

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CITY OF JOBURG

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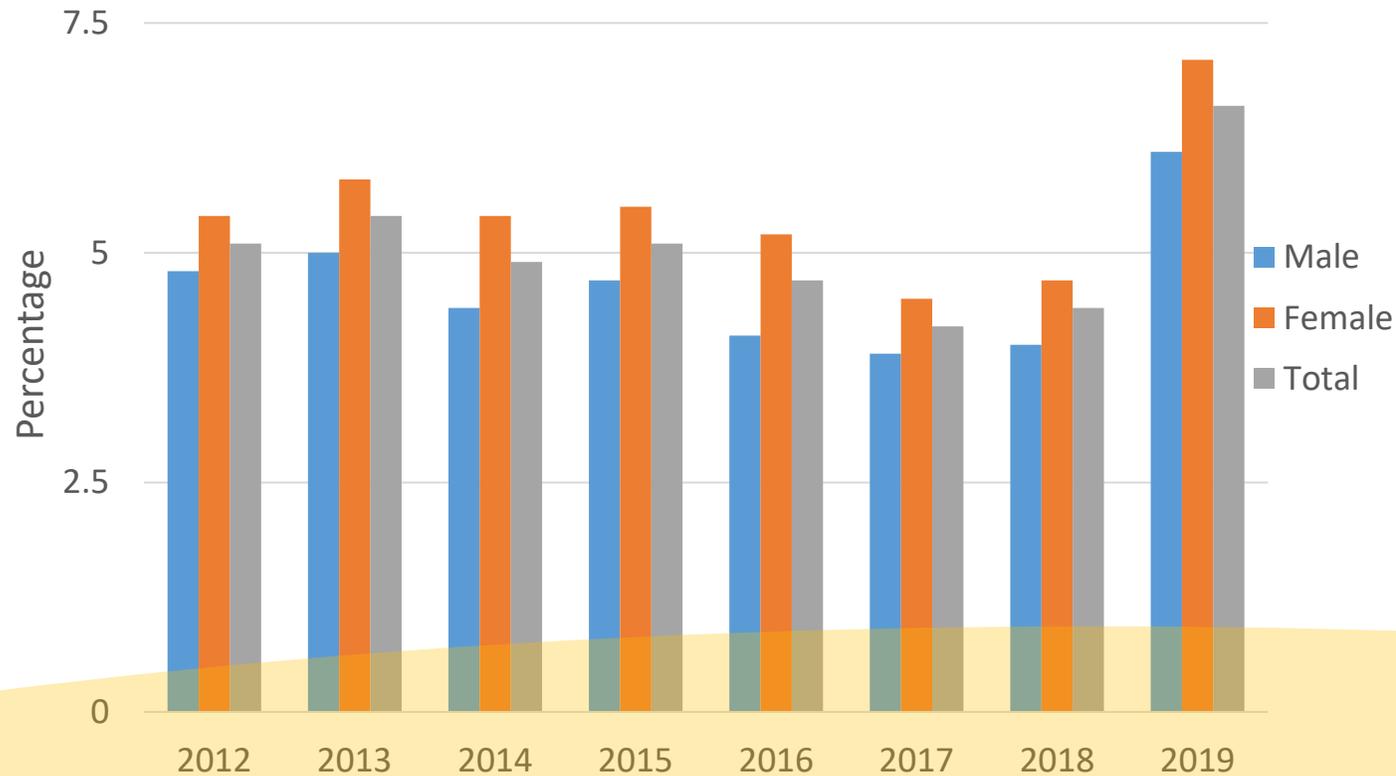
## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognizes Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) as those who have **long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments** which, in interaction with various barriers, may **hinder their full and effective participation in society** on an equal basis with others. This is similar to the Statistics South Africa (StatsSA) definition of disability which classifies PwDs as those who have a **physical or mental handicap** that has lasted **for six months or more**, or is expected to last at least six months, and which **prevents the person from carrying out daily activities independently** or from participating fully in educational, economic or social activities.
- Disabilities can be **mental, physical or impairment of the senses** (hearing, seeing, walking, smelling, touching). The disability can be the result of a **defect at birth, a chronic illness or an accident**.
- In South Africa, **official disability data** is collected by StatsSA from individuals **aged 5 years and older** as children below the age of five years may often be mistakenly categorized as being unable to walk, remember, communicate or care for themselves when it may be due to their level of development rather than any innate disabilities they might have.
- There is a serious **lack of reliable information** on the **nature** and **prevalence** of disability in South Africa. Furthermore, negative innuendos and stereotypes act as barriers to understanding the reality of PwDs. Building a body of **accurate data on PwDs** will thus help the City of Joburg to respond to and **support evidence-based policy making** adequately.
- The City is currently in the process of finalizing its policy for PwD which seeks to address the needs and challenges of PwDs.

