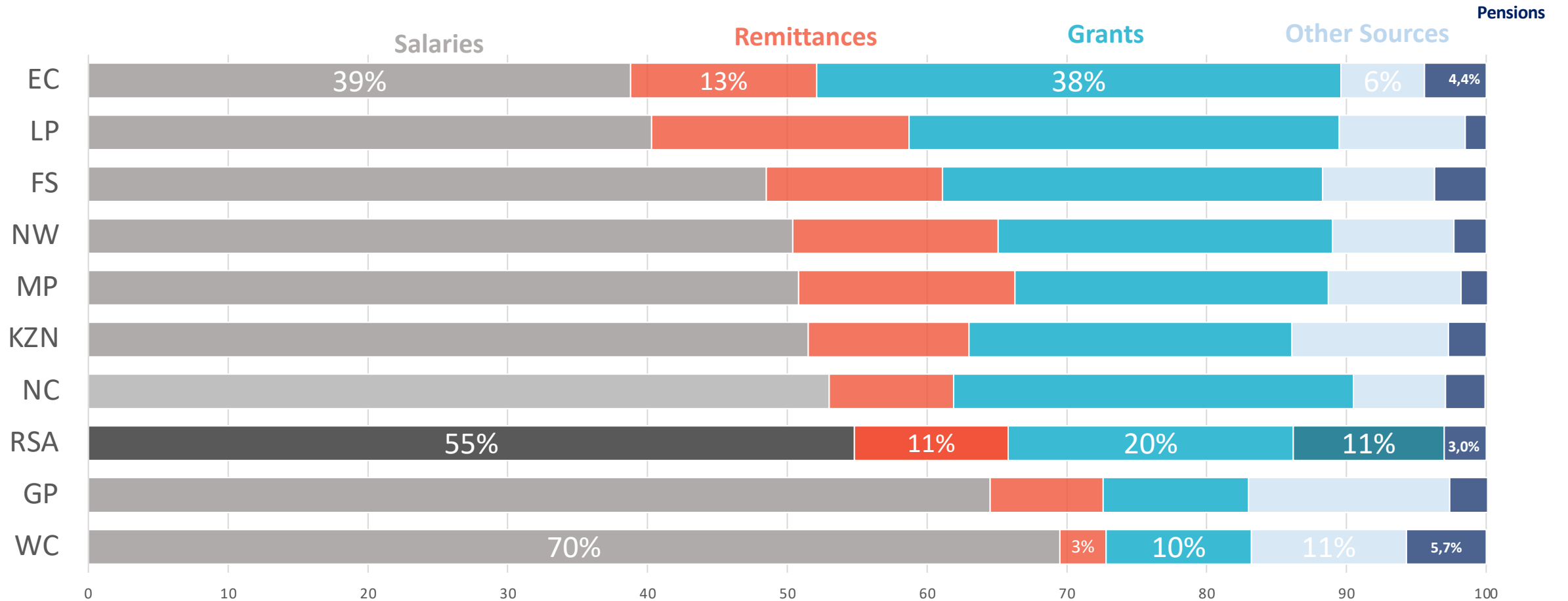
The LBPL and UBPL lines contain both food and non-food components of household consumption expenditure.

Source: National Poverty Lines, 2021

Grants remain a significant source of income for SA households, particularly in rural areas. 51% of household income is sourced from remittances and grants in EC

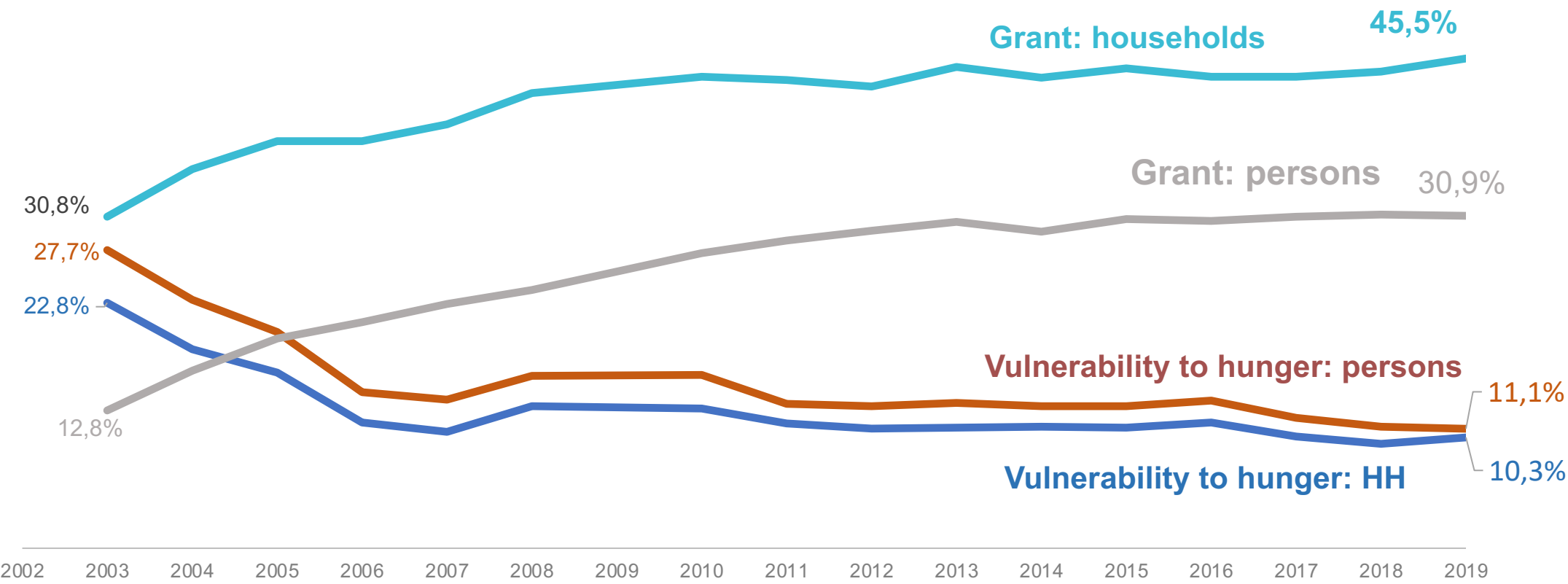
Percentage distribution of sources of household income by province, 2019

