



Western Cape  
Government

A large green shield-shaped logo with a white border. Inside the shield, the letters 'SEP' are written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below 'SEP', the words 'SOCIO-ECONOMIC' and 'PROFILE' are written in smaller, white, capital letters, stacked on two lines.

# SEP

SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
PROFILE





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# Bitou: At a Glance

## Demographics

Population Estimates, 2021; Actual households, 2016



### Population

**69 321**



### Households

**17 892**

## Education

2020



Matric Pass Rate	80.9%
Learner retention rate	65.3%
Learner-Teacher Ratio	32.3

## Poverty

2020



Gini Coefficient	0.67
Human Development Index	0.78

## Health

2019



Primary Health Care Facilities

6

Immunisation Rate

54.9%

Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100 000 live births)

0.0

Teenage Pregnancies - Delivery rate to women U/18

0.0%

## Safety and Security

Actual number of reported cases in 2020/21



Residential Burglaries

513

DUI

39

Drug-related Crimes

245

Murder

11

Sexual Offences

78

## Access to Basic Service Delivery

Percentage of households with access to basic services, 2020



Water

92.3%

Refuse Removal

88.1%



Electricity

94.1%



Sanitation

83.6%



Housing

71.1%



## Road Safety

2020/21

Fatal Crashes

7

Road User Fatalities

7

## Labour

2020

Unemployment Rate (narrow definition)

24.2%



## Socio-economic Risks

- Risk 1 Job losses
- Risk 2 Safety and Security
- Risk 3 In-migration

## Largest 3 Sectors

Contribution to GDP, 2019

Finance, insurance, real estate and business services

**25.2%**

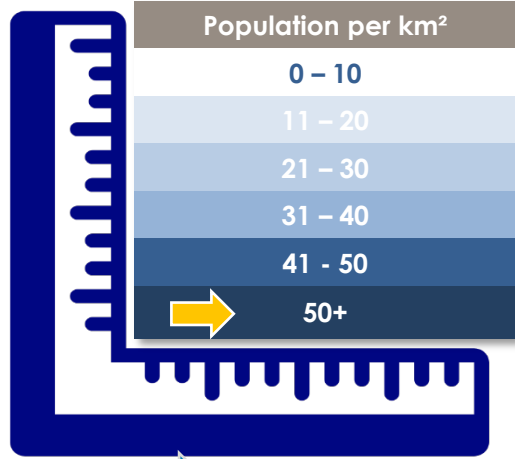
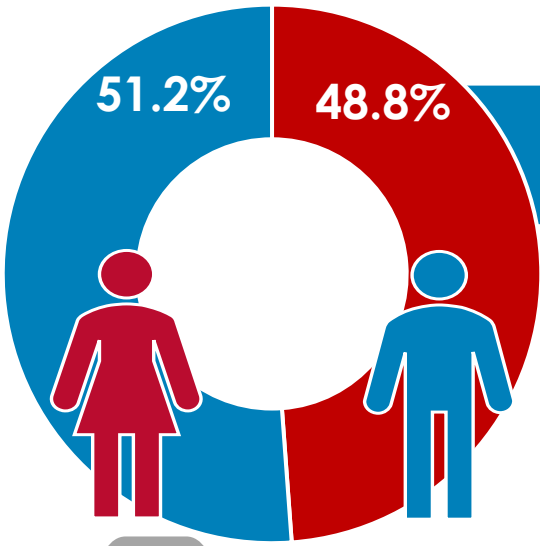
Wholesale & retail trade, catering and accommodation

**19.8%**

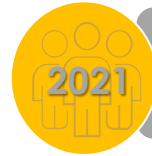
Construction

**12.3%**

# DEMOGRAPHICS

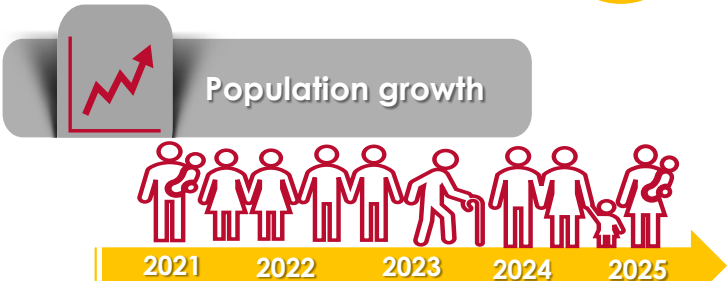
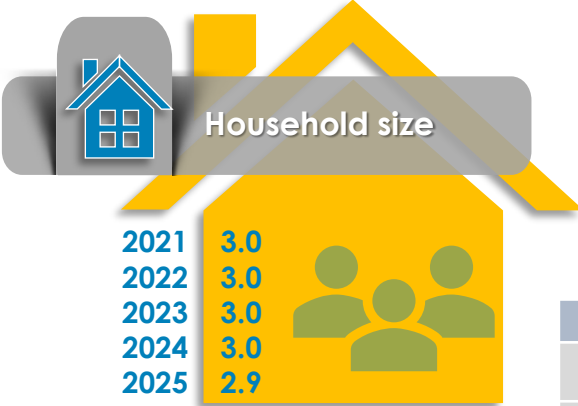
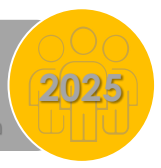


	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Garden Route</b>	<b>91.6</b>	<b>92.2</b>	<b>92.4</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>92.7</b>
Kannaland	87.2	87.4	87.3	87.2	87.1
Hessequa	88.4	88.8	88.8	88.8	88.8
Mossel Bay	90.4	90.8	90.7	90.7	90.6
George	93.2	93.8	94.1	94.3	94.5
Oudtshoorn	88.2	88.7	88.8	89.0	89.1
Bitou	95.4	96.1	96.4	96.6	96.9
Knysna	93.1	93.7	93.8	94.0	94.1