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PWD IN SA

## Individuals aged 5 years and older with disability in SA, by gender 2012– 2019

% SA population aged 5 years and older with disability, by gender, 2012-2019



- There are currently **3.5 million PwD** in SA, making up **6.6%** of the **total population**.
- The proportion of PwD as a % of the total SA population has been fluctuating over the past 8 years with **5.1%** of the population classified as disabled in **2015**, down to **4.2%** in **2017**.
- Disability in SA is more **prevalent** among **females** compared to males. This has been relatively consistent over time
- In 2019, **79.7% of PwD** in SA were **Black**, followed by **Whites (9.1%)**, **Coloureds (8.5%)** and lastly, **Indians (2.6%)**.
- The **majority of PwD** do not receive permanent financial support from government. As of **March 2021**, only **946 000 PwD** received permanent disability grants from South African Social Security Agency (SASSA). (<https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/total-number-of-disability-grant-recipients-increased-to-1-1-million-minister-zulu/>)

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PWD IN SA

## Individuals aged 5 years and older with disability by gender and province, 2019

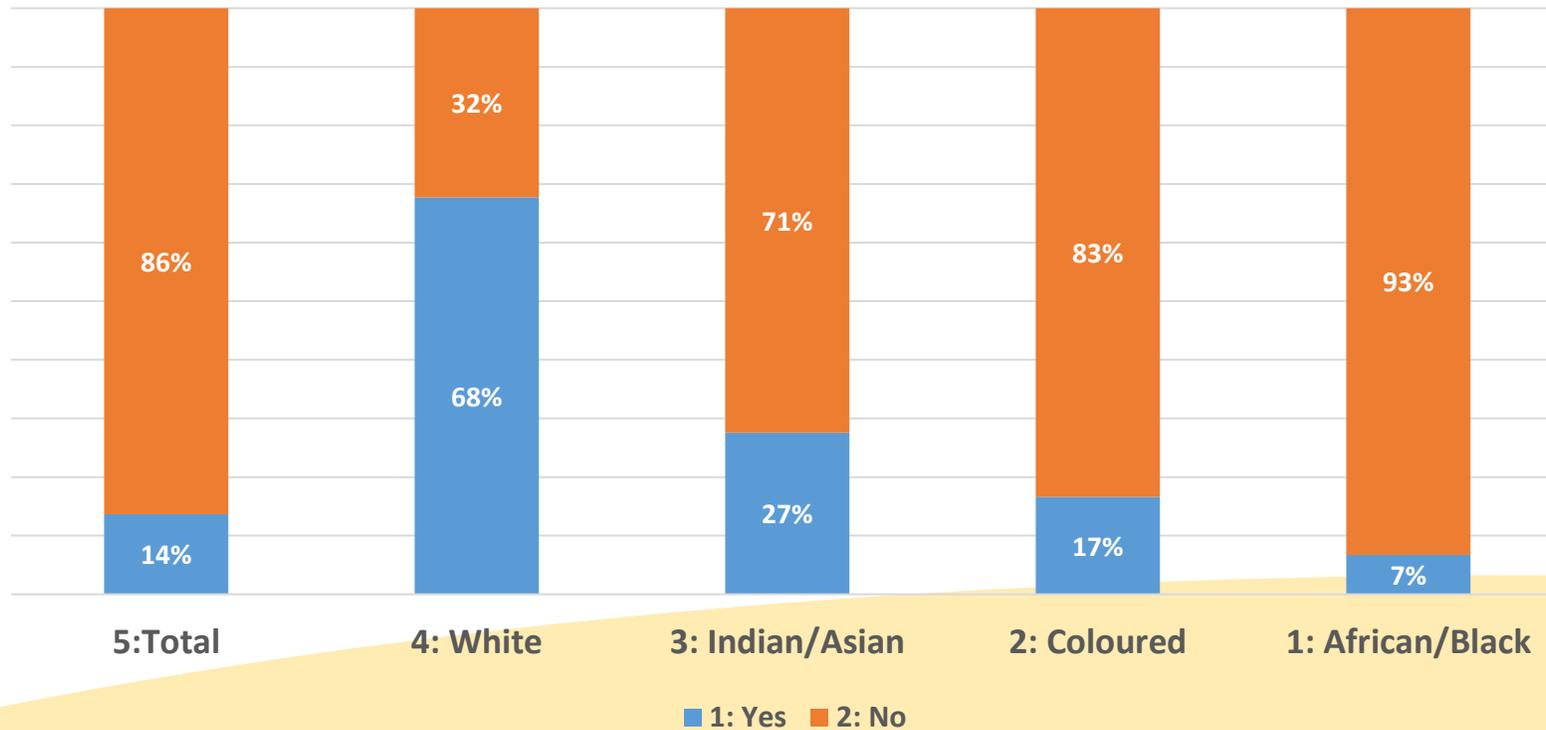
- In **2019**, **6.6%** of South Africans aged 5 years and older were classified as disabled:
  - Higher prevalence in the **Northern Cape (12.8%)**, **Eastern Cape (8.8%)**, **Free State (8.7%)**, **North-West (8.4%)**, & **Limpopo (7.6%)**.
  - There is a lower prevalence of PwD in the **Western Cape (4.7%)** & **Gauteng (5%)** as these provinces have a large youthful population.
  - Older populations are more likely to have a higher prevalence of disability.

Indicator	Statistic (number in thousands)	Province									
		WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Male	Number	143	235	67	98	264	140	308	117	179	1 551
	Per cent	4,7	8,5	12,4	7,8	5,5	8,3	4,4	5,8	7,2	6,1
Female	Number	145	280	75	131	396	161	371	137	214	1 910
	Per cent	4,6	9,1	13,3	9,5	7,4	8,6	5,5	6,5	7,9	7,1
Total	Number	288	515	142	229	660	300	680	254	393	3 461
	Per cent	4,7	8,8	12,8	8,7	6,5	8,4	5,0	6,2	7,6	6,6
Subtotal	Number	5 898	5 331	966	2 408	9 532	3 257	13 039	3 862	4 807	49 099
Unspecified	Number	0	0	0	3	0	9	6	2	0	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>6 186</b>	<b>5 846</b>	<b>1 108</b>	<b>2 640</b>	<b>10 192</b>	<b>3 567</b>	<b>13 725</b>	<b>4 118</b>	<b>5 200</b>	<b>52 581</b>