Source: GHS 2019



Vulnerability to hunger at an individual and household level has been declining whilst access to **grants** has been increasing.

Grants and Vulnerability to hunger 2002 - 2019



Source GHS 2019



Profiling child poverty in South Africa

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More than six out of ten **(62,1%)** children in SA experience multidimensional poverty where $k=3$. *All age groups show similar multidimensional poverty rates.*

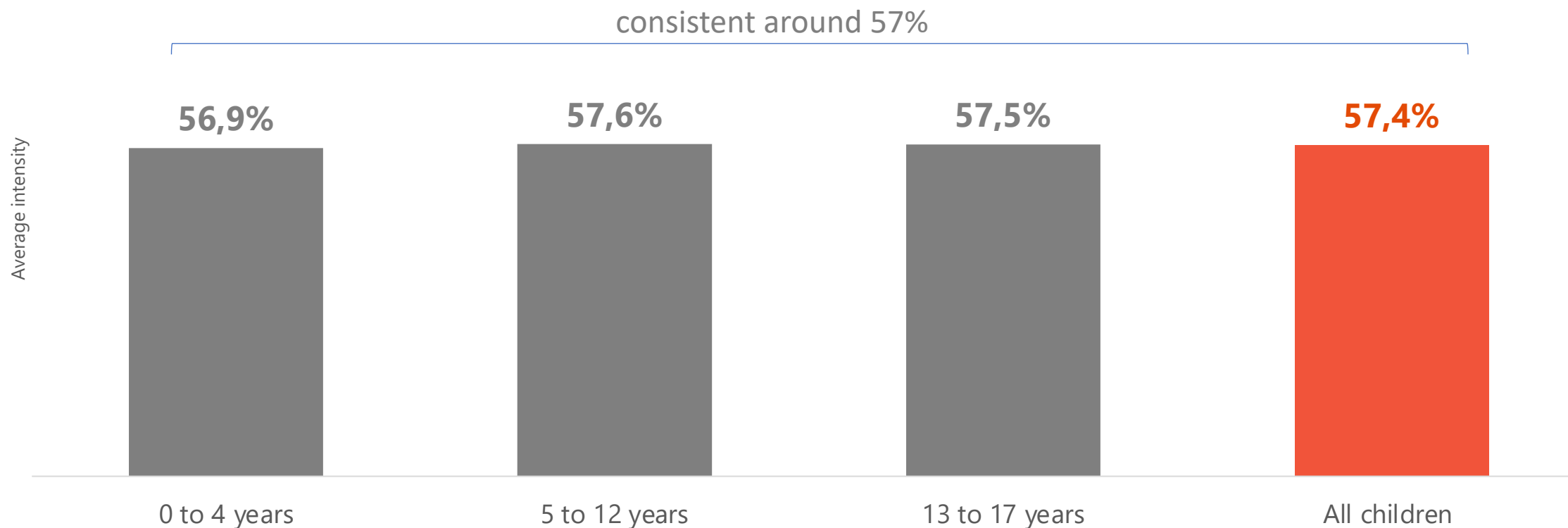
Multidimensional ($k=3$) child poverty by age group, 2015



The intensity of multidimensional child poverty (The average number of dimensions that are experienced by the poor children expressed in percentages) stood at 57,4%

