



# Black African Learner Performance: An In-depth Study

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basic education

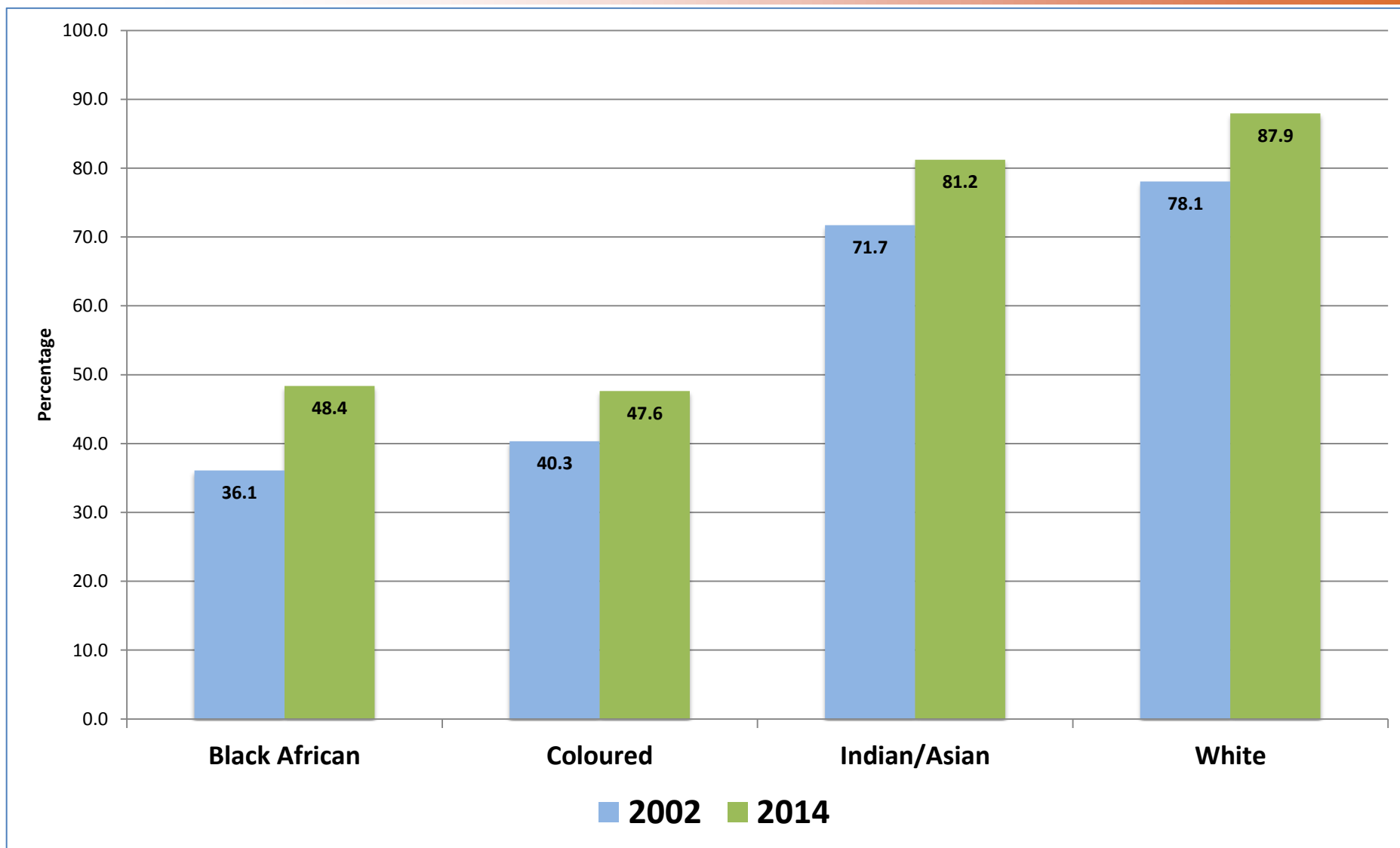
Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# Introduction

- This study focuses on Grade 12 pass rates across Population Groups with a special focus on Black Africans between the 2008 and 2014 period.
- One should note that the South African Grade 12 examination system is not designed to aggregate values (such as the pass rate) that are comparable over time. Therefore, progress in matric thus not necessarily measure progress of the whole education sector.
- South Africa's level of enrolment in the last year of upper secondary schooling (Grade 12) is more or less in line with what is found in similar developing countries, however, the percentage of youths successfully completing secondary schooling (matric) is a bit low by international standards. Gustafsson (2011).

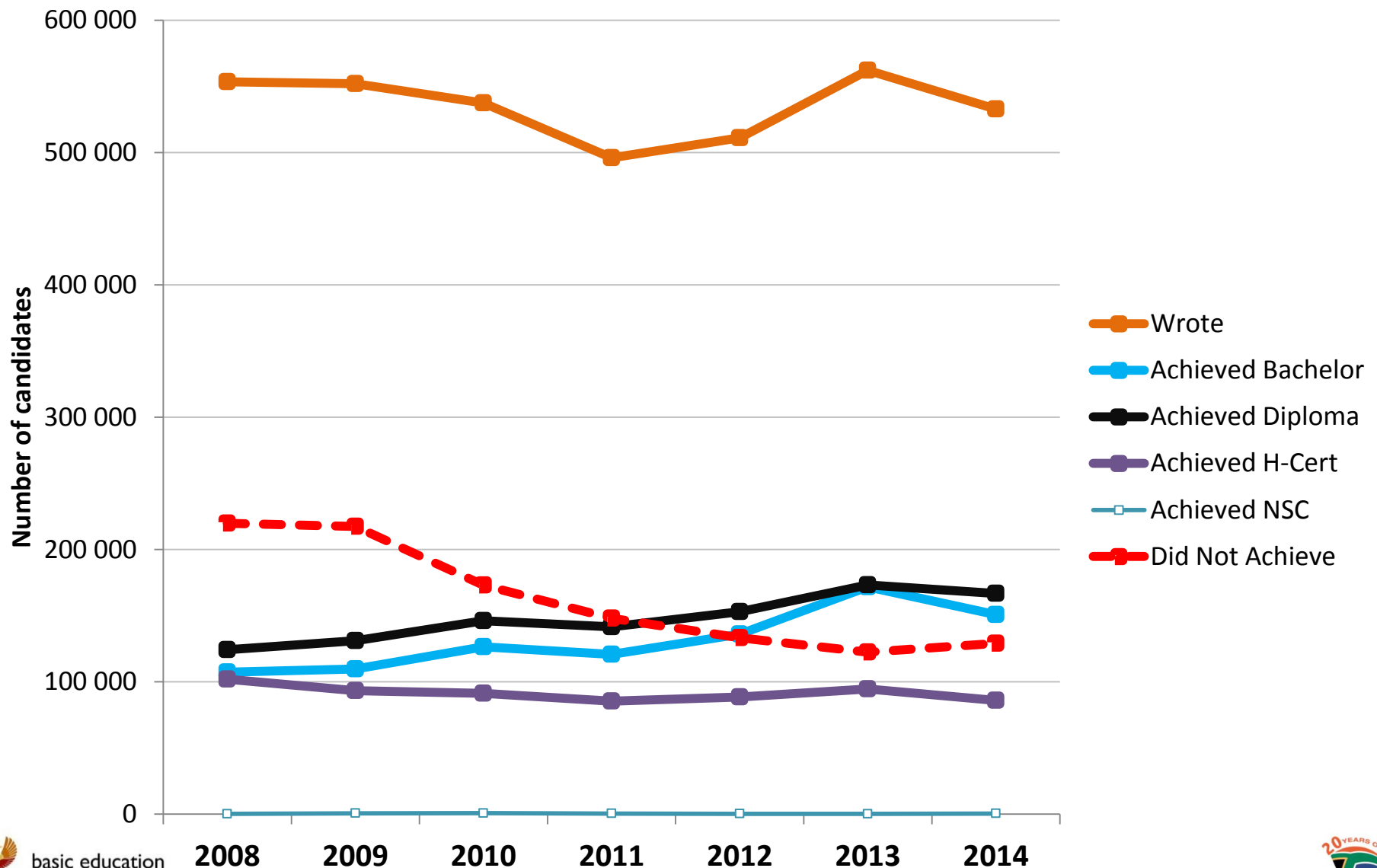
# Proportion of 22 to 25-year-olds who completed Grade 12 (matric)



