



Western Cape
Government
FOR YOU



#KnowYourMunicipality: The 2023 Socio-Economic Profile

Bergrivier Municipality



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Bergrivier: At a Glance

Demographics

Census 2022; Actual households, 2022



Population
70 276

(Source: Census 2022)



Households
18 699

(Source: Census 2022)

Education

2022

Poverty

2021



Matric Pass Rate **68.5%**
Learner Retention Rate **81.6%**
Learner-Teacher Ratio **29.56**



Gini Coefficient **0.58**
Poverty Head Count Ratio (UBPL) **63.1%**

Health

2021/22



Primary Health Care Facilities
3
(excl. mobile/satellite clinics)

Immunisation Rate
64.8%

Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100 000 live births)
0.0

Teenage Pregnancies – Delivery rate to women U/19
0.0%

Safety and Security

Actual number of reported cases in 2022



Residential Burglaries
310

DUI
149

Drug-related Crimes
924

Murder
12

Sexual Offences
65

Access to Basic Service Delivery

Percentage of households with access to basic services, 2022

Water
88.7%



Refuse Removal
85.4%



Electricity
98.6%



Sanitation
97.7%



Housing
91.6%



Labour

2021

Unemployment Rate (narrow definition)

7.3%



Socio-economic Risks

Risk 1 Crime
Risk 2 Unemployment
Risk 3 Low skills base (Labour)

Largest 3 Sectors

Contribution to GDP, 2021

Agriculture

29.2%



Manufacturing

18.0%



Trade

13.0%



INTRODUCTION

This publication is produced by the Provincial Treasury for each of the Western Cape municipalities on an annual basis. These socio-economic profiles provide each municipality with up-to-date socio-economic data as well as analysis pertaining to the municipal area, to assist in planning, budgeting and the prioritisation of municipal services.

The profiles include information on recent trends in GDP and labour market performance, demographics, education and health outcomes. It further unpacks per capita income, inequality and poverty, access to housing and basic services as well as crime levels. A new addition to the profile is the inclusion of risk and vulnerability indicators related to climate change which is critical to development.

Valuable insight can be gained as to the developmental challenges faced by communities residing within a specific geographical area. While some developmental challenges are not within the municipality's mandate to address, these profiles also provide spatial information for other spheres of Government in order to improve the quality of lives of people within each municipal area.

This profile uses data primarily sourced from Statistics South Africa, administrative data from sector departments, the Municipal Review and Outlook (MERO), Global Insight Regional Explorer and Quantec. The data sourced from sector departments are the most recent that is available. The Statistics South Africa 2022 Census contains the latest survey data available at municipal level.

The format of the profile allows for easy readability with the data being displayed in infographics, followed by the relevant trend analyses.

The information contained in this profile highlights information for the Bergrivier Municipality in relation to the broader West Coast District.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population 70 276 2022

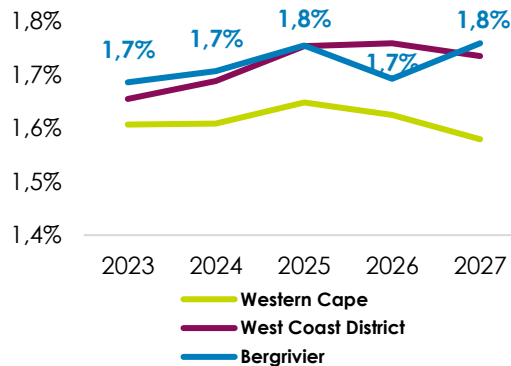


Population 2022
70 276

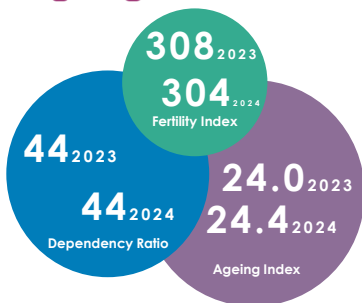
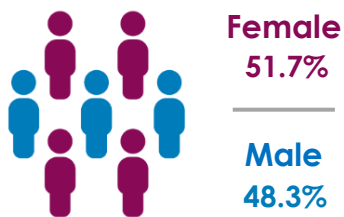
Estimated Population
81 624 2027

Estimated
Average Annual
Population
Growth Rate
2023 - 2027
1.7%

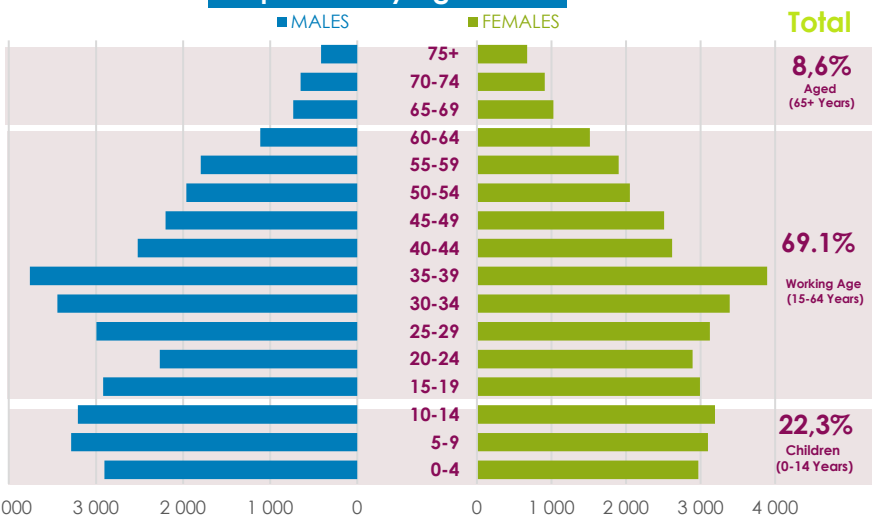
Estimated Population Growth



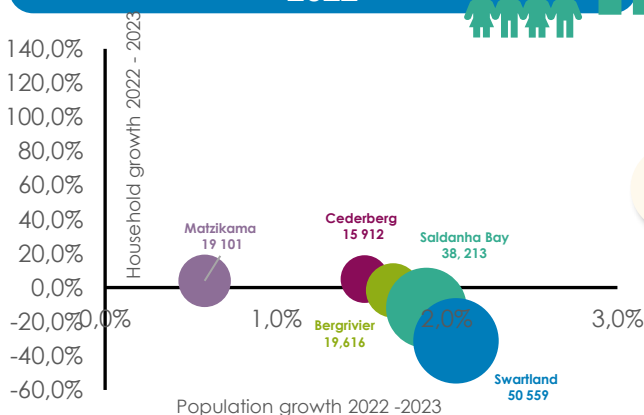
Gender and Age Dynamics



Population by Age 2022



Population and Household Growth 2022



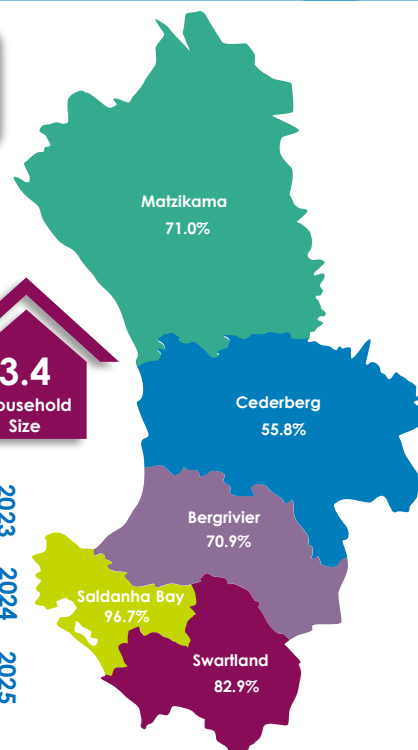
Level of Urbanisation 2021

Largest Urban Settlements:
Veldrif (21%),
Piketberg (19%) &
Porterville (12%)

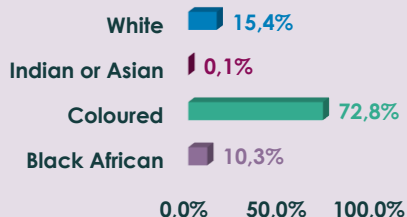
Urban/Rural change:
Veldrif (5.2%) & De
Lust (5.3%)

Density change:
Largest change in
Wittewater,
Dwarskersbos &
Eendekuil

3.4
Household
Size



Racial Split



Population and Household Growth

In 2023, approximately 1.7 per cent of the Western Cape's population is expected to live in the West Coast District municipal area. The total population of the District is 838 457 individuals as of 2022. Among the municipalities within the District, Bergrivier is the second lowest populated, with 70 276 people in 2022. It is projected that this figure will increase to 81 624 by 2027, representing an average annual growth rate of 1.7 per cent over the specified period.

Gender, Age and Race Dynamics

The sex ratio (SR), which represents the number of males per 100 females in a given population, reveals that, as of 2022, the West Coast District municipal area has a slightly higher proportion of females, accounting for 50.4 per cent, compared to males at 49.6 per cent. Conversely, in the Bergrivier area, the sex ratio is tilted towards females, with a distribution of 51.7 per cent females to 48.3 per cent males in 2022.

In socio-economic terms, the sex ratio, which represents the proportion of males to females in a given population, serves as a crucial indicator of demographic patterns and societal dynamics. The data from 2022 reveals a noteworthy trend in the West Coast District municipal area, where the sex ratio leans slightly towards females, accounting for 50.4 per cent compared to 49.6 per cent for males.

This imbalance could be interpreted through a socio-economic lens with several potential implications. Firstly, the higher percentage of females could suggest specific socio-economic factors influencing the population composition in these areas. For instance, it might indicate a higher influx of females due to employment opportunities, educational institutions, or other economic activities that attract women to these regions.