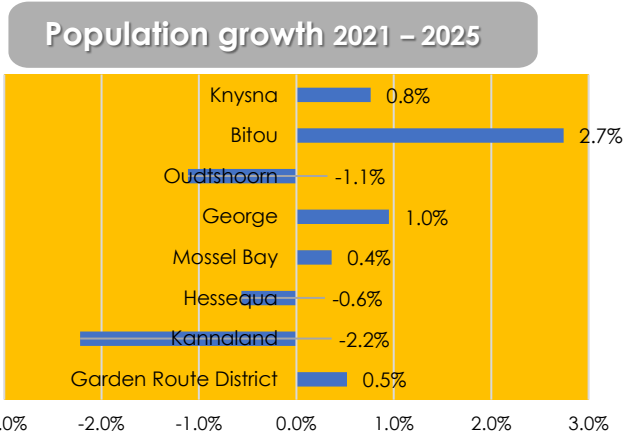
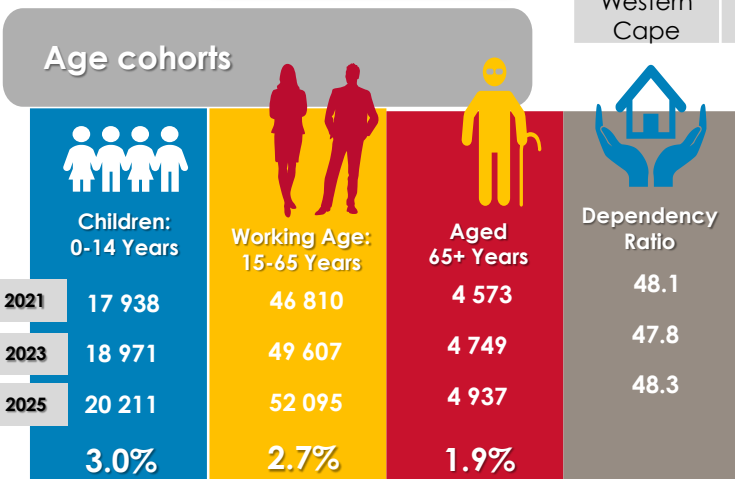


**69 321**  
Current Population

**77 243**  
Estimated Population



	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Bitou</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Garden Route	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Western Cape	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4



# Demographics

## Population

The population of Bitou is 69 321 people in 2021, making it the most populated municipal area in the Garden Route District (GRD). This total is expected to grow to 77 243 by 2025, equating to an average annual growth rate of 2.7 per cent.

## Sex Ratio

The overall sex ratio depicts the number of males per 100 females in the population. The data indicates that there are slightly more females than males in the Bitou municipal area with a ratio of 51.2 per cent (females) to 48.8 per cent (males). The number of males per 100 females for Bitou is expected to increase slightly year on year towards 2024 which could be attributed to in-migration of working males to the Bitou municipal area.

## Age Cohorts

Between 2021 and 2025, the largest population growth is projected in the 0-14 years of age cohort which is expected to grow at an annual average rate of 3.0 per cent, compared to a growth of 2.7 per cent in the working age population and 1.9% per cent in the aged population. These predicted growth rates increases the dependency ratio from 48.1 in 2021 to 48.3 in 2025. Higher dependency places strain on the income of the working age population.

## Household sizes

Household size refers to the number of people per household. The actual size of households is forecasted to decline from 3.7 people per household in 2021 to 2.9 in 2025. Contributing factors to a reduction in household size could include, but are not limited to, lower fertility rates, ageing population, construction of smaller households, etc. Smaller household sizes often lead to a greater demand for housing as the population grows..

## Population density

Amidst rapid urbanisation across the Western Cape, population density figures will aid public sector decision makers to mitigate environmental, individual health and service delivery risks. In 2021, the population density of the Bitou municipal area was more than 50 persons per square kilometre. In order of lowest to highest, the various local municipal areas in the GRD compare as follows:

- Kannaland 5 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Hessequa 9 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Oudtshoorn 26 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- George 43 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Mossel Bay 48 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- **Bitou 70 people/km<sup>2</sup>**
- Knysna 69 people/km<sup>2</sup>



# EDUCATION



## Educational facilities

**11**  
Number of schools

**9**  
Number of no-fee schools



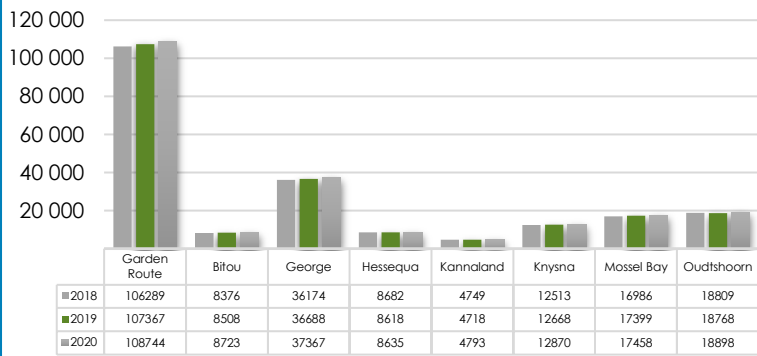
**7** Number of schools with libraries



## Education outcomes

	2018	2019	2020
Oudtshoorn	82.2%	87.3%	78.4%
Mossel Bay	83.1%	84.7%	79.7%
Knysna	77.1%	83.8%	81.3%
Kannaland	85.6%	85.9%	79.1%
Hessequa	84.7%	91.5%	92.4%
George	79.9%	82.0%	77.9%
Bitou	82.2%	89.6%	80.9%
Garden Route	81.3%	85.1%	80.1%

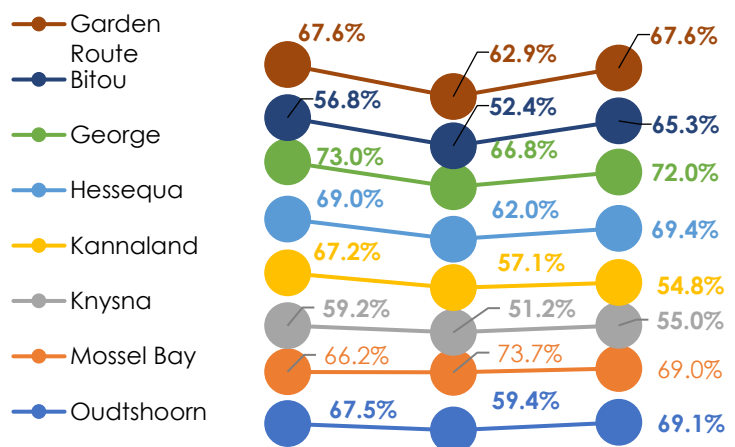
## Learner enrolment



## Learner-Teacher Ratio 2018 -2020

Municipality	2018	2019	2020
Garden Route	30.1	30.1	30.1
Bitou	32.2	32.3	32.3
George	29.9	29.6	29.9
Hessequa	28.6	28.9	29.0
Kannaland	31.4	31.6	30.9
Knysna			
Mossel Bay	30.0	30.3	30.1
Oudtshoorn	30.2	30.8	30.2

## Learner retention



# Education

## **Learner enrolment, the learner-teacher ratio and learner retention rate**

Learner enrolment in Bitou increased by 0.8 per cent annually from 8 376 in 2018 to 8 723 in 2020. This annual average increase is lower than the District annual average growth rate of 1.1 per cent and is reflective of the high 0-14 age population growth rate. The learner teacher ratio at 32.3 ; the highest in the GRD and is stagnant when compared to 2018. The learner retention rate in Bitou is on an upward trend, declining from 56.8 per cent in 2018 to 52.4.0 per cent in 2019 and then increasing to 65.3 per cent in 2020.