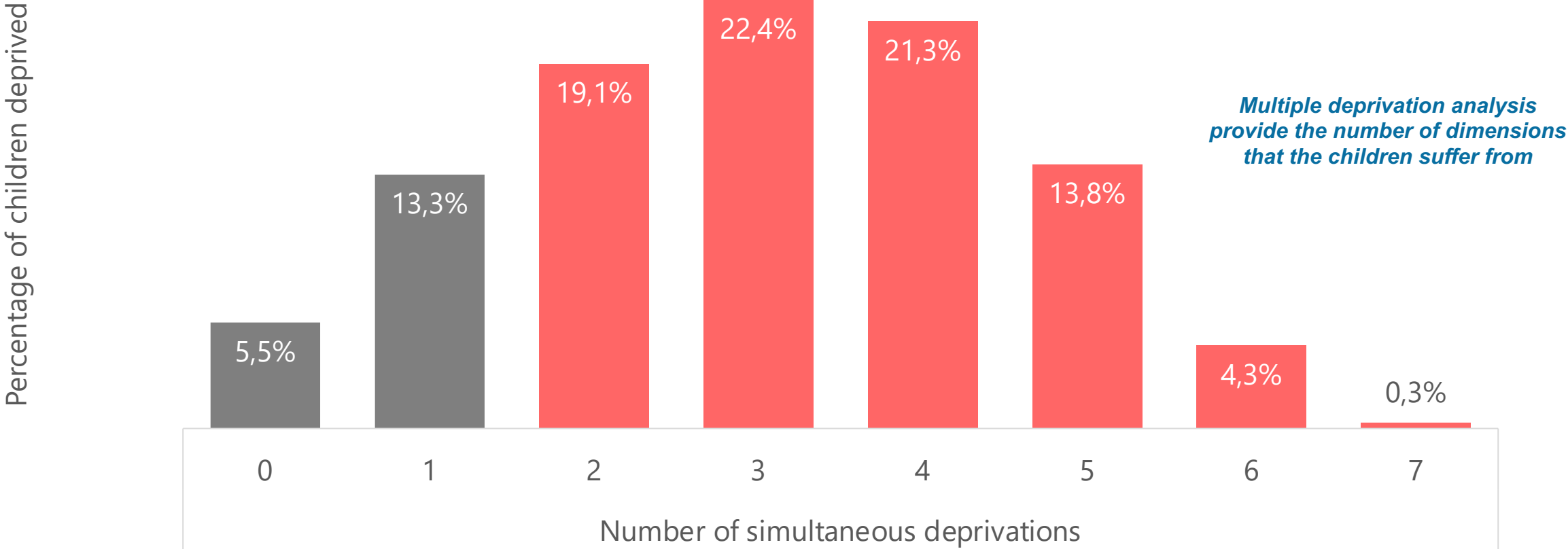
Intensity of poverty for all age groups is consistent around 57%. *On average, multidimensionally poor children in all age groups are deprived in about 4 out of 7 dimensions.*

Intensity of Multidimensional (k=3) child poverty by age group, 2015

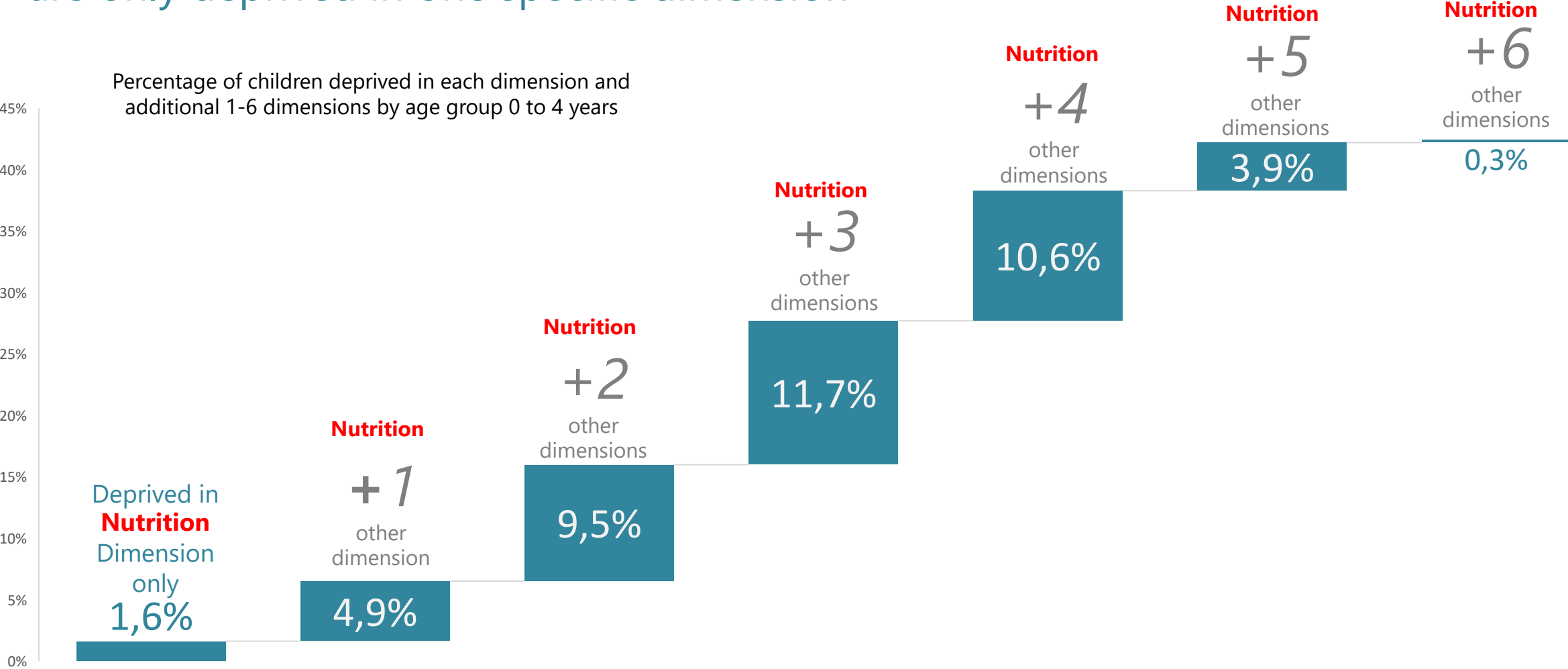


Eight out of ten children experience multiple deprivation i.e. number of deprivations greater than one.