Level of Urbanisation

The observed increase in urbanisation (70.9 per cent in 2021) in Bergrivier signifies a noteworthy socio-economic transformation. This growth can be indicative of several factors, including increased economic opportunities, improved infrastructure, or shifts in employment patterns, which often lead individuals to migrate from rural areas to urban centres. Urbanisation, especially in towns such as Velddrif, Piketberg and Porteville is increasing consumer spending, benefiting the retail sector and increasing the demand for business services such as insurance providers.

Population Density

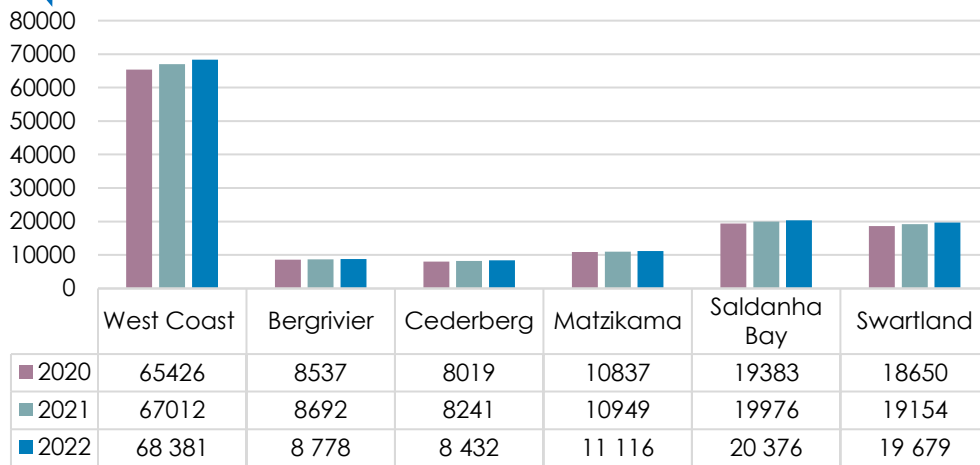
Population density, indicating the number of individuals in a specific area, is influenced by economic, social, connectivity, and accessibility factors. These metrics are essential for responsive urbanisation, aiding municipalities in effective service planning, budgeting, and environmental risk management. As of 2022, Bergrivier's population density stood at 17 persons per square kilometer, offering a basis for comparison among local municipal areas in the West Coast District, facilitating informed decision-making for regional development strategies.

Saldanha Bay	62 people/km ²
Swartland	38 people/km ²
Bergrivier	17 people/km²
Cederberg	8 people/km ²
Matzikama	6 people/km ²

EDUCATION



Learner enrolment



Educational facilities 2022

19

Number of schools

68.4%

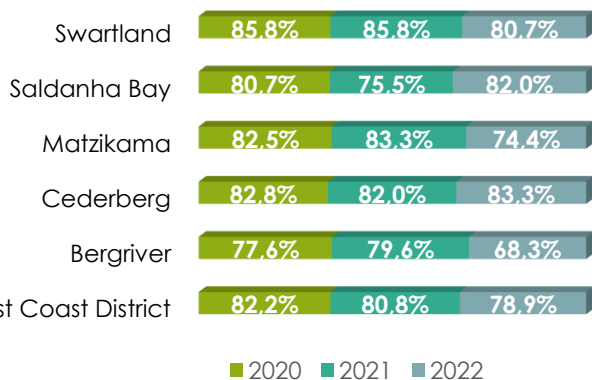
Proportion of no-fee schools

Number of schools with libraries

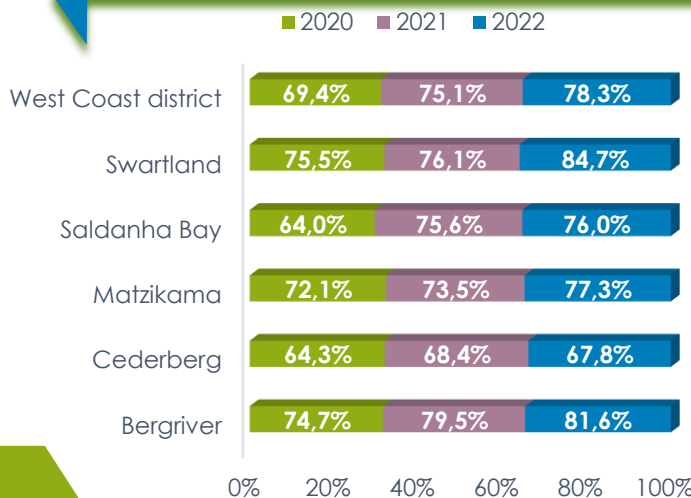
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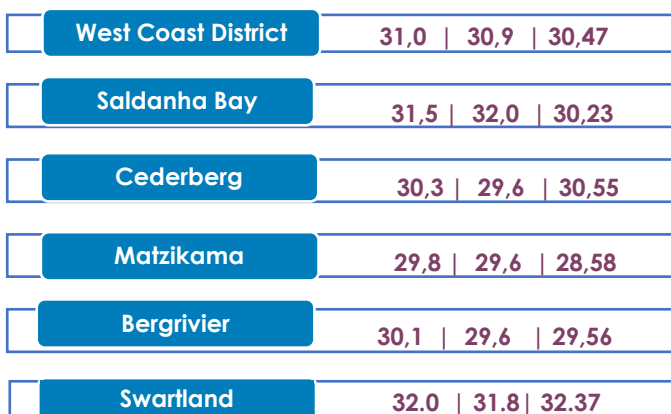
Education outcomes



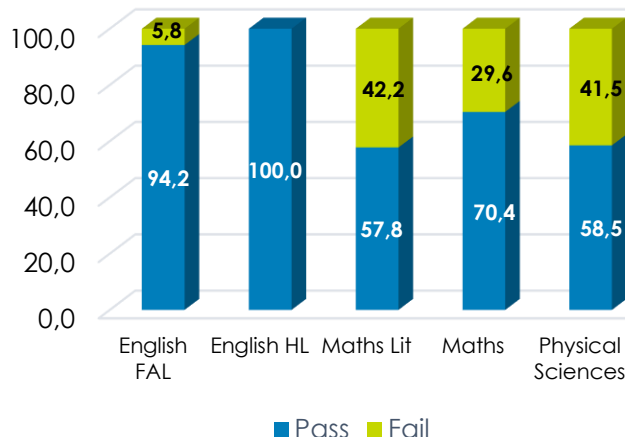
Learner retention 2020 - 2022



Learner-Teacher Ratio 2020-2022



Subject Outcomes



Introduction

In socio-economic terms, education serves as a crucial driver of positive change by empowering individuals to acquire knowledge and skills. The acquisition of education is linked to improved employability, as individuals gain the expertise needed to participate in a dynamic and competitive job market. Education equips individuals with the tools necessary to navigate and contribute to various sectors of the economy, fostering human capital development. A well-educated workforce is often associated with higher levels of productivity and innovation, contributing to overall economic growth. Beyond individual benefits, the societal impact of education is profound, as it helps in breaking the cycle of poverty, reducing income inequality, and promoting social mobility.

Education Facilities, Learner-teacher Ratio

In 2022, there were 19 schools in the Bergrivier municipal area, of which 68.4 per cent were no fee schools and only 10 had libraries. The No-fee Schools Policy abolishes school fees in the poorest 40 per cent of schools nationally, for learners from Grade R to Grade 9, specifying that schools that do not charge fees will be allocated a larger total of funding per learner from the national budget for the foregone fee revenue.

The learner-teacher ratio has shown a slight decrease over the past few years, from 29.6 in 2021 to 29.5 in 2022, however still within the recommended learner teacher ratio of 30:1 for South African schools. As this ratio impacts teaching directly by indicating the teacher resource available as well as the class sizes and context in which teaching takes place, it implies that schools with higher ratios may struggle to provide the same quality of education as those with lower ratios, potentially exacerbating educational inequalities.

Learner Enrolment & Retention Rates

In the Bergrivier region, learner enrollment reached 8 778 in 2022, slightly surpassing the 8 692 enrolled in 2021. The increase in learner enrollment is indicative of positive developments such as improved access to education and heightened awareness of its societal benefits. However, this growth also presents socio-economic challenges, particularly in terms of infrastructure and resource demands, necessitating ongoing enhancements in educational quality to effectively cater to the expanding student population. As the number of learners rises, there is a critical need for strategic planning and investment in education to ensure that the system can accommodate the influx while maintaining or improving the overall quality of education.

The learner retention rate is influenced by a wide array of factors, including economic influences such as unemployment, poverty/very low household income, as well as social concerns such as teenage pregnancies, overcrowded classrooms, student attitudes towards education, as well as other personal circumstances which can make it difficult for learners to focus on education. The grade 10 to 12 retention rate for the Bergrivier area stood at a modest 81.6 per cent, signaling significant challenges and concerns. Nevertheless, this performance emerged as the most favorable among the local municipalities within the region. Mitigating school dropouts requires a collaborative effort and a commitment to creating a supportive and inclusive educational environment that accommodates the diverse needs of students, tailored to the unique local challenges and circumstances.

Education & Subject Outcomes

In socio-economic terms, Bergrivier has witnessed a notable decline in its matriculation pass rate, dropping from 79.6 per cent in 2021 to 68.3 per cent in 2022. While English pass rates remain commendable, the performance in critical subjects such as mathematics (57.8 per cent in pure mathematics; 70.4 per cent in mathematics literacy) and physical sciences (58.5 per cent) falls significantly below the overall pass rate. It is crucial to recognize that strong outcomes in mathematics and science often serve as prerequisites for pursuing higher education and specific career paths.