## **Number of schools**

In 2020, Bitou had a total of 11 public ordinary schools. The high learner-teacher ratio in Bitou schools could perhaps be an indication that there are not enough class-room space within the Bitou area.

## **Number of no-fee schools**

Given the tough economic climate, schools have been reporting an increase in parents being unable to pay their school fees. To alleviate some of the funding challenges the Western Cape Department of Education (WCED) offered certain fee-paying schools an opportunity to become no-fee schools. The Bitou municipal area has an increasing proportion of no fee schools, with 81.8 per cent of schools being registered with the Western Cape Department of Education as no-fee schools in 2020. Note that Bitou has the third highest proportion of no fee schools in the District.

## **Schools with libraries and media centres**

Schools with libraries and media centres within Bitou have remained constant at 7 from 2018 until 2020. Access to libraries and media centres can have a positive impact on the overall quality of education.

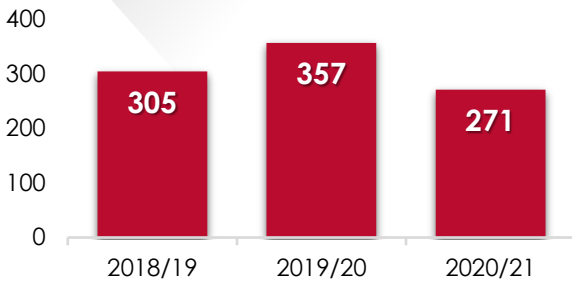
## **Education Outcomes (Matric Pass Rates)**

Education remains one of the key avenues through which the state is involved in the economy. In preparing individuals for future engagement in the labour market, policy choices and decisions in the sphere of education play a critical role in determining the extent to which future economic and poverty reduction plans can be realised. Bitou's matric outcomes have remained consistently above 80 per cent in line with the district's performance from 2018 to 2020.

# HEALTH



## Tuberculosis



## Maternal health

	Maternal Mortality Rate		Delivery rate to women under 20 years		Termination of pregnancy rate	
	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21
Bitou	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Garden Route District	33.4	121.5	15.6	14.7	0.6	0.5



## Healthcare facilities

Regional hospitals	1	0
District hospitals	6	0
Community Day Centres	7	1
Community Health Centres	0	0
PHC Clinics (Satellite and mobile)	35	2
PHC Clinics (Fixed)	33	4

■ Garden Route ■ Bitou

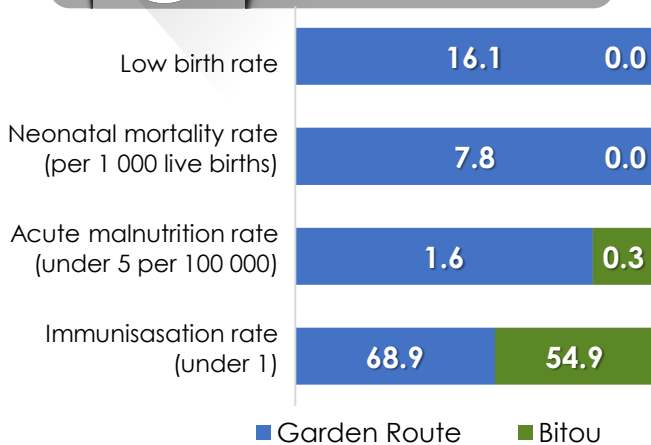


## Emergency medical services

Health Indicator	Bitou	Garden Route
EMS Operational Ambulances	1	28
No of operational ambulances per 10 000 people	7	2



## Child health



## HIV/AIDS

Area	Total Registered patients receiving ART		Number of new ART patients	
	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21
Bitou	3 435	3 02	263	240
Garden Route	25 738	26 996	2 576	2 068



# Health

## Healthcare Facilities

According to the 2019 Inequality Trend report by Statistics South Africa, 75.1 per cent of households in South Africa usually use public healthcare facilities when a household member gets ill compared to 24.9 per cent who use some private healthcare facilities in 2017. This is associated with the low proportion of households with access to Medical Aid, at 16.9 per cent for South Africa and 25 per cent for the Western Cape in 2017. In terms of healthcare facilities, the Bitou municipal area had 6 primary healthcare clinics and one community day centre in 2020/21, the primary health care clinics comprises of 4 fixed and 2 mobile clinics.

## Emergency Medical Services

Provision of more operational ambulances can provide greater coverage of emergency medical services. The Bitou municipal area had 7 ambulances per 10 000 inhabitants in 2020 which exceeds the District average. It is worth noting that this number only refers to Provincial ambulances and excludes all private service providers.

## HIV/AIDS and TB

Bitou's total registered patients receiving anti retroviral treatment (ART) increased by 67 patients between 2019/20 and 2020/21. A total of 26 996 registered patients received ART in the Garden Route District in 2020/21. Bitou, at 3 502 patients, represents 12.9 per cent of the patients receiving ART in the Garden Route District.

The Bitou municipal area experienced a significant decline in tuberculosis (TB) cases from 2019/20 to 2020/21. 271 TB patients were registered in 2020/21 compared to 3057 in 2018/19.

## Child Health

Immunisation rates in the Bitou municipal area is recorded at 54.9 per cent ; lower than that of the Garden Route District at 68.9 per cent in 2020/21. The Immunisation rate for Bitou has however increased significantly from the 2017/18 rate of 47.1 per cent. The number of malnourished children under five years (per 100 000) in Bitou in 2020/21 was 0.3, a deterioration from the 2019/20 rate of 0.0. The Neonatal mortality rate (per 1 000 live births) in the Bitou municipal area remained constant at 0.0 from 2018/19 to 2020/21. The low birth weight rate was recorded at 0.0 from 2019/20 to 2020/21.