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PWD IN SA

## Individuals aged 5 years and older with disability by access to medical aid, by race, 2019

% individuals with disability by access to medical aid, 2019

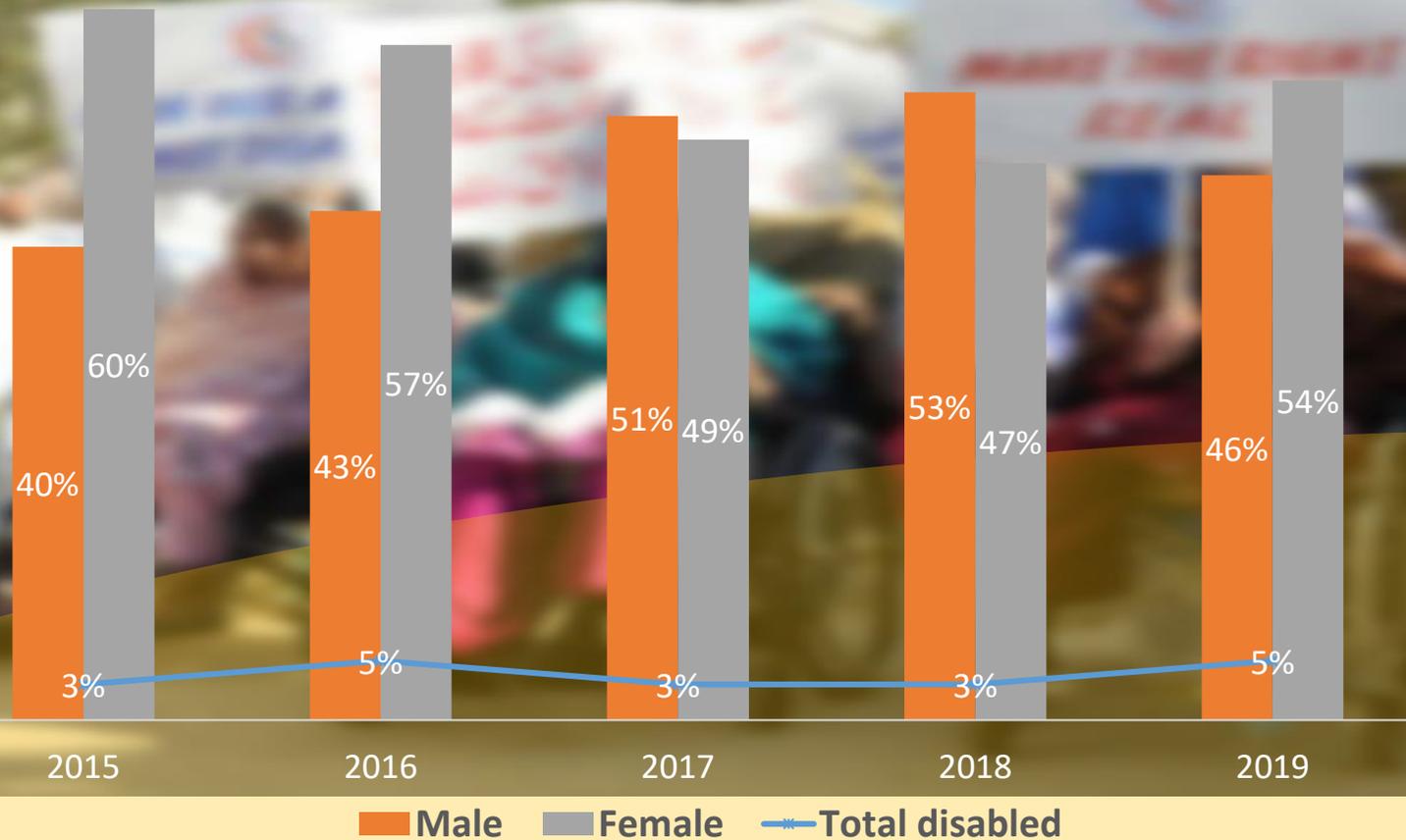


- In 2019, only **14%** of PwD in the country were **covered by a medical aid** or any form of private health insurance.
- Although **White** people only make up 9% of the total disabled population, they are the **biggest contributors** to medical aid schemes. In **2019, 68% of Whites** living with a disability had access to medical aid compared with only **7%** of their **Black** counterparts.