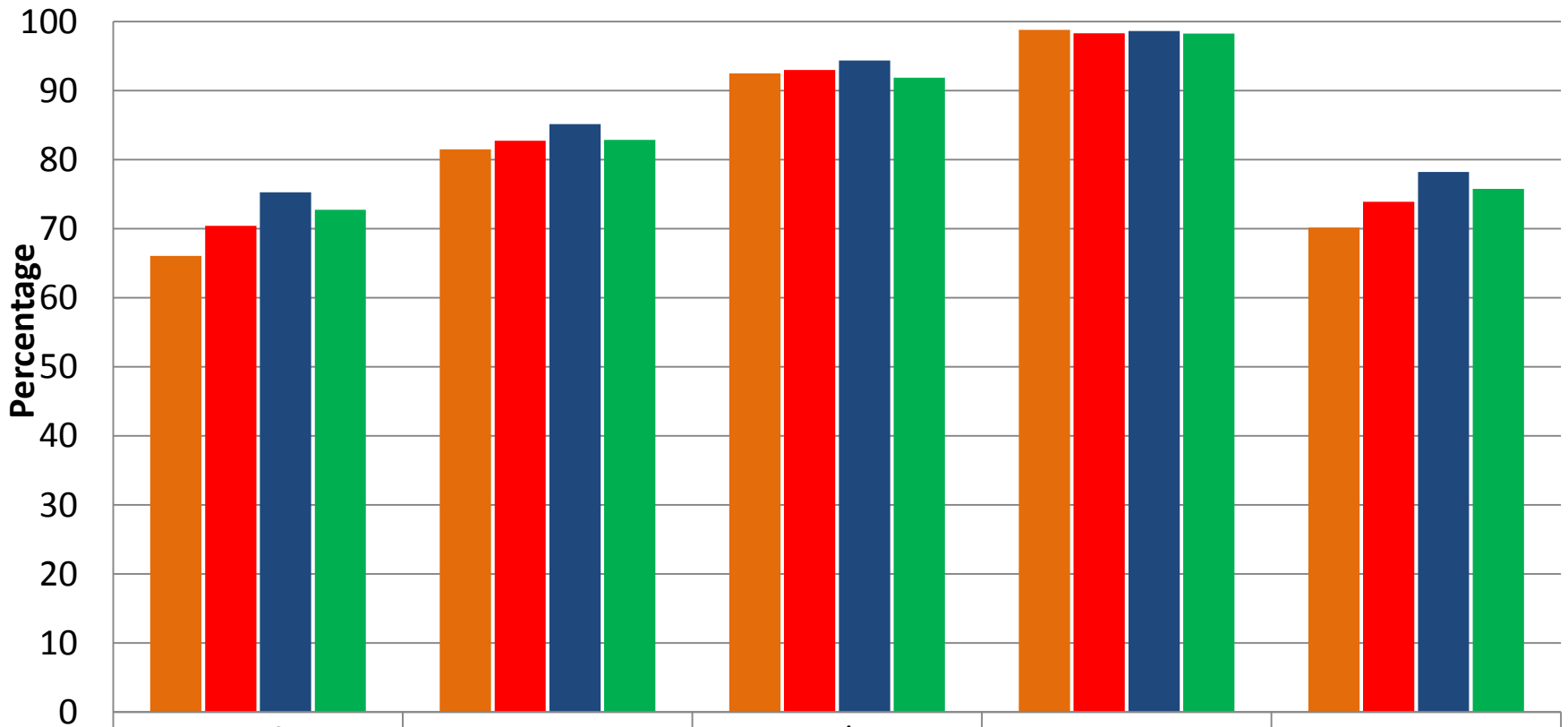
# Learner Progression (Proxy)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Grade 1</b>	1 287 582	1 292 131	1 294 975	1 233 581	1 186 011	1 171 323	1 122 114	1 106 827	1 116 899	1 177 089	1 208 973	1 222 851	1 235 901	1 244 208
<b>Grade 2</b>	1 006 967	1 124 265	1 103 131	1 118 690	1 082 501	1 050 103	1 031 821	1 004 311	994 410	1 003 353	1 074 788	1 116 427	1 149 894	1 164 050
<b>Grade 3</b>	943 244	1 004 312	1 030 323	1 078 001	1 100 150	1 066 796	1 017 656	1 004 585	972 668	957 209	967 373	1 025 185	1 073 447	1 106 895
<b>Grade 4</b>	1 070 766	954 874	979 200	1 061 770	1 073 604	1 090 762	1 050 860	1 019 886	1 002 645	974 860	966 349	964 630	1 036 378	1 088 804
<b>Grade 5</b>	1 138 418	1 036 996	911 263	951 372	1 026 779	1 035 449	1 043 012	1 009 370	978 983	957 203	939 025	923 562	929 735	979 360
<b>Grade 6</b>	1 034 229	1 102 465	990 434	898 493	920 187	1 001 687	1 001 852	1 012 619	978 016	946 427	935 446	909 095	894 517	899 799
<b>Grade 7</b>	955 199	988 589	1 041 922	972 542	872 693	896 138	964 345	970 902	980 747	941 291	912 528	902 099	875 311	884 994
<b>Grade 8</b>	932 962	977 668	1 002 898	1 052 499	1 021 377	930 019	926 603	991 093	1 001 180	1 008 110	971 509	942 345	935 624	931 766
<b>Grade 9</b>	1 085 368	903 043	907 172	930 797	971 493	957 450	902 656	926 531	1 009 327	1 049 904	1 096 113	1 073 060	1 048 823	950 512
<b>Grade 10</b>	873 453	1 100 890	1 049 239	1 069 494	1 093 750	1 115 961	1 076 527	1 017 341	1 039 762	1 094 189	1 103 495	1 146 285	1 139 872	1 112 604
<b>Grade 11</b>	673 442	737 418	820 802	839 009	890 902	920 102	902 752	881 661	841 815	847 738	874 331	834 611	897 342	928 983
<b>Grade 12</b>	485 134	475 974	500 490	538 909	568 930	625 809	595 216	602 278	579 384	534 498	551 837	597 196	571 819	687 230