When examining matric pass rates, it is imperative to consider them together with retention rates, as low retention rates can potentially distort educational outcomes. Observing the results, there is typically a correlation where outcomes appear higher when retention rates are lower. Ensuring the retention of learners is a fundamental aspect of achieving holistic favourable education outcomes.



Healthcare Facilities



3 Fixed PHC Facilities
8 Mobile/Satellite Clinics



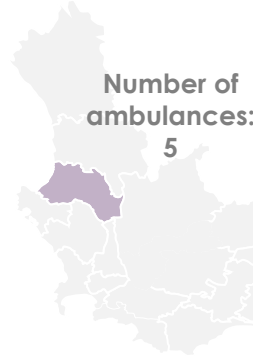
10 ART Clinics/
Treatment Sites
11 TB Clinics/
Treatment Sites



2 District Hospital



Emergency Medical Services



EMS per 10 000 people

WCD	0,6
Matzikama	0,8
Cederberg	1,1
Bergirivier	0,7
Saldanha Bay	0,4
Swartland	0,4



Maternal Health

BERGRIVIER 2023:
Maternal Health Indicators

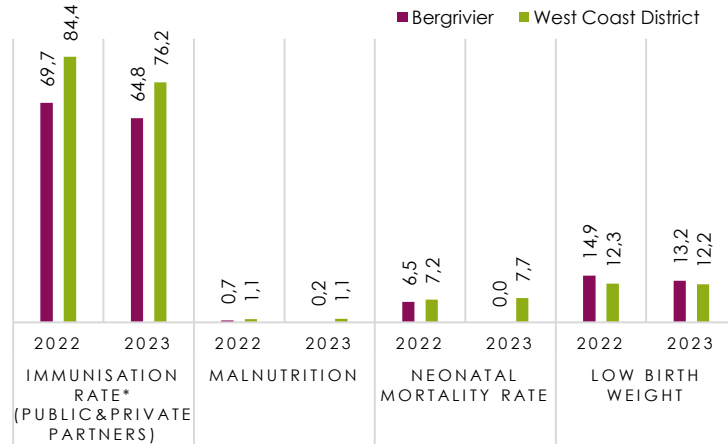
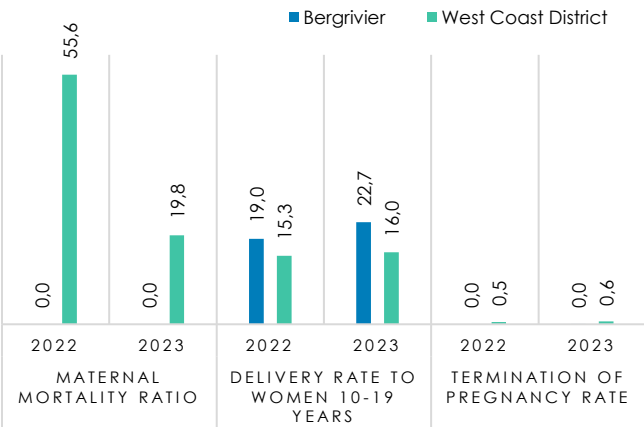
- Maternal deaths in facility : 0
- Deliveries in facility u19 years : 101
- Termination of pregnancy : 3



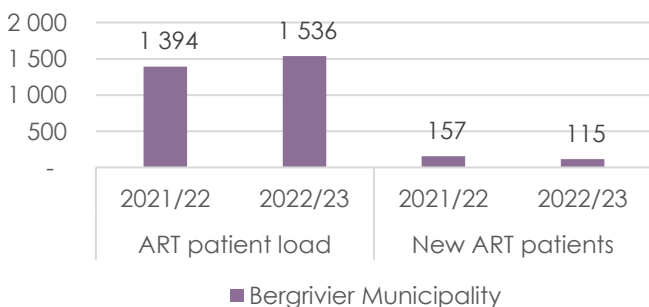
Child Health

BERGRIVIER 2023:
Child Health Indicators

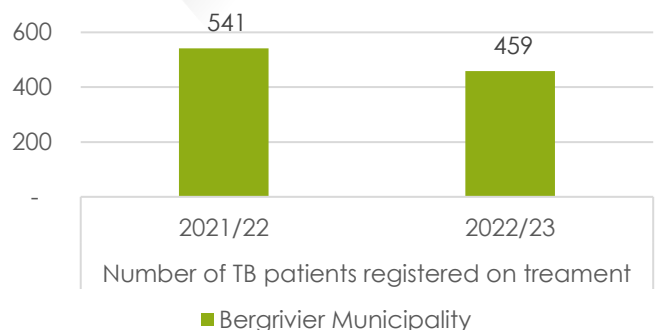
- Live births under 2500g (low birth weight) : 56
- Inpatient deaths 6-28 day : 0
- Immunisation u1 year : 684
- Severe acute malnutrition u5 years : 1



HIV/AIDS



Tuberculosis



Healthcare facilities

South Africa's healthcare system is a mix of public and private providers, and its health facilities are an essential component of ensuring access to healthcare services for the country's diverse population. Government plays a pivotal role in providing healthcare services through the public sector, while the private sector offers additional options for those who can afford it. The public healthcare system follows a referral system, where patients receive primary care at clinics and are referred to district or provincial hospitals for more specialised care when needed. Across the Bergivier area, there are a total of 3 fixed primary health care facilities. Additionally, there were 8 mobile/satellite clinics, as well as 10 ART clinics/treatment sites and 11 TB clinics/treatment sites. Furthermore, in addition to these primary healthcare facilities, there are two district hospitals serving the region. As a pivotal component of the healthcare system, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) play a crucial role in bridging the gap between emergencies and hospital-based medical care. The timely and effective response of EMS significantly influences the chances of survival and recovery for individuals facing critical health crises. However, it's essential to recognise that EMS encompasses various services, personnel, and resources designed to provide immediate medical assistance and pre-hospital care. In the context Bergivier, the availability of operational ambulances is a significant factor in emergency situations. The area is serviced by a total of 5 ambulances, equating to 0.7 ambulances per 100 000 people in 2022/23. It is noteworthy that this figure only accounts for provincial ambulances and excludes services provided by private providers. This analysis sheds light on the regional capacity for emergency response, emphasising the need for a well-equipped and efficiently managed EMS system to cater to the healthcare needs of the population.

Maternal health

In the context of the Bergivier region, it is noteworthy that there were no reported maternal deaths in the 2021/22, and 2022/23. During the period spanning from 2021/22 to 2022/23, there was an increase in the proportion of deliveries to women 10-19 years, increase from 19.0 per cent to 22.7 per cent. The latter figure translates into a total of 101 births to these young women. Conversely, the termination of pregnancy rate remained constant at 0.0 between 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Child health

In the Bergivier region, there has been a notable decline in the immunisation rate, decreasing from 69.7 per cent in 2021/22 to 64.8 per cent in 2022/23, remaining below the optimal level. Concurrently, the malnutrition rate among children under five years old per 100 000 in the Bergivier municipal area experienced a modest decrease from 0.7 percent in 2021/22 to 0.2 per cent in 2022/23, while the rate for the District remained stable at 1.1 per 100 000 during the same reporting period. Meanwhile, the neonatal mortality rate (NMR) per 1 000 live births in the Bergivier municipal area declined from 6.5 in 2021/22 to 0.0 in 2022/23, whereas the District-wide rate exhibited a slight uptick from 7.2 to 7.7 during the same timeframe.

HIV/AIDS & Tuberculosis

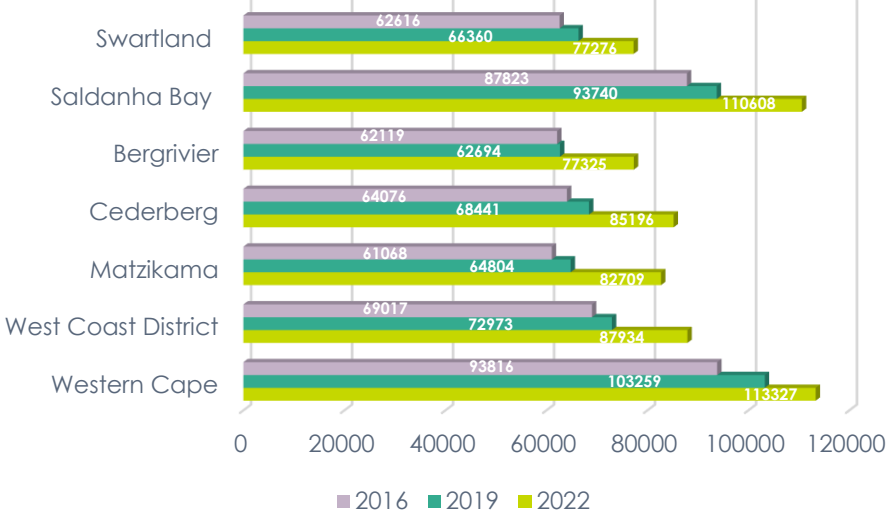
In the Bergivier region, there has been a notable rise in the overall enrollment of individuals undergoing antiretroviral treatment, witnessing an uptick of 142 patients from 1 394 in the 2021/22 period to 1 536 in 2022/23. On the flip side, there has been a decline in the count of new patients commencing antiretroviral treatment, decreasing by 42 individuals to 115 in 2022/23 compared to the 157 recorded in the previous year. Furthermore, a reduction has been observed in the number of tuberculosis patients enlisted for treatment, diminishing from 541 in 2021/22 to 459 in 2022/23.

