



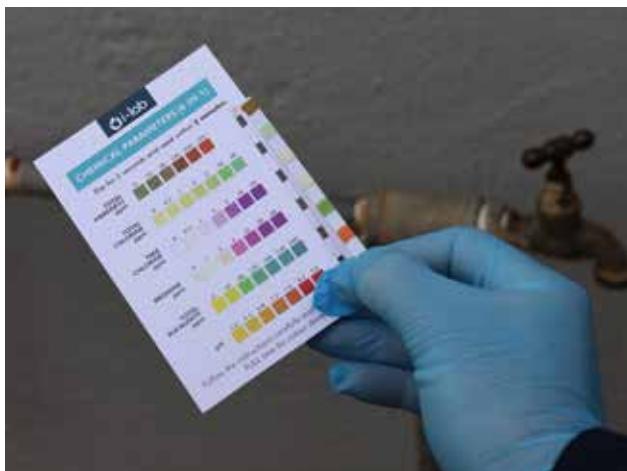
# AFRIFORUM'S WATER QUALITY WATCH REPORT



December 2025

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*AfriForum's water quality watch report forms part of AfriForum Community Sustainability's #CleanWater initiative.*



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# INTRODUCTION

## South Africa's water landscape

South Africa is among the most water-scarce countries in the world. Rainfall is limited, unpredictable and unevenly spread across the country, while many of our biggest population centres lie far from major natural water sources.

Experts estimate that all of South Africa's available water has already been allocated to meet existing needs. Our limited freshwater is under growing pressure from a rising population, industry, mining, agriculture and unchecked pollution. Climate change adds further risk by making rainfall more erratic and droughts longer.

To supplement this shortage, South Africa has already built one of the continent's largest engineering projects: the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, which transfers water from the high-rainfall region in neighbouring Lesotho into the Vaal basin and Gauteng area to supply the country's economic heartland. However, the project's vast infrastructure requirements come at an enormous cost, and few similar large-scale options remain.

This reality underlines a simple truth: we cannot treat water as an endless resource. Every litre must count to secure the country's future. The ways in which we manage our natural water sources, maintain the infrastructure that delivers it, and use it in our daily lives will determine whether there is still clean water to sustain livelihoods, the economy and ecosystems tomorrow.

## The government's responsibilities

Access to clean drinking water, safe sanitation and a healthy environment are basic human rights protected by the Constitution. This means government not only has to respect these rights, but must also take active steps to make them a reality through laws, policies and proper management.

South Africa's water system can be thought of as a chain. Each link depends on the one before it: from natural water sources such as rivers and dams, to treatment and distribution systems that bring clean water to our taps, and finally to the collection and treatment of sewage before it flows back into the environment. If one link fails, the whole chain weakens.

At the national level, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is the custodian of all South Africa's water resources. It regulates how water is used, shared and protected. The newly established National Water Resource Infrastructure Agency is responsible for developing and managing large national projects such as dams and water transfer schemes that move water between catchment areas.

Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs) play a supporting role by managing water within river catchments to make sure water use stays within sustainable limits. Water User Associations (WUAs) are local partnerships, often made up of farmers, industries or communities, that help coordinate the fair and efficient use of water in specific areas.

On the level between national infrastructure and municipalities are water boards, such as Rand Water, Magalies Water and uMngeni-uThukela Water. These entities are established by the DWS to act as bulk water service providers. They purify raw water drawn from dams and rivers, and then supply this treated water to municipalities, industries and other users. Water boards also build and operate large treatment plants and pipelines, helping to maintain stability in regions where municipalities lack the capacity to do so on their own.

The final and most visible link in the chain is local government. The Constitution gives municipalities the duty and authority to provide water and sanitation services directly to communities. This includes planning, building,

operating and maintaining the pipes, pumps and treatment plants that deliver clean water and process sewage. When municipalities fail to maintain their infrastructure or manage it efficiently, water is wasted and pollution increases. In turn, this pollution flows back into rivers and dams, contaminating the very sources that supply drinking water. The result is a weakening of every link in the chain and an ever-worsening cycle in which clean water becomes scarcer and harder to produce.

Although the water chain depends on physical infrastructure, it also relies on financial flow. Each level in the system pays for the water it receives: water boards such as Rand Water pay the DWS for raw water abstraction under their licence conditions; municipalities buy bulk

water from these boards; and households and businesses pay municipalities for the water they use. When municipalities fail to pay their water boards, it creates a financial bottleneck that threatens maintenance, infrastructure upgrades and ultimately the delivery of water to consumers.

While each link in the chain has a clear role, the lines of accountability between national government, water boards and municipalities are often blurred. When roles and responsibilities are not clearly defined or enforced, it leads to finger-pointing instead of problem-solving, and delays the action needed to fix failing infrastructure and restore water quality.



# AFRIFORUM'S WATER QUALITY WATCH REPORT

## A new name for AfriForum's report in 2025

This year's report appears under a new name following a request from the DWS to avoid confusion between the government's official Blue and Green Drop assessments and AfriForum's independent project. While AfriForum's report differs in scope and method, it continues to provide valuable insight into the quality of municipal drinking water and treated sewage across South Africa.

The new name, *AfriForum's water quality watch report*, reflects the project's purpose more accurately: to keep watch over the condition of South Africa's drinking water and treated sewage, track changes over time, and help communities hold their municipalities accountable for the quality of the water and sanitation services they receive.

## Background to AfriForum's project

Through its water quality watch report, AfriForum aims to provide the public with clear and accessible information on the state of municipal water and sanitation services. This promotes transparency and an informed, active citizenry, which in turn drives positive change in the management of local water infrastructure and the protection of water resources.

The DWS is responsible for the national Blue and Green Drop programmes, which involve in-depth audits and risk analyses of nearly 1000 drinking water supply systems (Blue Drop) and 900 sewage treatment plants (Green Drop) across the country. These are vital tools to ensure that the performance of both drinking

water and wastewater systems is regularly monitored and publicly reported on.

From 2012 to 2022, however, the DWS failed to conduct these assessments or release the results publicly. This decade-long information gap cast a shadow over the credibility of South Africa's water and sanitation systems.

It was during this period that AfriForum launched its own independent, citizen-driven water quality watch project in 2013. Although not as comprehensive as the DWS's official programmes, AfriForum's sampling and testing of drinking water and treated sewage across the country gave communities an indication of whether their municipal water services complied with legal standards. The publication of these results also placed pressure on the DWS to resume its national Blue and Green Drop reporting, which it eventually did in 2022 after a ten-year absence.

AfriForum's annual water quality watch project remains relevant in 2025 as a valuable source of primary data that complements the DWS's official findings. Since the DWS publishes its Blue and Green Drop reports on a two-year cycle,<sup>1</sup> AfriForum's yearly results provide more up-to-date insight.

Through this project, AfriForum continues to act as a watchdog over government accountability in water and sanitation. With more than a decade of first-hand data and grassroots-level experience, AfriForum has become a long-term observer of municipal water and sanitation service delivery and a key contributor to national discussions and research on South Africa's water and sanitation systems.

<sup>1</sup> One year, it releases a full *Blue Drop Report* on drinking water quality, together with a shorter *Green Drop Progress Report* on wastewater treatment. The next year, the order is reversed: a full *Green Drop Report* is published with a shorter *Blue Drop Progress Report*.

# CRITERIA FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TREATED SEWAGE EFFLUENT

## Municipal drinking water

The national standard for drinking water quality, SANS 241:2024, sets the legal limits for what is considered safe to drink. It defines how clean water must be in terms of bacteria, chemicals, minerals and other substances that can affect health or taste.

The mandatory process risk indicators are the most important components for safe drinking water and must always be checked or controlled in every supply system, since they are the core indicators of whether drinking water is properly treated, free from harmful contamination and safe to drink.

The standard also prescribes how often water must be sampled and tested, with the frequency depending on the size of the population served and the level of risk in each supply system. Every water provider must monitor and manage its water quality to ensure these limits are consistently met at the point where people use the water.

## Treated sewage effluent

The quality of treated sewage effluent is

measured against the minimum thresholds set out in section 2 (Discharge of Waste or Water Containing Waste into a Water Resource through a pipe, canal, sewer or other conduit) of the Revision of General Authorisations in terms of section 39 of the National Water Act 36 of 1998.<sup>2</sup>

These thresholds define how clean treated effluent must be before it can be discharged into a river, dam, wetland or any other water resource. They are based on scientific guidelines developed by the DWS, aligned with international standards such as those of the World Health Organization, and adjusted for South African conditions. The general authorisation provides a minimum baseline, but each sewage treatment plant must also have a water use licence that may set stricter limits depending on local circumstances and the sensitivity of the receiving environment.

Complying with these limits is essential to protect public health, prevent nutrient pollution and algal blooms, and maintain the ecological balance of rivers and dams that often serve as drinking water sources downstream.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Water and Sanitation. 2013. Revision of General Authorisations in terms of section 39 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998). *Government Gazette* 36820: 3–31. Available at [https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\\_document/201409/36820gon665.pdf](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201409/36820gon665.pdf) (Accessed on 28 October 2025).

# METHODOLOGY

## Overview

AfriForum's water quality watch project uses a standardised, community-based sampling and testing process to assess the quality of municipal drinking water and treated sewage across South Africa. The aim is to provide an independent, comparable snapshot of water safety and treatment performance in different towns and cities.

Water samples are collected once a year by AfriForum branches countrywide and analysed using field-test kits developed with iLab Water. These tests provide indicative results for key chemical and microbial indicators of water quality. Results are logged on a digital data platform, verified, and consolidated into a national database for analysis.

This approach makes it possible to identify problem areas, track changes in water quality over time, and hold municipalities accountable for the condition of their water and sanitation services.

## Test kit

AfriForum uses a field-test kit developed in collaboration with accredited water scientists from iLab Water. The kit is designed to be used by non-technical users without any specialist training. By screening for both chemical and microbial contaminants, it offers reliable, indicative results for both drinking water and treated sewage. The kit comprises the following components (each with a shelf life of up to two years):

- A 6-in-1 chemical test strip (measuring pH, free chlorine, total chlorine, alkalinity, hardness and other basic parameters)
- A phosphate test strip
- Nitrate and nitrite test strips

- A metal test strip
- A Petrifilm™ plate for *E. coli* or coliform counting
- An Aqua Screen bottle for coliform screening

These tools enable a straightforward check for the presence and severity of key chemical and bacteriological indicators of water quality. They serve as an early warning, whether for drinking water or treated sewage effluent, of conditions that may pose risks to human health or to the environment.

The chemical parameters monitored include:

- Hardness and alkalinity (which have indirect operational or health implications)
- Free and total chlorine (which should be maintained at safe levels)
- pH (which influences treatment and metal solubility)
- Nitrates and nitrites (which pose direct health risks)
- Phosphate and total metal content (which act as indicators of agricultural runoff, sewage intrusion or industrial discharge)

The microbial tests screen for the presence of:

- *E. coli* (a clear indicator of faecal contamination, making water unsafe for human use), and
- broader coliform bacteria (which suggests contamination or network issues).

Each kit is supported by quick-start video guides that illustrate every stage of sampling and testing, including correct handling and storage of samples. This training ensures that results are as reliable as possible and that the collected data can be acted on appropriately.



*Figure 1: AfriForum's test kit that measures water quality.*

## Sampling procedure

AfriForum's annual water quality watch project is carried out during August each year through its network of nearly 160 branches across South Africa. Although participation is voluntary, all branches were encouraged to collect water samples from two key points in their municipal areas:

- drinking water supplied through the municipal distribution system, at the point of consumption (for example, a household tap), and
- the outflow of treated sewage effluent from the municipal sewage treatment plant.

Before sampling, branches informed their municipalities about the project in writing and requested cooperation, particularly to obtain access to discharge points at sewage treatment plants.

Each participating branch received a project briefing and iLab Water's standardised sampling

instructions to ensure that samples were taken consistently across the country.

## Limitations

AfriForum's sampling is based on the geographic spread of its branch network. This means that the locations where water samples are collected are not chosen through a fully randomised process. As a result, some areas of the country are represented more strongly than others, and the exact number of samples collected may differ from year to year depending on branch participation.

Despite these limitations, the project still provides a valid and credible overview of municipal drinking water and treated sewage quality across South Africa. Branches are widely distributed, and all samples are collected and tested according to a standardised procedure during the same period each year. This ensures consistency, comparability, and a reliable national picture of prevailing water quality conditions.

## Handling of samples

To maintain the integrity of each sample, AfriForum's branch representatives followed the handling and testing protocols supplied by iLab Water.

AfriForum's coordinators provided on-site or remote support to branch representatives, and participants had direct access to water experts from iLab Water through a WhatsApp support group.

To verify that correct procedures were followed, participants were encouraged to photograph each stage of the sampling and testing process. This visual documentation serves both as quality assurance and as evidence that strengthens the credibility of the project's results.

## Interpretation of test results

Each sample that is tested, measures specific chemical and bacteriological components that determine whether drinking water is safe for human use or whether sewage is adequately treated to be released back into the environment without causing harm.

The test results for drinking water are interpreted against limits determined by the **SANS 241:2024 national standard for drinking water quality**. The test results for treated sewage are interpreted against the limits determined by the **general authorisation's minimum discharge standards** for releasing treated effluent into a water resource (discussed above).

Drinking water sample results that meet the applicable criteria given in table 1 below, are indicated in this report as **Safe**. If one or more limits are exceeded, the sample is indicated as **Unsafe**.

Table 1: Key indicators for safe drinking water<sup>3</sup>

TEST	SAFE	UNSAFE
Petrifilm™: <i>E. coli</i>	No blue dots	One or more dots or colonies
Petrifilm™: Coliforms	Fewer than two red dots	More than two red dots
Aqua Screen	Water remains yellow	Water turns black
Nitrites	Less than 1 ppm	More than 1 ppm
Nitrates	10 ppm or less	20 ppm and more
Phosphates	10 ppm or less	25 ppm and more
pH	Between 6 and 9	Lower than 6 or higher than 9

<sup>3</sup> iLab. S.d. Checklist for Results. Available at <https://ilab.comtech.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/iLab-CHECKLIST-FOR-RESULTS-5.pdf> (Accessed on 28 October 2025).



Note: Nitrate and phosphate levels between the safe and unsafe limits fall within a warning range. While concentrations above 20 ppm for nitrates or 25 ppm for phosphates pose an acute health risk, long-term use of water with levels above 10 ppm may lead to chronic health effects.

Table 2: Key indicators for safe treated sewage<sup>4</sup>

TEST	POLLUTED
<i>E. coli</i> and total coliforms	10 or more red and blue dots
pH	Lower than 6 or more than 9
Phosphates	25 ppm and more
Nitrates	20 ppm and more

Treated sewage sample results that fall within the applicable limits given in table 2, are indicated in this report as **Clean**. If one or more limits are exceeded, the sample is indicated as **Polluted**.

### Reporting of test results

iLab Water developed a mobile data platform that participants used to capture all test results. Each test kit has a unique serial number that must first be entered to verify its validity before results can be logged. Participants then provide their contact details and select the relevant water source (municipal drinking water or treated sewage effluent) from a drop-down list.

The platform guides users step by step through each required test result. All test fields are mandatory, and the sample cannot be saved unless every result has been entered. Participants may also record optional information such as observations of environmental conditions, the sampling location (entered manually or linked to the device's GPS), and photographs of the tests performed.

The platform automatically analyses all data and flags any results that exceed the applicable limits. Data submitted through the platform is stored in a central, cloud-based database with restricted access for verified users who process

and review the data further. Each flagged result is then manually rechecked and verified before inclusion in this report.

Where the verification of a drinking water result confirmed non-compliance, the applicable branch was advised to take further steps. These included taking new water samples for full laboratory analysis (where resources allowed) and/or notifying the relevant municipality to take corrective action.

This reporting process ensures that all test results are accurately captured, securely stored and systematically collated for analysis in this report.



Figure 3: A water sample is being tested with AfriForum's field testing kit.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

# RESULTS

## Municipal drinking water test results

An overview of the 2025 municipal drinking water test results is presented in this section. The complete provincial results for 2021–2025 appear in Annexure 1. Results for prior years (2013–2020) are available on request.

These results apply only to the specific point in time when each water sample was taken. Water quality may have changed between the sampling date and the publication of this report.

## National overview

AfriForum tested the municipal drinking water quality of 175 towns and cities across South Africa during August 2025; 35 fewer than in 2024.

Overall, 88% (154 out of 175) of the municipal drinking water samples were safe for human consumption, almost unchanged from 87% in 2024.

Please note: Data in this report was rounded off, thus percentages will not necessarily add up to 100.

