

The unprecedented demand for consumer goods has led to a huge increase in domestic waste which is having a hugely negative effect on the natural environment. Cities are rapidly running out of appropriate dumping sites and recycling of waste materials is globally becoming a vital component of strategies to preserve nature and limit the demand for raw materials. Figure 12.3 shows that almost one quarter (24,7%) of metropolitan households separated at least some household waste for recycling. This figure was highest in Cape Town (37,3%) and Johannesburg (31,4%) and lowest in Mangaung (5,3%) and eThekweni (9,1%).

13 Telecommunications

Communication plays an important role in the fundamental operation of a society. It links people and businesses, facilitating communication and the flow of ideas and information and coordinating economic activities and development.

Figure 13.1: Percentage of households who have a functional landline and cellular telephone in their dwellings by province, 2018

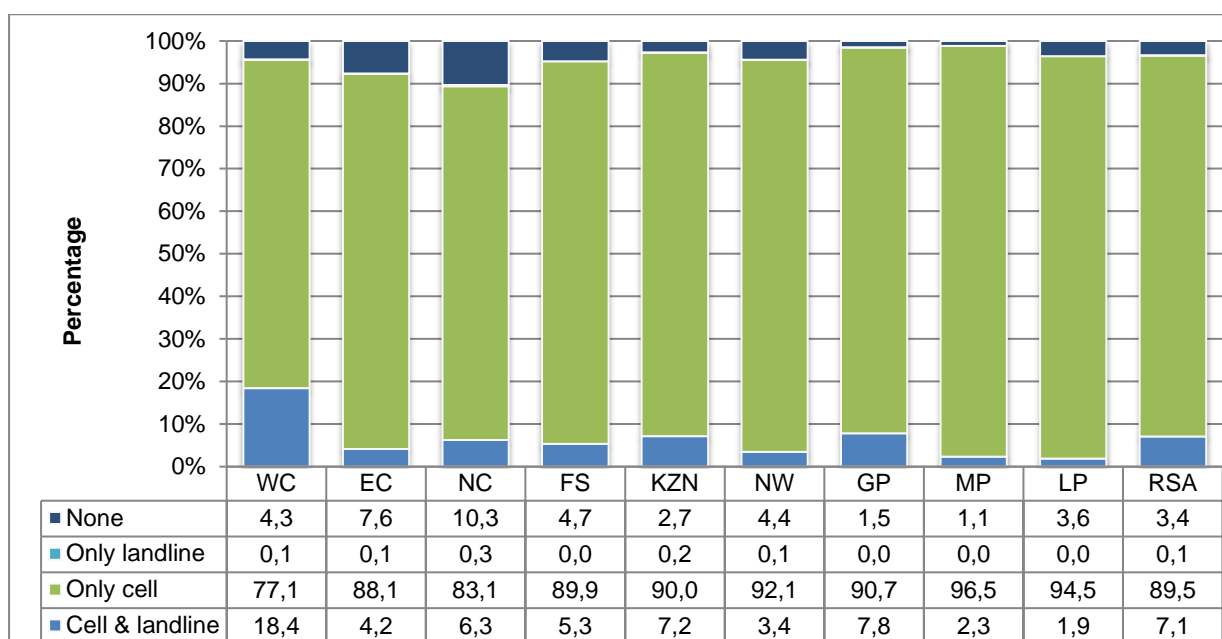


Figure 13.1 summarises statistics collected on access to functional landlines and cellular (mobile) phones within the sampled dwelling units in 2018. Nationally, only 3,4% of households did not have access to either landlines or cellular phones. Households without access to these communication media were most common in Northern Cape (10,3%) and Eastern Cape (7,6%). Only 0,1% of South African households used only landlines. By comparison, 89,5% of South African households exclusively use cellular phones. The exclusive use of cellular phones was most common in Mpumalanga (96,5%), Limpopo (94,5%), North West (92,1%), and Gauteng (90,7%). Households that had higher usage of both cellular phones and landlines were most common in the more prosperous provinces, namely Western Cape (18,4%) and Gauteng (7,8%).