## Maternal Health

The maternal mortality rate in the Bitou municipal area was 0.0 per 100 000 live births in 2020/21. The maternal mortality rate is lower than the Garden Route District rate of 121,5 as recorded in 2020/21.

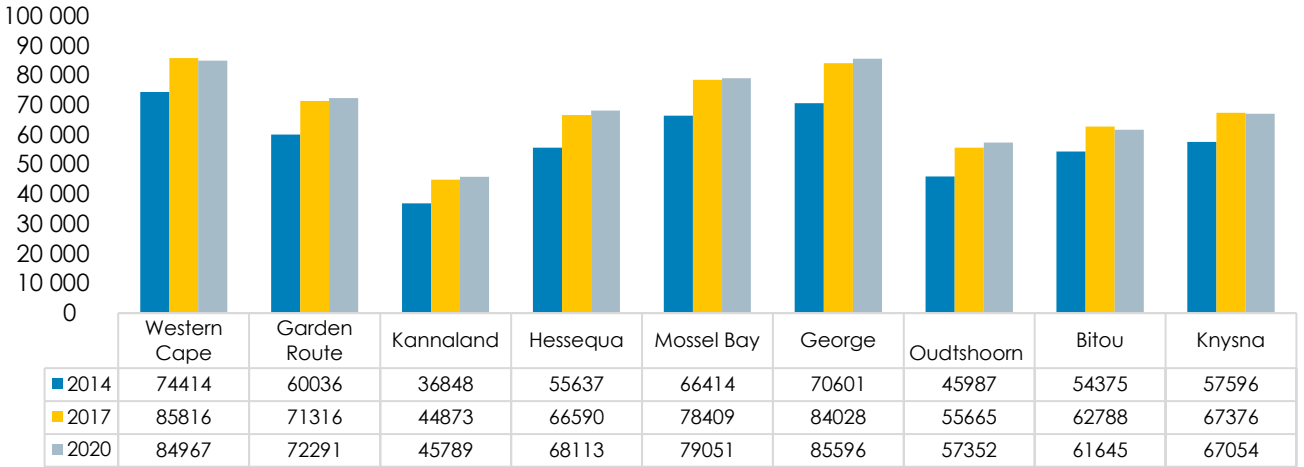
The delivery rate to women under 19 years in Bitou was recorded 0.0 per cent in 2020/21 and is lower than the District rate of 14.7 per cent. Teen delivery to women between 10-19 years remains constant 0.0 between 2016/17 and 2020/21.

The termination of pregnancy rate has also remained constant from 2016/17 to 2020/21 within the Bitou municipal area. Conversely, the District had a higher teen delivery rate but lower levels of terminations.

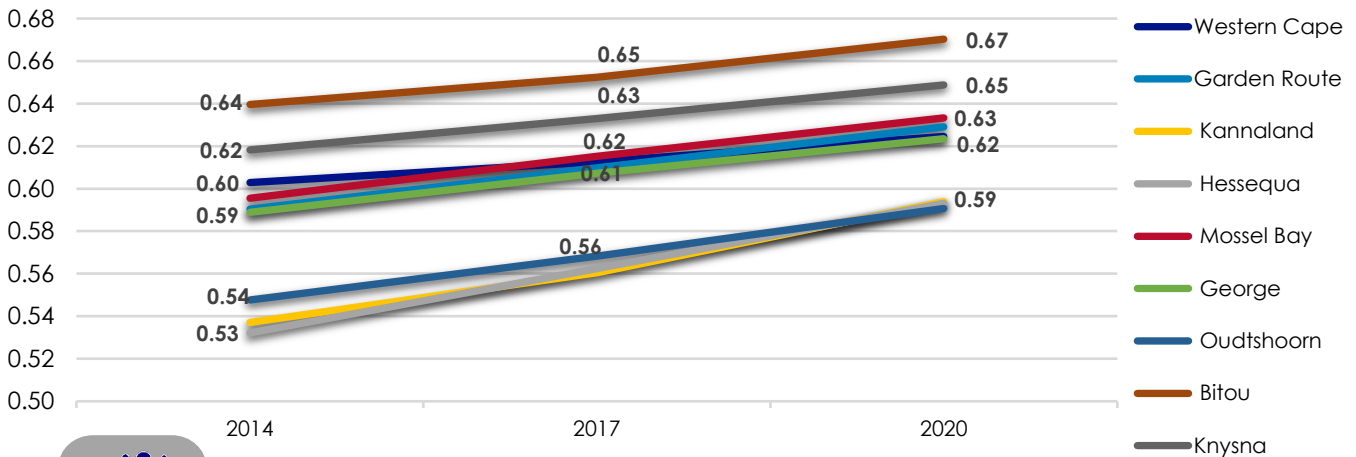
# POVERTY



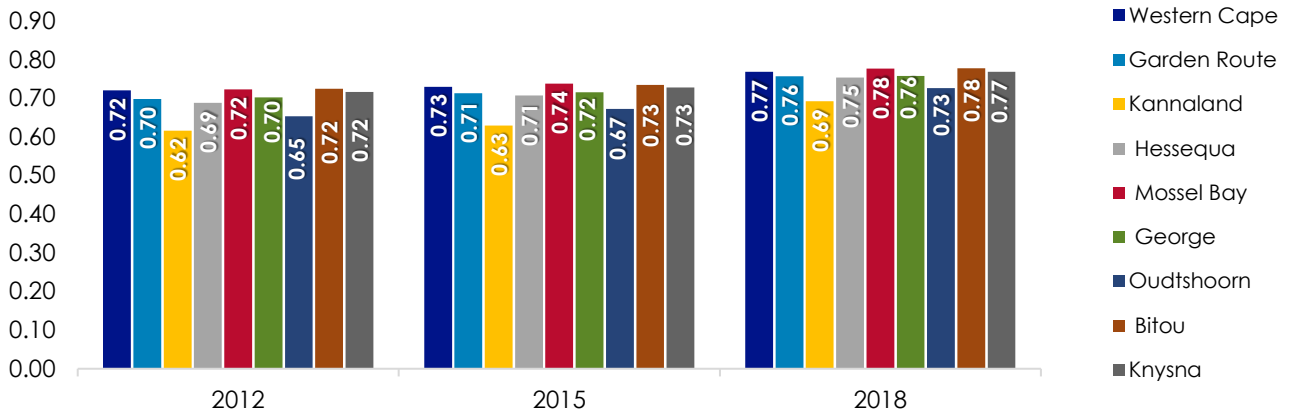
## GDP per capita



## Income inequality



## Human development



# Poverty

## GDPR Per Capita

An increase in real GDPR per capita, i.e., GDPR per person, is experienced only if the real economic growth rate exceeds the population growth rate.