From a socio-economic perspective, this shift in healthcare dynamics could have multifaceted implications. The increase in overall enrollment for antiretroviral treatment may suggest an improvement in access to healthcare services or an enhanced awareness of the importance of HIV treatment in the Bergivier region. This could be indicative of a positive trend in managing and addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic, contributing to improved public health outcome.

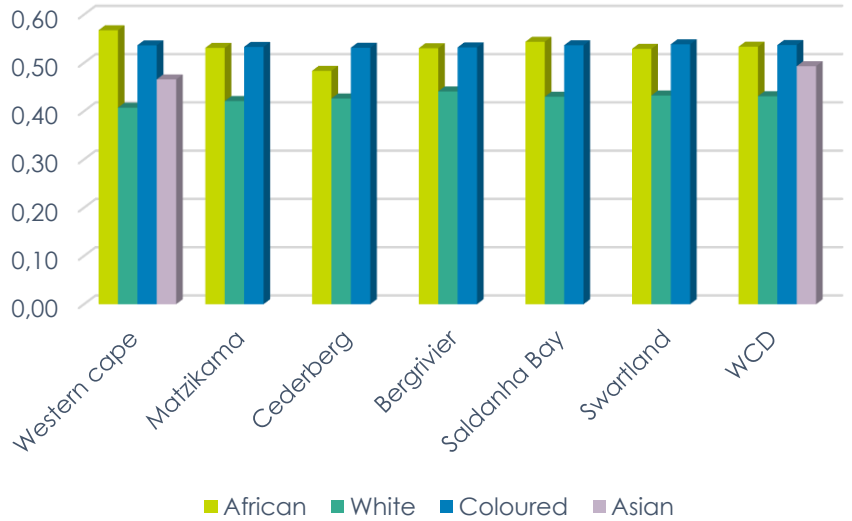
POVERTY



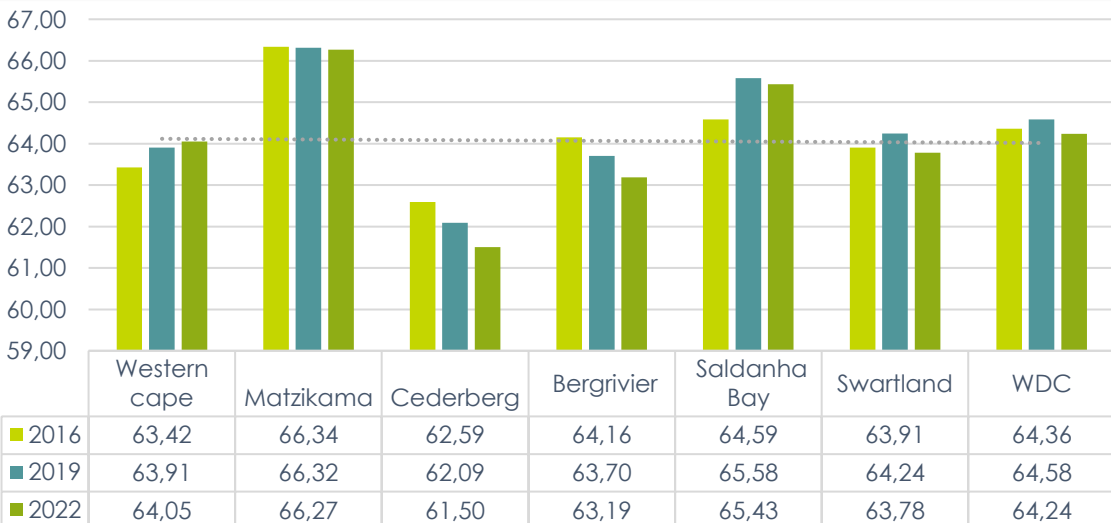
GDP per capita



Income Inequality



Poverty Line



GDPR Per Capita

In the year 2022, the per capita GDP in the Bergrivier region was recorded at R77,325, standing as the second lowest figure within the District, with the District average resting at R87,934. Although real GDP per capita serves as an indicator of changes in the overall well-being of the populace, it is imperative to recognize that not everyone in the economy will earn an identical income, as suggested by the measure of real GDP per capita.

However, despite the general desirability of a high GDP per capita, it is crucial to scrutinize its distribution and the welfare of all sectors of the population. The mitigation of income disparities, the promotion of inclusive growth, and the addressing of sustainability concerns emerge as pivotal tasks, especially in regions characterized by lower per capita GDP, such as the Bergrivier area.

Income Inequality

South Africa contends with one of the highest levels of global inequality, as indicated by the widely utilised Gini index. This stark economic disparity is observable in the uneven distribution of income, discrepancies in access to opportunities, and regional economic variations. The National Development Plan (NDP) has set an ambitious objective of diminishing income inequality in South Africa, with the aim of reducing the Gini coefficient from 0.7 in 2010 to 0.6 by 2030.

In the specific case of Bergrivier, its Gini coefficient experienced a consistent increase from 0.56 in 2015 to 0.60 in 2021, likely exacerbated by the economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment and overall economic conditions. However, there was a notable decrease to 0.58 in 2022. This decline in the Gini coefficient suggests progress towards realising the NDP's goal of reducing income inequality within the Bergrivier area. The socio-economic implications of this improvement may encompass enhancements in social equity, greater economic stability, and improved overall well-being for the community.

Poverty Line

According to its definition, the Upper Bound Poverty Line (UBPL) is the percentage of the population living below a standard that ensures they cannot afford sufficient amounts of both food and non-food items. In South Africa, an individual with an income of less R1 335 (in April 2021 prices) per person per month was categorized as living in poverty. In 2022, 63.19 per cent of the population in the Bergrivier region live in poverty. This represents the second lowest proportion of people living in poverty at West Coast District area. Among the areas within the West Coast District, Matzikama had the highest poverty rate (66.27 per cent)

From a socio-economic perspective, the prevalence of such high poverty rates in the Bergrivier region signifies deep-seated challenges, potentially rooted in factors like limited economic opportunities, insufficient social support systems, or disparities in resource allocation. The socio-economic implications are profound, encompassing restricted access to education, healthcare, and basic necessities, perpetuating a cycle of disadvantage. Addressing these issues demands targeted policy interventions focused on bolstering economic prospects, redistributing resources equitably, and implementing comprehensive social welfare initiatives to uplift communities and break the cycle of poverty in the affected regions.

BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY

20 412
Bergrivier

150 840
West Coast District

Total number of households

91,6%

Formal main dwelling

18 699
Bergrivier

132 174
West Coast District

87,6%

91,6% Bergrivier
87,6% West Coast

Formal Dwelling



1,4% Bergrivier
1,5% West Coast

Traditional dwelling



6,4% Bergrivier
10,4% West Coast

Informal Dwelling

0,6% Bergrivier
0,4% West Coast

Other/Unspecified



Piped water inside dwelling/yard or communal/neighbor's tap

Bergrivier 88,7%
West Coast 86,3%



Flush/chemical toilet

Bergrivier 97,7%
West Coast 94,5%



Electricity (incl. generator) as primary source of lighting

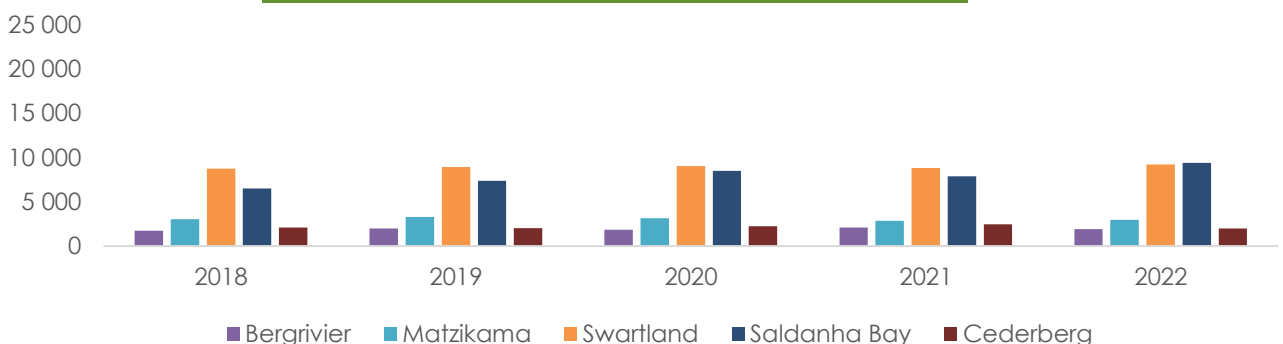
Bergrivier 98,6%
West Coast 95,6%



Refuse removal at least once a week

Bergrivier 85,4%
West Coast 84,0%

Indigent Households West Coast Municipalities



In accordance with the constitutional framework, it is mandated that every citizen has the right to access adequate housing, with the onus on the state to enact reasonable legislative measures and other relevant actions within the confines of its available resources, aiming for the progressive realisation of this right. This right extends to encompass not only housing but also includes access to essential services such as clean water, basic sanitation, reliable energy sources, and efficient waste disposal services, thereby ensuring that households can maintain a decent standard of living.

This segment of the analysis seeks to evaluate the extent to which these constitutional objectives have been attained, relying on the most recent data provided by Quantec Research for the 2022. The latest official statistics was collected by Statistics South Africa for the 2022 Census. Additionally, data pertaining to indigent households has been sourced from the Department of Local Government.

Housing and Household Services

Among the 20 412 households residing in the Bergrivier area, a noteworthy 91.6 per cent enjoyed access to formal housing, surpassing the rate observed in the broader West Coast District, which stood at 87.6 per cent. Furthermore, the municipal area demonstrated a lower incidence of informal dwellings, accounting for only 6.4 per cent of the total, in contrast to the District's higher prevalence of 10.4 per cent.