Figure 13.2: Percentage of households who have a functional landline and cellular telephone in their dwellings by metropolitan areas, 2018

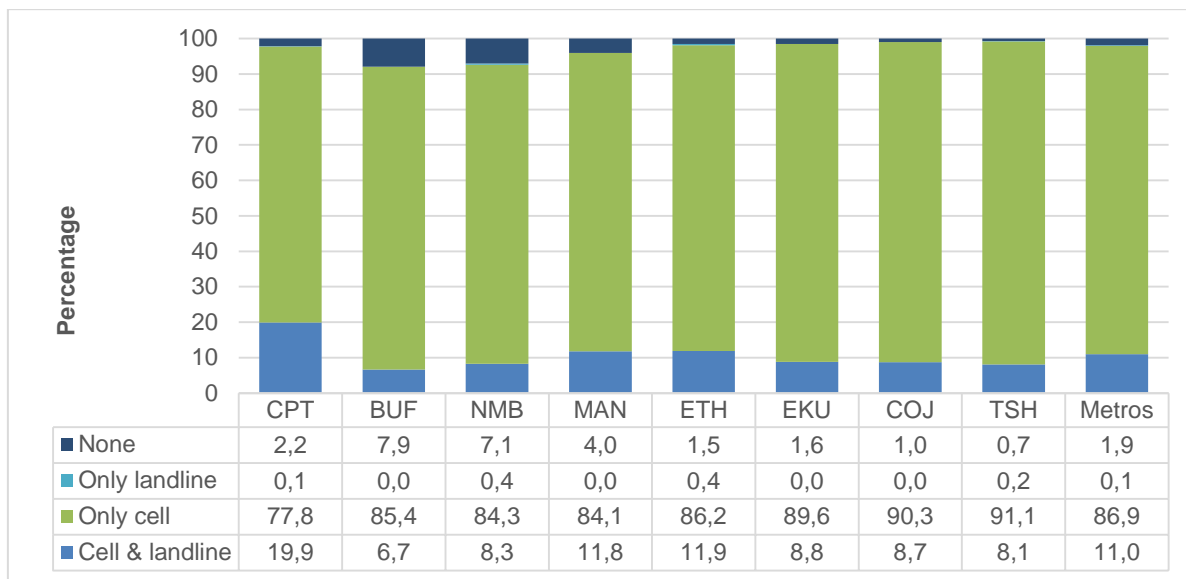


Figure 13.2 shows that households without access to landlines or cellular phones were most common in Buffalo City (7,9%), Nelson Mandela Bay (7,1%), and Mangaung (4,0%). Only 0,1% of South African households living in metropolitan areas exclusively used landlines, compared to 86,9% that exclusively used cellular phones. The exclusive use of cellular phones was most common in City of Tshwane (91,1%), City of Johannesburg (90,3%), and Ekurhuleni (89,6%). Almost one-fifth (19,9%) of households in Cape Town used both landlines and cellular phones compared to 6,7% in Buffalo City and 8,1% in Tshwane.

Figure 13.3: Percentage of households with access to the Internet at home, or for which at least one member has access to, or used the Internet by province, 2018