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PWD IN JOBURG

## Individuals aged 5 years and older with disability in Joburg by gender, 2015-2019

% CoJ disabled population, by gender 2015-2019



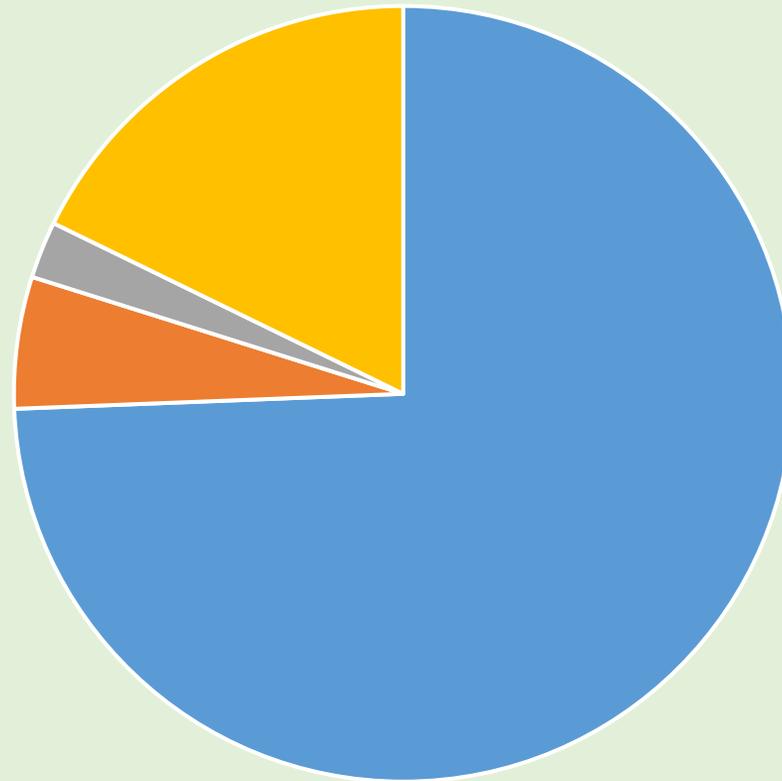
- PwD make up **5%** of the **total CoJ population**.
- On **average**, there are **more females with disabilities** than males in Johannesburg. This mirrors the SA picture.
- The number of males with disabilities has however increased in the last five years. In 2019, **46% of PwD** in Joburg were **males** vs **40% in 2015**
- **In 2015, 60% of PwD** in Joburg were **female** compared to **54% in 2019**.

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PWD IN JOBURG

## Individuals aged 5 years and older with disability by race and age, 2019

- The majority of PwD in Joburg are: **Africans (74%)**; between the ages of **5 and 9 years (30%)** and those over the age of **75 years (16.1%)**.
- Only **1%** of PwD are between the ages of **25-29 years**.
- In 2019, **Whites** made up **18%** of PwD in Joburg followed by **Coloureds (5%)** and **Indians (2%)**

% individuals with disability by race, 2019

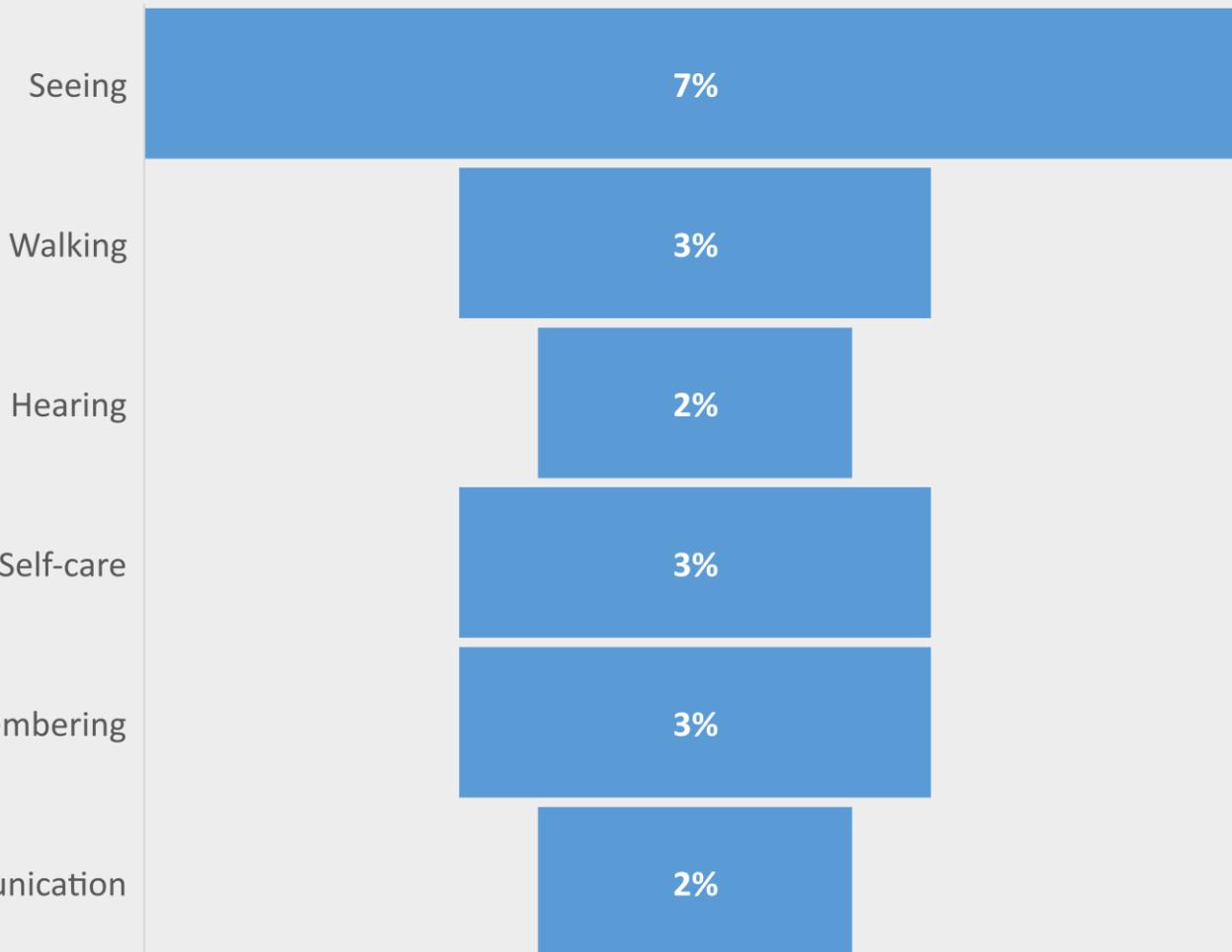


■ African 
 ■ Coloured 
 ■ Indian 
 ■ White

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PWD IN JOBURG

## Individuals aged 5 years with some form of disability, 2019

% individuals with some form of disability, by type, 2019



In the GHS, disabilities are classified as follows:

- a = Seeing (even with glasses if an individual wears them)
- b = Hearing (even with a hearing aid, if an individual wears one)
- c = Walking a kilometer or climbing a flight of steps
- d = Remembering and concentrating
- e = With self-care, such as washing or dressing
- f = In communicating in own usual language including sign language (understanding others and being understood by others)

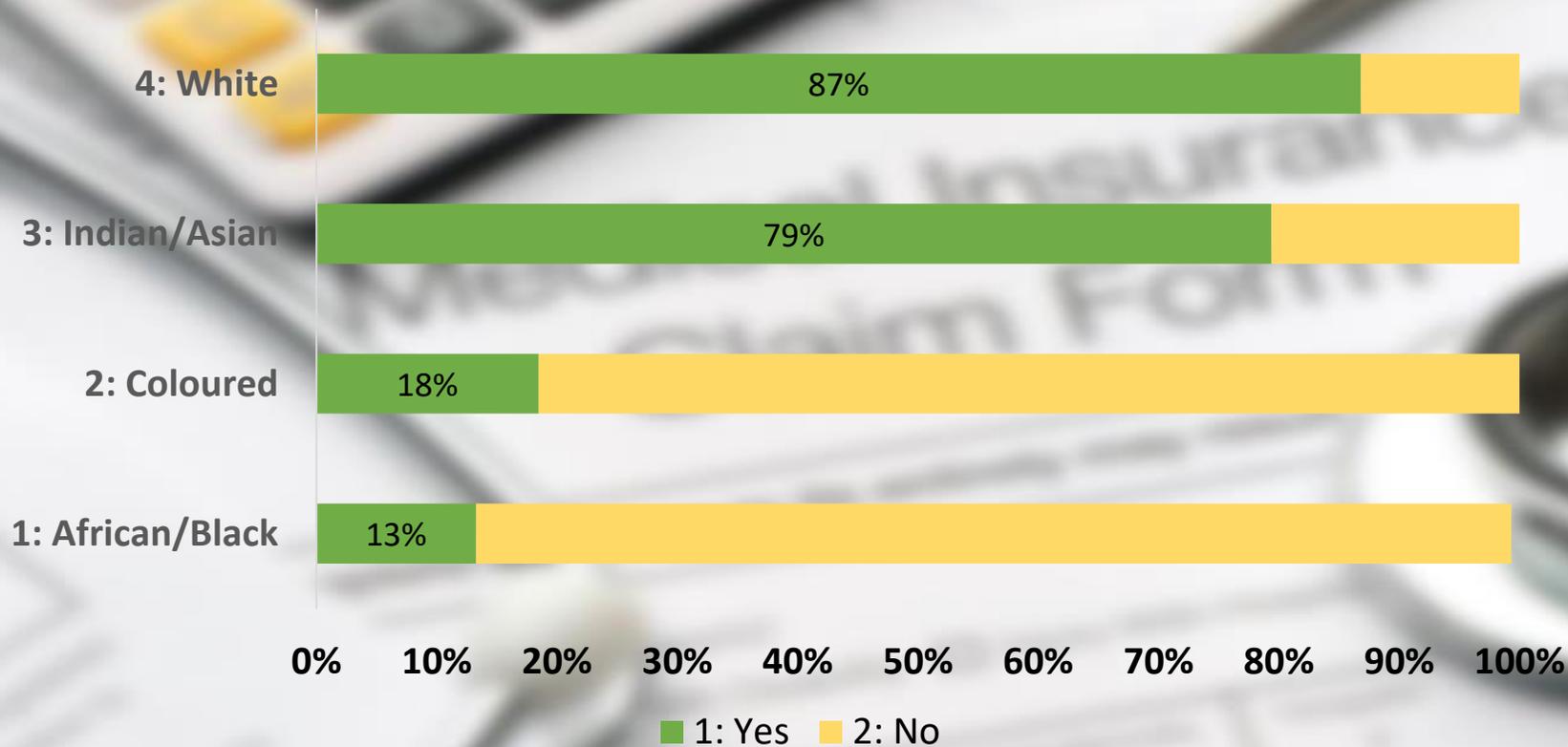
Based on the above classification:

- In 2019, most people in Joburg had **difficulty seeing (7%)**
- 3%** of people in Joburg had **difficulty with either walking, looking after themselves or remembering or concentrating**
- 2%** had **difficulty hearing or communicating**