At R61 645 in 2020, Bitou's GDPR per capita are below that of the GRD's figure of R72 291 and the Western Cape figure of R84 967. It is positive to note that GDP per capita has been on an upward trend, despite the sluggish economy between 2014 to 202017 and dropped slightly to R61 645 in 2020..

## Income Inequality

Even though real GDP per capita reflects changes in the overall well-being of the population, the money will not be equally distributed across the population. The National Development Plan (NDP) has set a target of reducing income inequality in South Africa from a Gini coefficient of 0.7 in 2010 to 0.6 by 2030. Income inequality has increased in Bitou from 0.64 in 2014 to 0.67 in 2020 and is therefore underperforming against the 2030 NDP goal. It is however higher than the GRD Gini coefficient of 0.63.

## Human Development

The United Nations uses the Human Development Index (HDI) to assess the relative level of socio-economic development in countries. Indicators that measure human development are education levels, income and health. It is a measure of peoples' ability to live a long and healthy life, to communicate, participate in the community and to have sufficient means to be able to afford a decent living. The HDI is represented by a number between 0 and 1, where 1 indicates a high level of human development and 0 represents no human development.

There has been a general increase in the HDI in the Bitou municipal area from 0.71 in 2012 to 0.74 in 2018. The trend for the Garden Route District has been similar. The rise in the HDI is attributed to an increase in the GDP per capita, literacy rates and life expectancy since 2012.

# BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY



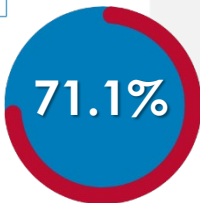
## Total number of households

17 892

Bitou Municipality

175 680

Garden Route District



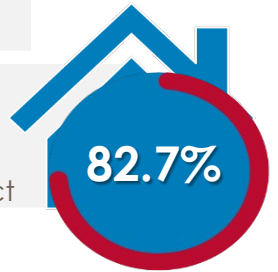
## Formal main dwelling

12 715

Bitou Municipality

145 268

Garden Route District



67.5% Bitou  
75.1% Garden Route  
House/brick structure on separate stand/yard



1.0% Bitou  
0.7% Garden Route  
Traditional dwelling



2.9% Bitou  
6.2% Garden Route  
Flat/simplex/duplex/triplex or room/flat on shared property

2.2% Bitou  
1.2% Garden Route



0.7% Bitou  
1.5% Garden Route  
House/flat/room in backyard



9.9% Bitou  
6.2% Garden Route  
Informal dwelling in backyard



15.8% Bitou  
9.2% Garden Route  
Informal dwelling not in backyard

Other/Unspecified



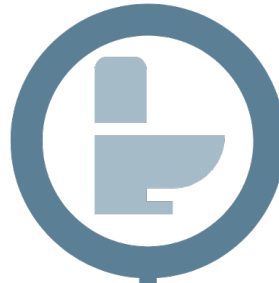
### Piped water inside dwelling/within 200m

Bitou 92.3%  
Garden Route 95.2%



### Electricity as primary source of lighting

Bitou 94.1%  
Garden Route 90.7%



### Flush/chemical toilet

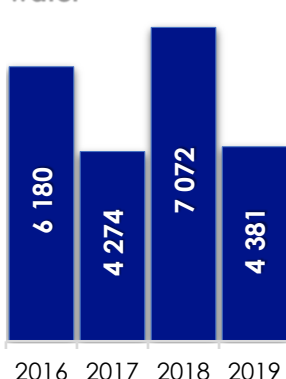
Bitou 83.6%  
Garden Route 85.1%



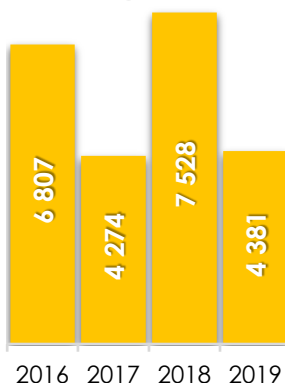
### Refuse removed at least once a week

Bitou 88.1%  
Garden Route 86.5%

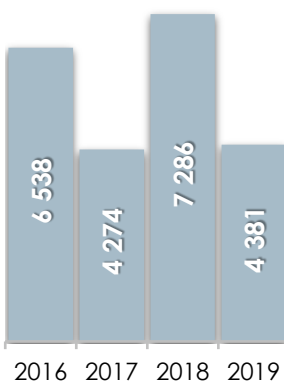
### Free basic water



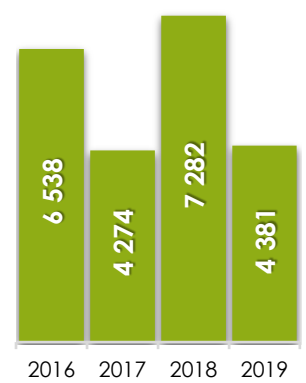
### Free basic electricity



### Free basic sanitation



### Free basic refuse removal



# Basic Service Delivery

The Constitution stipulates that every citizen has the right to access to adequate housing and that the state must take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources to achieve the progressive realisation of this right. Access to housing also includes access to services such as potable water, basic sanitation, safe energy sources and refuse removal services, to ensure that households enjoy a decent standard of living.

This section considers to what extent this has been achieved by reflecting on the latest available information from Quantec Research for 2019. The latest official statistics was collected by Statistics South Africa for the 2016 Community Survey; the 2021 Census will provide the updated official statistics. The information on free basic services is obtained from Statistics South Africa's Non-Financial Census of Municipalities survey findings.

## Housing and Household Services

With a total of 17 892 households in the Bitou municipal area, 71.1 per cent had access to formal housing, the lowest when compared with other municipalities in the GRD area. The District average was 82.7 per cent. Considering the high level of households living in informal dwellings (25.7 per cent), access to formal housing is a challenge in the Bitou municipal area.