### Municipal drinking water: National (2021–2025)

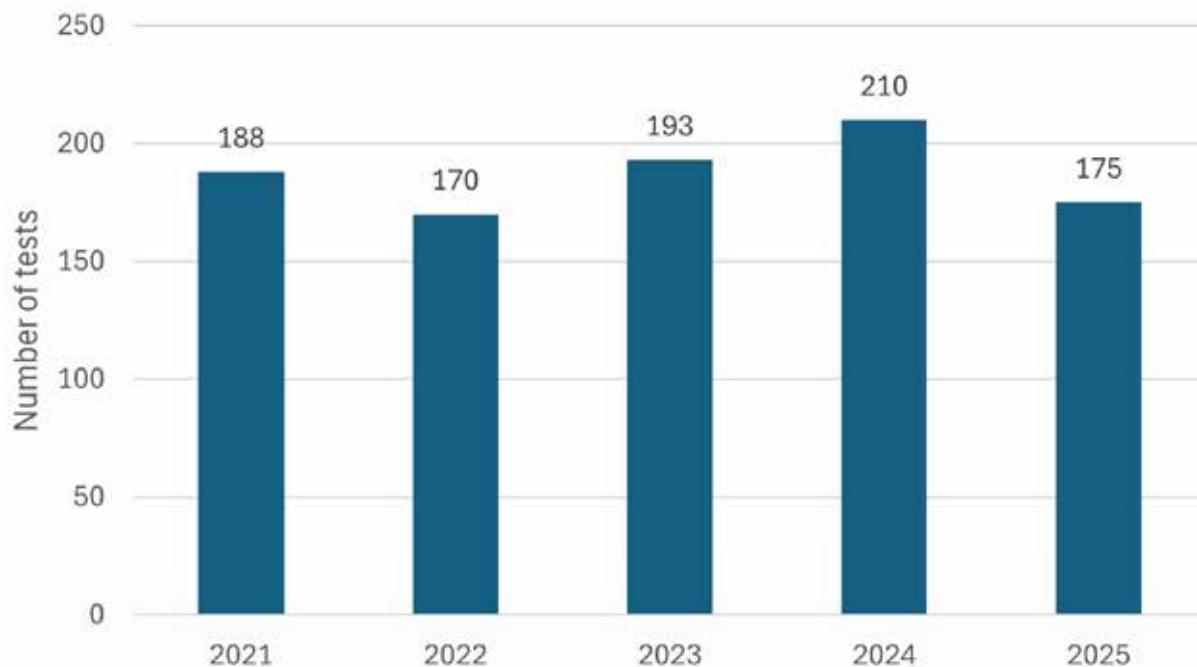


Figure 4: Number of municipal drinking water tests conducted nationally for 2021–2025

## Municipal drinking water: National (2021–2025)

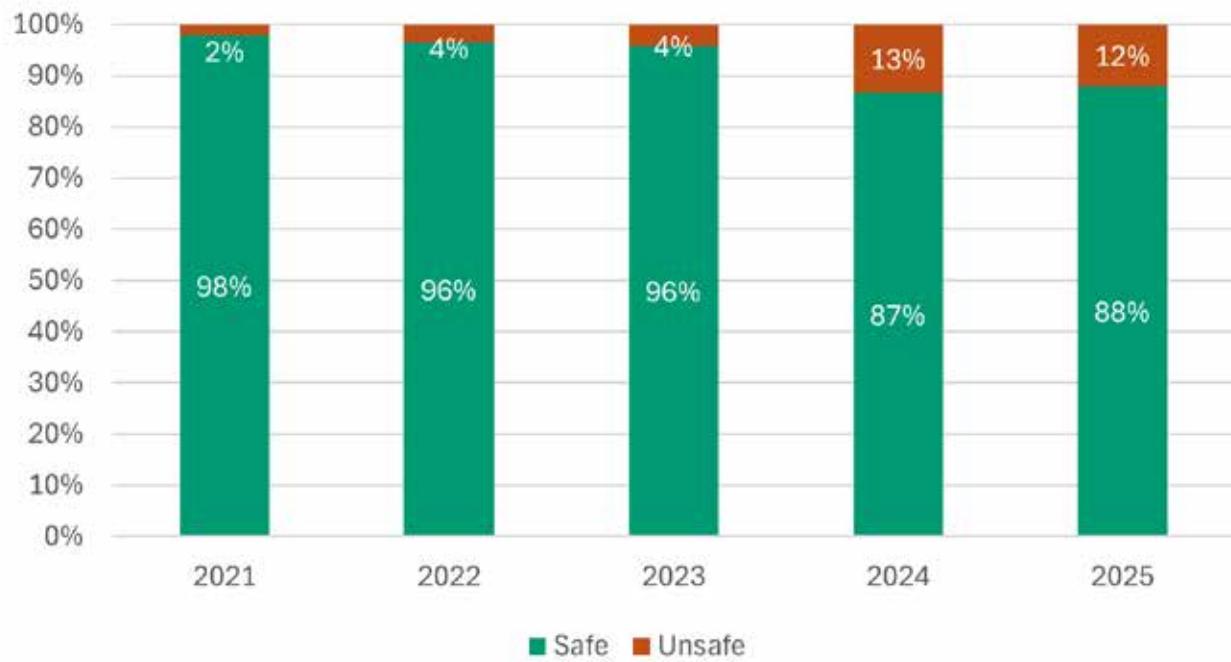


Figure 5: Percentage of safe municipal drinking water tests nationally for 2021–2025

### Provincial overview

- Although unsafe municipal drinking water was recorded in all nine provinces in 2024, results from 2025 show that four provinces achieved full compliance, with all samples safe for human use:
  - KwaZulu-Natal (up from 75% to 100%)
  - Eastern Cape (up from 88% to 100%)
  - Limpopo (up from 93% to 100%)
  - Gauteng (up from 95% to 100%)
- Further improvements were recorded in:
  - Northern Cape (65% to 80%)
- Free State (86% to 89%)
- Western Cape (93% to 94%)
- North West's remained unchanged at 85%.
- The only province where performance declined was Mpumalanga, where 11 of 35 samples (31%) indicated unsafe drinking water; a deterioration of 20 percentage points compared to 2024.
- A summary of provincial results is shown in table 3 and in the maps that follow.



Table 3: Comparison of 2024 and 2025 provincial results – municipal drinking water<sup>5</sup>

Province	Number of tests		Number safe		Number unsafe		Percentage safe		Percentage unsafe	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Eastern Cape	8	6	7	6	1	0	88%	100%	13%	0%
Free State	28	19	24	17	4	2	86%	89%	14%	11%
Gauteng	22	18	21	18	1	0	95%	100%	5%	0%
KwaZulu-Natal	12	12	9	12	3	0	75%	100%	25%	0%
Limpopo	15	15	14	15	1	0	93%	100%	7%	0%
Mpumalanga	34	35	30	24	4	11	88%	69%	12%	31%
Northern Cape	20	15	13	12	7	3	65%	80%	35%	20%
North West	26	20	22	17	4	3	85%	85%	15%	15%
Western Cape	45	35	42	33	3	2	93%	94%	7%	6%
<b>National</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>12%</b>

<sup>5</sup> Percentages in this table have been rounded to the nearest whole number. As a result, in some cases the totals may not add up to 100%.

Percentage of tests indicating safe municipal drinking water (2025)

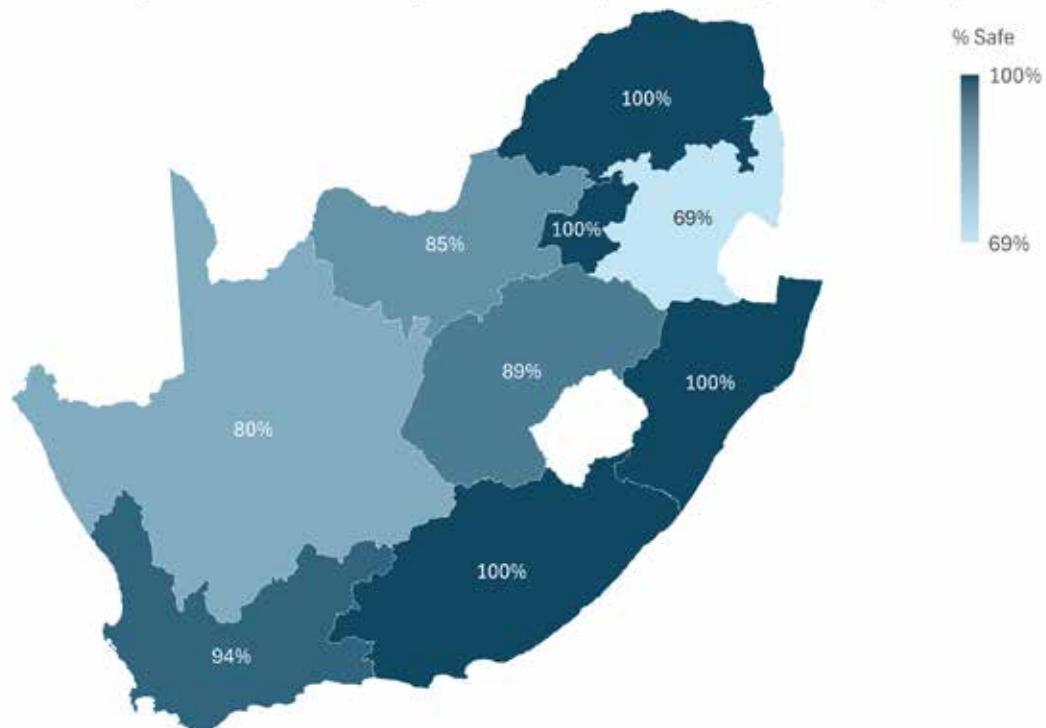


Figure 6: Percentage of safe municipal drinking water per province

Percentage of tests indicating unsafe municipal drinking water (2025)

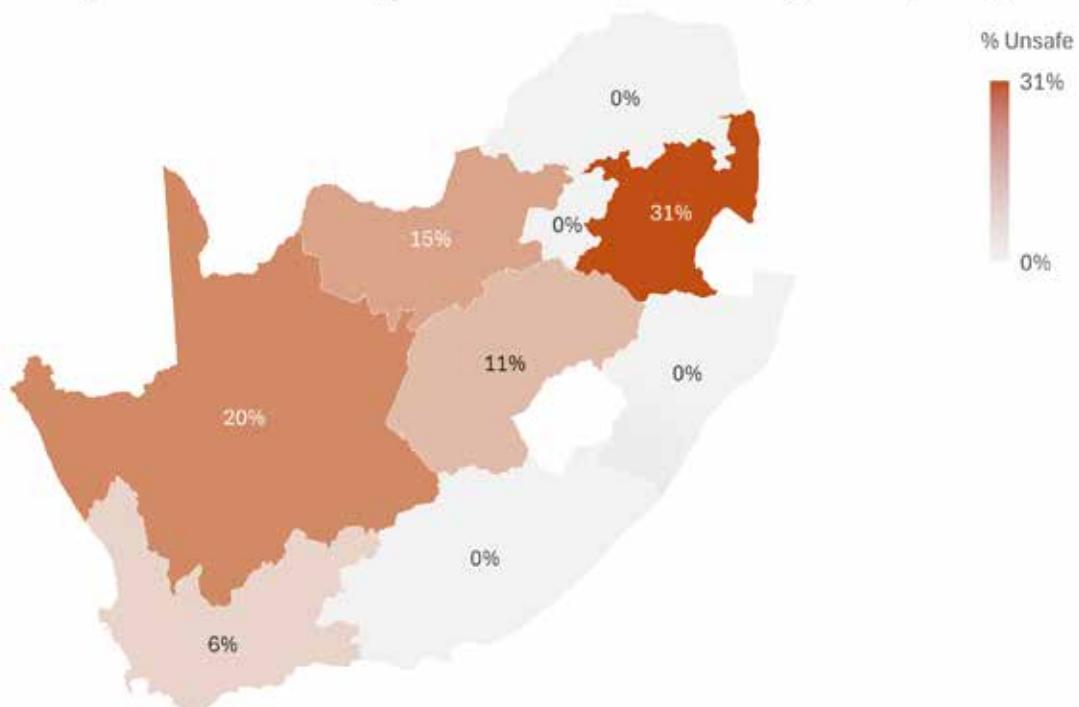


Figure 7: Percentage of unsafe municipal drinking water per province

**Provincial results: Eastern Cape**

**Municipal drinking water: Eastern Cape  
(2021–2025)**

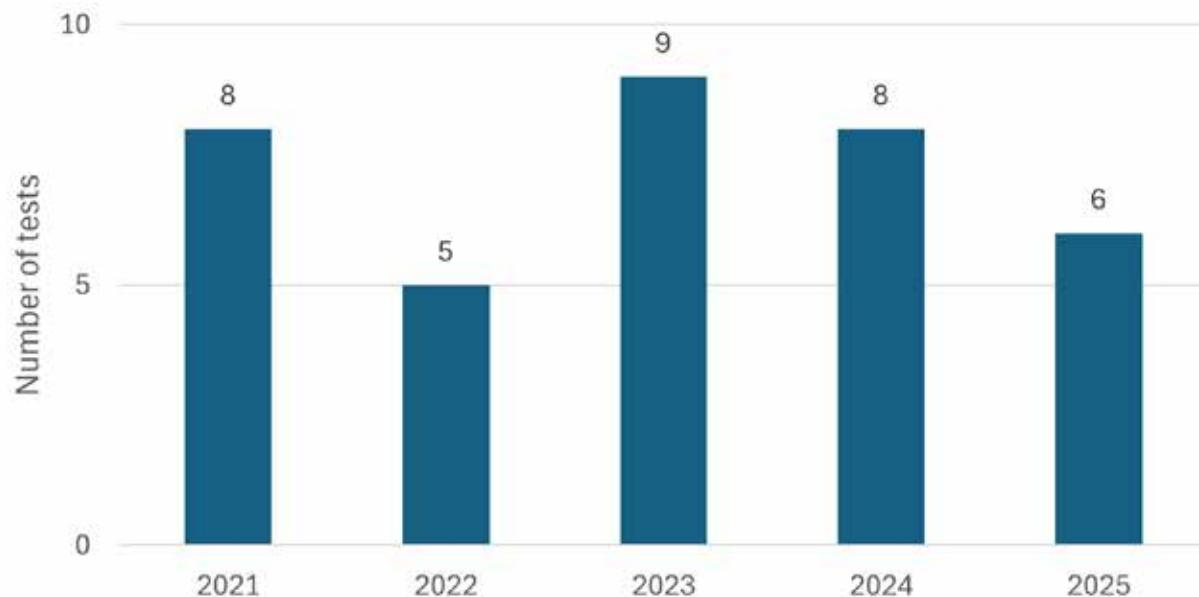


Figure 8: Number of municipal drinking water tests conducted for 2021–2025: Eastern Cape

**Municipal drinking water: Eastern Cape  
(2021–2025)**

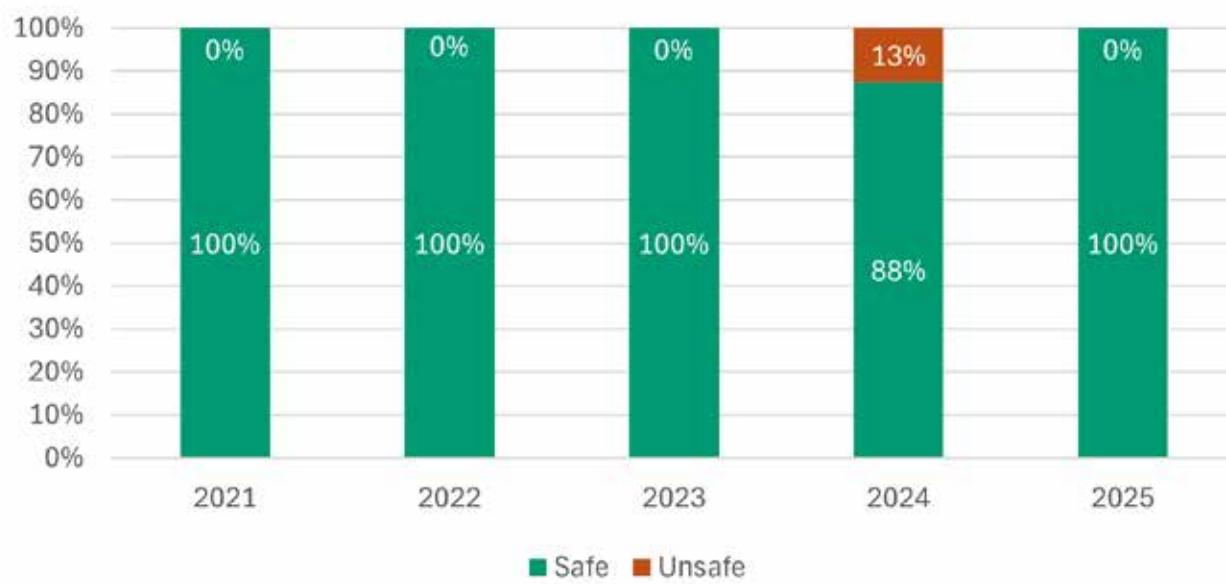


Figure 9: Percentage of safe/unsafe municipal drinking water tests for 2021–2025: Eastern Cape

### Provincial results: Free State

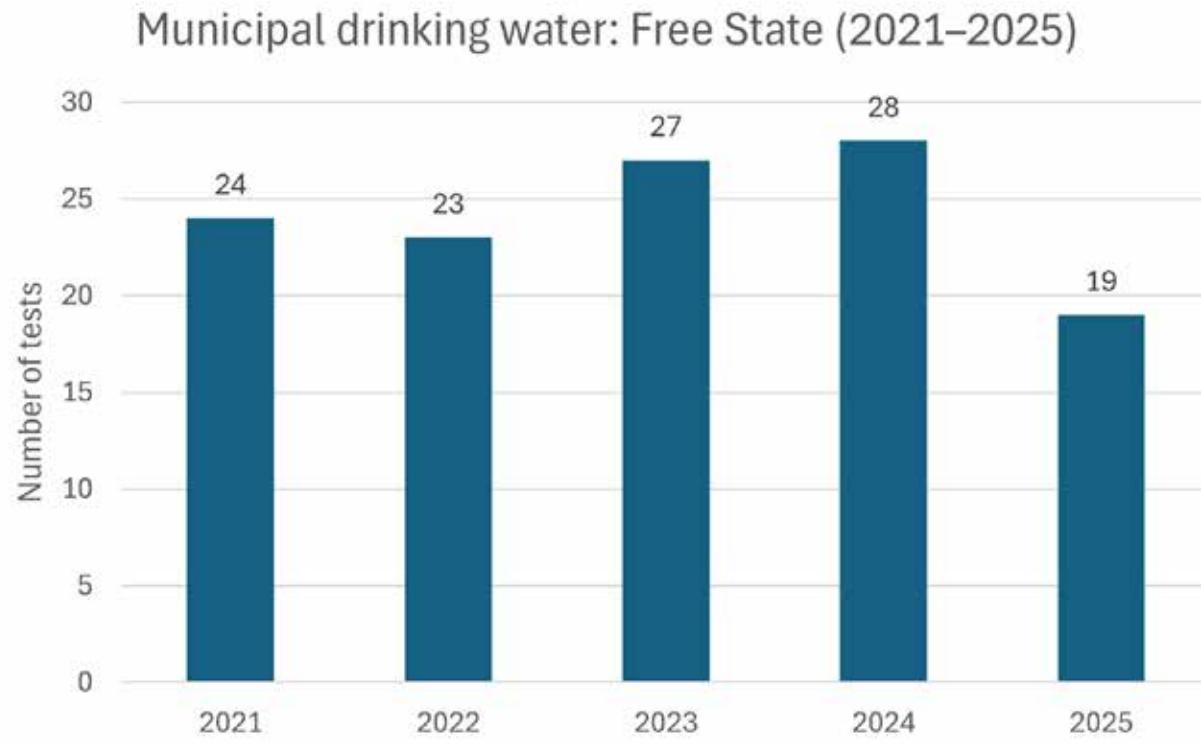


Figure 10: Number of municipal drinking water tests conducted for 2021–2025: Free State

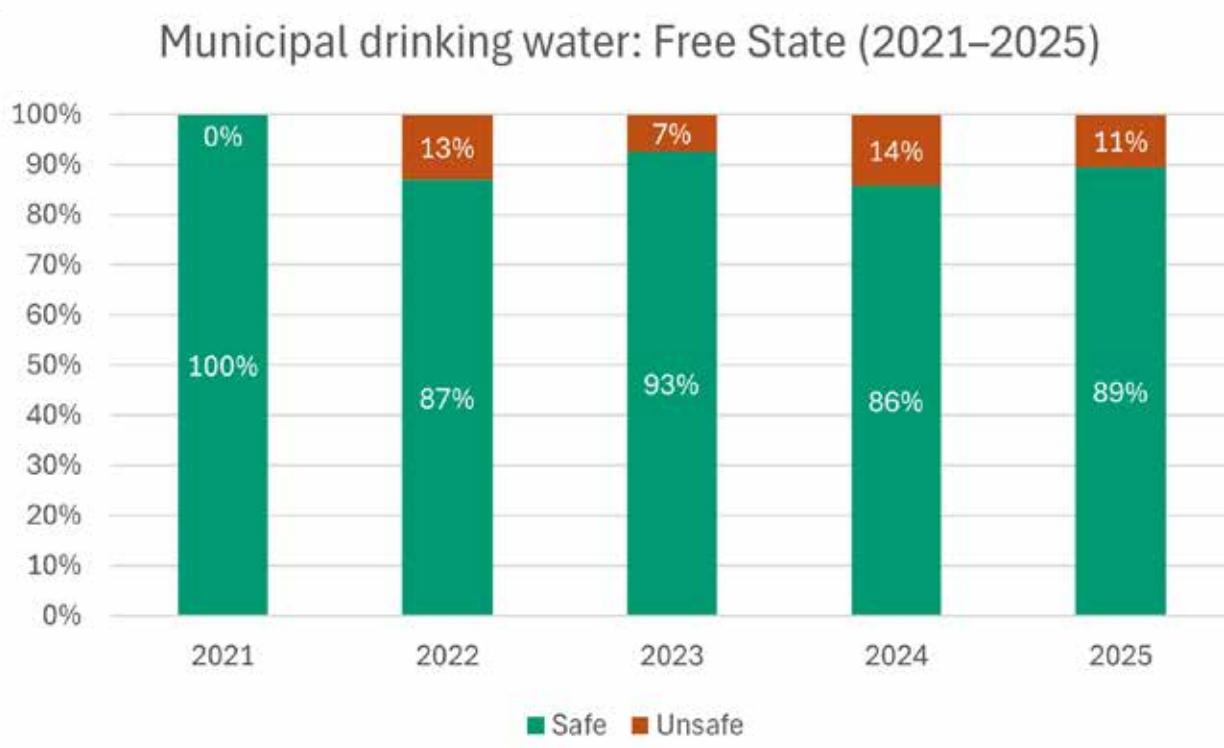


Figure 11: Percentage of safe/unsafe municipal drinking water tests for 2021–2025: Free State