# Trends in the NSC exams



# NSC Pass rates by Population Group

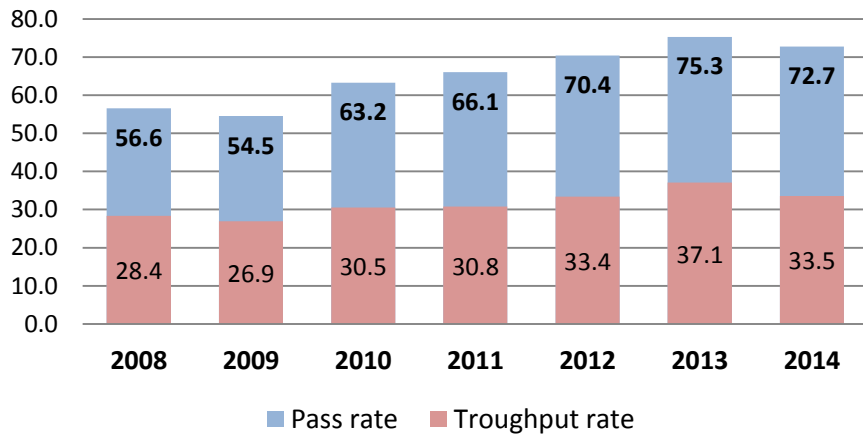


	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	Total
2011	66.1	81.5	92.5	98.8	70.2
2012	70.4	82.7	93.0	98.3	73.9
2013	75.3	85.1	94.3	98.6	78.2
2014	72.7	82.9	91.9	98.3	75.8