The Bergrivier area exhibited notably greater service access levels compared to formal housing access, with striking statistics such as access to piped water within the dwelling or yard, which reached an impressive 88.7 per cent. Access to flush or chemical toilets was prevalent among 97.7 per cent of households, access to electricity for lighting was accessible to 98.6 per cent of households and. the regular removal of refuse by local authorities occurred in 85.4 per cent of households. All service access levels outperformed the corresponding figures for the District as a whole.

These findings suggest that the Bergrivier area demonstrates a greater level of housing provision and service accessibility, indicating a more satisfactory living environment for its residents. This could have positive repercussions on the overall quality of life, economic opportunities, and public well-being within the Bergrivier area.

Free Basic Services

Municipalities also provide a package of free basic services to households who are financially vulnerable and struggle to pay for services. Although the number of households receiving free basic services have fluctuated between 2017 and 2020 in the Bergrivier municipal area, in the most recent year there has been a decrease in the number of households accessing free basic services. The stressed economic conditions are expected to exert additional pressure on household income, which will likely increase the demand for free basic services and in turn could possibly also increase the number of indigent households.

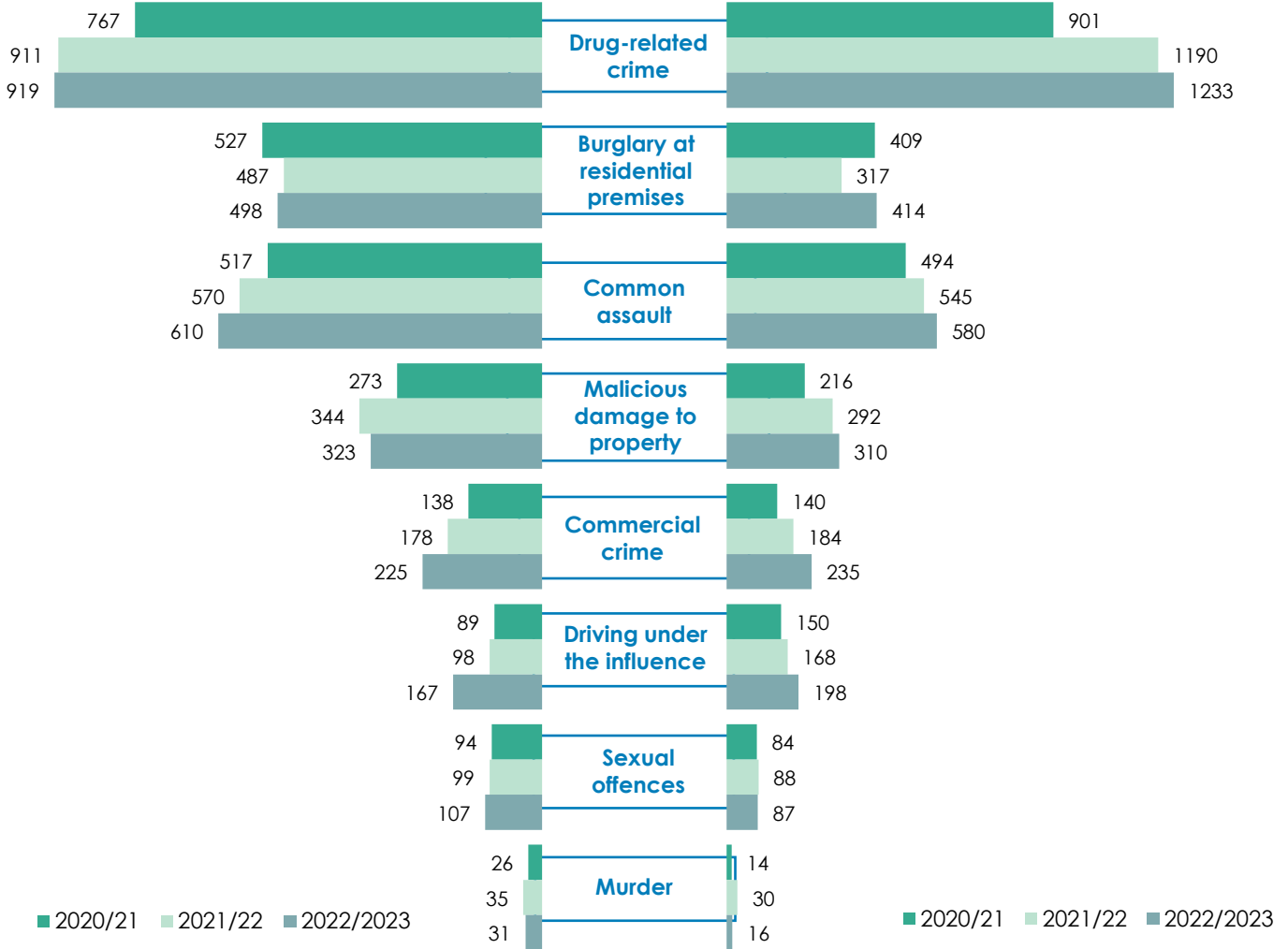
SAFETY AND SECURITY

WEST COST

4 979 Total reported
crime per 100 000 people in the
West Coast District in 2022/23

BERGRIVIER

4 904 Total reported crime
per 100 000 people in Bergrivier in
2022/23



Drug-related
crime
878 (2021/22)
924 (2022/23)

Murder
22 (2021/22)
12 (2022/23)

Sexual
offences
65 (2021/22)
65 (2022/23)

Driving under
the influence
124 (2021/22)
149 (2022/23)



Residential
burglaries
234 (2021/22)
310 (2022/23)

Common assault
402 (2021/22)
435 (2022/23)

Damage to
property
216 (2021/22)
233 (2022/23)

Commercial
crime
136 (2021/22)
176 (2022/23)

Murder

Despite a decline in unemployment within the West Coast District, local communities are still contending with the challenge of rising crime rates. Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, the Bergrivier area experienced a reduction in the number of murders, resulting in an improvement of the murder rate from 30 to 16 per 100 000 people. Bergrivier's murder rate (16) is below the District's average (31) for the 2022/23 period, it is crucial to acknowledge that the overall murder rate decreased across all municipalities in 2022/23, with Swartland recording the lowest number of murder incidents per 100 000 that year.

Sexual Offences

In the 2022/23 period, the Bergrivier area recorded 87 sexual offenses per 100 000 people, this is below the West Coast District's average of 107. The socio-economic conditions underlying these trends are significant. The decline in sexual offenses during 2022 can be linked to the pandemic-induced lockdowns, which altered daily routines and reduced the chances for criminal behavior.

Drug-related Offences

The occurrence and rate of drug-related crimes persist in its upward trajectory, with the Bergrivier area reporting a rate of 1 233 per 100 000 persons in 2022/23. This far surpassed the District's rate of 919 in 2022/23. The increase in Bergrivier rate signifies a critical concern in the surge related drug related offences highlighting the need for intervention.

Driving under the Influence (DUI)

Incidents of driving under the influence (DUI) decreased in all municipal areas in the West Coast District in 2021 due to alcohol restrictions introduced in 2020. However, after the restrictions were lifted, the numbers increased. In the Bergrivier municipal area, the cases of driving under the influence increased from 168 in 2021/22 to 198 in 2022/23 per 100 000 people, which is above the District's average of 167 per 100 000 people.

Residential Burglaries

The rate of burglaries at residential premises in the Bergrivier area has also experienced an increase from 317 in 2021/22 to 414 in 2022/23. For the same period, the West Coast region experienced a similar increase, from 487 to 498.

Common Assault

The continued presence and increase in reported cases of commercial crime, from 402 incidents in 2021/22 to 435 in 2022/23 highlights a continued concern for the economic environment. Commercial crimes, including fraud, and cybercrimes, have significant implications for businesses and investors. A rise suggests a greater incidence of fraudulent activities, which can lead to financial losses for businesses, damage business reputations, and erode investor trust. These crimes often result in legal battles and increased costs related to cybersecurity measures and fraud prevention efforts, diverting resources away from productive investments.

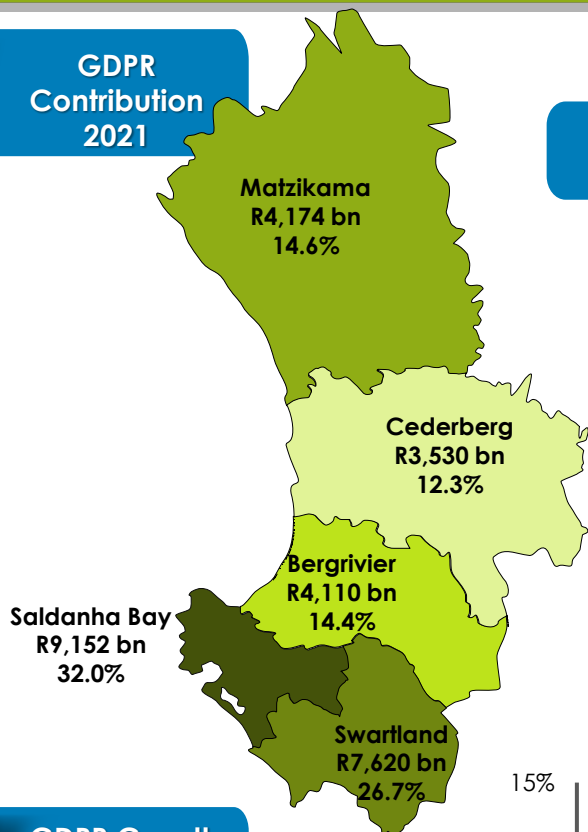
Damage to Property

There was a slight increase in reported cases of damages to property, rising from 216 incidents in 2021/22 to 23 in 2022/23. The rate is below that of the District, at 310 compared to the District rate of 323 per 100 000. This high rate raises significant concerns within the Bergrivier area and could be indicative of potential challenges in maintaining public infrastructure and private properties, which are crucial for a conducive business environment.