Even though there was a relatively low proportion of households living in formal dwellings, service access levels were significantly higher, with access to piped water inside/within 200m of the dwelling at 92.3 per cent, access to a flush or chemical toilet at 83.6 per cent, access to electricity (for lighting) at 94.1 per cent and the removal of refuse at least weekly by local authority at 88.1 per cent of households. These access levels were above the District averages for all services except for access to a flush or chemical toilet (83.6 per cent).

## Free Basic Services

Municipalities also provide a package of free basic services to households who are financially vulnerable and struggle to pay for services. The number of households receiving free basic services in the Bitou municipal area has shown significant decreases from 2018 to 2019 in all services. The stressed economic conditions are anticipated to exert pressure on household income levels, which is in turn likely to see the number of indigent households and the demand for free basic services increase in the upcoming years.

# SAFETY AND SECURITY



MURDER		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Actual Number	Bitou	21	18	11
	Garden Route District	215	204	163
Per 100 000	Bitou	32	27	17
	Garden Route District	35	33	26

SEXUAL OFFENCES		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Actual Number	Bitou	103	103	78
	Garden Route District	1 070	991	838
Per 100 000	Bitou	157	152	112
	Garden Route District	173	159	133



DRUG-RELATED OFFENCES		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Actual Number	Bitou	352	253	245
	Garden Route District	7 300	5 790	3 534
Per 100 000	Bitou	538	375	354
	Garden Route District	1 181	927	563

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Actual Number	Bitou	59	92	39
	Garden Route District	1 740	1 932	690
Per 100 000	Bitou	91	137	57
	Garden Route District	281	309	110



Fatal Crashes	Bitou	11	8	7
Road User Fatalities	Bitou	13	8	7



RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Actual Number	Bitou	544	593	513
	Garden Route District	5 156	4 844	3 990
Per 100 000	Bitou	832	880	741
	Garden Route District	834	776	635

# Safety and Security

## Murder

*Murder is defined as the unlawful and intentional killing of another person.*

Within the Bitou municipal area, the number of murders decreased annually from 21 in 2018/19 to 11 in 2020/21. The murder rate (per 100 000 people) decreased from 32 in 2018/19 to 17 in 2020/21. The murder rate for the Garden Route District also declined (215 in 2018/19 and 163 in 2020/21) and is higher than that of the Bitou area. The murder rate in Bitou is the fourth lowest in the Garden Route District. 2017's global murder rate was 6.1 (per 100 000 people) and is significantly below the reports within both the District and the Municipality.

## Sexual Offences

*Sexual offences include rape (updated to the new definition of rape to provide for the inclusion of male rape), sex work, pornography, public indecency and human trafficking.*

In 2020/21, there were 78 sexual offences in the Bitou area, equating to 112 cases per 100 000 people. This is lower levels than those reported in the GRD of 133 cases per 100 000 people. South Africa is amongst the top 5 countries in the world with respect to reports of rape, therefore it is a huge problem that needs to be addressed.

## Drug-related Offences

*Drug-related crimes refer to the situation where the perpetrator is found to be in possession of, under the influence of, or selling illegal drugs.*

Drug-related crime within the Bitou municipal area reduced drastically from 352 cases in 2018/19 to 245 cases in 2020/21 and is largely attributed to the decriminalisation of marijuana. When considering the rate per 100 000 people, it declined from 538 to 354 in Bitou. The District had a higher incidence of drug-related offences with 563 cases per 100 000 people in 2020/21.

## Driving under the influence (DUI)

*A situation where the driver of a vehicle is found to be over the legal blood alcohol limit.*

The number of cases per 100 000 people of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the Bitou area shows a declining trend from 137 in 2019/20 to 57 in 2020/21. The significant decline is largely due to the COVID-19 related restrictions on alcohol and the implementation of curfews. Road user fatalities declined from 13 fatalities in 2018/19 to 7 fatalities in 2020/21. The incidence of DUI's is lower than the District which had an incidence rate of 110 per 100 000 people in 2020/21.

## Residential Burglaries

*The unlawful entry of a residential structure with the intent to commit a crime, usually a theft.*

The 2020/21 crime statistics released by SAPS and Stats SA indicate that the number of residential burglaries increased by 6.3 per cent in South Africa from 2019/20. Residential burglary cases within the Bitou area however decreased by 5.6 per cent from 544 in 2018/19 to 513 in 2020. When considering the rate per 100 000 population i.e., 741 cases per 100 000 in 2020/21, Bitou's rate is above the District rate of 635 cases per 100 000 people in the same reporting year.

# Economy and Labour Market Performance

SECTOR	GDP			Employment		
	R Million value 2019	Trend 2015 – 2019	Real GDP growth 2020e	Number of jobs 2019	Average annual change 2015 - 2019	Net change 2020e
<b>PS</b> Primary Sector		<b>-3.5</b>	<b>-120</b>	<b>1 694</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13.0</b>
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	147.0	-3.6	-119	1 688	25	14.3
Mining & quarrying	7.3	-1.6	-1	6	-1	-19.7
<b>SS</b> Secondary sector	<b>783.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-387</b>	<b>3 312</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-14.5</b>
Manufacturing	331.8	1.1	-77	1 040	-1	-7.9
Electricity, gas & water	36.8	0.0	0	18	-0	-6.5
Construction	414.5	-0.3	-310	2 254	-6	-21.4
<b>TS</b> Tertiary sector	<b>2 436.6</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>-988</b>	<b>14 860</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>-5.4</b>
Wholesale & retail trade, catering & accommodation	667.0	0.9	-448	5 172	168	-10.2
Transport, storage & communication	252.6	-0.4	-39	697	-5	-15.8
Finance, insurance, real estate & business services	849.4	1.1	-186	3 464	79	-4.0
General government	386.7	2.5	35	1 753	29	2.7
Community, social & personal services	280.9	2.1	-350	3 774	68	-1.7
<b>Bitou</b>	<b>3 373.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-1 495</b>	<b>19 866</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>-6.2</b>

Skill Levels Formal employment	Skill Level Contribution 2020 (%)	Average growth (%) 2016 – 2020	Number of jobs	
			2019	2020
Skilled	21.7	1.2	3 066	2 935
Semi-skilled	44.0	-0.6	6 424	5 956
Low-skilled	34.3	-0.7	5 005	4 640
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>14 495</b>	<b>13 531</b>