Deprivation distribution by number of simultaneous deprivation for children at national level, 2015



Most children face deprivation in multiple dimensions at the same time while **very few** are only deprived in one specific dimension

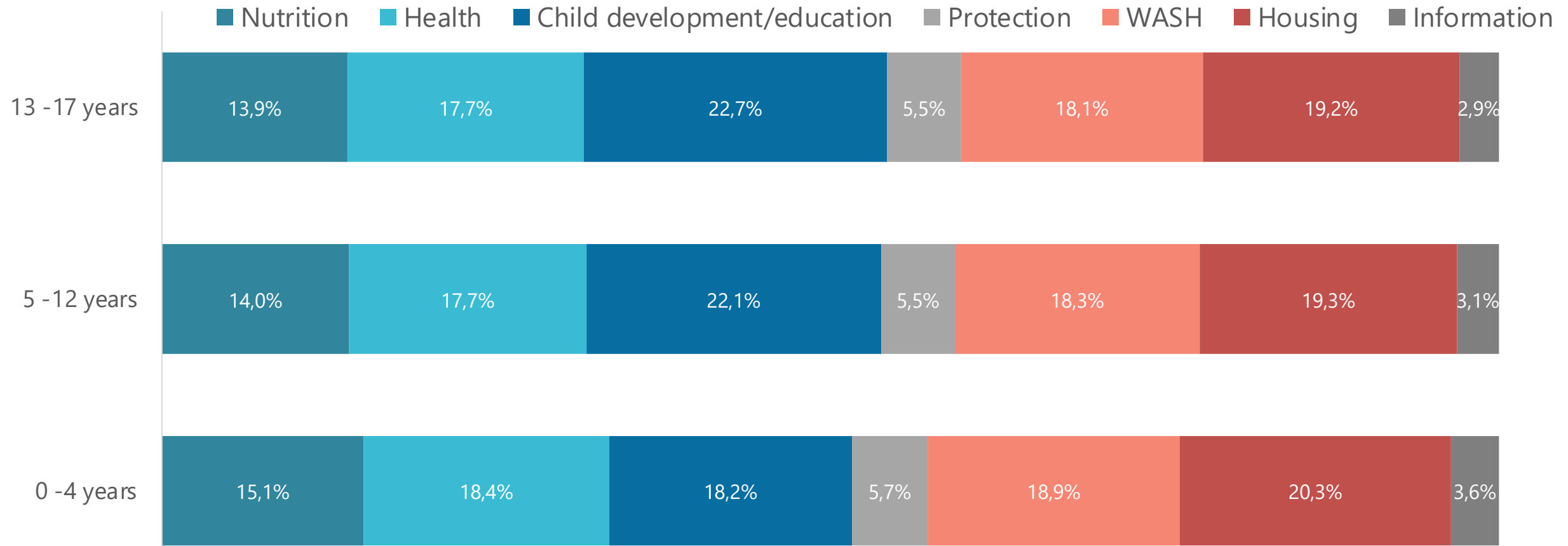




Major contributors to the child poverty situation

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Decomposition of the adjusted multidimensional poverty headcount (M0) by contribution of each dimension at national level, 2015



Demographic characteristics of poor children in South Africa

Overview of the multi-deprivation index on children

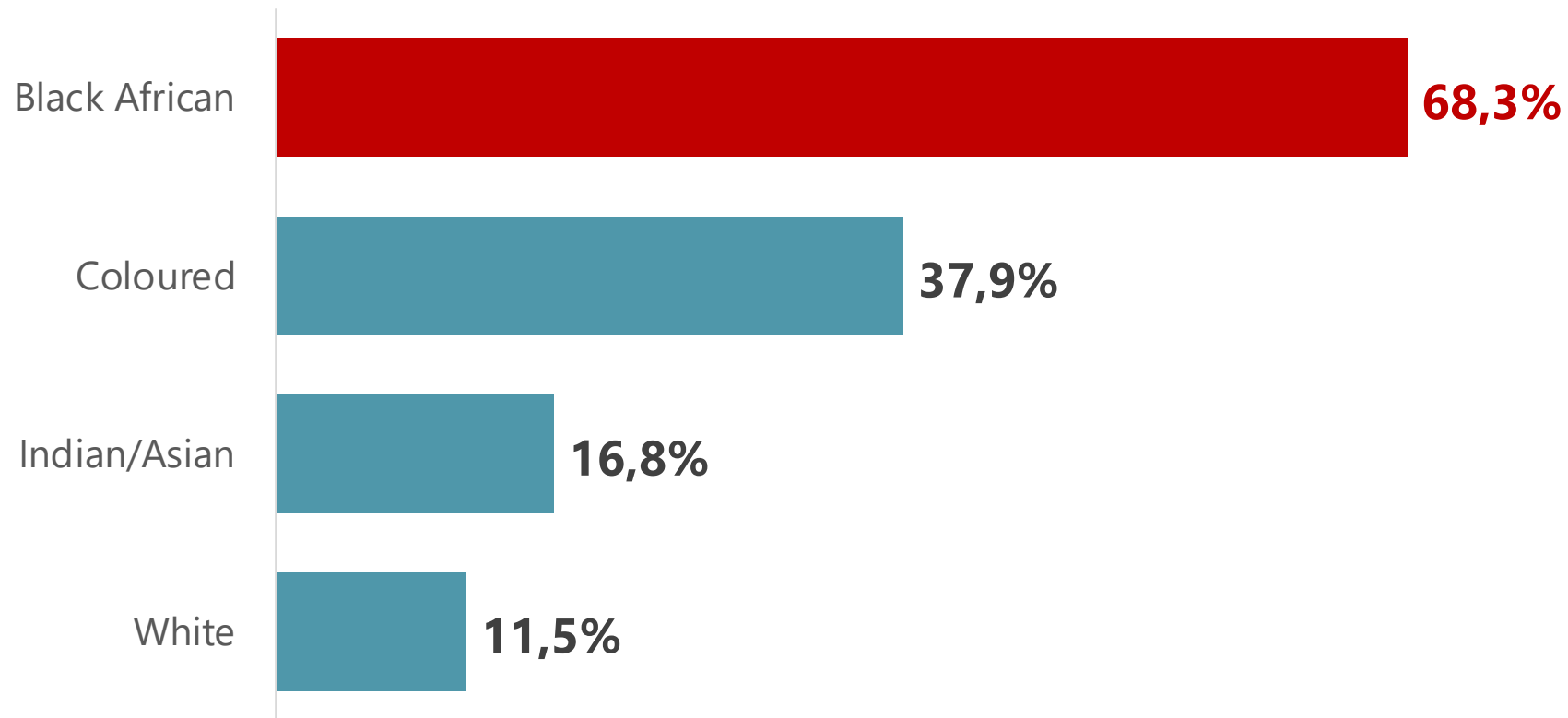
There is **no significant difference** in the multidimensional child poverty when disaggregated by sex of a child.