### Provincial results: Gauteng

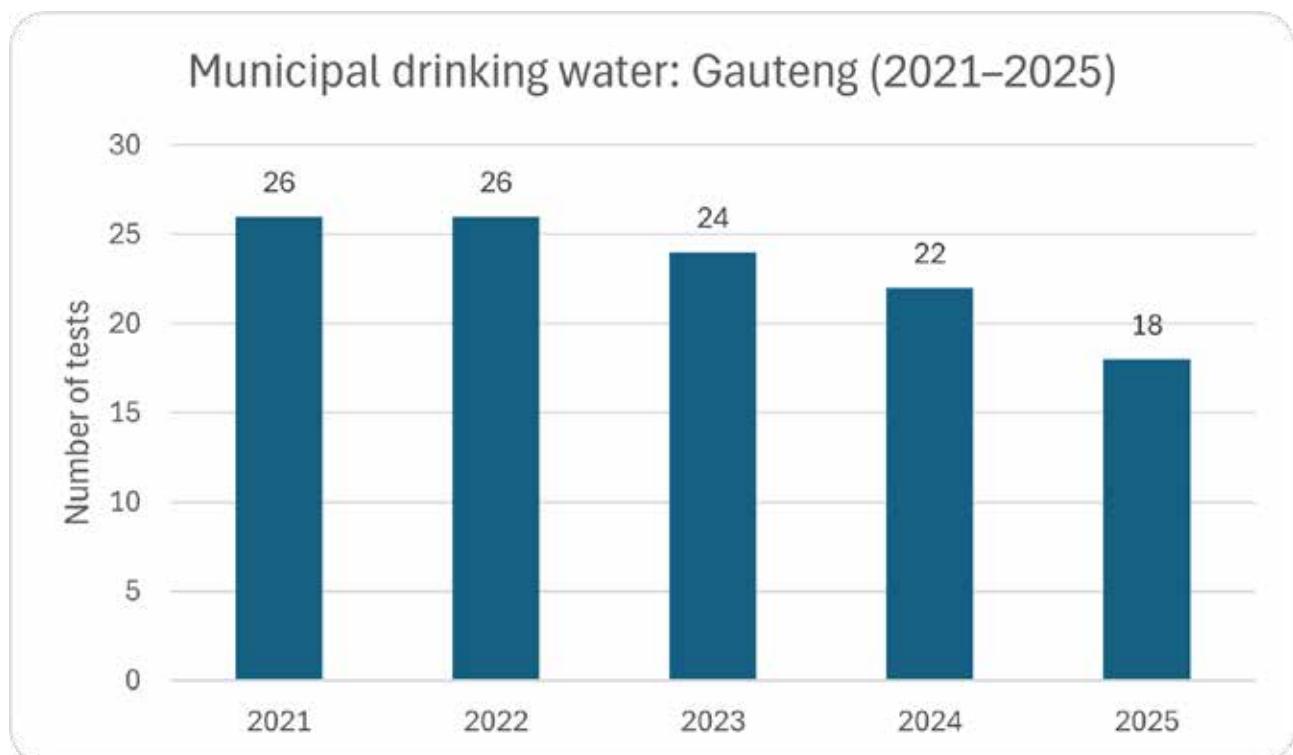


Figure 12: Number of municipal drinking water tests conducted for 2021–2025: Gauteng

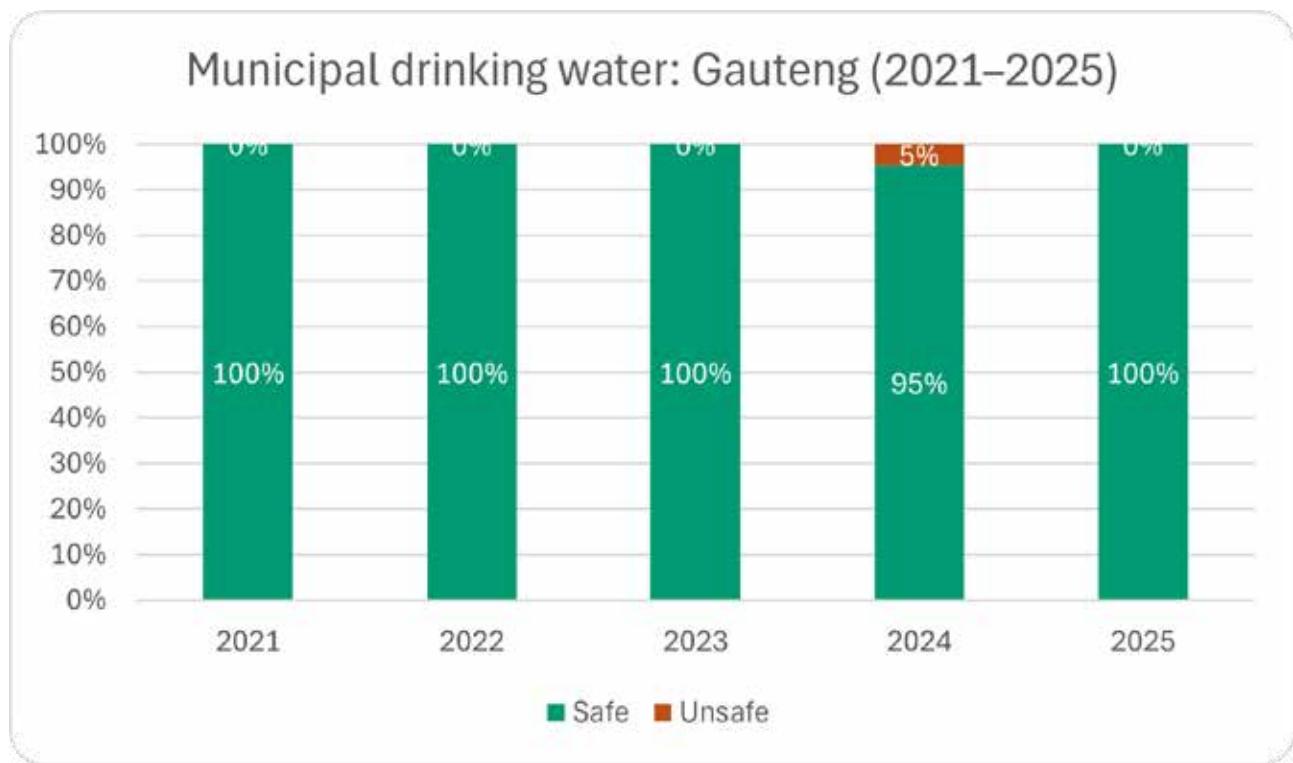


Figure 13: Percentage of safe/unsafe municipal drinking water tests for 2021–2025: Gauteng

**Provincial results: KwaZulu-Natal**

**Municipal drinking water: KwaZulu-Natal  
(2021–2025)**

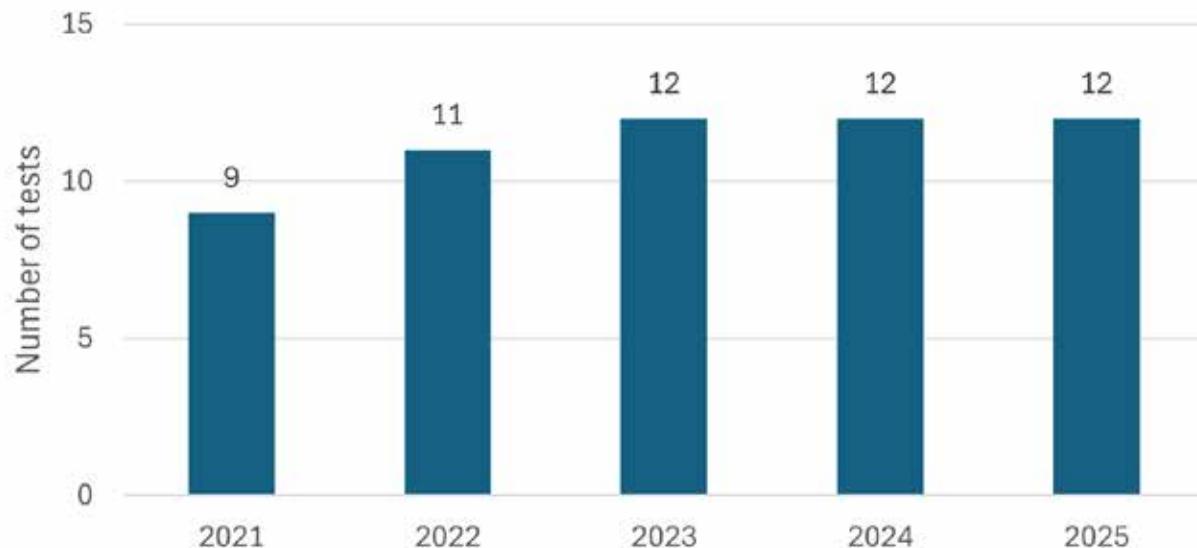


Figure 14: Number of municipal drinking water tests conducted for 2021–2025: KwaZulu-Natal

**Municipal drinking water: KwaZulu-Natal  
(2021–2025)**

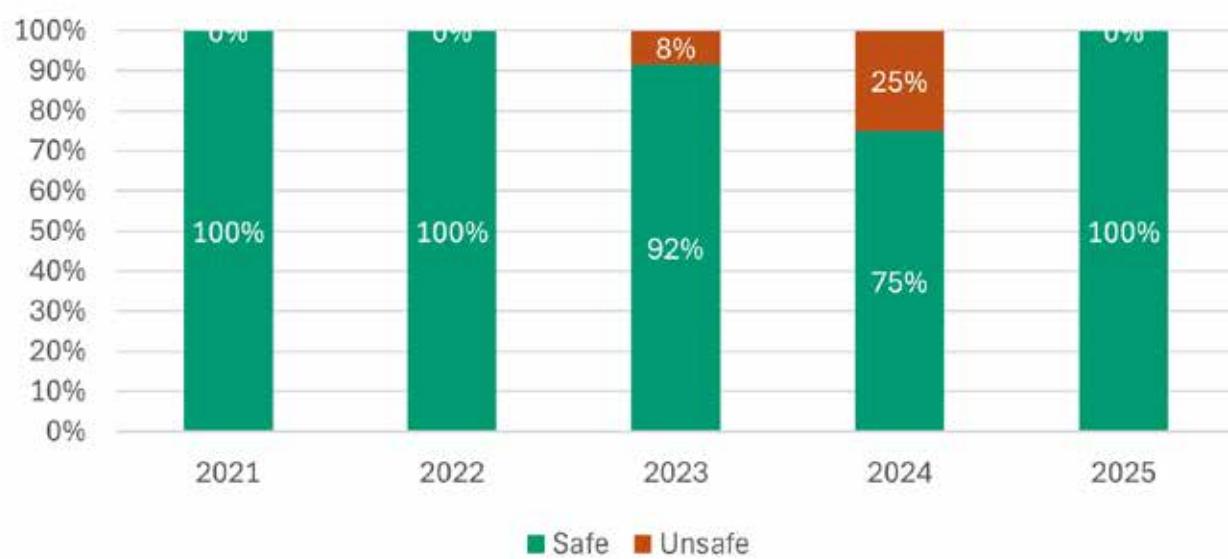


Figure 15: Percentage of safe/unsafe municipal drinking water tests for 2021–2025: KwaZulu-Natal

**Provincial results: Limpopo**

**Municipal drinking water: Limpopo (2021–2025)**

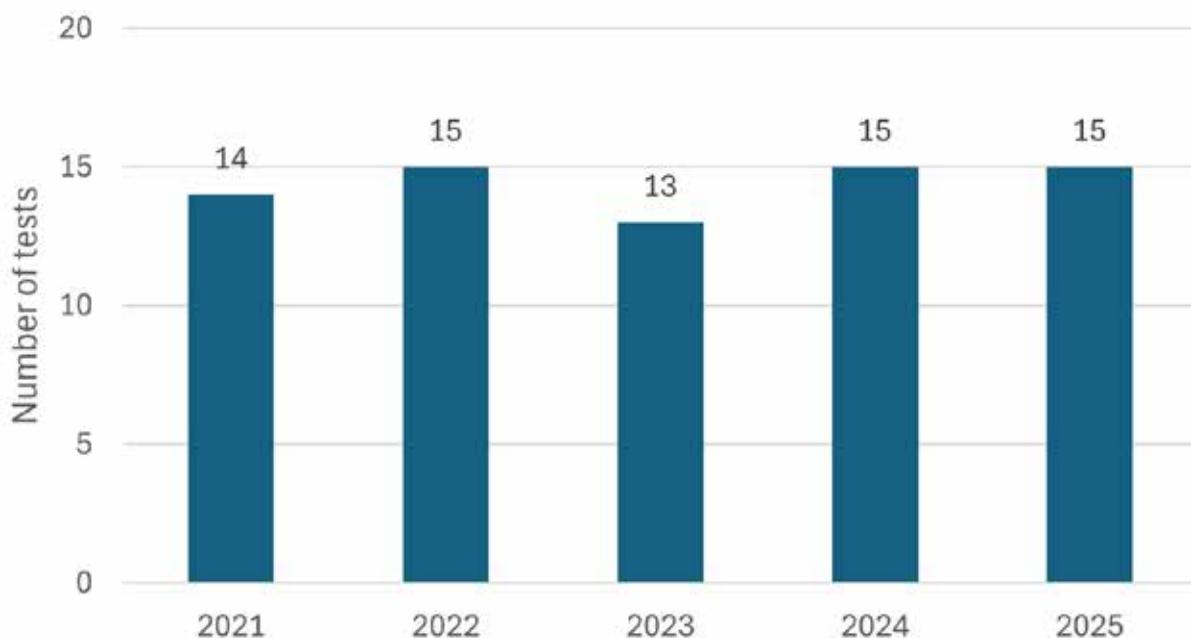


Figure 16: Number of municipal drinking water tests conducted for 2021–2025: Limpopo

**Municipal drinking water: Limpopo (2021–2025)**

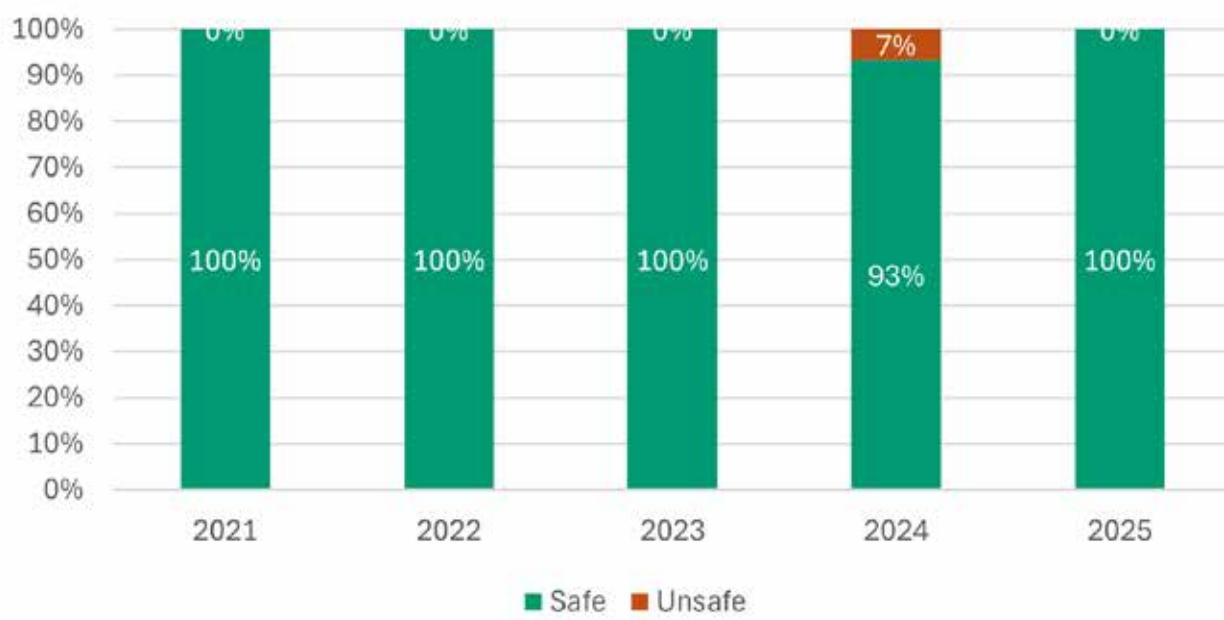


Figure 17: Percentage of safe/unsafe municipal drinking water tests for 2021–2025: Limpopo

**Provincial results: Mpumalanga**

**Municipal drinking water: Mpumalanga  
(2021–2025)**

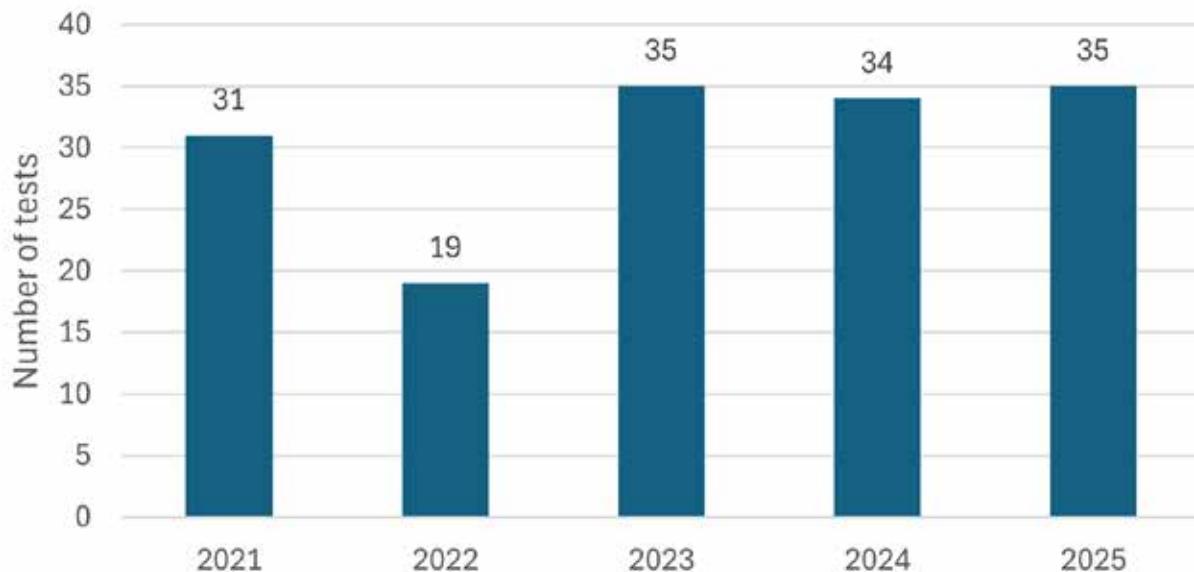


Figure 18: Number of municipal drinking water tests conducted for 2021–2025: Mpumalanga