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PWD IN JOBURG

## Individuals aged 5 years and older with disability with access to medical aid by race, 2019

% individuals with disability, with access to medical aid, by race, 2019



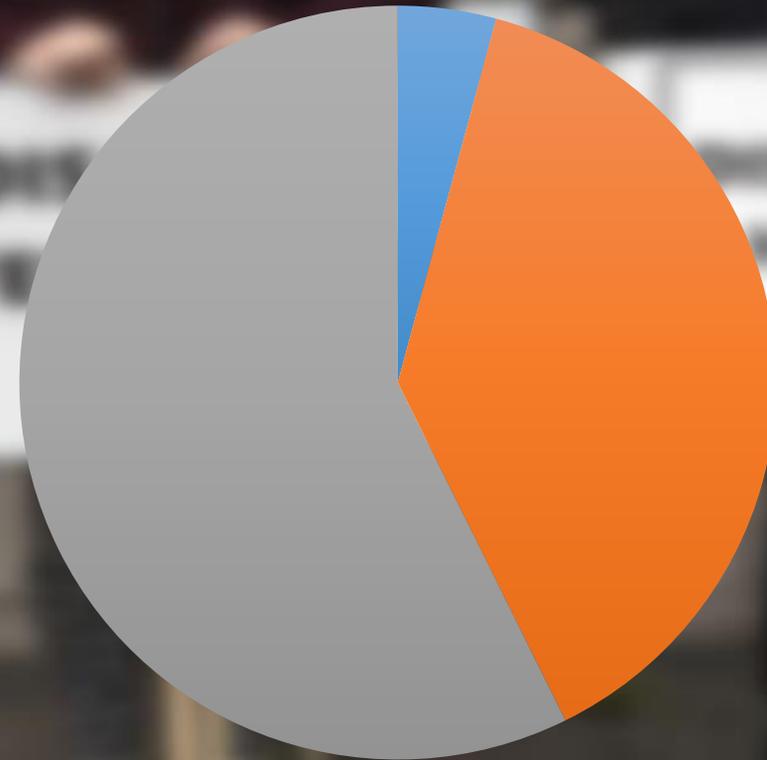
- Although White people only make up 18% of the disabled population in Joburg, the majority have access to medical aid (**87%**).
- Interestingly, **Indians** who make up only **2% of PwD** in the city have **higher medical aid coverage (79%)** compared to their Black counterparts who make up the majority of PwD in Joburg.

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PwD IN JOBURG

## Individuals aged 5 years and older with disability receiving social grants, 2018

% PwD receiving disability grants, 2018

- As is the case in SA, the majority of PwD in Joburg do not receive permanent financial support from SASSA
- In 2018, only **4% of PwD** received disability grants, while **38% of PwD did not** receive any disability grant