Multidimensional (k=3) child poverty by sex of child, 2015



Black African children (68,3%) are more likely to be multidimensionally poor when compared to other population groups.

Multidimensional poverty by population group of child, 2015

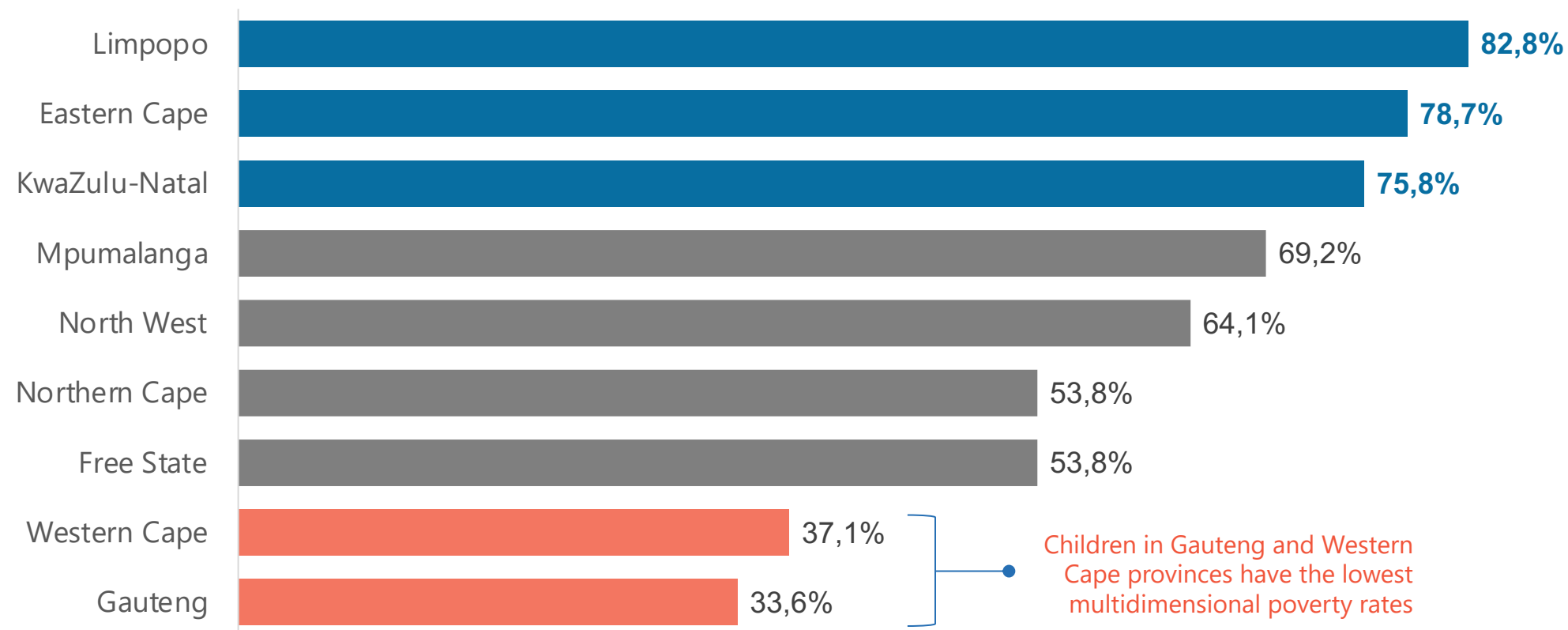


Geographic location of poor children in South Africa

Overview of the multi-deprivation index on children

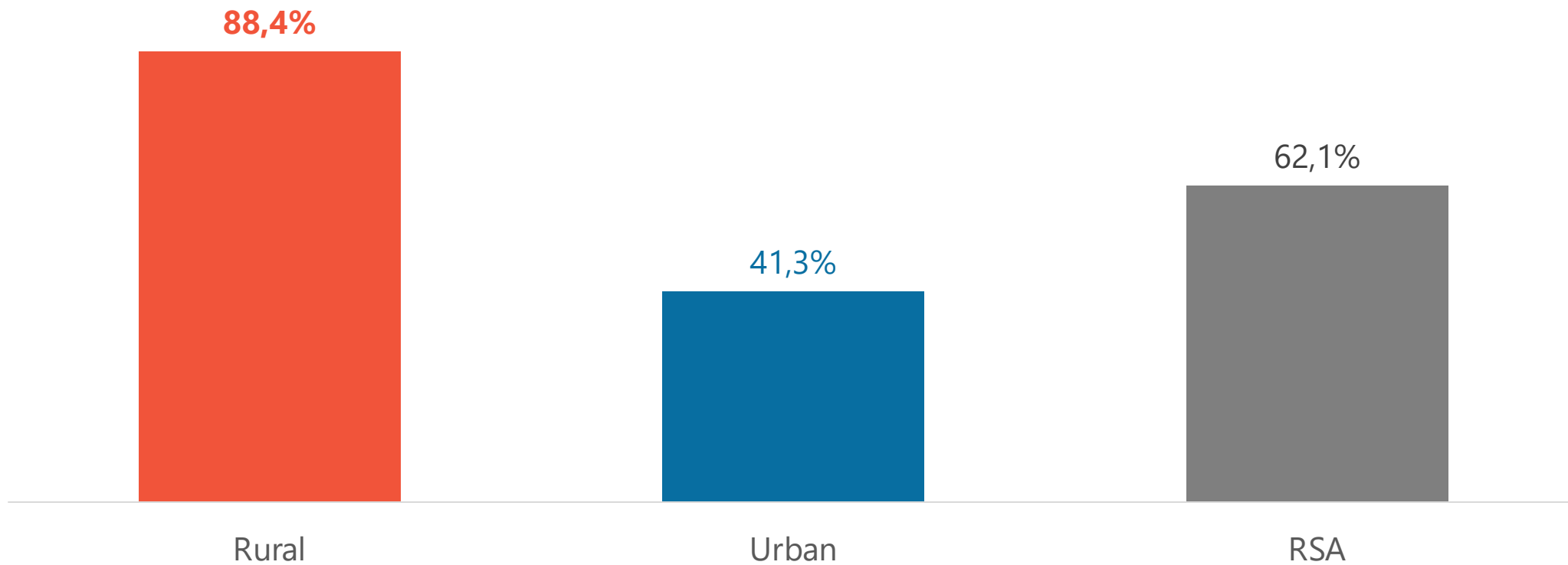