**Municipal drinking water: Mpumalanga  
(2021–2025)**

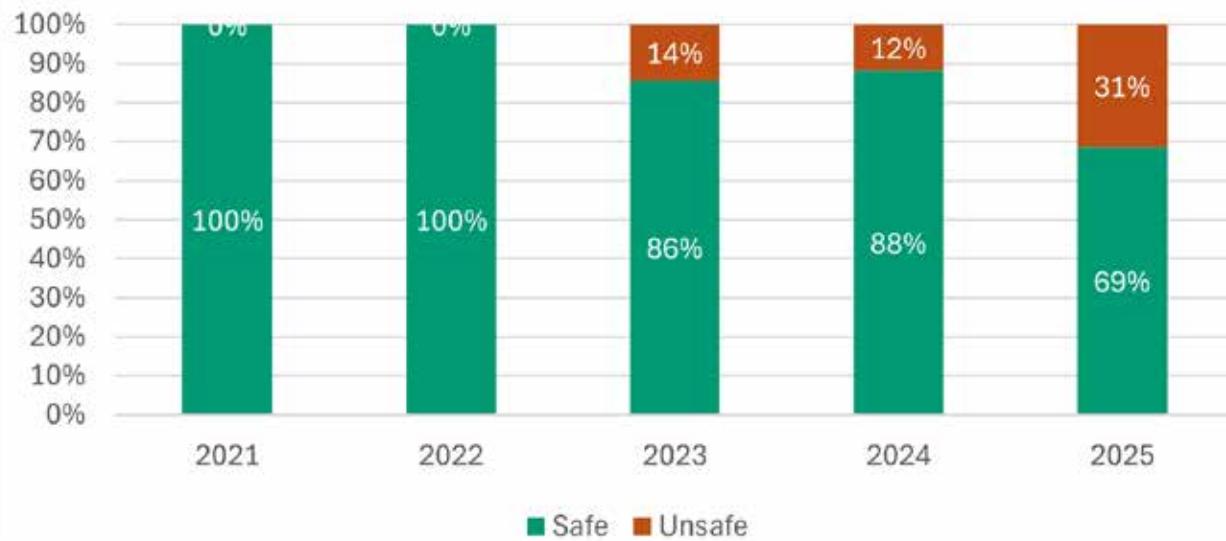


Figure 19: Percentage of safe/unsafe municipal drinking water tests for 2021–2025: Mpumalanga

**Provincial results: Northern Cape**

**Municipal drinking water: Northern Cape  
(2021–2025)**

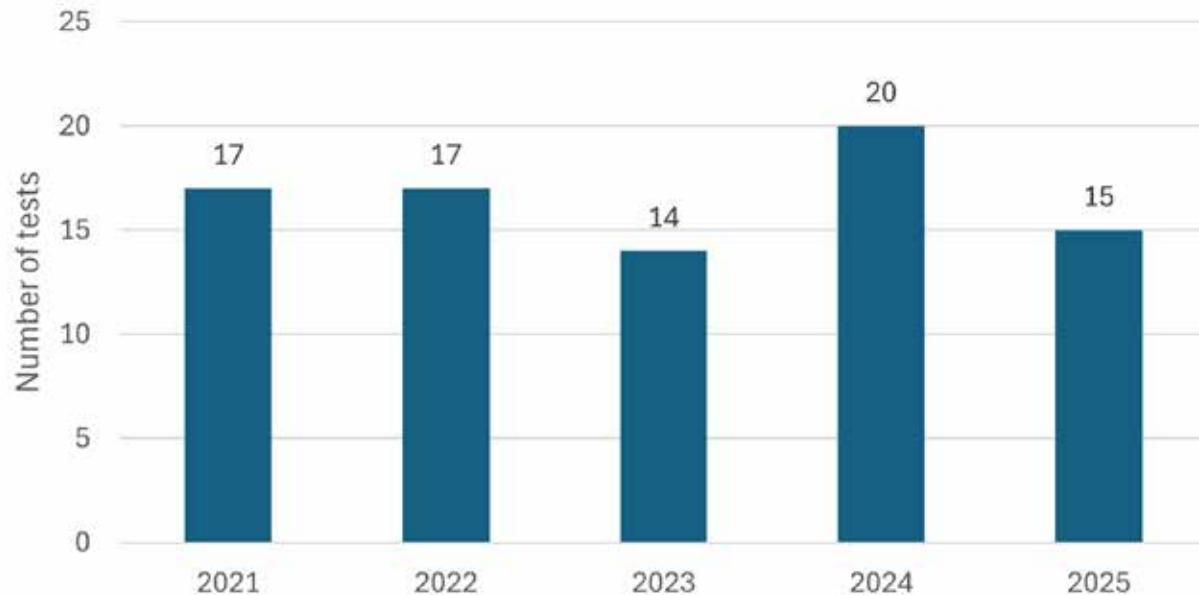


Figure 20: Number of municipal drinking water tests conducted for 2021–2025: Northern Cape

**Municipal drinking water: Northern Cape  
(2021–2025)**

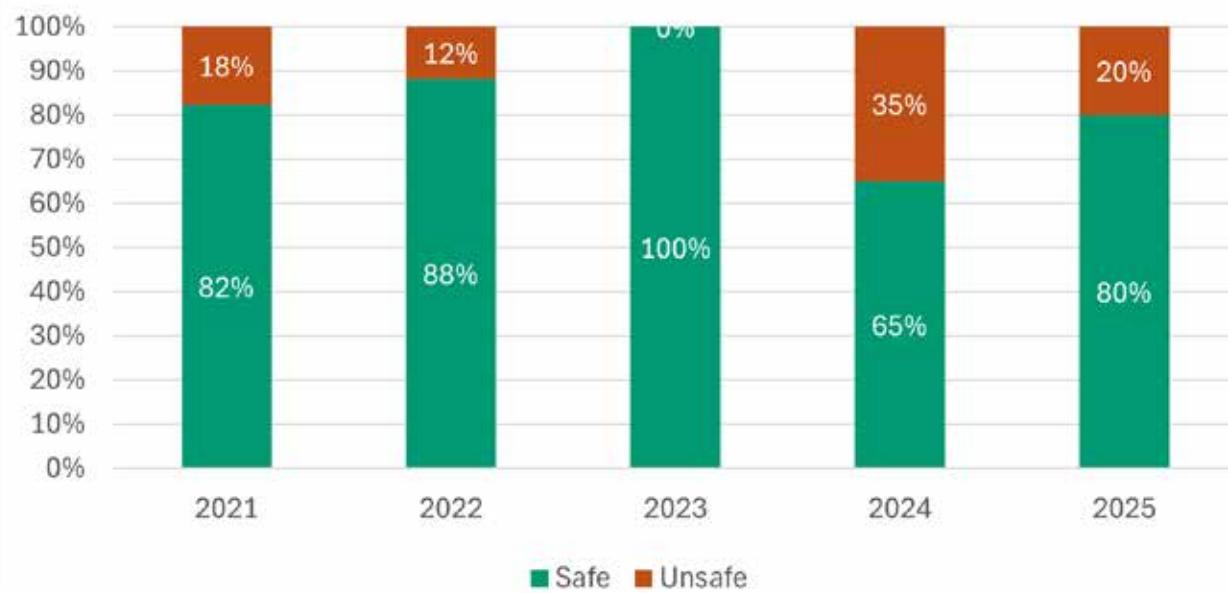


Figure 21: Percentage of safe/unsafe municipal drinking water tests for 2021–2025: Northern Cape

### Provincial results: North West

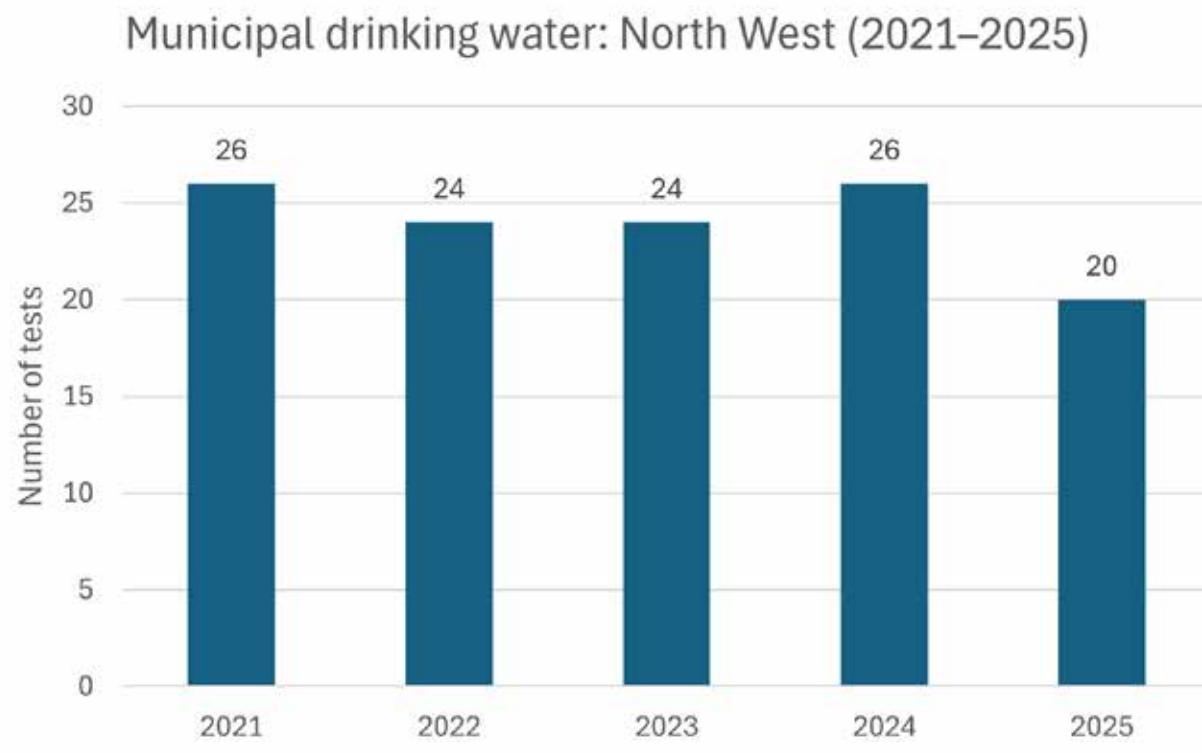


Figure 22: Number of municipal drinking water tests conducted for 2021–2025: North West

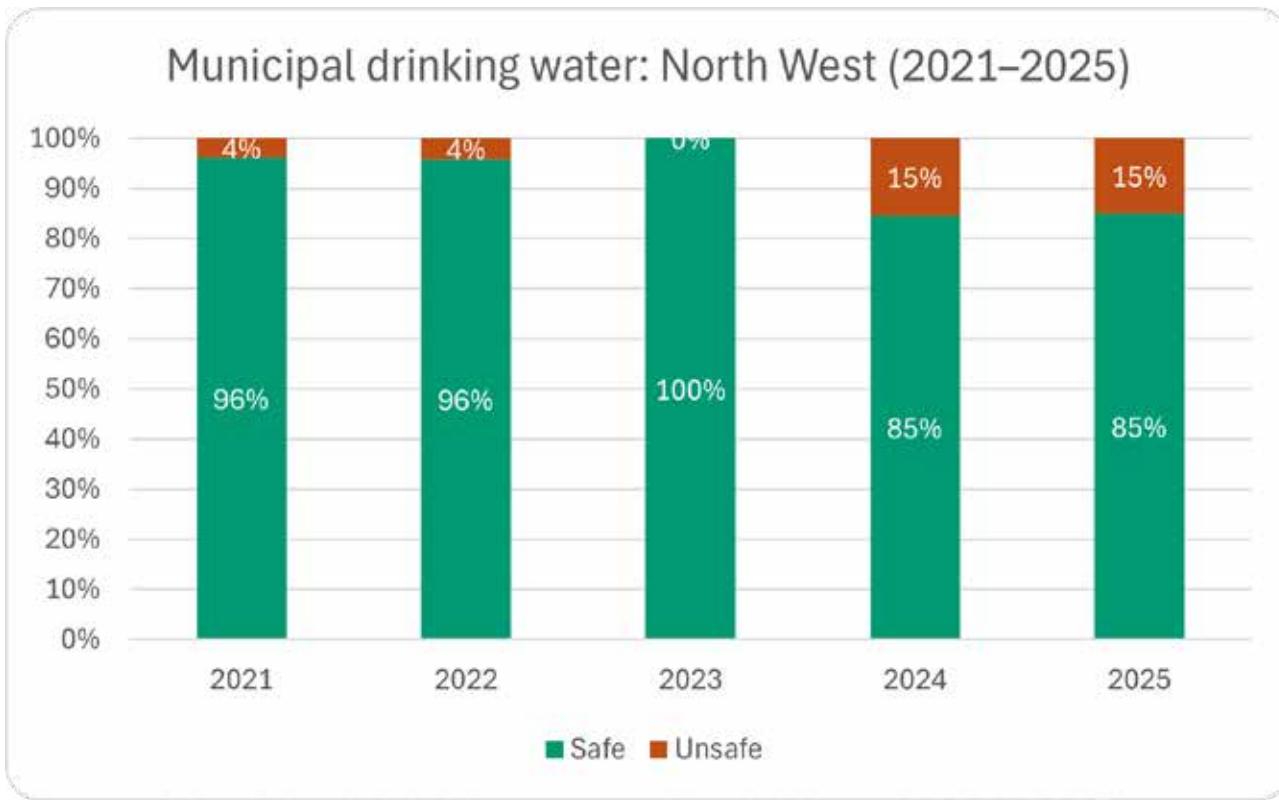


Figure 23: Percentage of safe/unsafe municipal drinking water tests for 2021–2025: North West

**Provincial results: Western Cape**

Municipal drinking water: Western Cape  
(2021–2025)

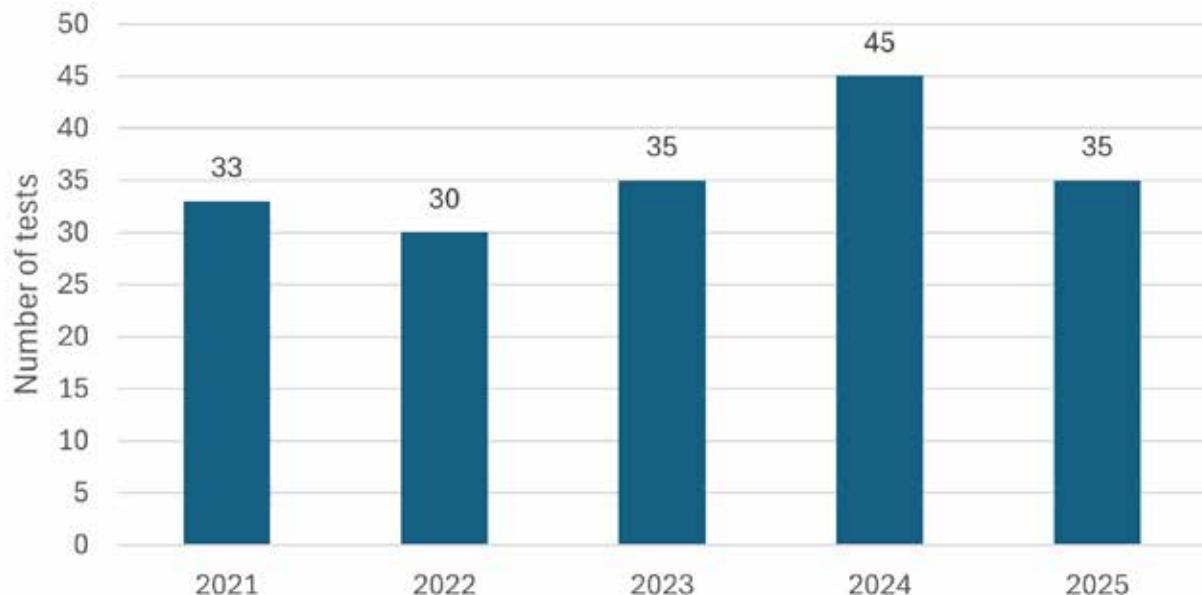


Figure 24: Number of municipal drinking water tests conducted for 2021–2025: Western Cape

Municipal drinking water: Western Cape  
(2021–2025)

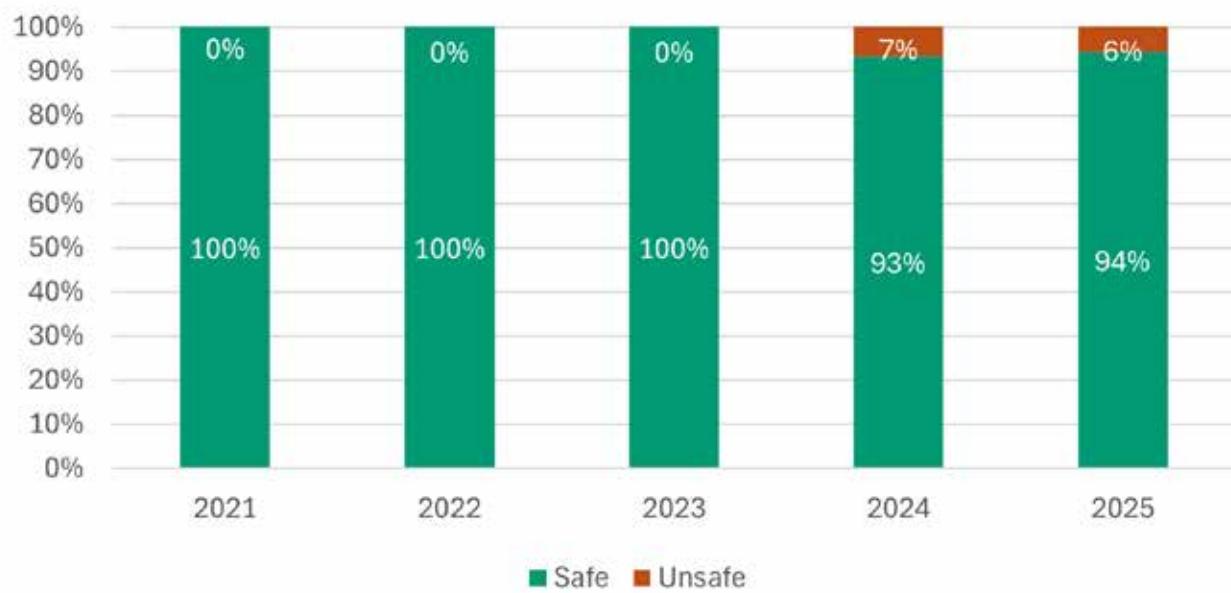


Figure 25: Percentage of safe/unsafe municipal drinking water tests for 2021–2025: Western Cape

## **Unsafe municipal drinking water**

- AfriForum's 2025 tests identified **21 towns and cities** where municipal drinking water was unsafe for human consumption at the time of sampling (table 4).