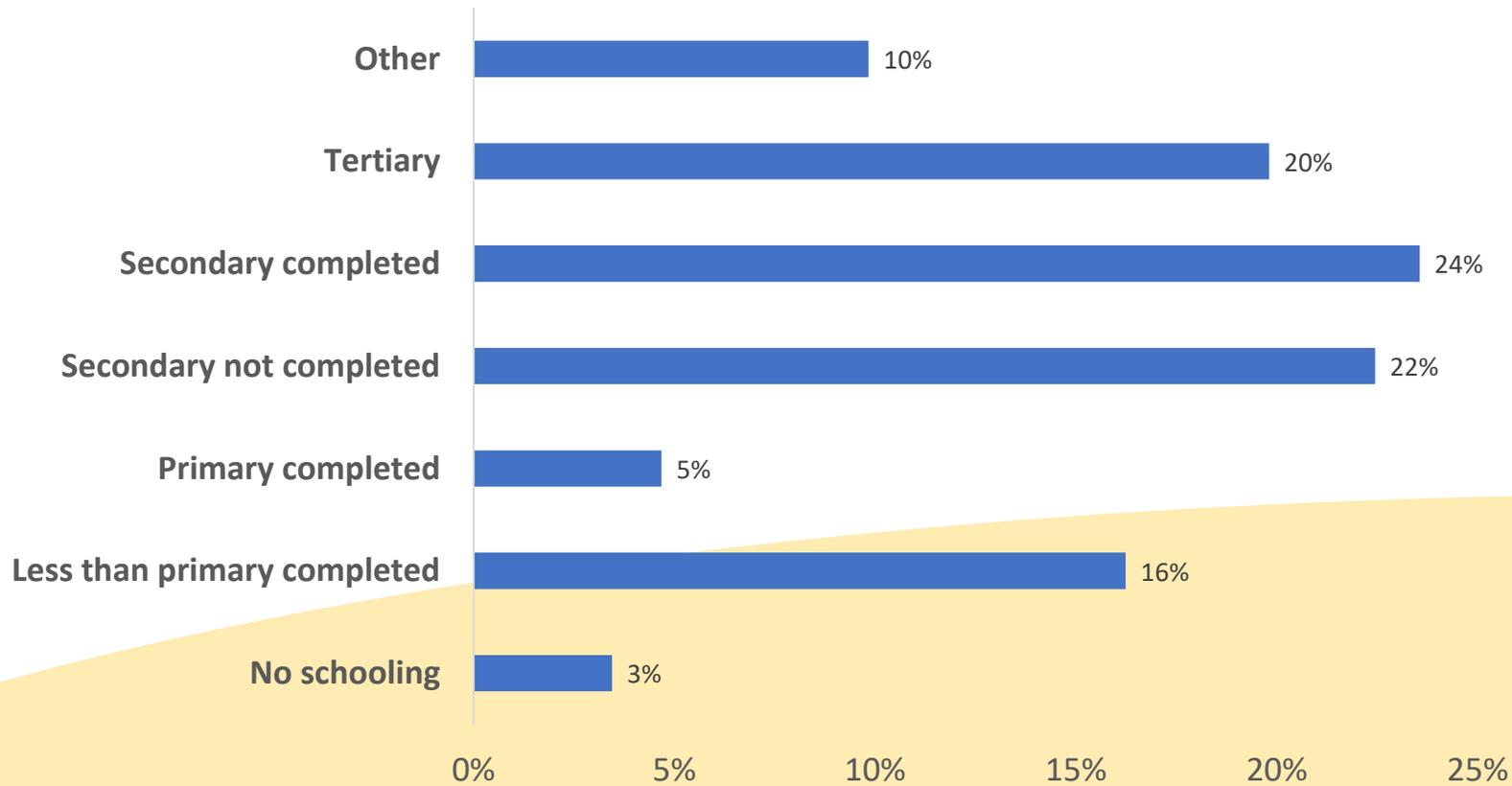


■ 1: Yes ■ 2: No ■ 8: Not applicable

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PWD IN JOBURG

## Level of education by individuals aged 15-64 with disability, 2019

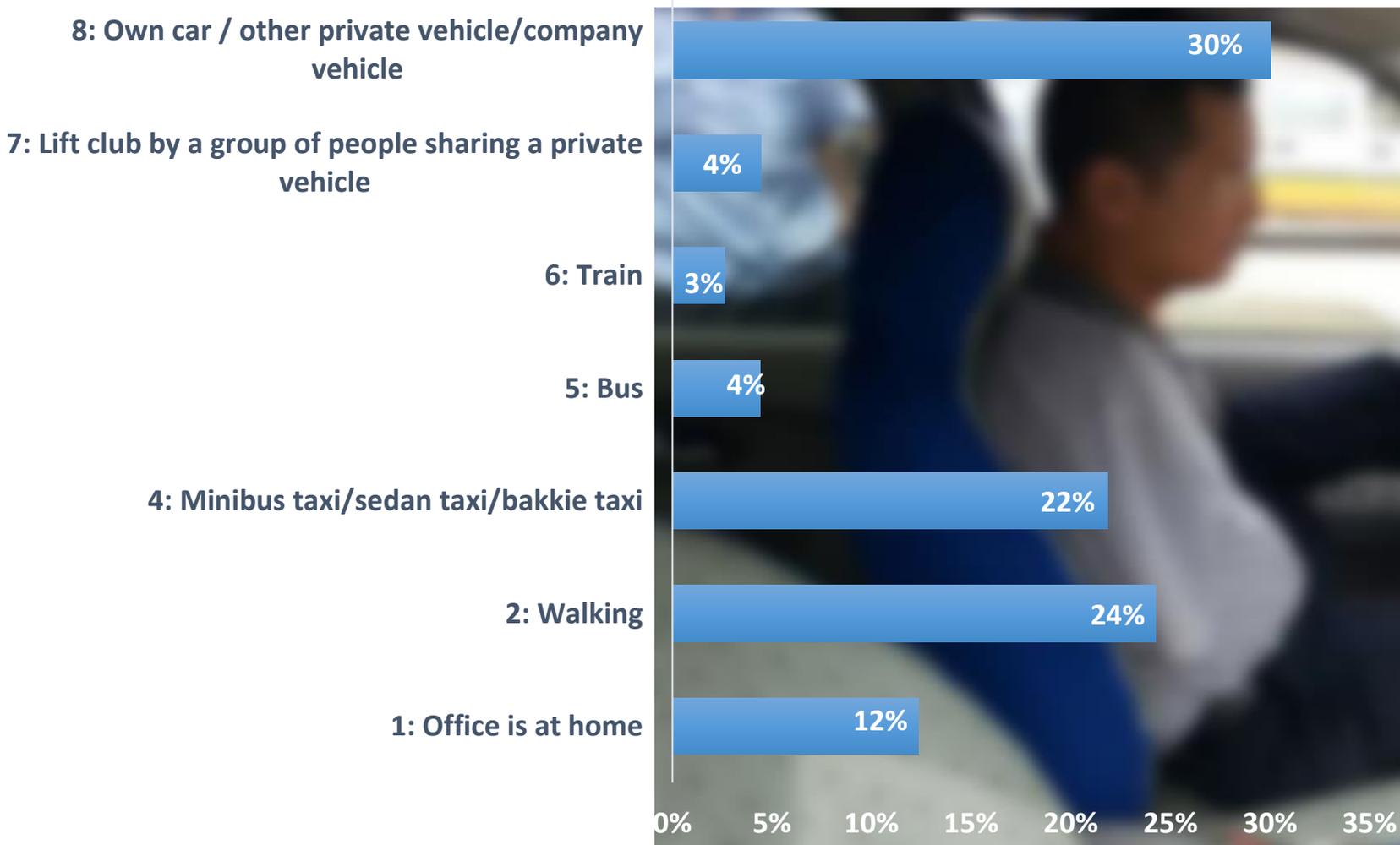
% individuals with disability (working population) by level of education, 2019



- In 2019, 24% of PwD in Joburg have **completed matric** and **20%** had a qualification from a **higher education institution**.
- **46%** had **not completed secondary education**, with **19%** of them having **not completed Primary school** in 2019.