The majority of children in Limpopo (82,8%), Eastern Cape (78,7%) and KwaZulu-Natal (75,8%) are multidimensionally poor. Children in Gauteng and Western Cape provinces have the lowest multidimensional poverty rates at 33,6% and 37,1% respectively

Multidimensional (k=3) child poverty by province, 2015



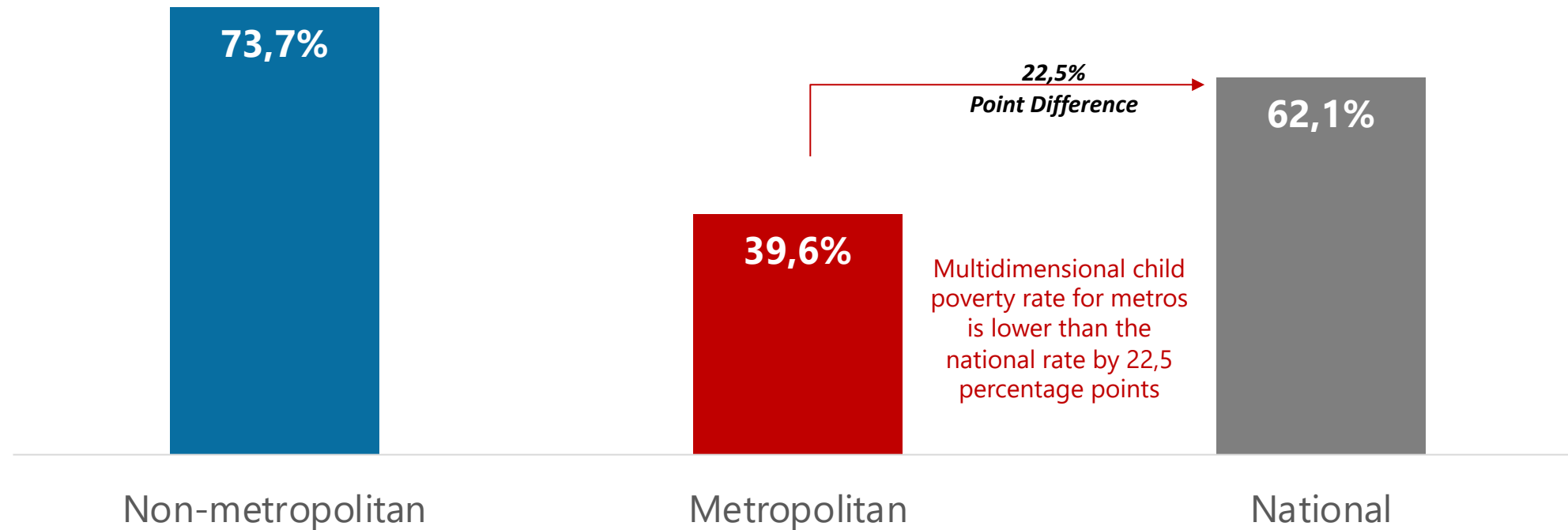
Multidimensional child poverty rate is higher (88,4%) for children living in **rural areas** than those from **urban areas** (41,3%).