Table 4: Locations where municipal drinking water was **unsafe**

Province	Municipality	Location
Free State	Ngwathe LM	Parys
	Tokologo LM	Boshof
Mpumalanga	Dipaleseng LM	Balfour
		Greylingsstad (Nthorwane)
	Emakhazeni LM	Machadodorp (eNtakozweni)
	Emalahleni LM	Kriel
		Ogies
		Witbank (eMalahleni)
	Lekwa LM	Morgenzon
	Msukaligwa LM	Ermelo
	Pixley Ka Seme LM	Amersfoort
		Volksrust
	Steve Tshwete LM	Hendrina
Northern Cape	Kai !Garib LM	Keimoes
	Kamiesberg LM	Garies <sup>6</sup>
	Sol Plaatje LM	Kimberley
North West	Ditsobotla LM	Lichtenburg
	Kgetlengrivier LM	Swartruggens
	Madibeng LM	Mooienooi
Western Cape	Hessequa LM	Still Bay
	Knysna LM	Knysna

- The following towns and cities recorded unsafe drinking water for the second or more consecutive year, suggesting persistent management failures:
  - **Free State:** Parys
  - **Mpumalanga:** Amersfoort, Balfour and Greylingsstad (Nthorwane)
  - **Northern Cape:** Kimberley
- The following locations were safe in 2024, but unsafe in 2025, indicating a decline or lapse in management.
  - **Free State:** Boshof
  - **Mpumalanga:** Ermelo, Hendrina, Kriel, Machadodorp (eNtakozweni), Morgenzon, Ogies, Volksrust, Witbank (eMalahleni)

<sup>6</sup> Tested for the first time in 2025.



- **Northern Cape:** Keimoes
- **North West:** Lichtenburg, Mooi Nooi, Swartruggens
- **Western Cape:** Knysna, Still Bay

- The following locations were **unsafe in 2024, but safe in 2025**, showing positive management interventions:
  - **Eastern Cape:** Cradock (Nxuba)
  - **Free State:** Welkom, Winburg
  - **Gauteng:** Westonaria
  - **KwaZulu-Natal:** Hluhluwe, Pongola, Vryheid
  - **Limpopo:** Warmbaths (Bela-Bela)
  - **Mpumalanga:** Wakkerstroom
  - **Northern Cape:** Hartswater, Jan Kempdorp, Postmasburg
  - **North West:** Hartbeesfontein (Lethabong), Schweizer-Reneke
  - **Western Cape:** Strand

### Treated sewage effluent test results

An overview of the 2025 treated sewage effluent test results is presented in this section. The complete provincial results for the years 2021–2025 appear in Annexure 2.

Results for prior years (2013–2020) are available on request.

As with drinking water, it is important to note that the results only apply to the specific point in time when the samples were taken. The quality of treated sewage effluent may therefore have changed since AfriForum's sampling and the publication of this report.

### National overview

- AfriForum tested the quality of treated sewage effluent from 109 sewage treatment plants across South Africa during August 2025. This figure excludes eleven plants where testing was not possible due to non-operational infrastructure or access to the discharge point being denied by the relevant municipality.<sup>7</sup>
- Overall, 14% of the tested sewage treatment plants (15 out of 109) met the minimum standards for safe discharge into a water resource, while 86% (94 out of 109) released treated sewage that was still polluted at the time of sampling. This represents a one percentage point improvement compared to 2024, when 13% of tested plants met the standard.

<sup>7</sup> Additionally, no sample of treated effluent could be taken at Sasolburg Operations, as the plant operates as a closed system in which treated sewage is reused within the operation and no effluent is discharged into the environment.

### Treated sewage: National (2021–2025)

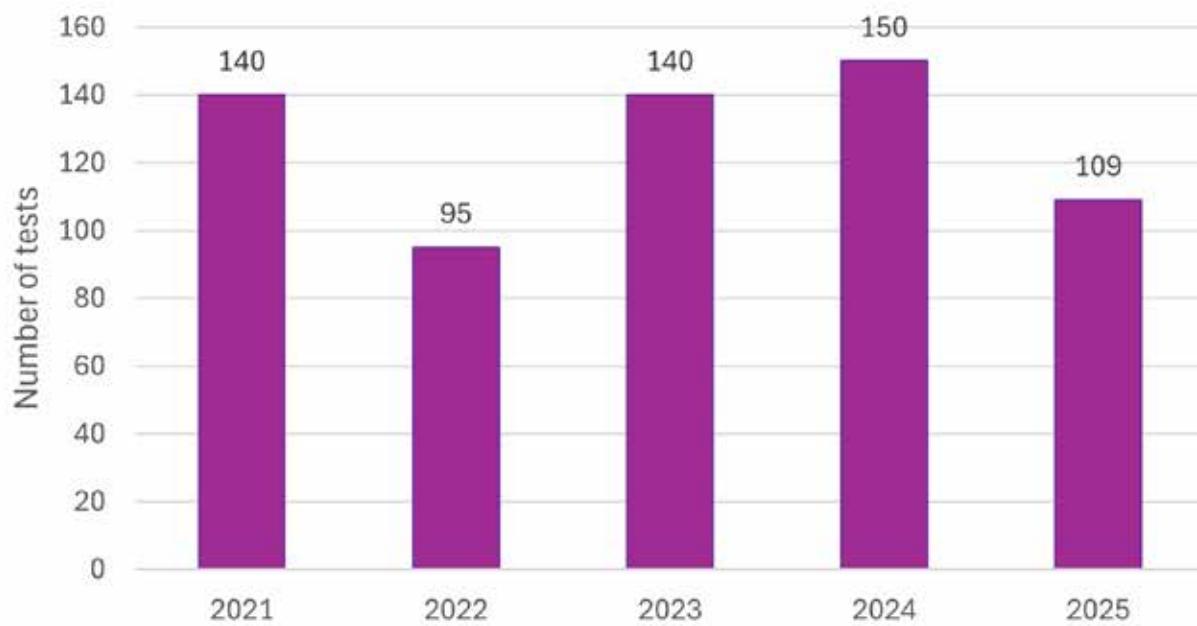


Figure 26: Number of sewage treatment plant outflows tested nationally for 2021–2025

### Treated sewage: National (2021–2025)

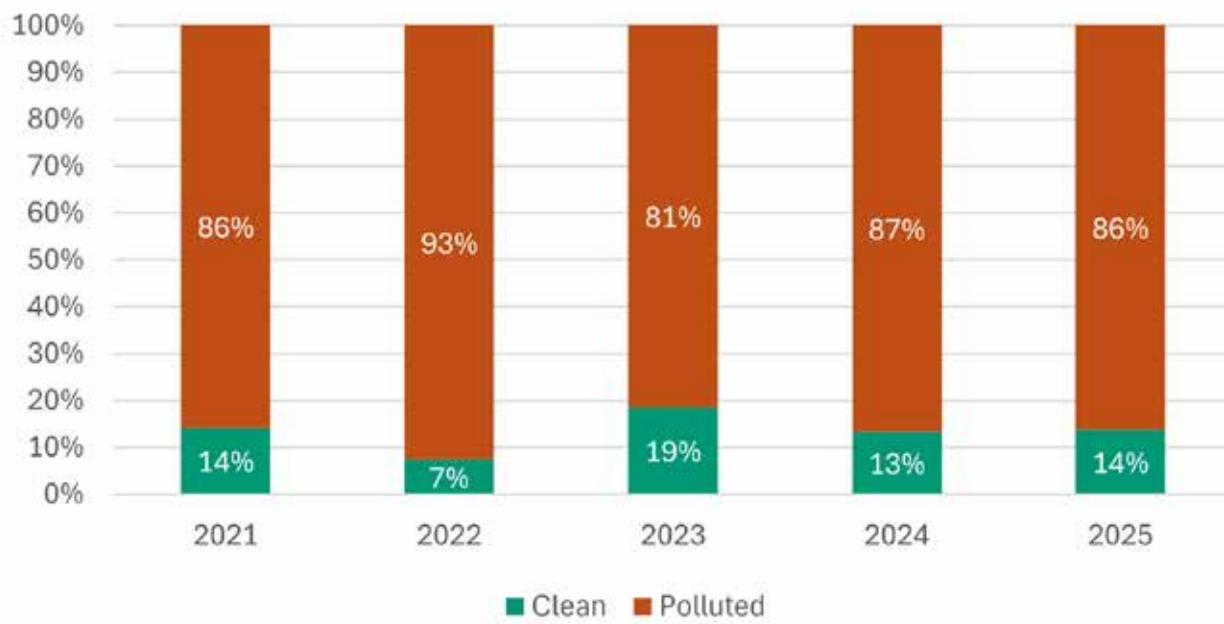


Figure 27: Percentage of clean/polluted sewage effluent tested nationally (2021–2025)

## Provincial overview

- The 2025 results show that none of the sewage treatment plants tested in the Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, or the Northern Cape met the required discharge standards. This means that 100% of the tested sewage plants discharged polluted water into rivers.
- Partial compliance was recorded in:
  - Limpopo (18% clean; 2 of 11 plants)
  - North West (22% clean; 4 of 18 plants)
  - Western Cape (29% clean; 9 of 31 plants)
- Despite the Western Cape remaining the best-performing province in comparison to the other provinces, more than two-thirds (71%) of its tested sewage plants still discharged polluted water into rivers.

Table 5: Comparison of 2024 and 2025 provincial results – treated sewage effluent<sup>8</sup>

Province	Number of tests		Number clean		Number polluted		Percentage clean		Percentage polluted	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Eastern Cape	5	3	0	0	5	3	0%	0%	100%	100%
Free State	13	6	0	0	13	6	0%	0%	100%	100%
Gauteng	19	14	4	0	15	14	21%	0%	79%	100%
KwaZulu-Natal	8	6	0	0	8	6	0%	0%	100%	100%
Limpopo	11	11	0	2	11	9	0%	18%	100%	82%
Mpumalanga	18	13	0	0	18	13	0%	0%	100%	100%
Northern Cape	15	7	1	0	14	7	7%	0%	93%	100%
North West	23	18	1	4	22	14	4%	22%	96%	78%
Western Cape	38	31	14	9	24	22	37%	29%	63%	71%
<b>National</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>86%</b>

<sup>8</sup> Percentages in this table have been rounded to the nearest whole number. As a result, in some cases the totals may not add up to 100%.

Percentage of tests indicating clean treated sewage effluent (2025)

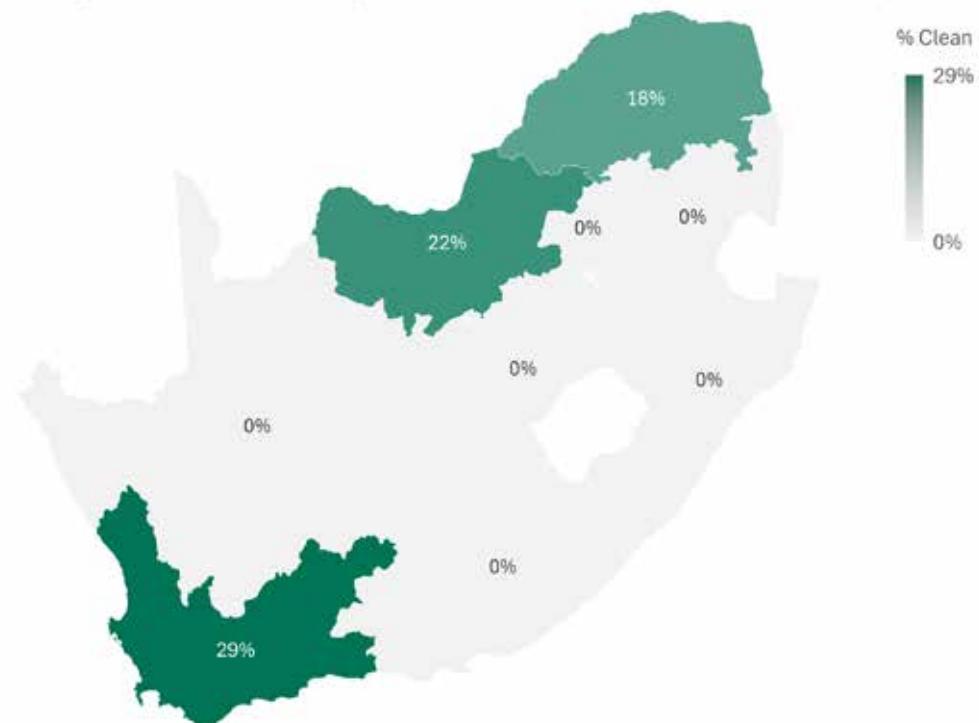


Figure 28: Percentage of clean treated sewage tests per province

Percentage of tests indicating polluted treated sewage effluent (2025)

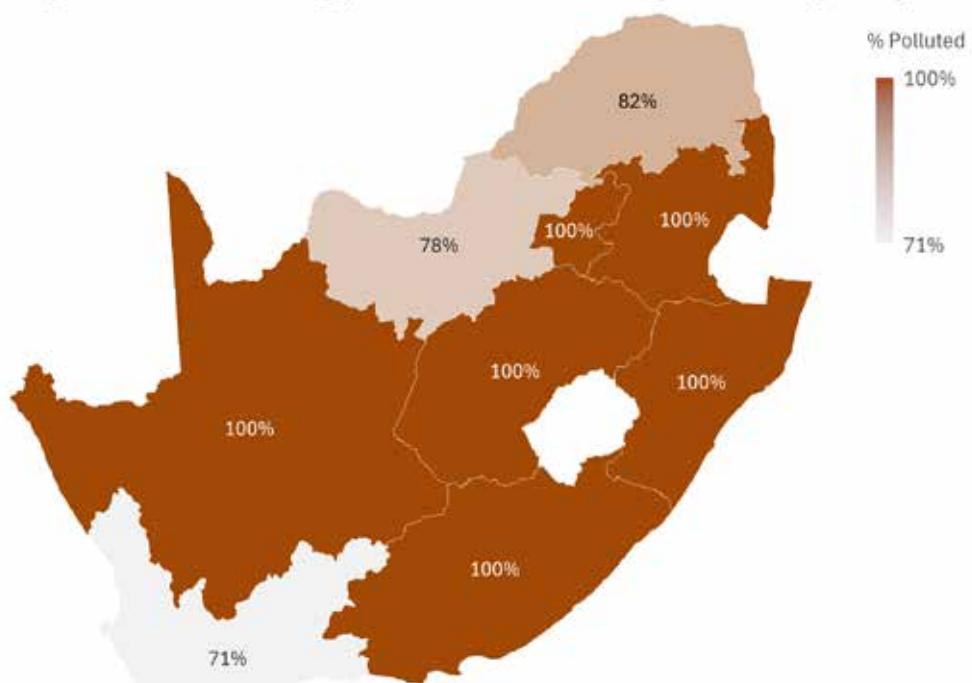


Figure 29: Percentage of polluted treated sewage tests per province

**Provincial results: Eastern Cape**

**Treated sewage effluent: Eastern Cape  
(2021–2025)**

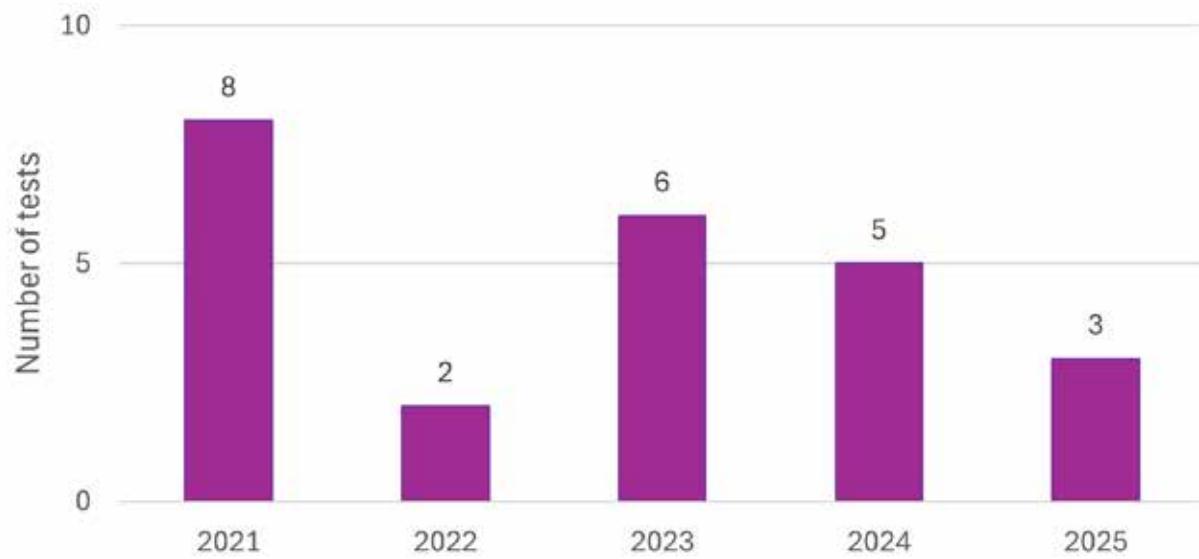


Figure 30: Number of treated sewage effluent tests conducted for 2021–2025: Eastern Cape

**Treated sewage effluent: Eastern Cape  
(2021–2025)**

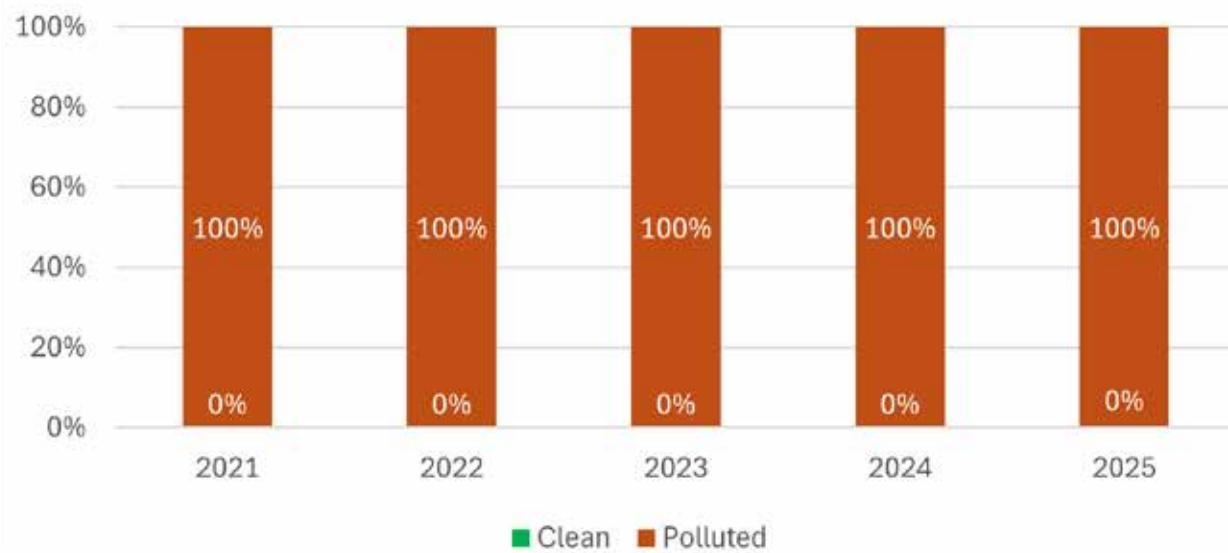


Figure 31: Percentage of clean/polluted sewage effluent tested for 2021–2025: Eastern Cape