Informal Employment	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of informal jobs	4 932	4 968	5 007	5 247	5 487	5 721	5 319	5 589	5 601	5 371	4 840
% of Total Employment	31.0	30.4	29.6	30.0	30.3	30.2	28.0	28.6	28.2	27.0	26.3

Unemployment rates	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Bitou</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>24.2</b>
George	14.7	14.5	14.2	13.6	13.6	13.1	13.9	14.2	13.8	14.7	14.2
Hessequa	7.0	7.0	6.8	6.5	6.5	6.1	6.6	6.8	6.7	7.2	7.2
Kannaland	8.3	8.5	8.4	8.0	8.2	7.5	8.2	8.6	8.5	9.2	8.7
Knysna	17.8	17.7	17.5	17.1	17.1	16.9	18.0	18.5	18.1	19.4	18.9
Mossel Bay	14.3	14.3	14.1	13.6	13.7	13.4	14.4	14.8	14.5	15.6	15.2
Oudtshoorn	19.0	18.9	18.5	17.9	17.8	17.1	17.9	18.3	17.8	18.7	17.6
Garden Route	15.0	15.0	14.7	14.3	14.3	13.9	14.8	15.2	14.9	15.9	15.4
Western Cape	15.9	16.1	16.1	16.0	16.4	16.5	17.7	18.4	18.3	19.6	18.9



# Economy and Labour Market Performance

## Sectoral Overview

In 2019, the economy of Bitou was valued at R3.373 billion (current prices) and employed 19 866 people. Historical trends between 2015 and 2019 indicate that the municipal area realised an average annual growth rate of 0.7 per cent, which can mostly be attributed to the tertiary sector that registered a positive annual growth rate of 1.2 per cent.

In terms of sectoral contribution, the finance, insurance, real estate and business services (R849.4 million), wholesale and retail trade, catering and accommodation (R667.0 million) and construction (R414.5 million) sectors were the main drivers that contributed to the positive growth in the Bitou economy. Growth in the economy slowed to -6.4 per cent in 2020, with only the agriculture sector registering positive growth as a result of improved drought conditions and favourable commodity prices.

Net employment in all sectors mirrored the declining GDP growth rate, with only General Government managing to create jobs (35) in 2020. The largest amount of job losses occurred within the Tertiary sector (-988), followed by the Secondary sector (-387). Despite the positive growth of 13.0 per cent in the Primary sector, it still registered 120 job losses.

## Formal and Informal Employment

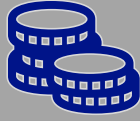
It is estimated that Bitou's total employed will in 2019 amount to 19 866 workers, of which 14 495 (72.9 per cent) are employed in the formal sector while 5 371 (27.0 per cent) are informally employed. Employment in the formal sector had an annual average decline of 0.2 per cent from 2016 to 2020 while the informal sector suffered an annual average decline of 1.9 per cent over this period.

Most of the formally employed consisted of semi-skilled (44 per cent) and low-skilled (34.3 per cent) workers. The skilled category only contributed 21.7 per cent to total formal employment and was notably outpaced by the other two categories in terms of average annual growth between 2016 and 2020. Low skilled employment declined by 0.7 per cent, while jobs requiring semi-skilled workers declined by 0.6 per cent. The growth in the skilled category (1.2 per cent) reflects the market demand for more skilled labour, especially with the growing tertiary sector in the Bitou municipal area.

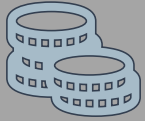
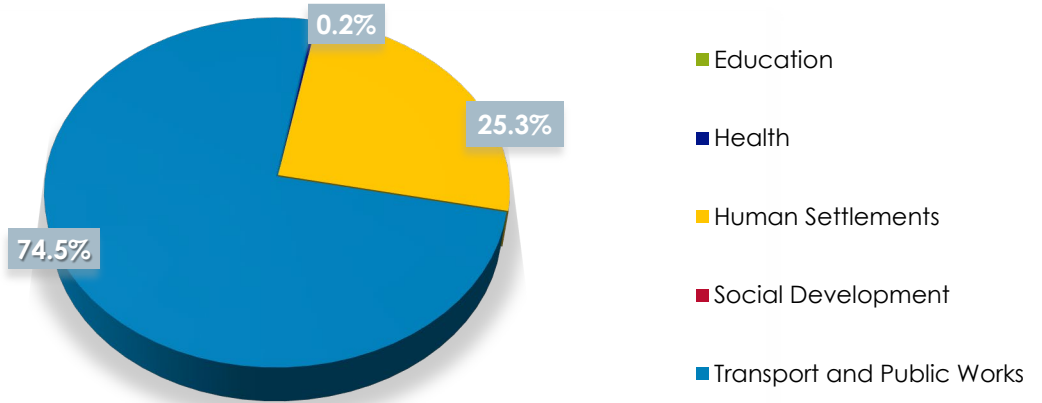
## Unemployment

Bitou (24.2 per cent) has the highest unemployment rate in the Garden Route District and is even higher than the District (15.4 per cent) and Western Cape (18.9 per cent) unemployment rates. Unemployment has been volatile from 2010-2020. After slowly rising from 22.7 per cent in 2018 to 24.5 per cent in 2019, it declined slightly to 24.2 per cent in 2020. This was largely due to an increase in the discouraged work seekers and not economically active population. This was due to the sluggish economy and negative growth in most sectors. Unfortunately, most job losses affected low and semi-skilled workers who are more vulnerable to living in poverty during times of economic decline.

# PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE SPEND

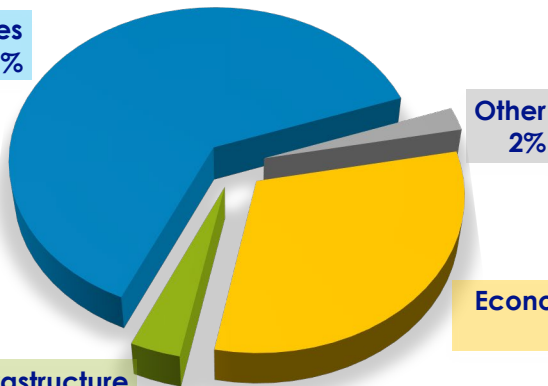


## Provincial infrastructure spend



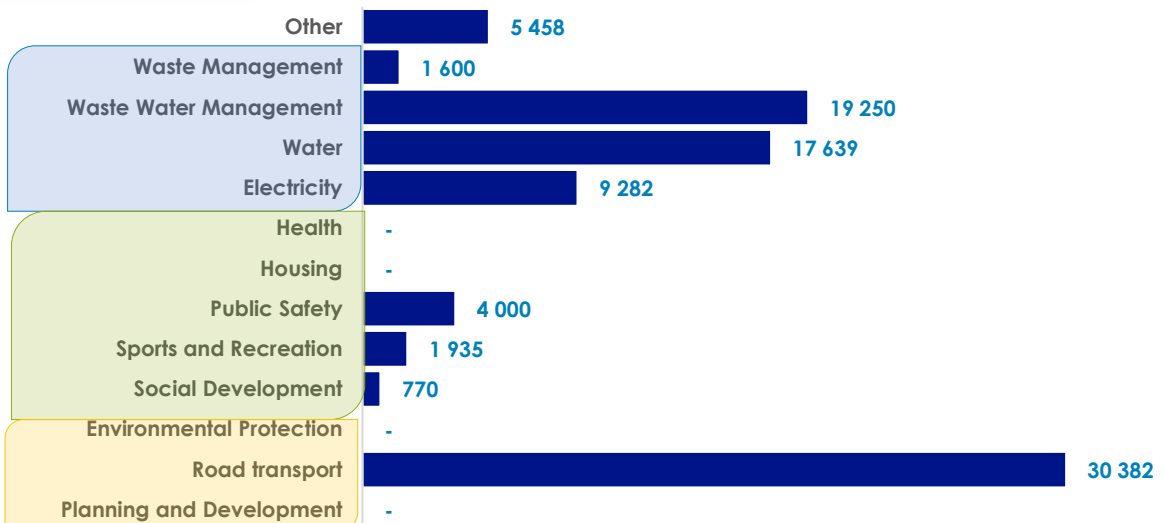
## Municipal infrastructure spend (R'000)

Trading Services  
63%



Economic Infrastructure  
31%

Social Infrastructure  
4%



# Public Infrastructure Spend

## Spending on Social Infrastructure

Spending on social infrastructure aids in social development and has the spill-over effect of enabling economic growth. The Western Cape Government (WCG) allocated 25.5 per cent of its infrastructure budget on social infrastructure within the Bitou municipal area. 25.3 per cent (R33.210 million) will be spent on Human Settlements which will assist in reducing the current housing backlog and 0.2 per cent will be spent on health infrastructure within Bitou (R300 000). The Municipality will be allocating 4 per cent (R3.283 million) of the budget towards social infrastructure. Sports and recreation (R 1.935 million) and Social Development (R770 000) have been prioritized in the budget, with a further R4.00 million spent on public safety, all serving to improve the quality of life of individuals within the municipal area.

## Spending on Economic Infrastructure

Economic infrastructure is defined as infrastructure that promotes economic activity. Considering the economic contraction in 2021, spending on economic infrastructure is crucial to economic recovery.

The WCG allocated R98.0 million (74.5 per cent) towards economic infrastructure, more specifically towards Transport and Public Works. Transport and public works infrastructure go a long way towards unlocking the region's economic potential, especially with Bitou's position on the N2 route, making it a thriving tourist destination. The Municipality assists by contributing a further R30.382 million (i.e. 33.6 per cent of total municipal infrastructure spending) towards road transport.

## Spending on Trading Services

Basic services are crucial to improving the living conditions of citizens within the municipal area and enabling economic activity for businesses via access to water, electricity, sanitation and refuse removal. The majority of the Municipality's infrastructure budget i.e., 62.8 per cent or R57.089 million is allocated towards the provision of basic services. Most of the spending on trading services have been allocated towards waste- water management (R19.250 million) in light of recent droughts and an infrastructure maintenance backlog. This was followed by water (R17.639 million), electricity (R9.282 million) and waste- management (R1.600 million). This should assist with expanding the bulk infrastructure network to service the proposed new housing developments.

# SOURCES

## 1. Demographics

- Population: *Department of Social Development, 2021*
- Sex ratio: *Department of Social Development, 2021*
- Age cohorts: *Department of Social Development, 2021*
- Number of households: *Department of Social Development, 2021*
- Household size: *Department of Social Development, 2021*
- Population density: *Department of Social Development, 2021*

## 2. Education

- Learner enrolment: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2021*
- Learner-teacher ratio: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2021*
- Learner retention: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2021*
- Educational facilities: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2021*
- No-fee schools: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2021*
- Schools with libraries: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2021*
- Educational outcomes: *Western Cape Education Department, 2020; Annual Survey of Public and Independent Schools (ASS), 2021*

## 3. Health

- Healthcare facilities: *Department of Health, 2021*
- Emergency medical services: *Department of Health, 2021*
- HIV/AIDS: *Department of Health, 2021*
- Tuberculosis: *Department of Health, 2021*
- Child health: *Department of Health, 2021*
- Maternal health: *Department of Health, 2021*

## 4. Poverty

- GDP per capita: *Statistics South Africa, 2021*
- Income Inequality (Gini-coefficient): *Quantec Research, 2021*
- Human Development (Human Development Index): *Quantec Research, 2021*

# SOURCES

## 5. Basic services

- Households: Quantec Research, 2021
- Access to housing: Quantec Research, 2021
- Access to water: Quantec Research, 2021
- Access to electricity: Quantec Research, 2021
- Access to sanitation: Quantec Research, 2021
- Access to refuse removal: Quantec Research, 2021
- Free Basic Services: *Statistics South Africa, Non-Financial Census of Municipalities 2020*

## 6. Safety and security

- Murder: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2021, own calculations*
- Sexual offences: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2021, own calculations*
- Drug-related crimes: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2021, own calculations*
- Driving under the influence: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2021, own calculations*
- Residential burglaries: *South African Police Service (SAPS), 2021, own calculations*
- Road user fatalities: *Department of Transport and Public Works, 2021*

## 7. Economy

- Sector Performance: *Quantec Research, 2021*
- Employment growth per sector: *Quantec Research, 2021*
- Trends in labour force skills: *Quantec Research, 2021*
- Unemployment rates: *Quantec Research, 2021*

## 8. Public infrastructure spend

- Provincial Infrastructure Spend: *Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure (EPRE), 2021; Overview of Adjusted Provincial and Municipal Infrastructure Spend (OAPMII), 2021*
- Municipal Infrastructure Spend: *Final approved 2021/22 municipal budgets, Budget Schedule A5*