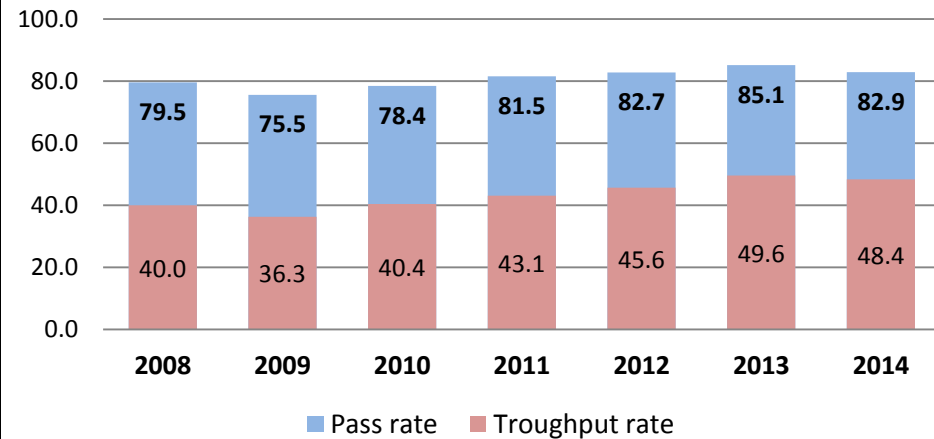


# Pass rate vs. Throughput rate

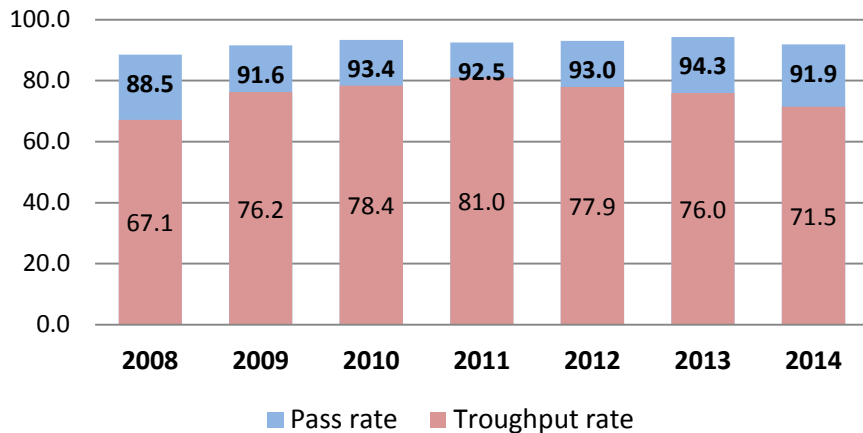
## Black African



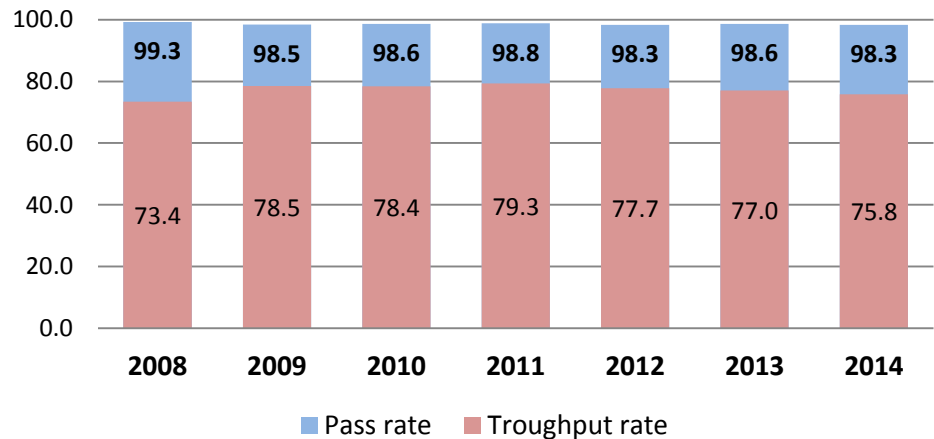
## Coloured



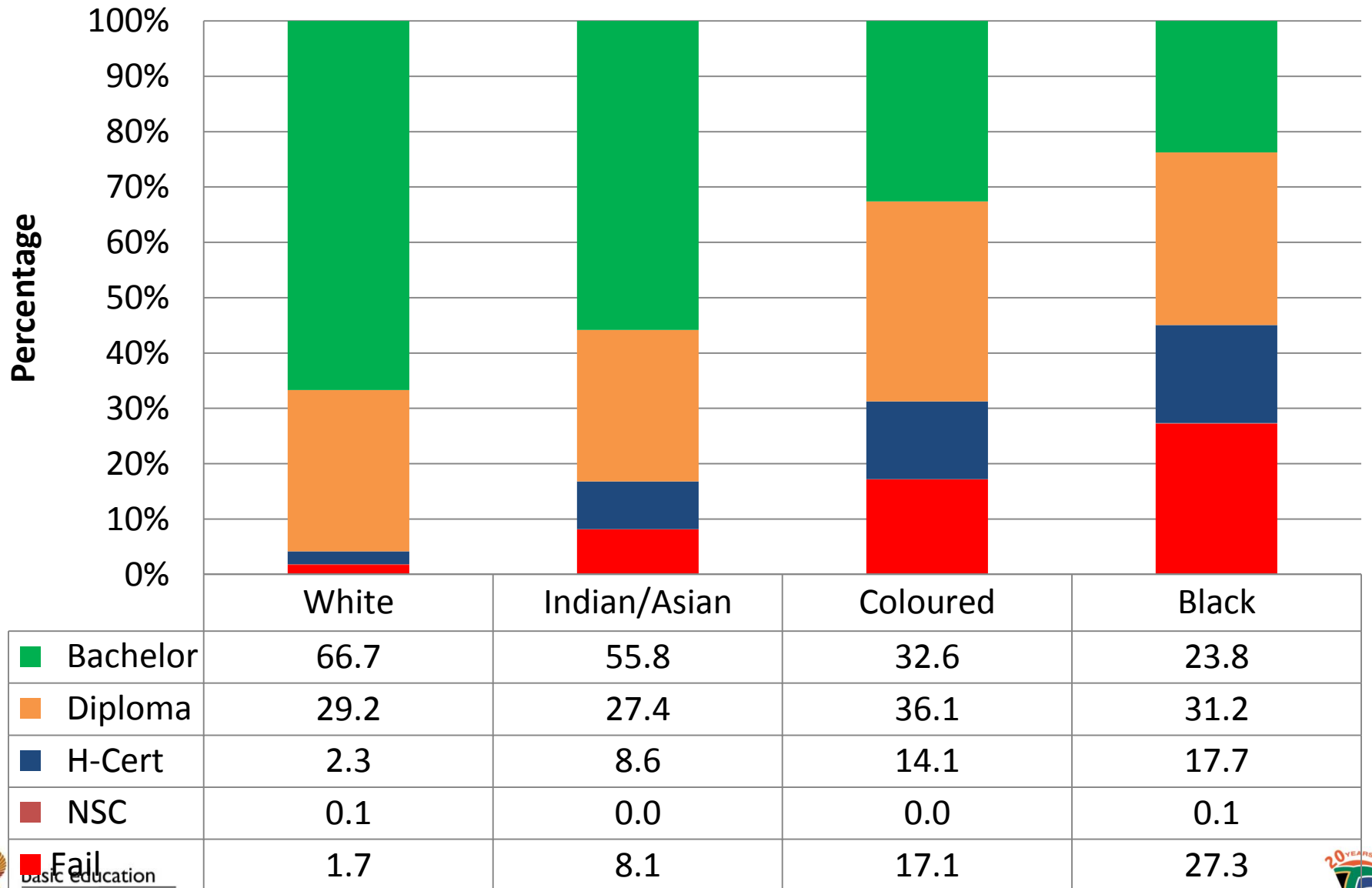
## Indian/Asian



## White

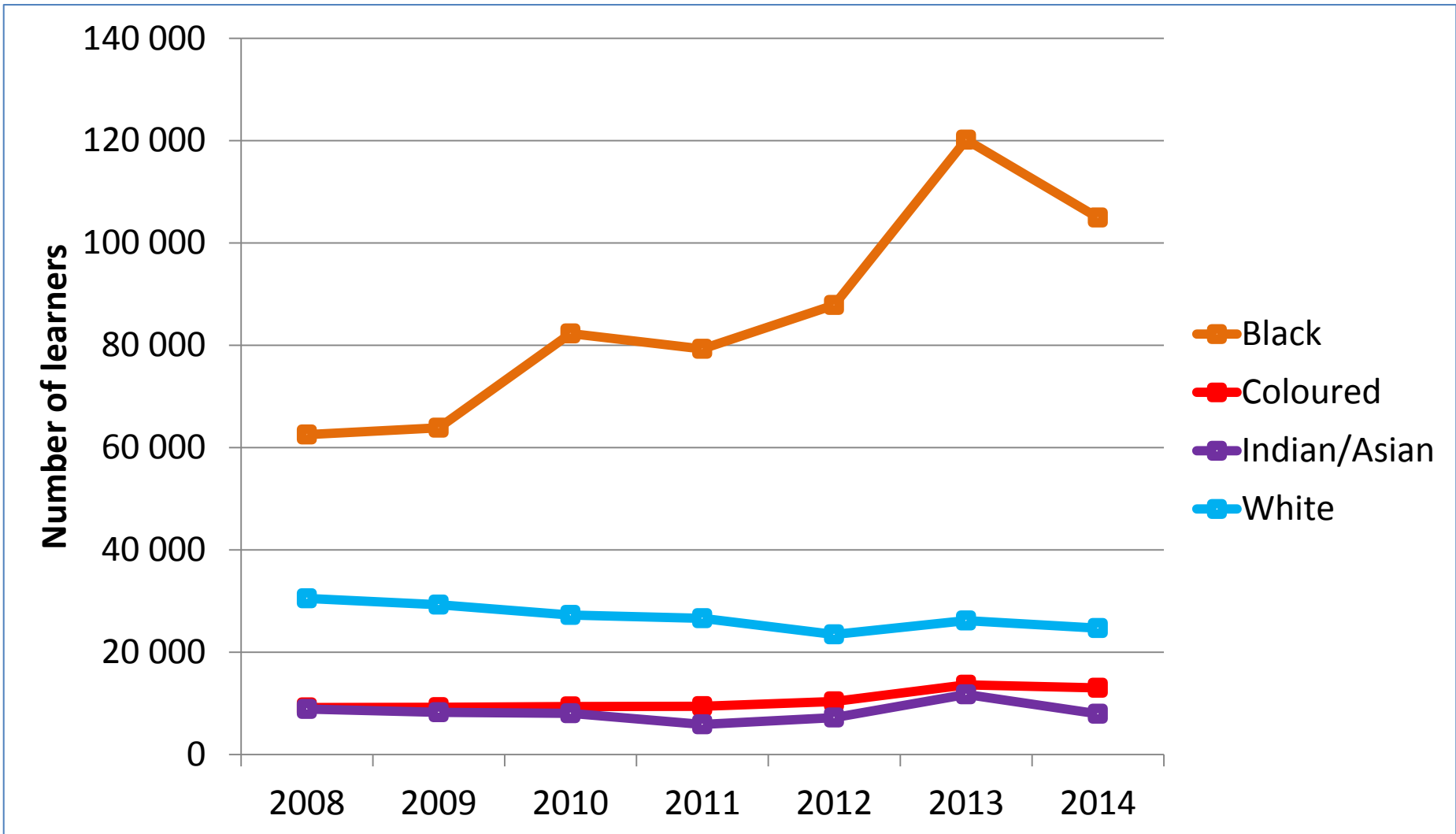


# Overall performance by population group, 2014





# Number of learners achieving a Bachelor Pass

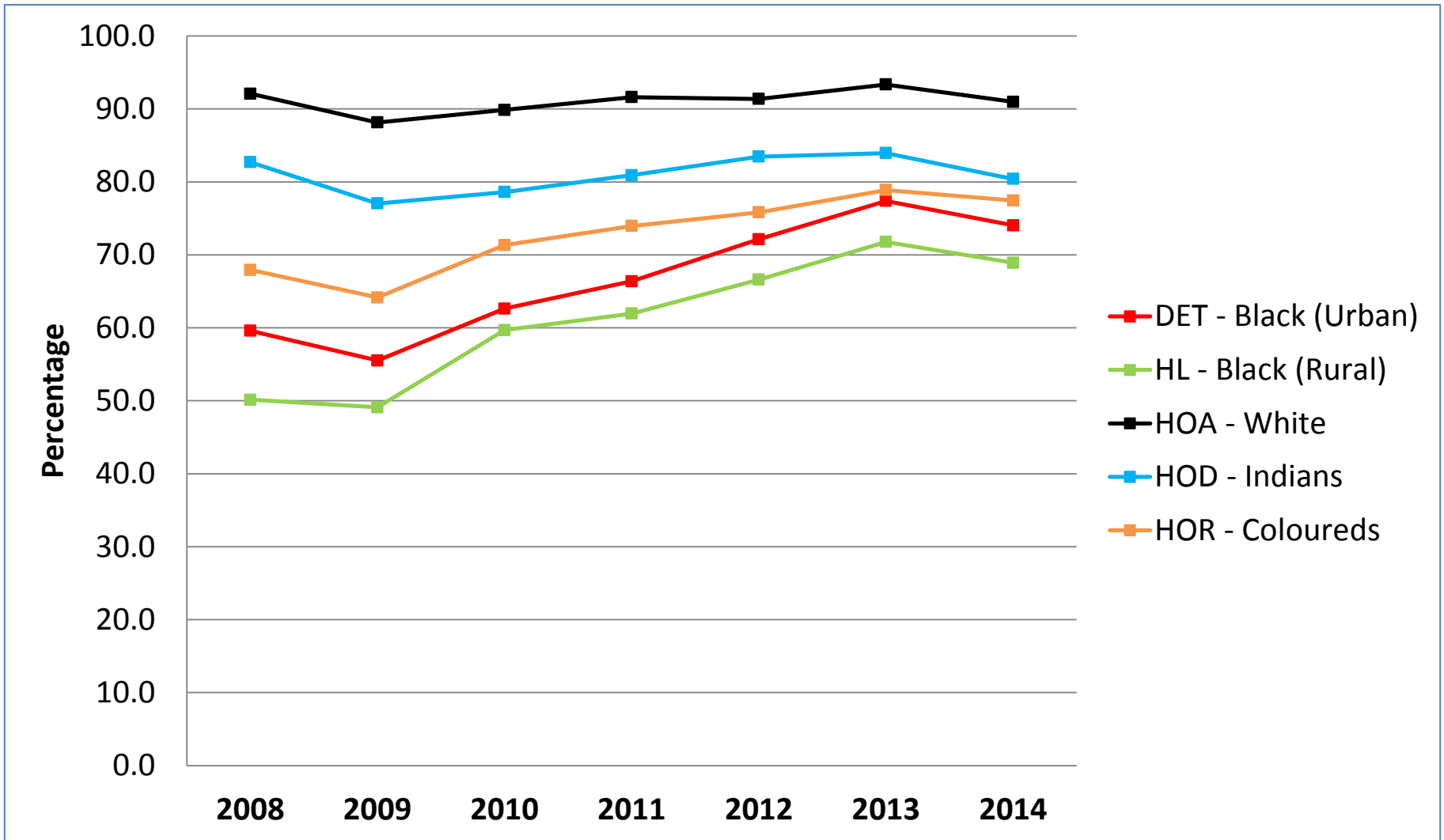


# Black African learner performance by Former Department of the school, 2014

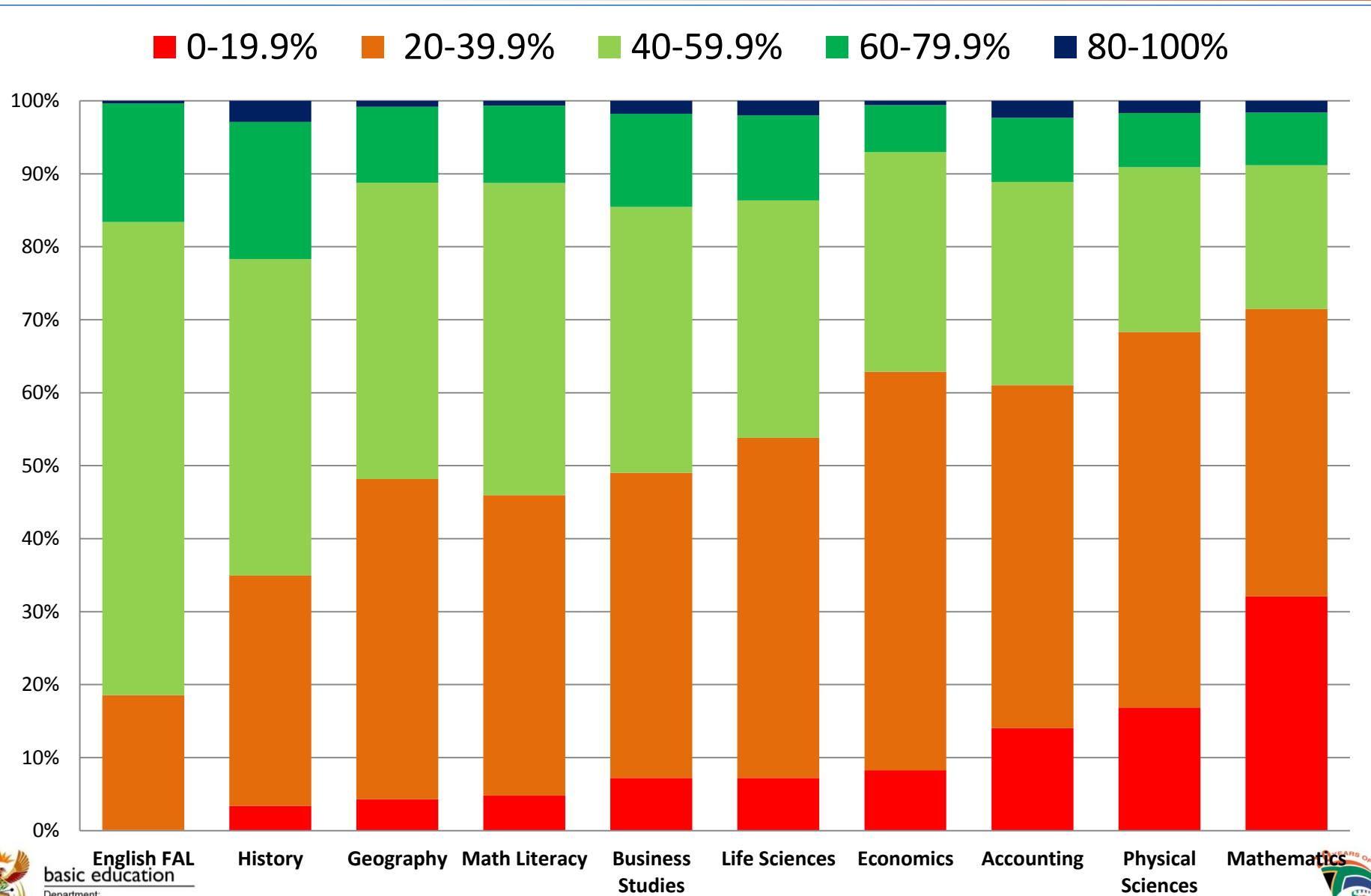
Former Department	Number of schools	Learners entered	Learners wrote	Learners achieved	% Learners achieved	% Learners achieved bachelor
DET – Black African (Urban)	1,247	115,821	113,406	83,968	74.0	23.8
HL – Black African (Rural)	3,066	213,408	205,606	141,692	68.9	20.6
HoA – Whites	568	28,636	28,329	25,770	91.0	45.2
HoD – Indians	154	11,225	11,044	8,880	80.4	28.0
HoR – Coloureds	260	9,044	8,784	6,802	77.4	25.8
Private	149	6,277	5,711	4,109	71.9	26.4
New	858	56,259	54,296	40,097	73.8	23.5
Unclassified	281	14,902	14,391	9,903	68.8	22.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,583</b>	<b>455,572</b>	<b>441,567</b>	<b>321,221</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>23.8</b>