### Provincial results: Free State

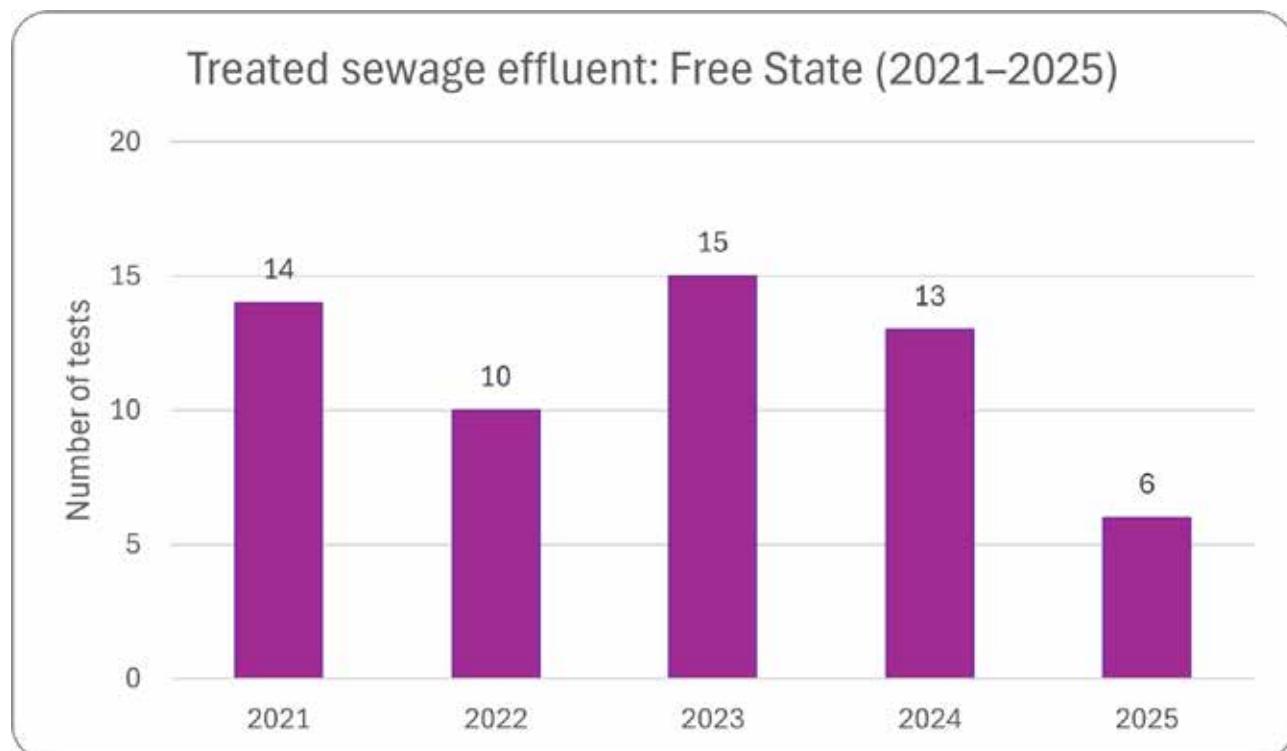


Figure 32: Number of treated sewage effluent tests conducted for 2021–2025: Free State

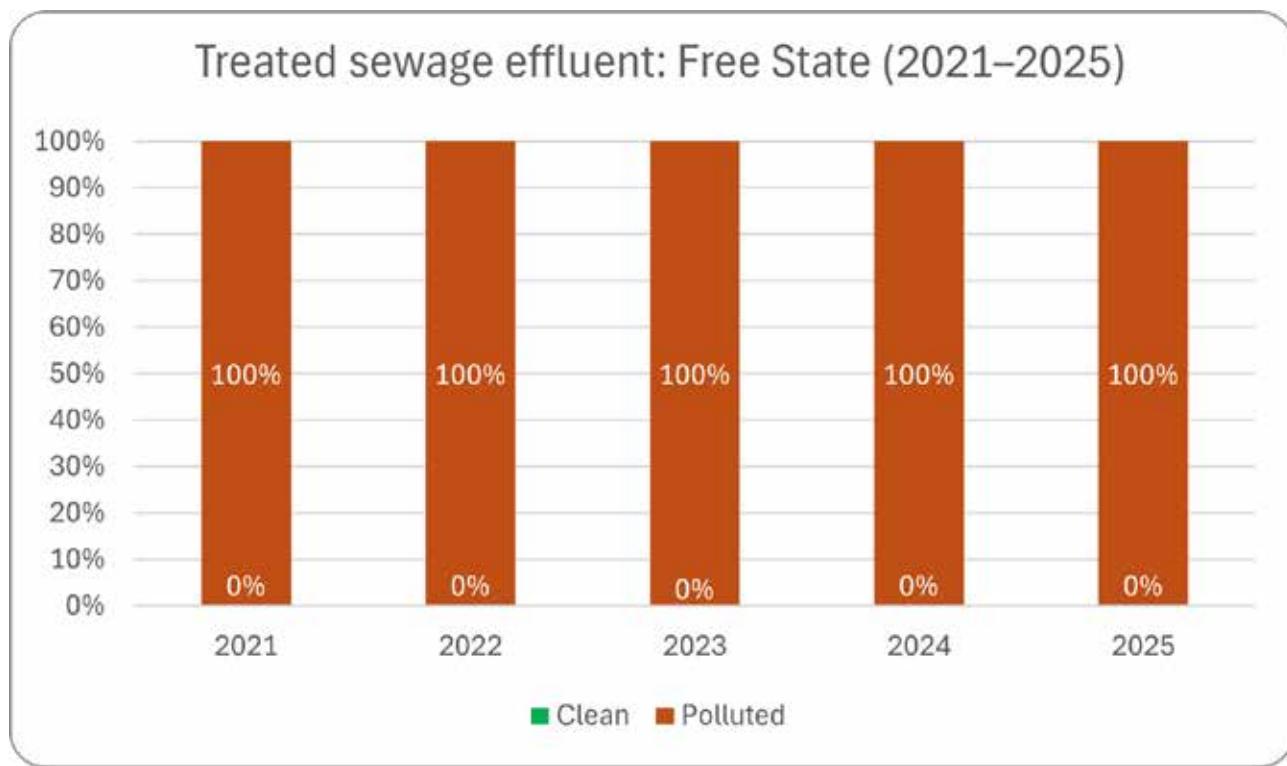


Figure 33: Percentage of clean/polluted sewage effluent tested for 2021–2025: Free State

### Provincial results: Gauteng

Treated sewage effluent: Gauteng (2021–2025)

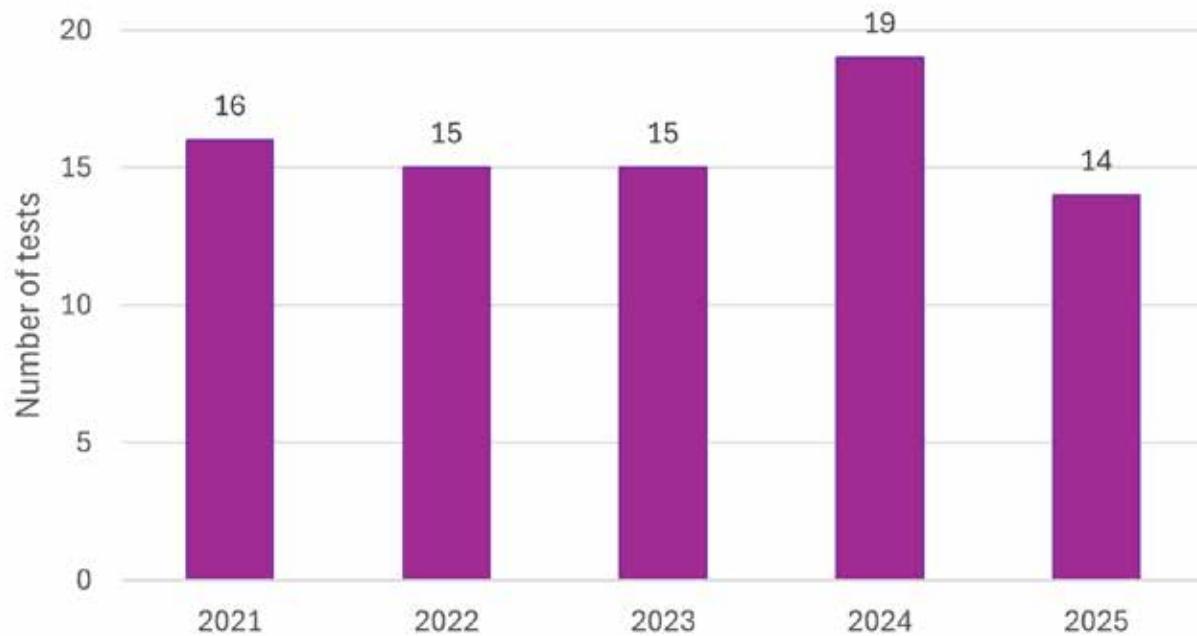


Figure 34: Number of treated sewage effluent tests conducted for 2021–2025: Gauteng

Treated sewage effluent: Gauteng (2021–2025)

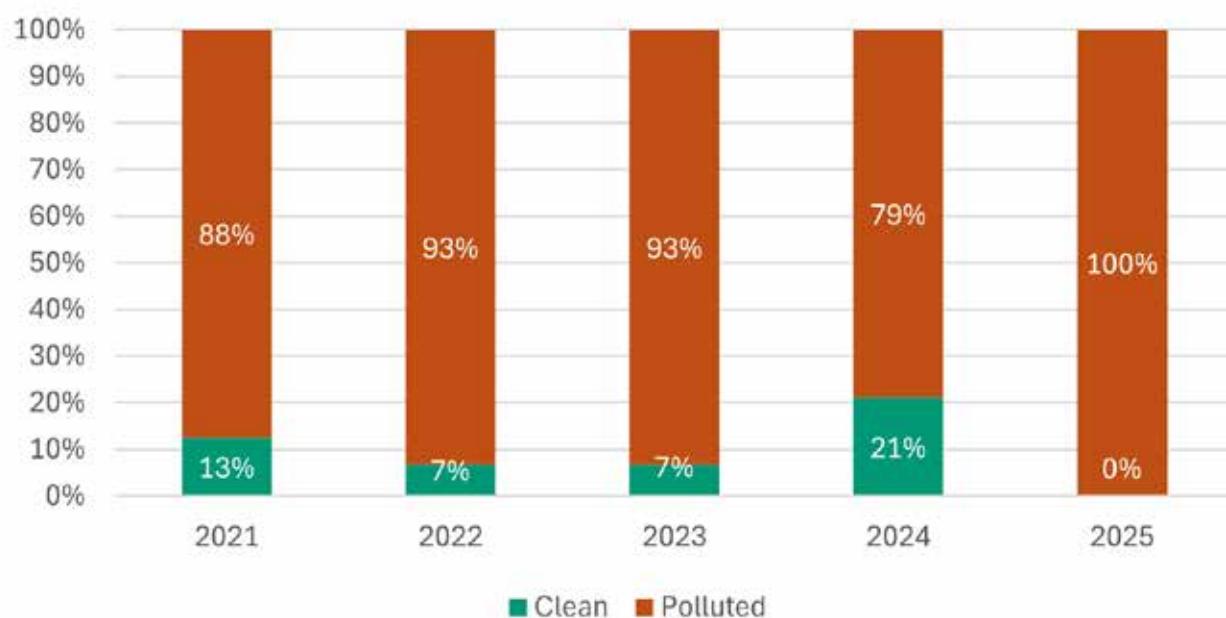


Figure 35: Percentage of clean/polluted sewage effluent tested for 2021–2025: Gauteng

### Provincial results: KwaZulu-Natal

#### Treated sewage effluent: KwaZulu-Natal (2021–2025)

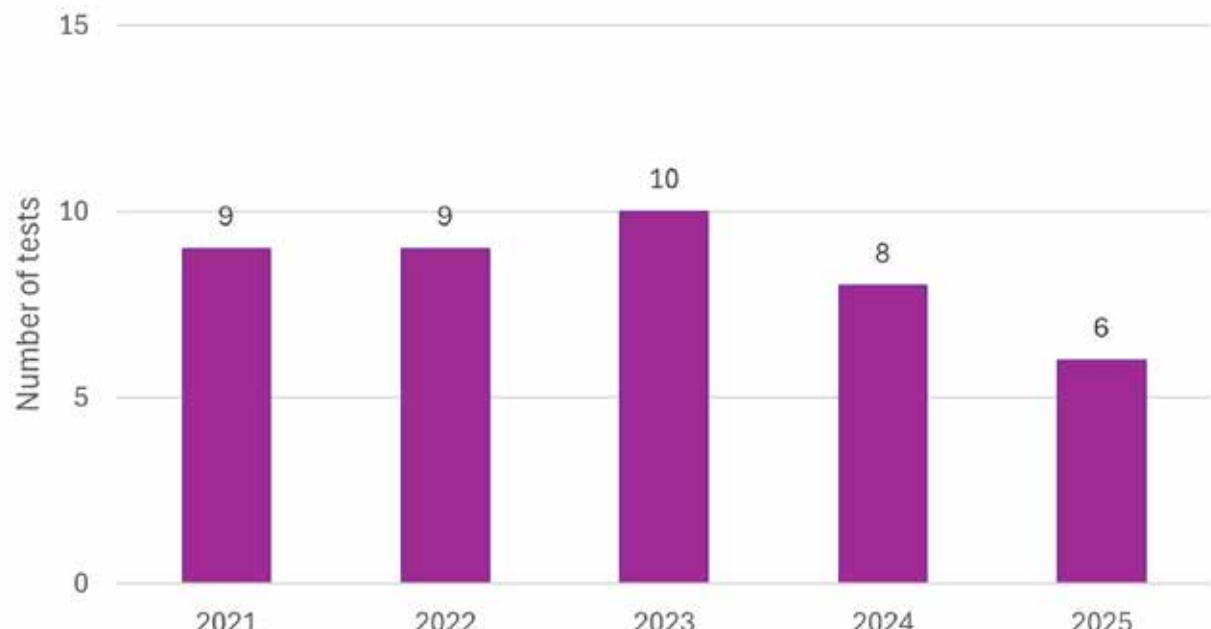


Figure 36: Number of treated sewage effluent tests conducted for 2021–2025: KwaZulu-Natal

#### Treated sewage effluent: KwaZulu-Natal (2021–2025)

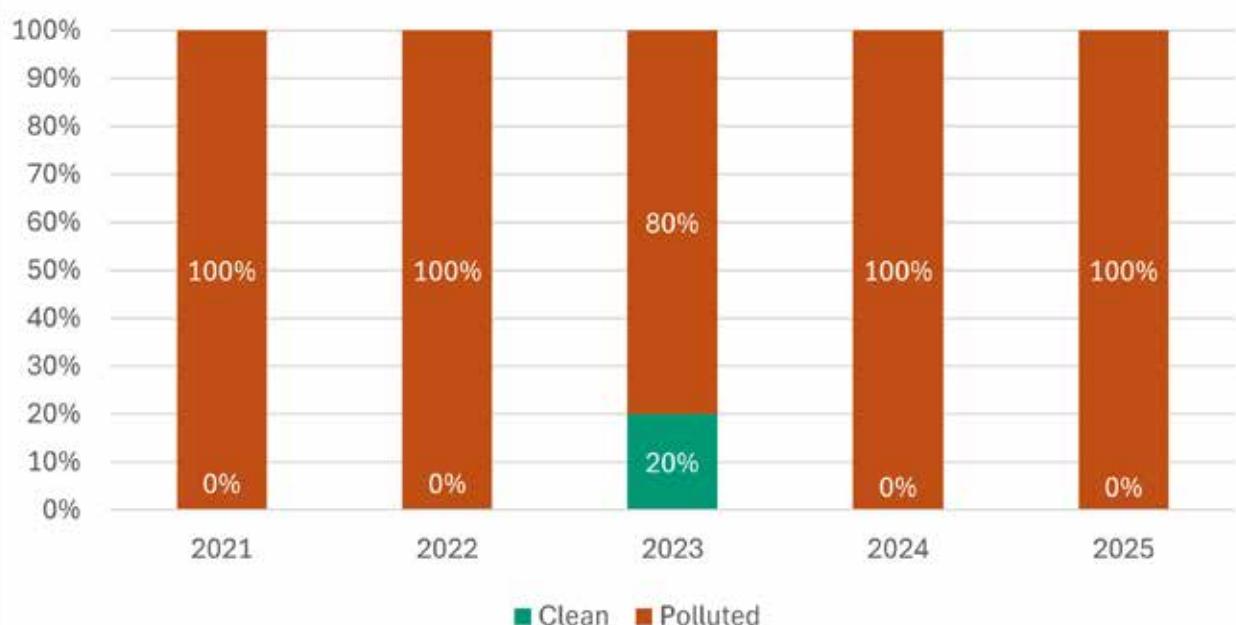


Figure 37: Percentage of clean/polluted sewage effluent tested for 2021–2025: KwaZulu-Natal

### Provincial results: Limpopo

Treated sewage effluent: Limpopo (2021–2025)