GDPR PERFORMANCE



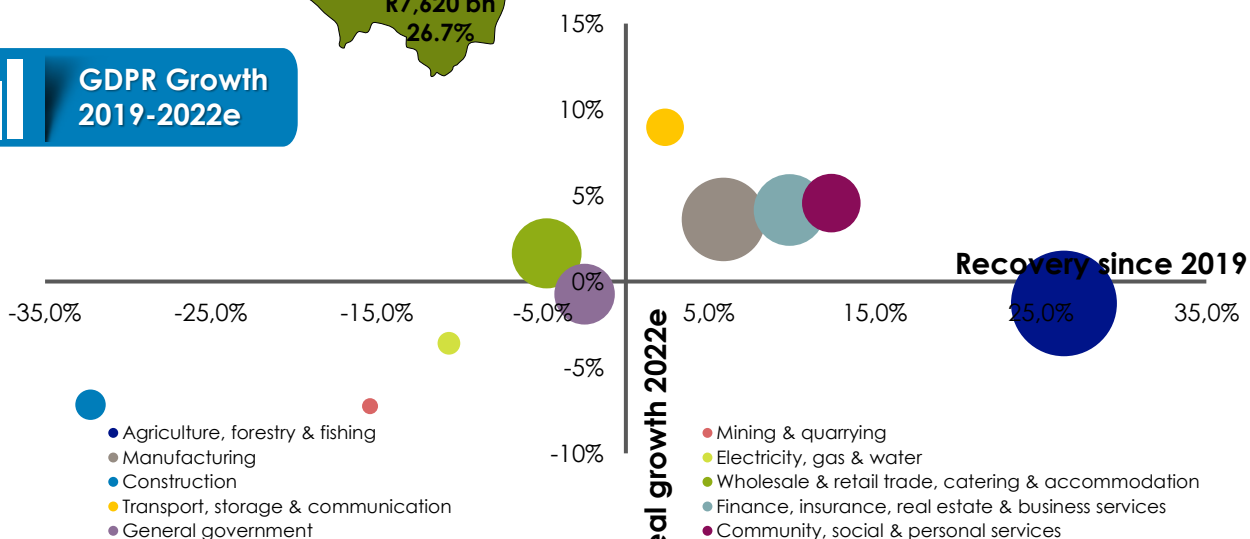
GDPR Contribution 2021



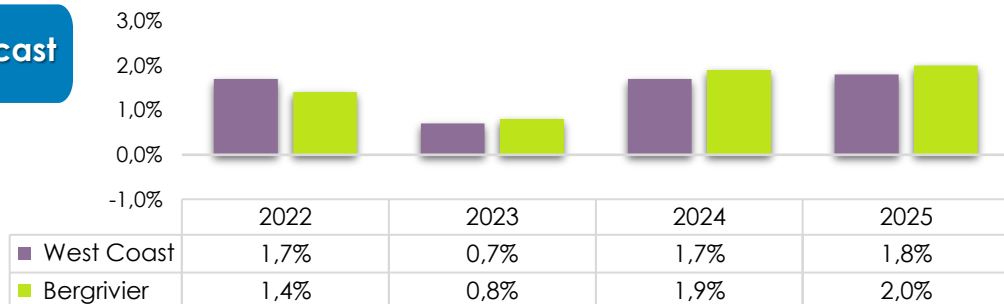
Sectoral contribution to GDPR 2021



GDPR Growth 2019-2022e



GDPR forecast

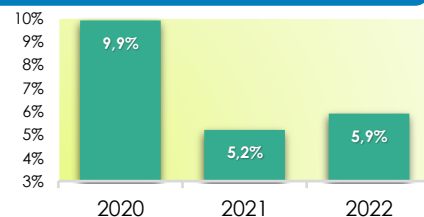


International Trade, 2022

Imports: R315.8 million
Exports: R644.5 million



Tourism spend % of GDP



GDPR Performance

In 2021, the Bergrivier municipal area contributed significantly to the West Coast District (WCD) economy, with a Gross Domestic Product at the municipal level (municipal GDPR) amounting to R5.3 billion, constituting 14.0 percent of the WCD economy. The economic landscape of the region is heavily influenced by the fishing, aquaculture, and associated processing activities, particularly centered around Velddrif, known for its prominent Bokkomlaan. Velddrif serves as a crucial hub for employment, primarily driven by these maritime activities.

However, the economic dynamics vary across the region, with other towns like Piketberg and Porterville being predominantly sustained by farming activities. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing collectively accounted for 29.2 percent (R1.5 billion) of the municipal GDPR in 2021. The primary contributors to formal employment in this sector were perennial crop production (8,276 jobs), mixed farming (1,239 jobs), and fishing (863 jobs). Consequently, a significant portion of the workforce in the Bergrivier municipal area is engaged in low-skilled jobs, comprising 45.2 percent, while 23.9 percent are classified as semi-skilled.

Furthermore, the informal job sector, constituting 17.6 percent of employment, plays a crucial role in providing opportunities in agricultural and retail sectors. Over the past decade, the agricultural sector has emerged as the leading job creator, followed by personal services and finance. This trend underscores a notable economic diversification in the region and an increasing demand for semi-skilled workers.

From a socio-economic perspective, the reliance on fishing and agriculture signifies the region's vulnerability to fluctuations in these industries. The prevalence of low-skilled and semi-skilled jobs indicates potential challenges in workforce skill development. Moreover, the significance of informal jobs highlights the importance of recognizing and supporting the informal sector, particularly in agriculture and retail.

The observed trend of economic diversification is a positive indicator, suggesting a broadening of the economic base. However, careful attention must be paid to the quality of employment opportunities created, especially in terms of skill levels and job security. Policymakers and stakeholders may need to focus on fostering a resilient and diversified economy that can withstand external shocks while addressing the skills gap to enhance the overall socio-economic well-being of the Bergrivier municipal area.

In 2022, it is estimated that the Gross Domestic Product at the municipal level (municipal GDPR) of Bergrivier experienced a 1.4 percent increase, reflecting a 4.0 percentage point decrease from the growth rate observed in 2021. This deceleration is primarily attributed to a 1.3 percent contraction in the agriculture sector, which faced challenges due to load shedding and significant increases in input costs.

The slowdown in the agriculture sector, a key economic driver in the region, has implications for employment, income, and overall economic stability. Load shedding, a deliberate reduction of electric power, has adversely affected productivity, while rising input costs may have led to reduced profit margins for farmers. The repercussions of these challenges are likely to be felt across the broader socio-economic landscape, particularly among those dependent on agricultural activities for livelihoods.

Despite the setbacks in agriculture, the Bergrivier economy found some resilience through robust performances in the finance and manufacturing sectors. The finance sector, in particular, saw positive growth attributed to the expansion of local business services, resulting in the creation of 186 jobs in 2022. This signifies a diversification of the economic base, with the finance sector playing a pivotal role in mitigating the overall economic impact of challenges faced by the agriculture sector.

GDPR Forecast

Projections for the Gross Domestic Product at the municipal level (municipal GDPR) indicate a further slowdown in growth in 2023, with an anticipated rate of 0.8 percent. This marks a considerable deceleration, influenced by adverse weather conditions, specifically heavy rains in June. These rains compromised harvests and inflicted damage or loss to farm infrastructure, significantly impacting the agriculture sector. The consequences of this slowdown have socio-economic implications, particularly for those reliant on agriculture for employment and income.

However, a more optimistic outlook is projected for 2024, with an anticipated expansion in municipal GDPR by 1.9 percent. This positive forecast is largely contingent on the anticipated success of the manufacturing sector. The resilience and growth of manufacturing are expected to play a pivotal role in offsetting the setbacks experienced in agriculture. The implications of this scenario include potential shifts in employment patterns and income distribution as the relative importance of different sectors in the economy evolves.

Despite the positive outlook for manufacturing, it is crucial to acknowledge a significant risk factor: load-shedding. The potential for intentional electricity supply interruptions poses a substantial threat to the health of the manufacturing sector. Load-shedding has the potential to disrupt production processes, hampering output and, consequently, affecting employment and economic performance. This highlights the interconnectedness of energy stability and economic health, emphasizing the need for robust energy infrastructure and planning to sustain economic growth.

In socio-economic terms, the forecasted trends in Bergrevier for 2023 and 2024 underscore the vulnerability of the region to environmental factors, particularly those affecting the agriculture sector. The anticipated recovery in 2024, driven by the manufacturing sector, offers a positive trajectory, but the risk of load-shedding introduces a note of caution. Policymakers and stakeholders need to consider strategies to enhance the resilience of the agriculture sector, address vulnerabilities related to climate events, and invest in energy infrastructure to ensure sustained economic growth and stability in the face of potential challenges.

LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE

Main sector for employment

- Motion picture, video and television programme production activities
- Mixed farming
- Growing of grapes
- Freshwater fishing
- Other passenger land transport

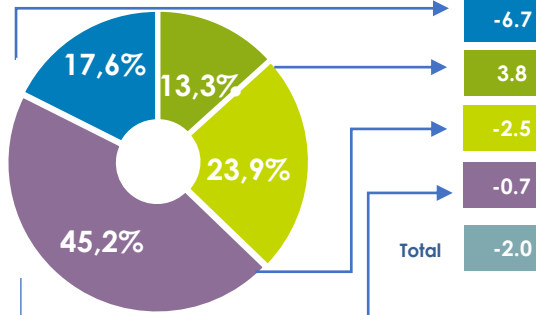
Formal Employment by Town, 2022



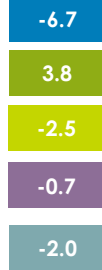
FTE numbers

- 38 - 1 382
- 1 382 - 2 727
- 2 727 - 4 071
- 4 071 - 5 415
- 5 415 - 6 760
- 6 760 - 8 104

Skill Level % Contribution, 2022

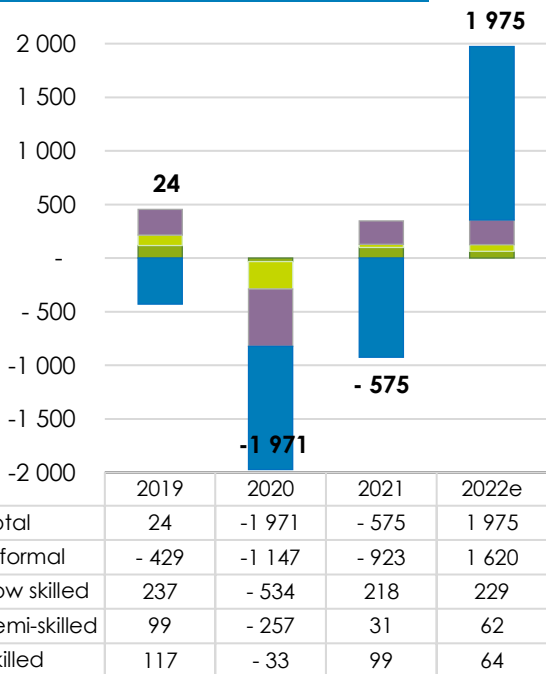


Recovery in Employment (%) 2019-2022

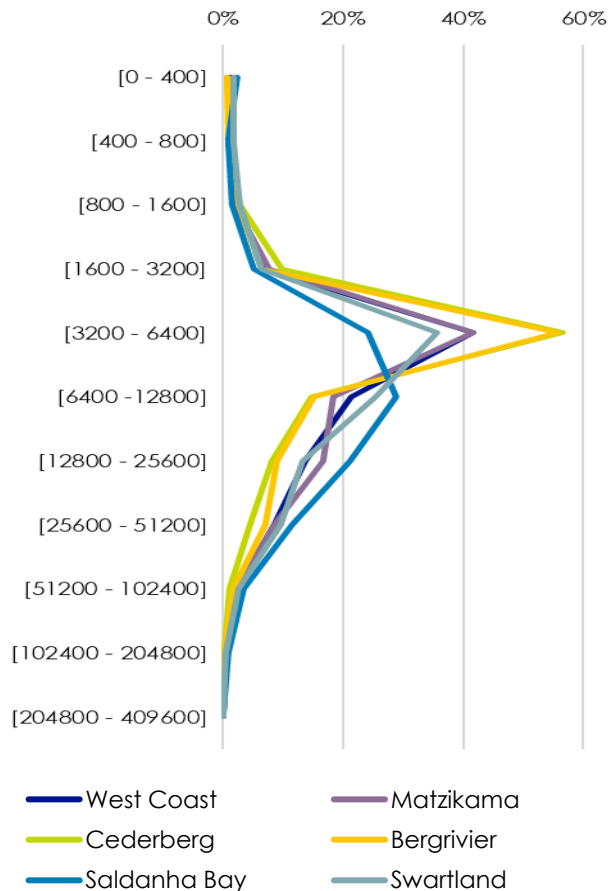


Total Persons Employed 2022	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Low-skilled	Informal
	3 592	6 434	12 265	6 303

Net employment per sector, 2019-2022



Wage Distribution per municipal area, 2022



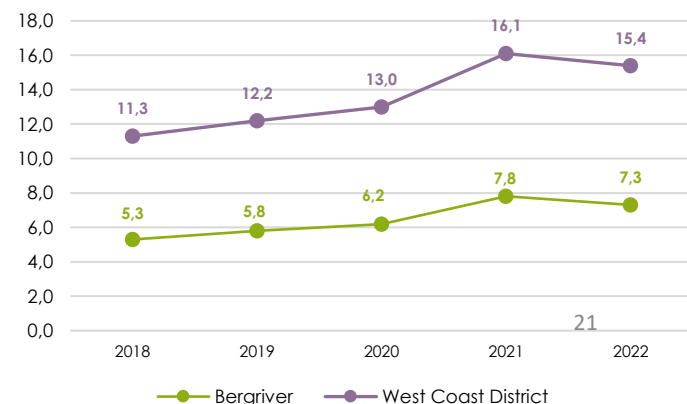
Top 5 Sectors



Sector

Sector	No. of FTE Jobs
Growing of perennial crops	8 276
Motion picture, video and television programme activities	1 265
Mixed farming	1 239
Administration of the state and the economic and social policy of the community	1 112
Fishing	863

Unemployment rate 2018-2022



Labour Market Performance

The economic recovery has also brought some growth in employment, where 2 760 jobs were created in 2022, resulting in a decline in the unemployment rate of from 7.8 per cent in 2021 to 7.3 per cent in 2022. In 2022, the Bergrivier GDP saw a modest 1.4 per cent increase, indicating a 4.0 percentage point deceleration from the previous year. This slowdown can be attributed to a 1.3 per cent contraction in the agriculture sector, adversely affected by factors such as load shedding and substantial increases in input costs. Nonetheless, the economy experienced resilience due to commendable performances in the finance and manufacturing sectors, despite challenges posed by load shedding. The finance sector's positive momentum is primarily attributed to the growth in local business services, resulting in the creation of 186 jobs in 2022. Additionally, the local production of canned fish products contributed to the overall economic buoyancy, highlighting the diversified nature of the region's economy.

The increasing demand for canned fish products serves as a positive indicator for the local manufacturing sector, reflecting consumer preferences and market trends. The upturn in this specific segment not only benefits producers directly involved in canning but also has ripple effects on related industries, contributing to overall economic growth.

The favorable influence of a weakened exchange rate on fishmeal and fish oil producers highlights the intricate connection between economic conditions and international trade. In this context, the depreciation of the local currency has provided a competitive advantage for exporters, facilitating increased revenues. However, it's important to note that the dependence on favorable exchange rates introduces an element of vulnerability, as currency fluctuations can impact the competitiveness of these products in global markets. Overall, these dynamics underscore the complex interplay between market forces, currency values, and the economic

Skills Distribution

It is estimated that Bergrivier's total employed will in 2022 amount to 28 594 workers, of which 22 291 (77.9 per cent) are employed in the formal sector and 6 303 (28.2 per cent) are informally employed. The majority of semi-skilled workers find employment in the trade and finance sectors. By contrast, low-skilled workers are more typically employed in agriculture or personal services. When evaluating the period of recovery from 2019 to 2022, all segments experienced declines in employment, however, to varying degrees. While the skilled workforce segment exhibited a relatively modest contraction, the contraction experienced by the informal sector and low skilled segment experienced a substantial decline in employment. These changes signify shifts in the employment landscape and carry economic implications for the region.

Most of the formally employed consisted of low-skilled (45.2 per cent) and semi-skilled (23.9 per cent) workers. Although the skilled category only contributed 13.3 per cent to total formal employment (2022), it outpaced the other two categories in terms of average annual growth – between 2019 and 2022, the skilled cohort grew on average by 3.8 per cent while the semi-skilled and low-skilled categories contracted by 0.7 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively.

Wage Distribution

In 2022, salaries in the Bergrivier municipal area were modest, with a substantial 48.4 per cent of formally employed individuals earning less than R6 400 per month. This situation gives rise to several socio-economic difficulties and a significant reliance on public sector assistance.

RISK AND VULNERABILITY FACTORS



VULNERABILITY*

Local municipalities are ranked according to their vulnerability relative to all 25 municipalities in the province (Rank). A higher ranking (out of 25) indicates the municipality is comparatively worse off.

An additional score (out of 10) is provided for vulnerability factors relative to all 213 municipalities in the country (Score).

Municipality	Socio-Economic		Economic		Physical		Environmental	
	The indicator shows the vulnerability of households living in the municipality with regards to the household's age composition, education and health status, access to basic services, and safety and security (2011 baseline)		Vulnerability of the municipality to external shocks is based on the economic diversity, size of the economy, labour force, GDP growth rate and the income inequality present in the municipality (2011 baseline)		Physical vulnerability addresses the physical fabric and connectedness of the settlements in the municipality. The more remote and/or structurally vulnerable, the higher the physical vulnerability score		Env. vulnerability represents the conflict between preserving natural environment & growth pressures associated with population growth, urbanisation, and econ development. It measures air quality, env. governance, & the competition between the ecology and urban encroachment	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Matzikama	17	2.17	23	4.26	25	7.19	1	1.91
Cederberg	18	2.29	10	2.82	16	5.75	12	4.75
Bergrivier	3	1.23	5	1.30	2	4.33	10	4.48
Saldanha Bay	1	1.00	18	3.67	10	5.22	17	5.23
Swartland	7	1.45	8	2.32	8	5.15	5	4.10

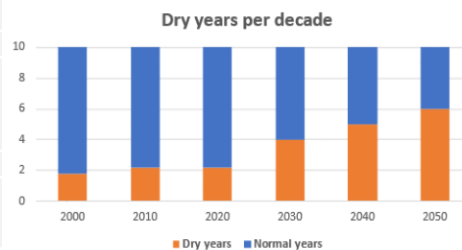
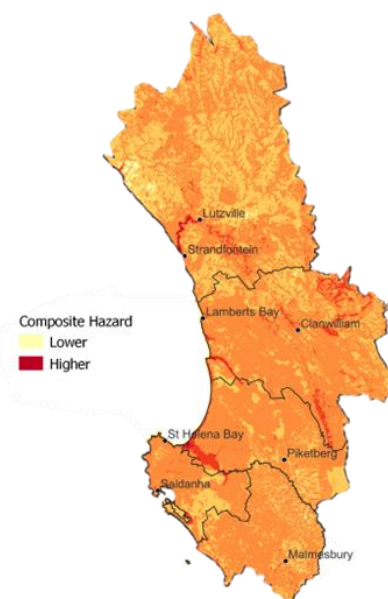