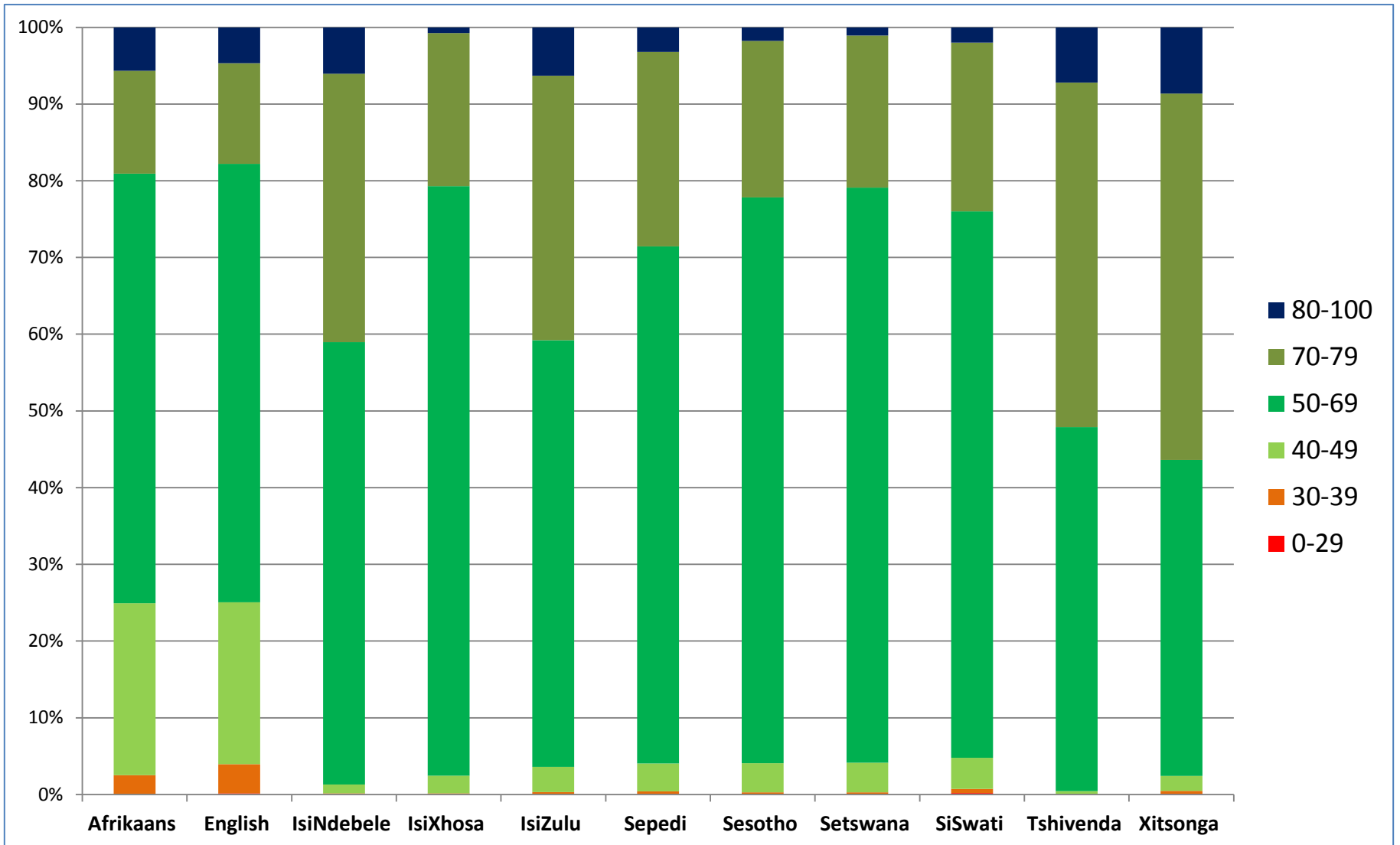
# Pass rates for Black Africans over the years