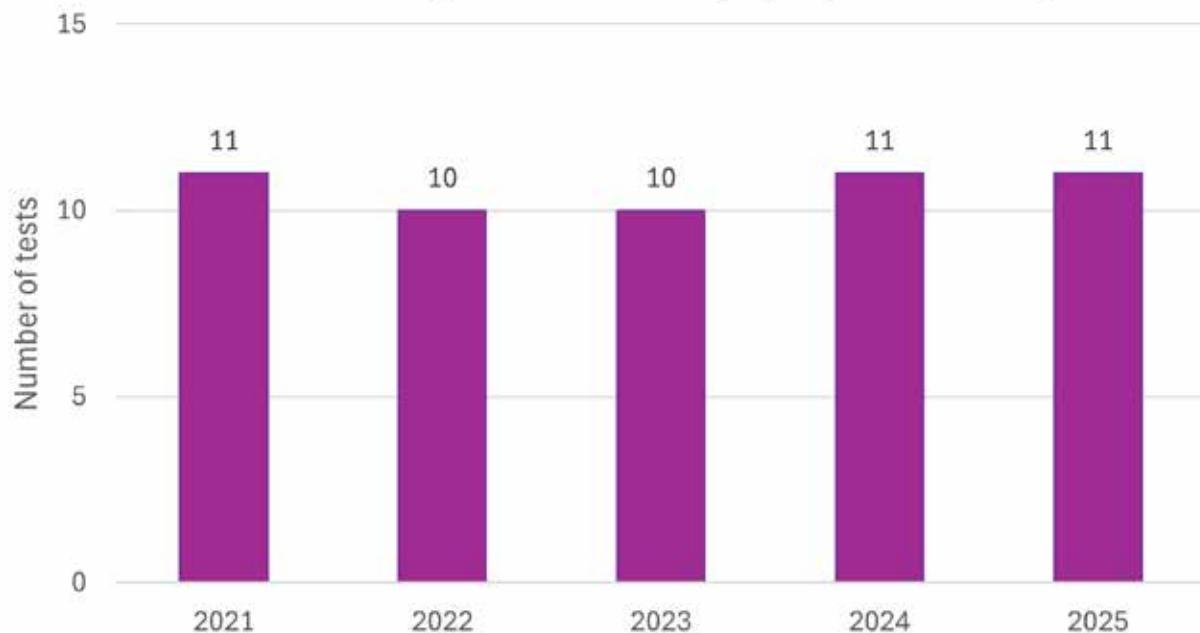


Figure 38: Number of treated sewage effluent tests conducted for 2021–2025: Limpopo

Treated sewage effluent: Limpopo (2021–2025)

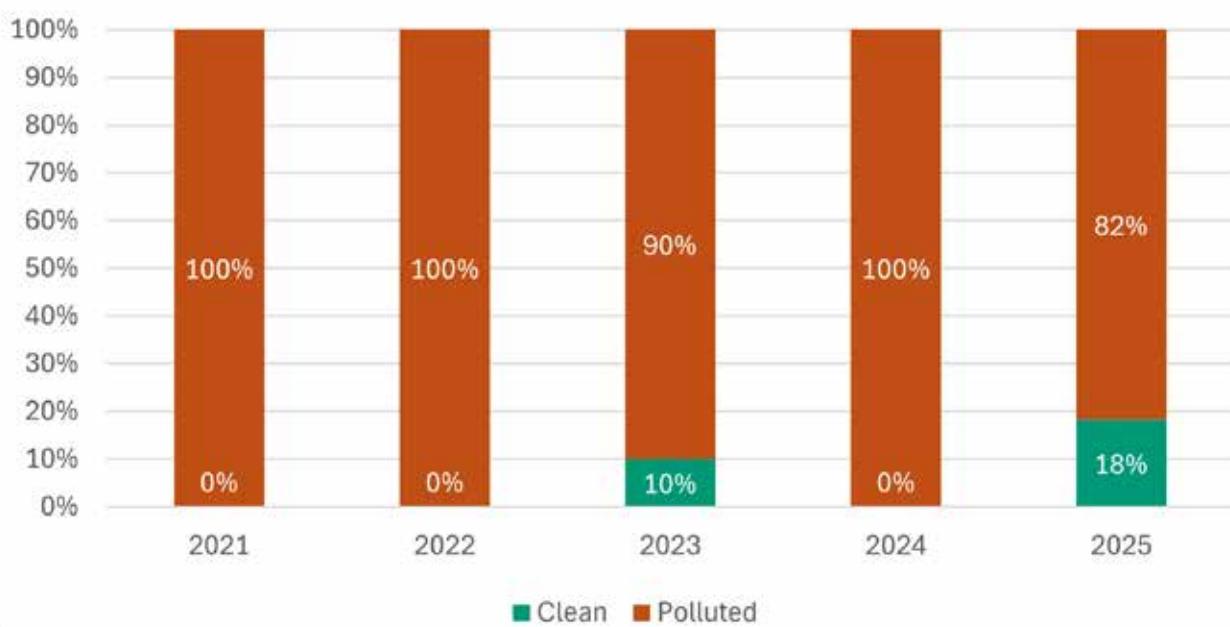


Figure 39: Percentage of clean/polluted sewage effluent tested for 2021–2025: Limpopo

### Provincial results: Mpumalanga

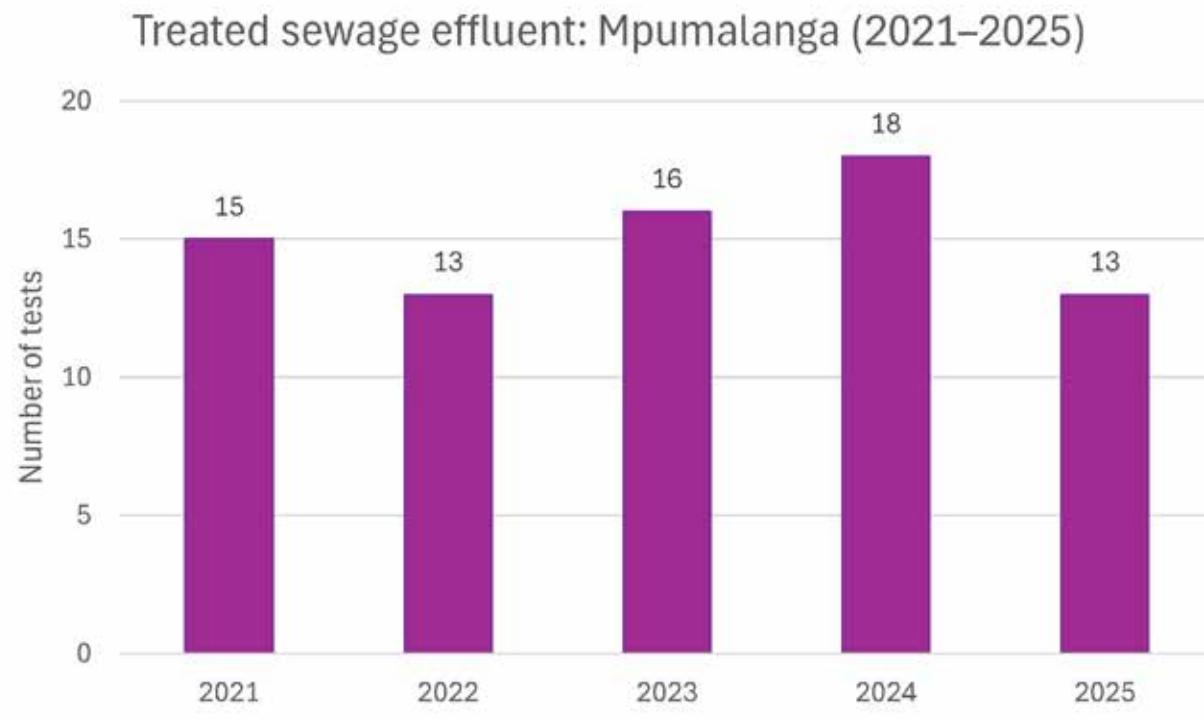


Figure 40: Number of treated sewage effluent tests conducted for 2021–2025: Mpumalanga

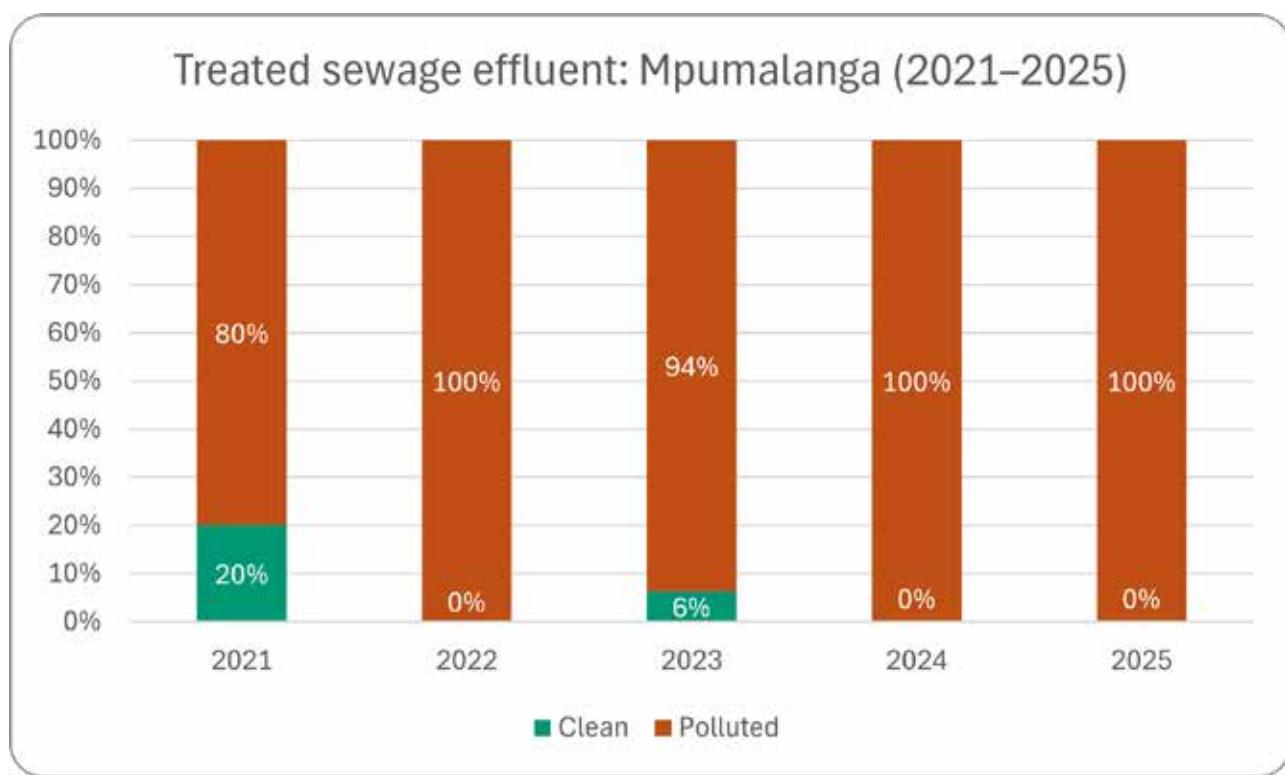


Figure 41: Percentage of clean/polluted sewage effluent tested for 2021–2025: Mpumalanga

**Provincial results: Northern Cape**

**Treated sewage effluent: Northern Cape  
(2021–2025)**

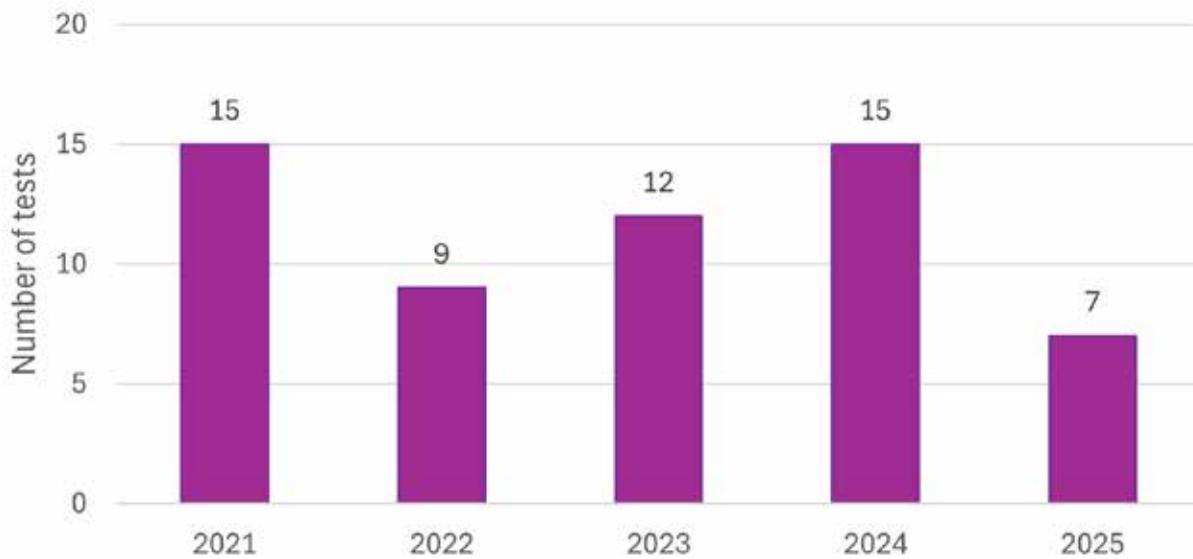


Figure 42: Number of treated sewage effluent tests conducted for 2021–2025: Northern Cape

**Treated sewage effluent: Northern Cape  
(2021–2025)**

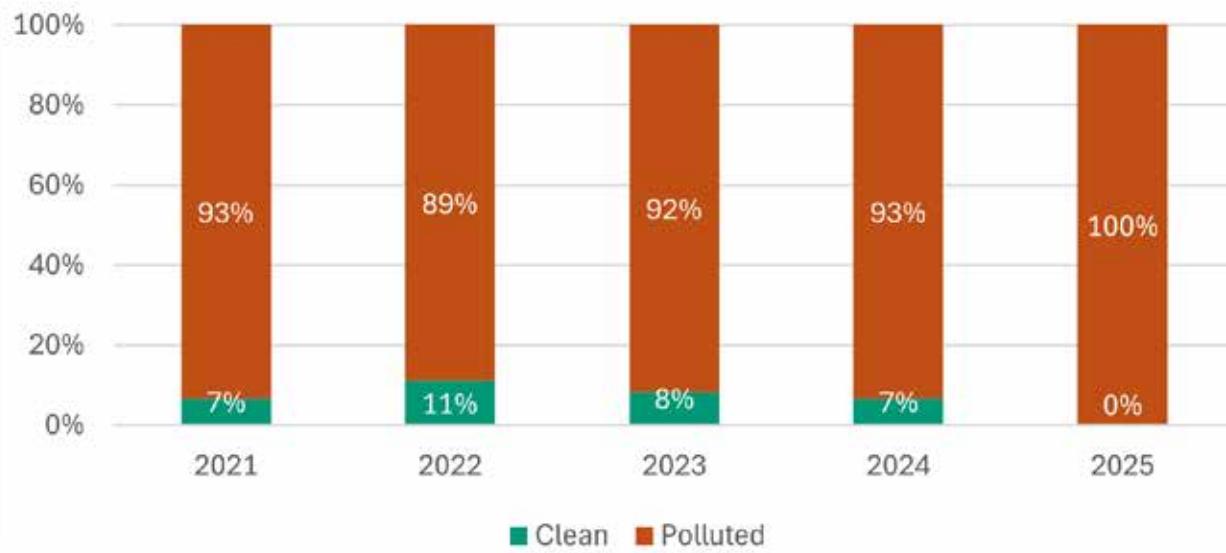


Figure 43: Percentage of clean/polluted sewage effluent tested for 2021–2025: Northern Cape

### Provincial results: North West

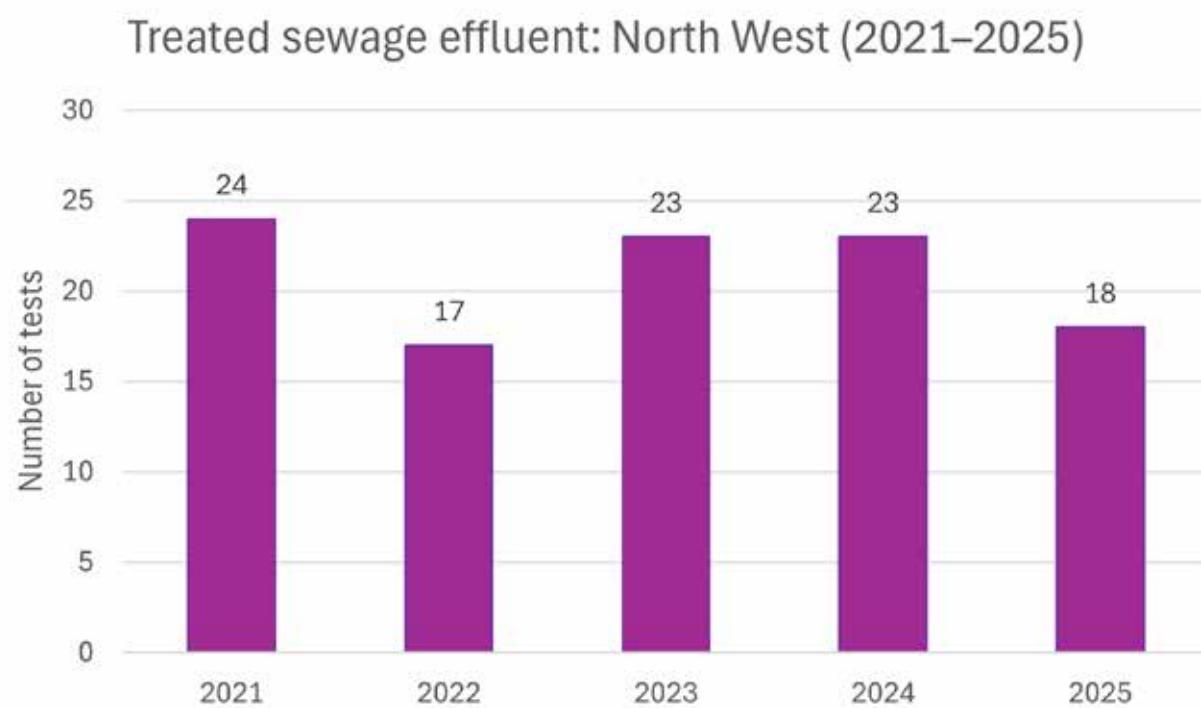


Figure 44: Number of treated sewage effluent tests conducted for 2021–2025: North West

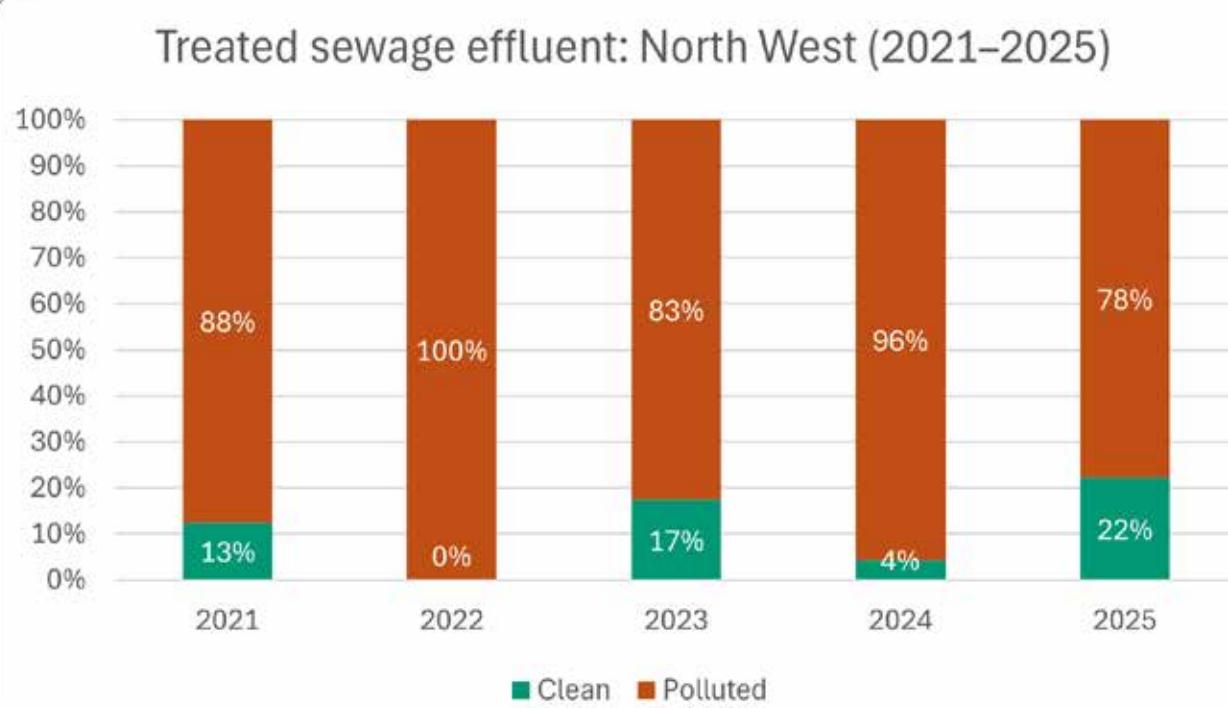


Figure 45: Percentage of clean/polluted sewage effluent tested for 2021–2025: North West