Multidimensional (k=3) child poverty by settlement type, 2015



Children living in metropolitan municipalities have low (39,6%) rates of multidimensional poverty when compared to non-metropolitan municipalities (73,7%).

Multidimensional (k=3) child poverty by metropolitan municipality category, 2015



Living circumstances and household characteristics of poor children in South Africa

Overview of the multi-deprivation index on children

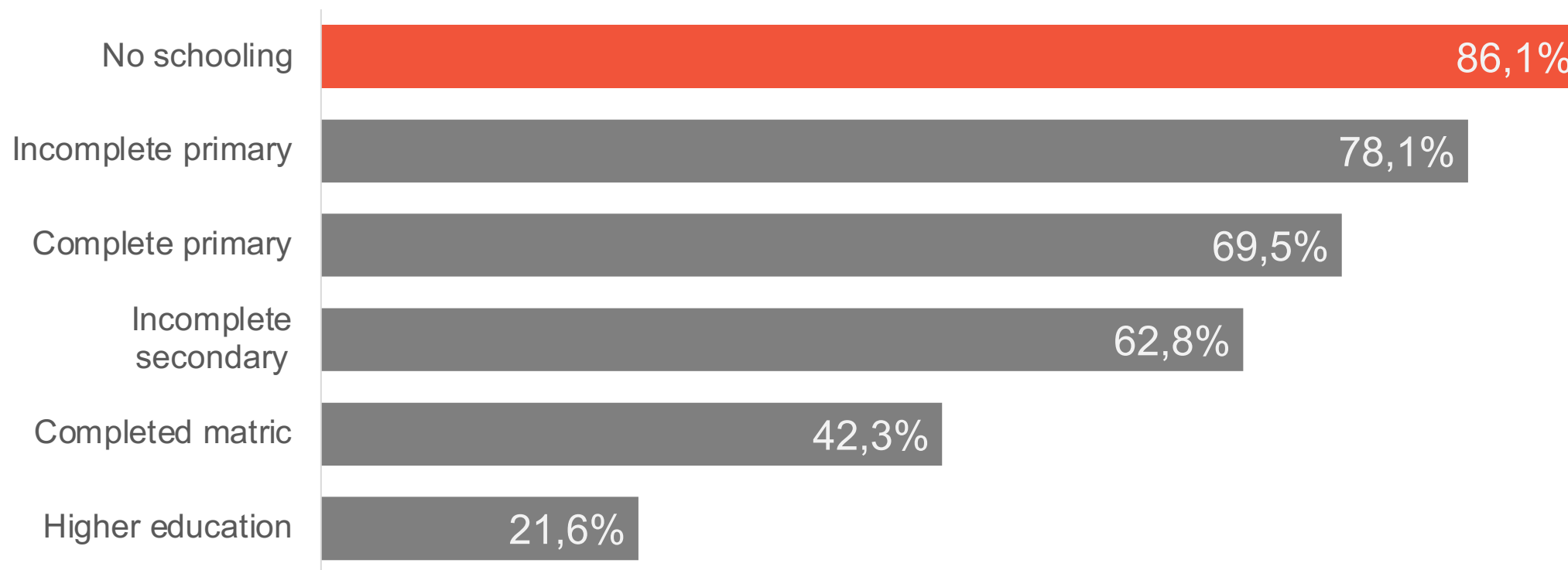
Multidimensional child poverty rate is **higher where households are headed by females at 71,3%** as compared to those that are headed by males at 53,6%

Multidimensional (k=3) child poverty by sex of household head, 2015



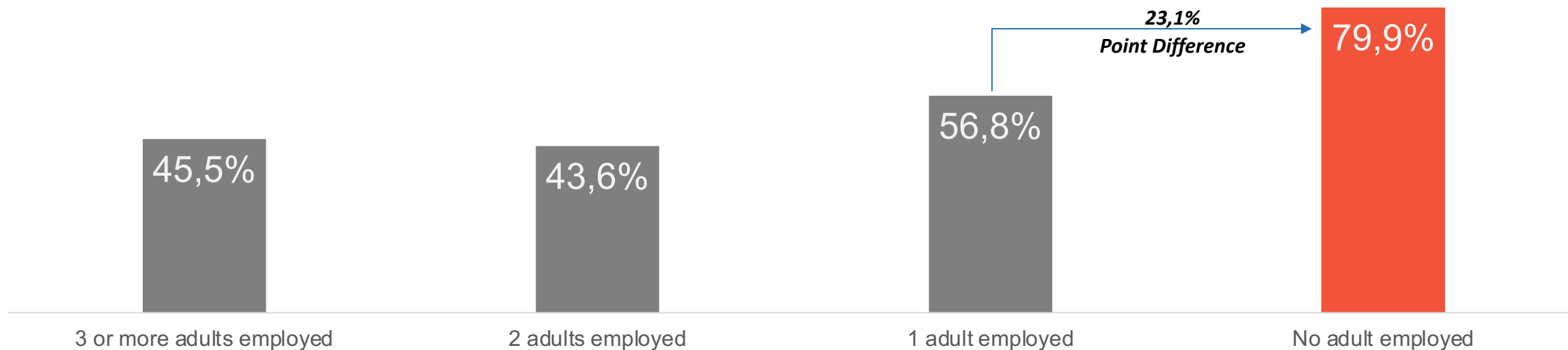
Multidimensional child poverty rate is the **highest (86,1%)** where the household head's highest level of education is **"no schooling"**