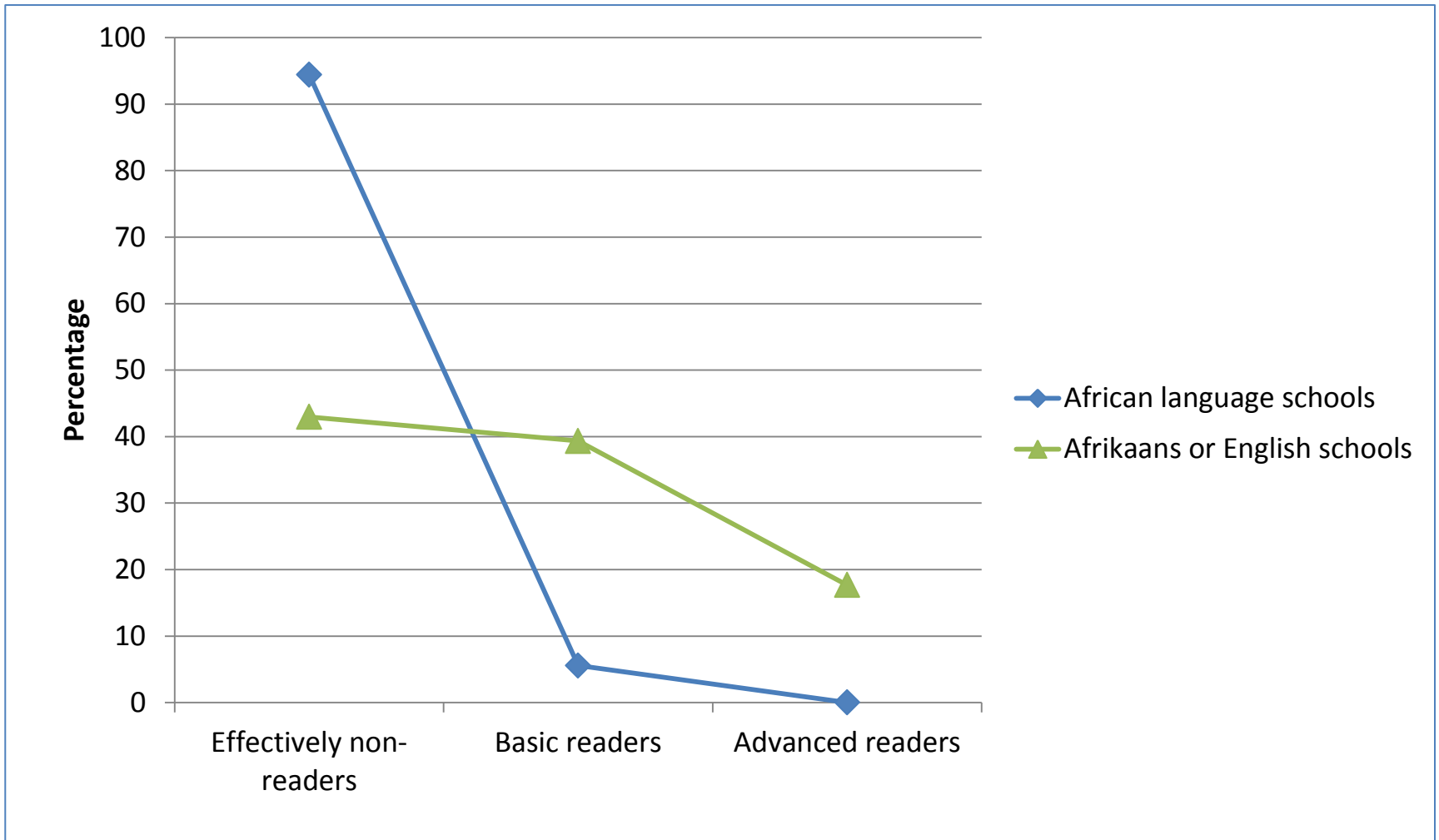
# Learner performance in selected subjects, 2014



# Learner performance in Home Languages, 2013



# Reading competency after 5 years



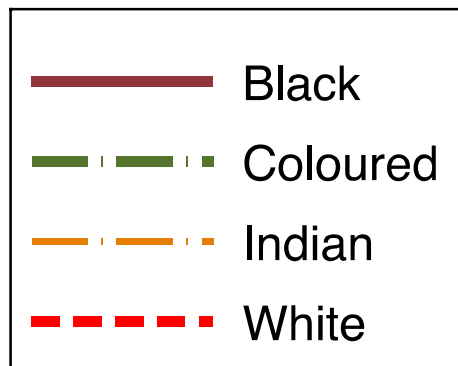
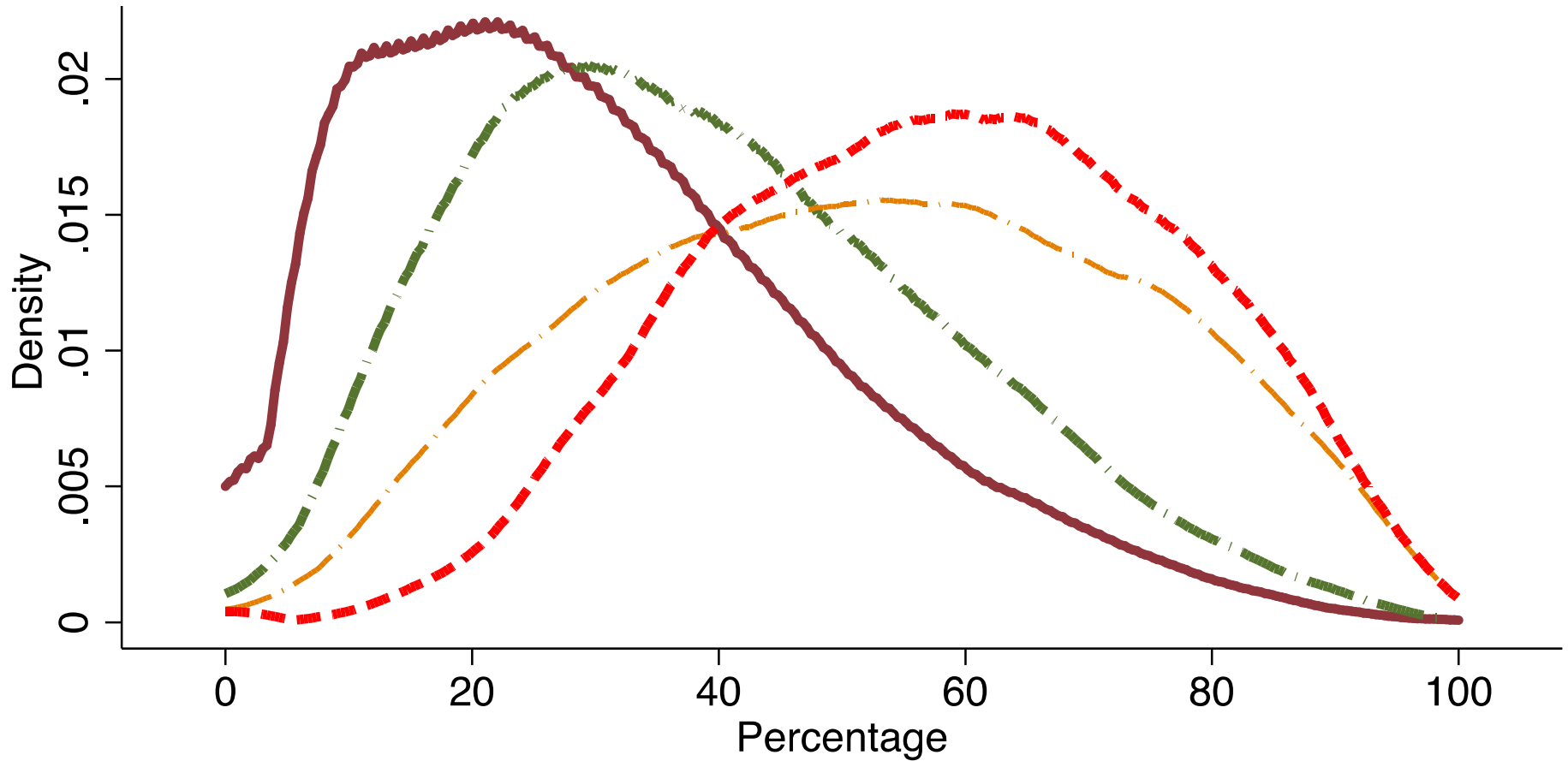
Source: PIRLS 2006 data