HAZARDS *

Bergrivier Overall Population Growth Pressure:

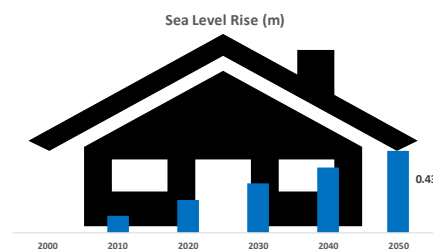
Continuous Medium to High growth pressure in most settlements *

Four of the Top 10 Risks in the Cape Winelands are environmental in nature (Provincial Disaster Risk Register)	Bergrivier's identified Hydro-meteorological Hazards to settlements as observed by the CSIR (The Greenbook*)
1. Human Health Conditions And Reportable Human Diseases	
2. Structural Fires (Formal/Informal)	Low short term coastal erosion exposure risk and low exposure of settlements to coastal flooding [note caveat that WC data may reveal a higher risk to the coast]
3. Civil Unrest	Likelihood of wildfires occurring prevalent with low to moderate potential increase in exposure of settlements to wildfires
4. Severe Weather	
5. Wildfires	
6. Service Disruption: Electricity	Likelihood of wildfires occurring in the wildland-urban interface (the boundary or interface between developed land and fire-prone vegetation) of the settlement prevalent
7. Floods	
8. Transport Incidents/ Road Accidents	Drought tendencies prevalent, and moderate to high potential increase in exposure of settlements to drought. Medium potential increase in exposure of settlements to heat extremes
9. Service Disruption: Water Supply	
10. Hazmat Incidents (Road / Rail)	Moderate to significant decrease in extreme rainfall days with very low to low potential increase in exposure of settlements to flooding



Temperature change (2050 compared to historic)*	
Mean temperature increase (District)	1.3 °C higher
Additional days per year with daily maximum temperature above 30 °C (Bergrivier)	21 days

West Coast no. of dry years per decade†						
	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
Dry years	1.8	2.2	2.2	4	5	6
Wet years	8.2	7.8	7.8	6	5	4



* Le Roux, A., van Niekerk, W., Arnold, K., Pieterse, A., Ludick, C., Forsyth, G., Le Maitre, D., Lötter, D., du Plessis, P. & Mans, G. 2019. Green Book Risk Profile Tool. Pretoria: CSIR. Available at: riskprofiles.greenbook.co.za

† Jack, C., Van Aardenne, L., Wolski, P., Pinto, I., Quagraine, K. & Kloppers, P. 2022. SmartAgri: Updated Climate Change Trends and Projections for the Western Cape. Cape Town: University of Cape Town. Available at <https://www.elsenburg.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/SmartAgri-Climate-Change.pdf>

Sea-level rise and Storm Surges

Although we expect fewer storm systems to reach the Western Cape in future, increased sea temperatures could mean increased storm activity and slightly stronger winds. At the same time the thermal expansion of the oceans will result in 0.25m – 0.75m of sea level rise by 2050, with associated swash run up of roughly 3.0m – 3.5m above the mean sea level (excluding tidal influence). Sandy shores are most affected – some areas in the West Coast have seen beaches retreat landward at a rate of 1m per year. This affects infrastructure directly and detracts from the amenity value of the coastline.

Drought

According to the CSIR Green Book, Bergrivier has a medium to high potential exposure to an increase in drought. Currently 2.2 years per decade are at risk of drought, and this will increase to 6 out of every 10 years by 2050. Water, and related sanitation services, is a key ingredient for socioeconomic development, food security and healthy ecosystems, and is vital for reducing the burden of disease and improving the health, welfare and productivity of populations. A deteriorating water catchment system, through ecosystem loss (transformation or land use change) and alien infestation, or watercourse and wetland modification, will lead to lower inputs into the water supply systems, and a lower overall water security due to lower natural retention and lower quality of water. During extended drought periods, even end users far from major source areas are likely to experience shortages as the overall system runs low.

Temperatures

Average temperature has been increasing since the 1900s. Projections indicate that Bergrivier can expect an additional 21 extremely hot days per year by 2050, which will affect food security, exposure to extreme heat, health and water quality.

Vegetation Fires

Although critical for a healthy ecosystem, fire is a significant threat to human lives, food security, socio-economic activities and livelihoods, as well as infrastructure and other assets. Furthermore, in many areas land has been converted from natural vegetation to other land-cover types - some of which significantly modify the fuel loads (e.g., the establishment of forest plantations and the spread of several introduced tree species such as pines, hakea, wattles and eucalypts). Fires in vegetation with high fuel loads increase soil erosion and run-off, which negatively affects ecosystem services and increases the impact of floods, among other factors. Where severe fires have occurred due to high fuel loads, resulting soil erosion leads to the sedimentation of rivers and dams and therefore declining water quality (and increased water treatment costs).

Floods

Floods result in millions or billions of Rands' damage to built structures or lost productivity, the loss of livelihoods and in some cases the loss of lives. A 2016 report calculated that four severe weather events between 2011 and 2014 caused more than R1.6 billion worth of damage in the Western Cape, and in the recent September 2023 severe weather event, flood-related infrastructure damage alone amounted to R2 billion. Flooding is also one of the main disaster risks affected by climate change. Changes in rainfall volume, intensity and timing will alter flood risk profiles, and necessitate a constant reconsideration of risks and risk reduction measures.

CONCLUSION

The impact of drought in a municipal area is far-reaching, affecting agriculture, economy, water supply, environment, public health, and community dynamics. Effective mitigation and adaptation strategies are essential to enhance the resilience of the community and minimize the adverse effects of drought events.

Given the decline in the matric pass rate to 68.5 per cent in 2022, concerns persist regarding subject outcomes, particularly in mathematics and physical sciences, posing potential obstacles to future opportunities and career choices. In socio-economic terms, the educational challenges may perpetuate cycles of disadvantage by limiting access to quality education and impacting the skill sets of the local workforce, potentially hindering broader economic development.

Additionally, the escalating crime rates in the Bergrivier area pose a threat to the local economy, deterring businesses from investing and potentially resulting in reduced economic growth and job opportunities, especially in specific regions. This not only strains local government budgets due to heightened security costs but also negatively affects the tourism sector. The challenge of attracting skilled workers underscores the importance of addressing infrastructure gaps for fostering a diverse skill set and contributing to the sustainable development of the Bergrivier municipal area. The interconnectedness of these issues emphasises the need for a comprehensive approach that addresses education, crime, and economic development to ensure a balanced and inclusive socio-economic landscape.

The prevalence of high poverty rates in the Bergrivier region further underscores the urgent need for targeted policy interventions that address economic disparities, enhance social support systems, and uplift communities, breaking the cycle of poverty and fostering sustainable development. Lastly, the environmental challenges, including sea-level rise, drought, rising temperatures, vegetation fires, and floods, demand strategic planning and attention to ensure long-term resilience and the well-being of the Bergrivier area. Overall, a coordinated effort from various stakeholders is imperative to tackle these multifaceted challenges and seize opportunities for the betterment and sustainability of the region.

SOURCES

1. Demographics

- Population: *Department of Social Development, 2022*
- Sex ratio: *Department of Social Development, 2022*
- Age cohorts: *Department of Social Development, 2022*
- Number of households: *Department of Social Development, 2022*
- Household size: *Department of Social Development, 2022*
- Population density: *Department of Social Development, 2022*

2. Education

- Learner enrolment: *Western Cape Education Department, 2022; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2022*
- Learner-teacher ratio: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2022*
- Learner retention: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2022*
- Educational facilities: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2022*
- No-fee schools: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2022*
- Schools with libraries: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2022*
- Educational outcomes: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2022*

3. Health

- Healthcare facilities: *Department of Health and Wellness, 2023*
- Emergency medical services: *Department of Health and Wellness, 2023*
- HIV/AIDS: *Department of Health and Wellness, 2023*
- Tuberculosis: *Department of Health and Wellness, 2023*
- Child health: *Department of Health and Wellness, 2023*
- Maternal health: *Department of Health and Wellness, 2023*

4. Poverty

- GDP per capita: *Statistics South Africa, 2022*
- Income Inequality (Gini-coefficient): *Quantec Research, 2022*
- Human Development (Human Development Index): *Quantec Research, 2022*

SOURCES

5. Basic services

- Households: Quantec Research, 2022
- Access to housing: Quantec Research, 2022
- Access to water: Quantec Research, 2022
- Access to electricity: Quantec Research, 2022
- Access to sanitation: Quantec Research, 2022
- Access to refuse removal: Quantec Research, 2022
- Free Basic Services: *Statistics South Africa, Non-Financial Census of Municipalities 2022*

6. Safety and security

- Murder: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2022, own calculations*
- Sexual offences: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2022, own calculations*
- Drug-related crimes: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2022, own calculations*
- Driving under the influence: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2022, own calculations*
- Residential burglaries: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2020, 2022 calculations*

7. Economy

- Sector Performance: *Quantec Research, 2022*
- Employment growth per sector: *Quantec Research, 2022*
- Trends in labour force skills: *Quantec Research, 2022*
- Unemployment rates: *Quantec Research, 2022*