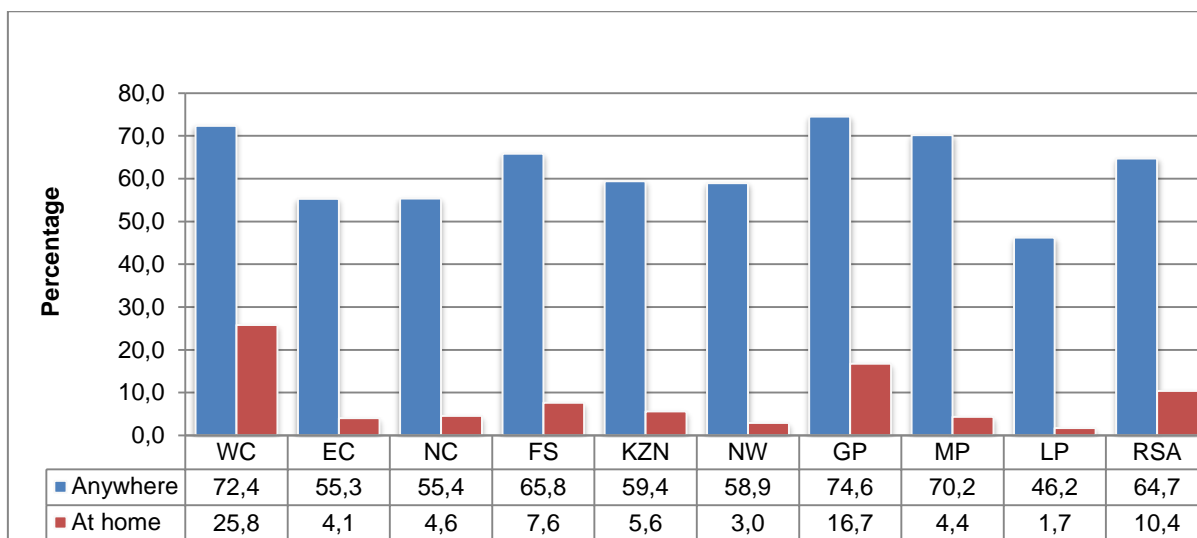


Figure 13.3 shows that 64,7% of South African households had at least one member who had access to, or used the Internet either at home, work, place of study or Internet cafés. Access to the Internet using all available means was highest in Gauteng (74,6%), Western Cape (72,4%) and Mpumalanga (70,2%), and lowest in Limpopo (46,2%) and Eastern Cape (55,3%). Marginally over one-tenth (10,4%) of South African households had access to the Internet at home. Access to the Internet at home was highest among households in Western Cape (25,8%) and Gauteng (16,7%), and lowest in Limpopo (1,7%) and North West (3,0%).

Table 13.1: Households' access to the Internet by place of access, urban/rural status and province, 2018

Place where Internet is accessed	Rural/Urban status	Province (per cent)									
		WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
At home	Metro	30,5	6,3	-	13,4	8,9	-	17,5	-	-	17,3
	Urban	17,0	5,7	5,9	5,8	6,9	5,1	11,5	6,1	5,4	8,0
	Rural	15,5	1,4	1,1	2,9	1,2	0,8	6,4	3,1	0,6	1,7
	Total	25,8	4,1	4,6	7,6	5,6	3,0	16,7	4,4	1,7	10,4
At work	Metro	22,7	23,5	-	12,4	23,3	-	27,2	-	-	25,0
	Urban	19,7	12,9	14,5	12,3	19,7	10,7	17,5	7,9	18,8	14,9
	Rural	9,5	1,8	3,3	2,9	3,1	4,6	9,7	5,5	1,8	3,3
	Total	21,1	11,8	11,4	11,1	15,1	7,6	25,8	6,5	5,7	16,2
Using mobile devices	Metro	67,8	71,6	-	69,5	60,0	-	68,6	-	-	67,4
	Urban	54,5	57,9	55,2	63,7	61,2	68,1	68,6	76,1	58,1	63,7
	Rural	26,8	36,9	50,2	50,8	45,2	46,7	34,6	63,1	38,9	45,0
	Total	61,7	53,7	53,9	63,6	54,9	57,2	68,3	68,8	43,3	60,1
At Internet Cafes or educational facilities	Metro	15,5	17,6	-	4,3	10,4	-	17,8	-	-	15,8
	Urban	13,8	9,8	2,9	10,9	9,2	5,8	5,7	2,5	5,6	7,6
	Rural	0,0	1,5	1,9	5,9	4,0	7,7	0,0	4,6	1,9	3,5
	Total	14,1	9,0	2,6	8,3	7,8	6,7	16,1	3,7	2,7	10,1

Table 13.1 shows that household access to the Internet at home was highest in Western Cape (25,8%) and Gauteng (16,7%) and lowest in Limpopo (1,7%). While 17,3% of households in metropolitan areas had access to the Internet at home, this was true for only 1,7% of rural households in general and less than one per cent of rural households in North West (0,8%) and Limpopo (0,6%). Households were generally more likely to have access to the Internet at work than at home or at Internet cafés or at educational institutions. Households in Gauteng and Western Cape were most likely to access the Internet at work while those in Limpopo were least likely to do so.

Using mobile devices to access the Internet includes access on cellular telephones or using mobile access devices such as 3G cards. It is clear from Table 13.1 that mobile access to the Internet has made it much more accessible to households in rural areas. Nationally, Internet access using mobile devices (60,1%) was much more common than access at home (10,4%), at work (16,2%) and elsewhere (10,1%). Although the use of mobile Internet access devices in rural areas (45,0%) still lags behind its use in metros (67,5%) and urban areas (63,7%), it is much more common in rural areas than any of the alternative methods.