Multidimensional (k=3) child poverty by education level of household head, 2015



Multidimensional poverty is the **highest (79,9%)** where a household has **no adult employed**

Multidimensional (k=3) child poverty by adult employment status, 2015



Multidimensional child poverty rate is higher where households have a large number of children (71,2%) *Multidimensional child poverty is the highest (73,8%) where a household has 7 or more members; while it is the lowest at 52,6% where household has between 1 and 3 members*

Multidimensional (k=3) child poverty by median number of children, 2015



Children that are **double-orphans** and single orphans where only a mother is alive have higher multidimensional poverty rates (**77,3%** and 71,2% respectively)

Multidimensional (k=3) child poverty by orphan-hood status, 2015

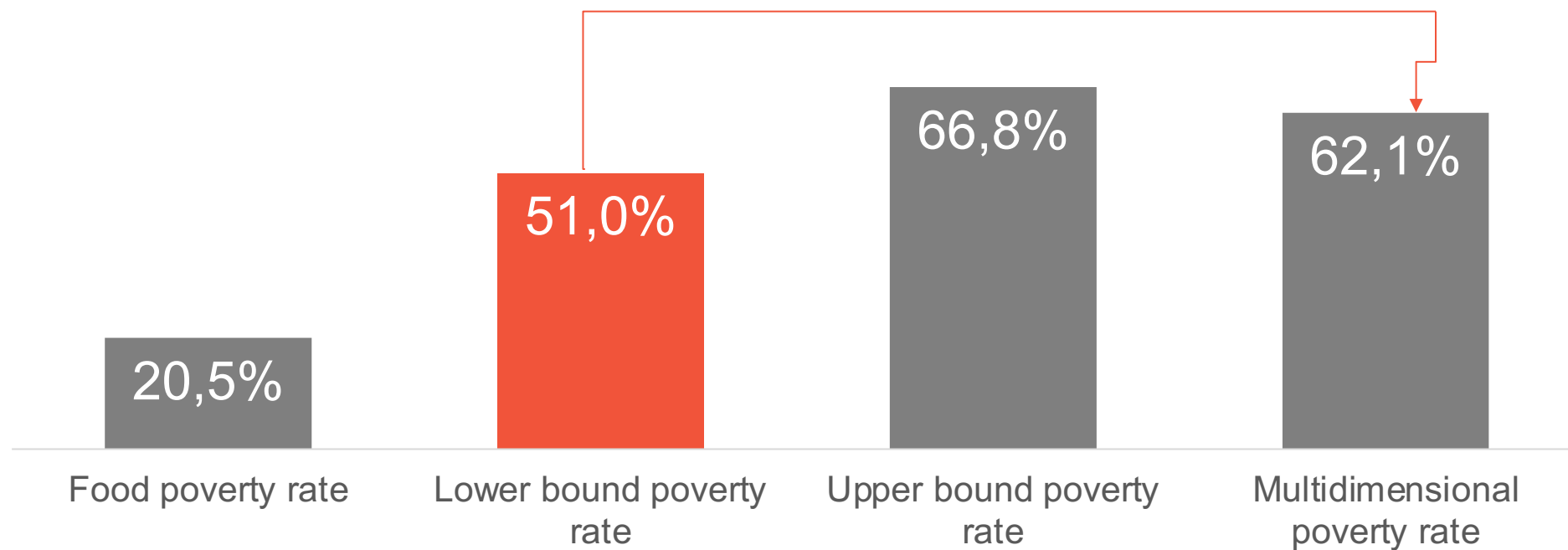


Relationship between money-metric and multidimensional poverty

Overview of the multi-deprivation index on children

Multidimensional poverty amongst children is higher than the lower bound child poverty rate by 11,1 percentage

Multidimensional (k=3) child poverty and Money metric child poverty (LBPL)



About 4 out of every 10 children in South Africa are both **money-metric** and **multidimensionally poor**

Money-metric Poverty headcounts in 2015



Source: Living Conditions Survey

Summary and conclusion

Higher rates of poverty are found among:

Households with many members;

Households with many children;

Households with no adults employed;

Households where the household head has no or low levels of education;

Black African children are more likely to be in poverty than other population groups;

Children that are single orphans where only a mother is alive have higher poverty rates compared to single orphans where only a father is alive;

Double orphans as compared to other children; and

An interesting phenomenon is revealed for age group 0 to 4 years where poverty rates are higher for children whose births are not registered

Children are not only multidimensionally poor but also have overlapping deprivations

There is a higher overlap rate between money-metric and multidimensional poverty