# Learner Performance in selected subjects

Subject	Black African		Coloured		Indian/Asian		White	
	30% & above	40% & above	30% & above	40% & above	30% & above	40% & above	30% & above	40% & above
Accounting	64.4	39.0	75.1	51.1	94.5	84.9	97.5	90.4
CAT	88.4	61.3	88.3	63.4	94.7	78.1	97.8	86.8
Economics	67.9	37.1	75.3	45.9	94.4	80.6	97.7	88.8
English (FAL)	97.5	81.4	99.0	88.4	100.0	96.3	100.0	99.1
Geography	80.1	51.8	83.1	52.8	96.5	83.8	98.6	89.5
History	85.4	65.1	87.4	64.3	98.7	92.6	98.4	93.2
Life Sciences	72.1	46.2	69.3	43.9	92.8	79.0	95.3	82.6
Math Literacy	81.6	54.0	92.6	73.3	98.2	91.0	99.9	98.7
Mathematics	47.6	28.5	67.2	46.3	83.7	69.7	94.4	83.0
Physical Sciences	57.7	31.7	65.2	42.7	89.1	74.3	90.1	76.0



# Mathematics scores distributions





# Excellence in both Mathematics and Physical Science

## All learners

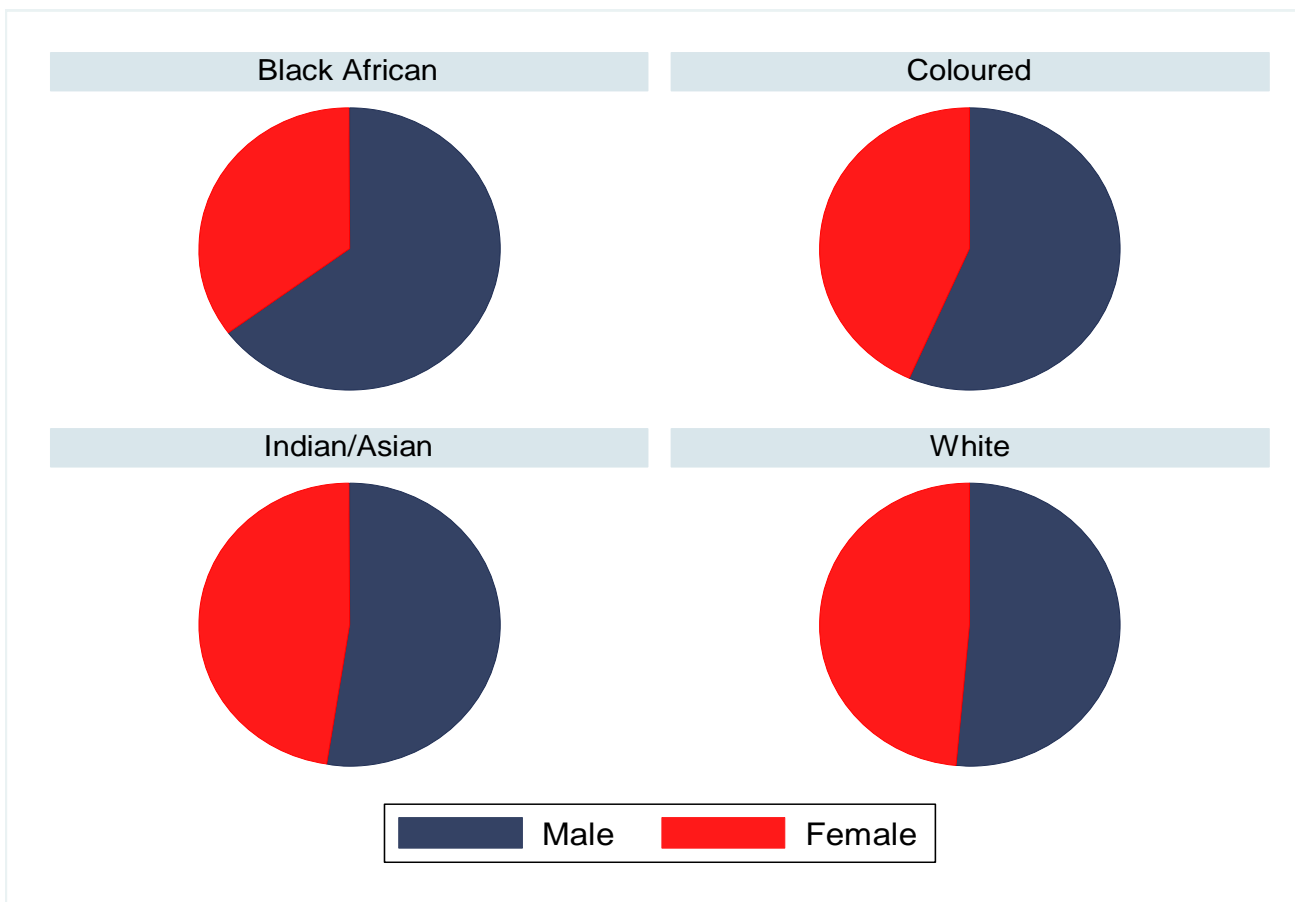
Physics → Maths ↓	0-29	30-39	40-49	50-69	70-79	80-100	Total
0-29	48,756	11,975	1,904	222	0	0	62,857
30-39	8,503	13,846	5,785	1,029	6	0	29,169
40-49	1,891	7,852	8,570	3,950	43	1	22,307
50-69	327	2,490	7,085	15,873	1,607	200	27,582
70-79	1	30	227	3,872	2,992	1,013	8,135
80-100	0	2	11	617	1,786	4,295	6,711
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,478</b>	<b>36,195</b>	<b>23,582</b>	<b>25,563</b>	<b>6,434</b>	<b>5,509</b>	<b>156,761</b>
<b>Students with 70 or more in both subjects</b>							<b>10,086</b>

## Black African learners only

Physics → Maths ↓	0-29	30-39	40-49	50-69	70-79	80-100	Total
0-29	46,742	11444	1852	216	0	0	60,254
30-39	7606	12,539	5286	967	5	0	26,403
40-49	1565	6,603	7,240	3467	39	1	18,915
50-69	250	1846	5,108	11,504	1133	153	19,994
70-79	1	21	145	2,232	1,641	571	4,611
80-100	0	1	5	322	823	1,674	2,825
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,164</b>	<b>32,454</b>	<b>19,636</b>	<b>18,708</b>	<b>3,641</b>	<b>2,399</b>	<b>133,002</b>
<b>Students with 70 or more in both subjects</b>							<b>4,709</b>



# Breakdown of learners with 70 or more in both Mathematics and Physics



	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	Total
Male	64.9	56.7	52.4	51.4	58.1
Female	35.1	43.4	47.6	48.6	41.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



# In summary

- (1) In the majority of performance indicators, Black African learners perform much worse than Coloured learners, who perform worse than Indian/Asian learners, who in turn perform worse than White learners;
- (2) Intra-race inequality exists in learner performance by school SES.
- (3) There is a noticeable gap in the performance between boy and girl learners for the Black African group in relation to other population groups.

# Conclusion

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- Despite improvements, the apartheid legacy remains strong and much further improvement is needed.
- The policy challenge is thus to pay special attention to the factors that inhibit quality secondary schooling amongst the former Black schools.

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# Thank You