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PWD IN JOBURG

## Mode of transport PwD use to get to work, 2019

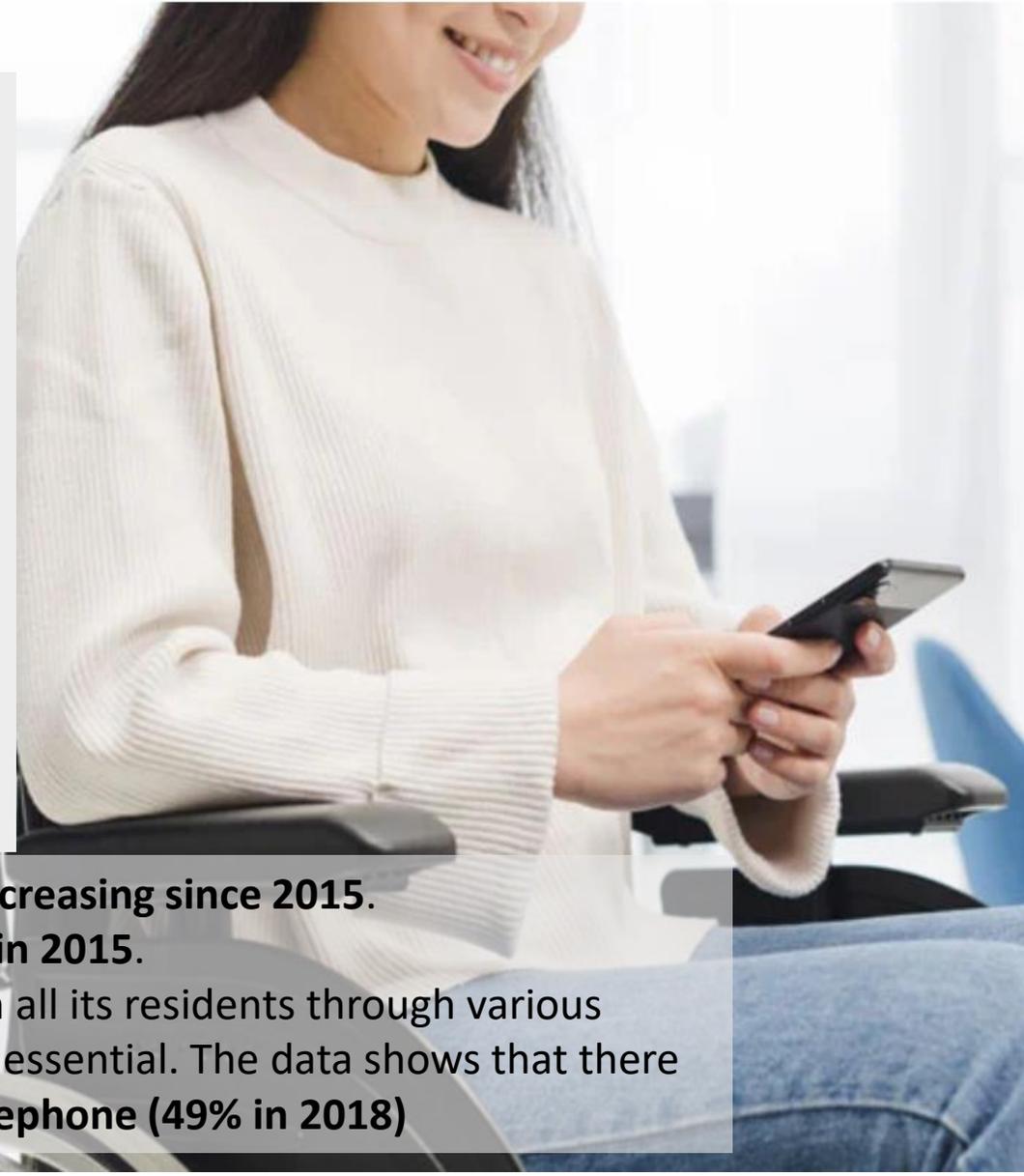


- A large percentage of PwD use their **own private vehicles** or company cars to go to work (**30%**), followed by those that **walk or use taxi's** i.e., **24%** and **22%** respectively.
- A very small percentage of the disabled population rely on **buses (4%)** and **trains (3%)** to get to work.

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PWD IN JOBURG

## Individuals with disability who own a mobile telephone, 2015-2018

% individuals with disability who own a mobile telephone, 2015-2018



- The number of PwD that have access to mobile telephones has been **decreasing since 2015**.
- **In 2018, 47% of PwD in Joburg owned mobile phones, down from 57% in 2015.**
- The City is constantly looking at ways to better connect and engage with all its residents through various online/social media platforms, therefore access to mobile telephones is essential. The data shows that there is quite a large number of PwDs in Joburg **who do not own a mobile telephone (49% in 2018)**

## SUMMARY

Key to addressing the needs and challenges of PwDs is having access to reliable data and information on PwD. This statistical brief collated data on PwD from the GHS aimed at understanding the demographic profile of this vulnerable group. Below are some of the high-level findings:

- PwDs made up **6.6% of the South African population** and **5% of the Joburg population** in **2019**.
- On average, there are **more females with disabilities than males** in both Joburg and in SA.
- The **majority** of PwDs **do not receive** any form of **social assistance** from government.
- PwD usually require specialized care for their specific type of disability and may have additional medical conditions that require attention. Thus, the ability for PwD to have access to reliable and affordable health care is imperative. In SA, having medical insurance is key to accessing quality healthcare services, however, **the majority of PwD are not members of any medical aid scheme**.
- Only **20% of PwDs in Joburg** have a **tertiary qualification**. The high level of functional illiteracy amongst adults with disabilities is a direct result of the lack of educational opportunities for children with disabilities (<https://www.independentliving.org/docs5/SANatIDisStrat1.html>)
- Very few PwDs in Joburg rely on **public buses (4%) and trains (3%)** to get to their **place of work**. The majority use their **own private vehicles or company cars (30%)**. The City therefore needs to find better ways to make **public transport more accessible** and **user friendly for PwD**.
- Given that universal access is not yet a common feature of all City facilities and a large number of PwDs in Joburg do not own a mobile telephone, the City should explore innovative measures to connect with and support our PwD citizens to ensure no one is left behind.