**Provincial results: Western Cape**

**Treated sewage effluent: Western Cape  
(2021–2025)**

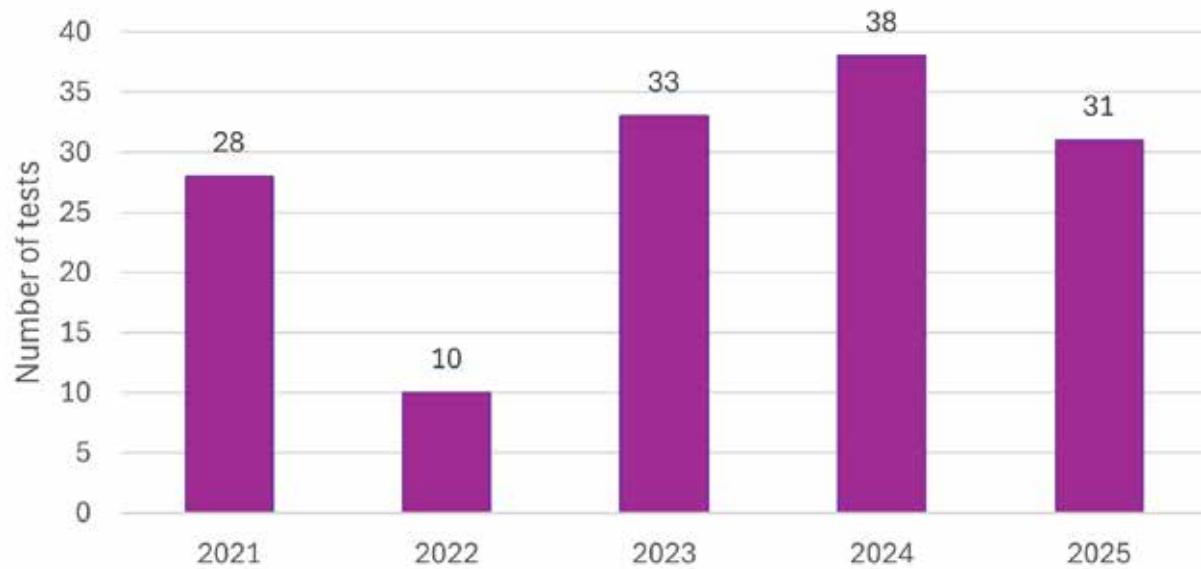


Figure 46: Number of treated sewage effluent tests conducted for 2021–2025: Western Cape

**Treated sewage effluent: Western Cape  
(2021–2025)**

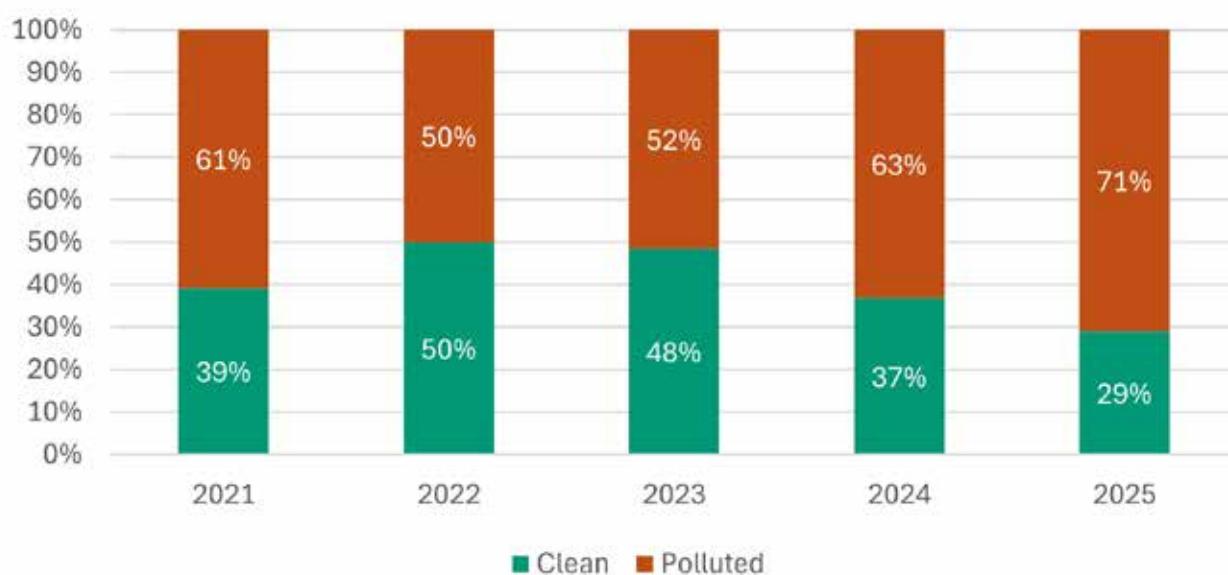


Figure 47: Percentage of clean/polluted sewage effluent tested for 2021–2025: Western Cape

## ***Sewage treatment plants discharging clean effluent***

- While the vast majority (86%) of AfriForum's 2025 tests indicated that polluted effluent is being discharged into rivers, it is worth commending the 15 out of 109 plants (14%) where treated sewage effluent met the minimum standards for safe discharge into a water resource. These results suggest that effective management measures are in place at these plants to ensure compliance with minimum discharge standards. The 15 plants are:
  - **Limpopo:** Naboomspruit (Mookgophong), Tzaneen
  - **North West:** Coligny, Potchefstroom, Stilfontein, Ventersdorp
  - **Western Cape:** Bellville, Bitterfontein, Klawer, Lutzville, Montagu, Nuwerus, Riversdale, Stellenbosch, Worcester
- Notable improvements since 2024, where outflows now meet discharge standards after previous non-compliance, include:
  - **Limpopo:** Naboomspruit (Mookgophong), Tzaneen
  - **North West:** Coligny, Stilfontein, Ventersdorp
  - **Western Cape:** Montagu, Stellenbosch, Worcester
- Even more noteworthy are the sewage treatment plants where AfriForum's tests have indicated compliance with discharge standards for two or more consecutive years:

- **North West:** Potchefstroom
- **Western Cape:** Bellville, Bitterfontein, Klawer, Lutzville, Nuwerus

## ***Declining performance of certain sewage treatment plants***

- The following locations discharged clean effluent in 2024, but polluted effluent in 2025, indicating a decline or lapse in management:
  - **Gauteng:** Pretoria West (Daspoort)
  - **Western Cape:** Darling, De Doorns, Vredendal

## ***Inexecutable tests***

- Testing was not possible at the eleven sewage treatment plants as set out in table 6 below.
- At the time of AfriForum's visit, no sewage was flowing into the Groblersdal (Limpopo) sewage treatment plant due to failed pump stations, making sampling impossible. As a result of these failed pumps, untreated sewage flows directly into the Olifants River.
- Despite AfriForum's best efforts to cooperate with the relevant municipalities and obtain permission, access to discharge points was denied at the remaining ten sewage treatment plants.

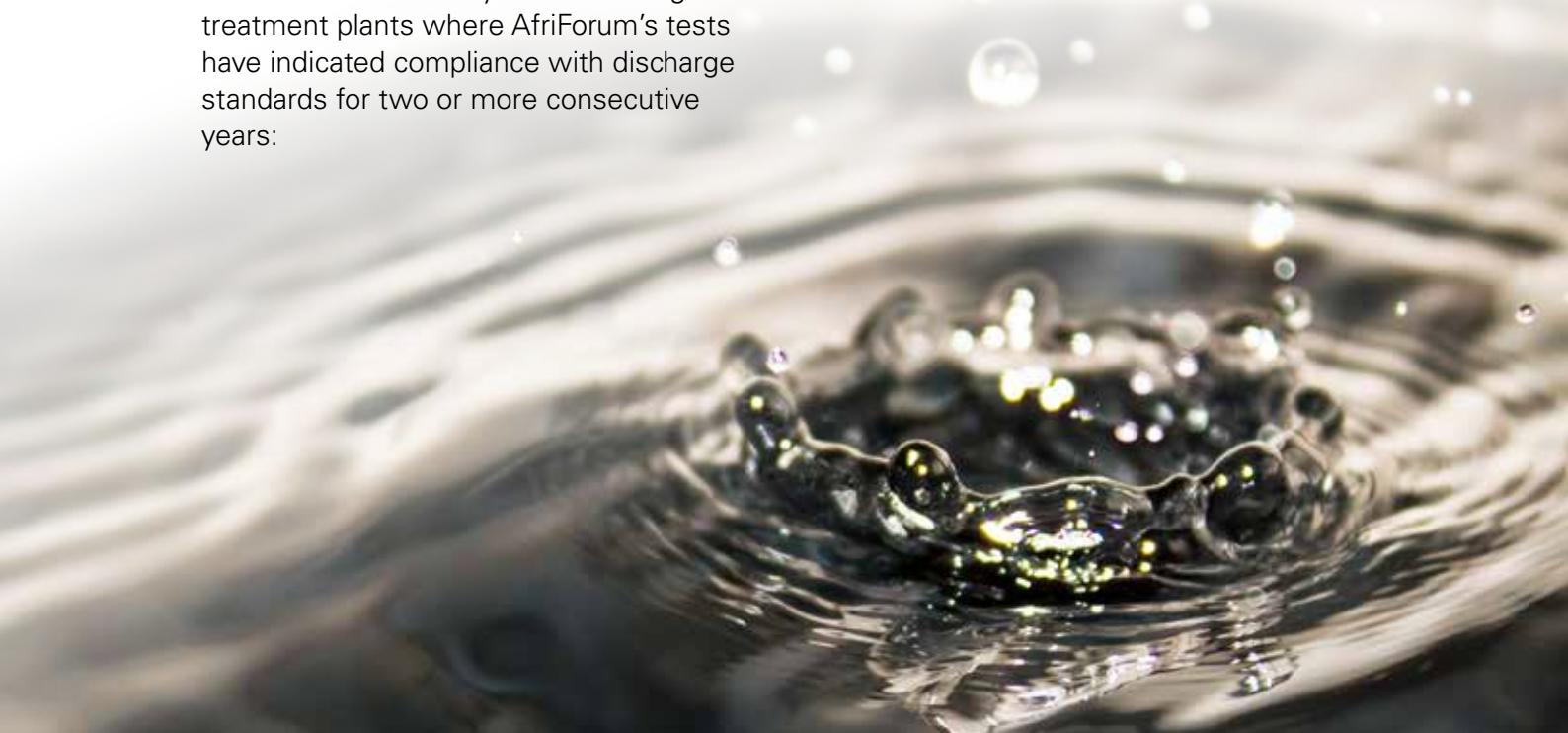


Table 6: Sewage treatment plants where tests were inexecutable in 2025

PROVINCE	MUNICIPALITY	SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT	REASON
Free State	Dihlabeng LM	Bethlehem	Access denied
	Mafube LM	Frankfort	
	Moqhaka LM	Kroonstad	
	Matjhabeng LM	Welkom	
Gauteng	Ekurhuleni Metro	Erwat Actonville (Benoni)	Access denied
		Erwat Jan Smuts (Brakpan)	
		Erwat Northmead (Benoni)	
Limpopo	Elias Motsoaledi LM	Groblersdal	Plant not operational
North West	City of Matlosana LM	Hartbeesfontein (Lethabong)	Access denied
		Klerksdorp	
		Orkney	



# DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

## Overview of national trends

AfriForum's 2025 water quality watch results provide a temporal snapshot of the condition of South Africa's municipal drinking water and treated sewage effluent at the time of sampling. The results show overall stability compared to 2024, but with sharp contrasts between drinking water safety and sewage treatment performance.

Nationally, 88% of municipal drinking water samples met the limits for safe human consumption, while 12% did not. Although this compliance rate appears encouraging, it still means that one in eight South Africans served by a municipal system may have received water that posed acute health risks.

By contrast, the results for treated sewage effluent remain alarming. Of the 109 sewage treatment plants tested, only 14% produced clean effluent that met the minimum standards for discharge into a water resource, while 86% released polluted water. This level of non-compliance reflects a sustained national crisis in wastewater management, with severe implications for rivers, dams and downstream users.

Regarded together, the results show that while most municipalities continue to provide safe drinking water, very few are able to treat wastewater adequately, placing the country's overall water security under increasing pressure.

## Municipal drinking water quality

AfriForum's 2025 sample of 175 municipal water systems found that 88% of tested drinking water complied with legal

standards for safe human consumption. Considering South Africa's 958 municipal water supply systems, this sample yields a statistical sampling error of approximately  $\pm 4,4\%$  at a 95% confidence level.

In practical terms, if all systems were tested, the national compliance rate is expected to fall between 84% and 92%. This confirms overall stability in drinking water safety, but also shows that a considerable share of South Africans may be exposed to water that does not meet compulsory health standards.

According to the DWS's Water Services Knowledge System (WSKS) for 2025 to date, national compliance levels are higher.<sup>9</sup> Based on 68 074 chemical analyses, of which 897 failed, the national compliance rate for Chemical: Acute Health parameters stands at 98,68%. For Microbiological: Acute Health parameters, 79 494 analyses were conducted, with 3 204 failures, resulting in a compliance rate of 95,97%.

While AfriForum's results are derived from a smaller sample, both datasets point to generally good drinking water quality at the national level, with pockets of non-compliance that pose potential health risks.

Despite the generally high national compliance rate, a number of municipalities still perform far below the national average. Among the municipalities where AfriForum's 2025 tests found unsafe drinking water, the WSKS records the microbiological compliance levels for these municipalities in 2025 as set out in table 7 below.

<sup>9</sup> Department of Water and Sanitation (South Africa). (n.d.) *Water Services Knowledge System: Municipal Water Supply Systems*. Available at: <https://ws.dws.gov.za/wsks/DefaultList.aspx?SubjectAreaID=4&DataTopicDetailID=101&DisplayTypeID=1&PerspectiveID=0&LvlID=10&DataTopicID=18> (Accessed on 29 October 2025).

Table 7: Comparison of AfriForum's 2025 unsafe drinking water test results and municipal microbiological compliance levels for drinking water reported on WSKS

PROVINCE	MUNICIPALITY	LOCATION TESTED BY AFRIFORM	AFRIFORUM RESULT	MICROBIOLOGICAL COMPLIANCE (WSKS 2025)
Free State	Ngwathe LM	Parys	Unsafe	75,82%
	Tokologo LM	Boshof	Unsafe	40,00%
Mpumalanga	Dipaleseng LM	Balfour; Greylingstad (Nthorwane)	Unsafe	56,52%
	Emakhazeni LM	Machadodorp (eNtokozweni)	Unsafe	97,31%
	Emalahleni LM	Kriel; Ogies; Witbank (eMalahleni)	Unsafe	92,95%
	Lekwa LM	Morgenzon	Unsafe	87,50%
	Msukaligwa LM	Ermelo	Unsafe	78,89%
	Pixley Ka Seme LM	Amersfoort; Volksrust	Unsafe	50,55%
	Steve Tshwete LM	Hendrina	Unsafe	95,44%
Northern Cape	Kai !Garib LM	Keimoes	Unsafe	No data
	Kamiesberg LM	Garies	Unsafe	98,28%
	Sol Plaatje LM	Kimberley	Unsafe	99,94%
North West	Ditsobotla LM	Lichtenburg	Unsafe	No data
	Kgetlengrivier LM	Swartruggens	Unsafe	No data
	Madibeng LM	Mooi nooi	Unsafe	93,82%
Western Cape	Hessequa LM	Still Bay	Unsafe	97,28%
	Knysna LM	Knysna	Unsafe	98,26%

LEGEND	COMPLIANCE LEVEL
Excellent	99%
Good	97%
Needs attention	95%
Intervention required	<95%

### Treated sewage effluent quality

AfriForum's 2025 testing included 109 municipal sewage treatment plants, of which only 14% produced effluent that complied with the legal standards for safe discharge into a water resource. Considering South Africa's 867 municipal sewage treatment plants, this sample yields a statistical sampling error of approximately  $\pm 6\%$  at a 95% confidence level. If all plants were tested, the national compliance rate would likely fall between 8% and 20%. These results suggest a persistently

low level of compliance in municipal wastewater treatment across the country.

According to the DWS's Water Services Knowledge System (WSKS) for 2025 to date, the national compliance rate for Microbiological: Acute Health parameters stands at 59,99%, based on 17 678 analyses, of which 7 073 failed.<sup>10</sup> Although this national figure is substantially higher than AfriForum's recorded compliance of 14%, both datasets show the same pattern of uneven and generally poor performance across most provinces.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

Provincial microbiological compliance levels as reported on the WSKS are indicated in table 8 below.

*Table 8: Comparison of AfriForum's 2025 provincial treated sewage effluent test results and microbiological compliance levels for treated sewage effluent reported on WSKS*

PROVINCE	AFRIFORUM RESULT	MICROBIOLOGICAL COMPLIANCE (WSKS 2025)
Eastern Cape	0,00%	40,63%
Free State	0,00%	41,31%
Gauteng	0,00%	72,87%
KwaZulu-Natal	0,00%	65,99%
Limpopo	18,18%	38,38%
Mpumalanga	0,00%	19,54%
Northern Cape	0,00%	41,46%
North West	22,22%	62,66%
Western Cape	29,03%	60,82%

LEGEND	COMPLIANCE LEVEL
Excellent	90–100%
Acceptable	80–<90%
Average	50–<80%
Poor	31–<50%
Bad	0–<31%

While the numerical results differ from AfriForum's, the trend remains consistent: provinces such as Mpumalanga, Limpopo and the Free State continue to show critically low levels of compliance, while Gauteng, North West and the Western Cape perform somewhat better, but still fall short of full compliance. This alignment between AfriForum's independent testing and DWS's official data reinforces the reliability of the underlying trend: that most sewage treatment plants fail to meet the microbiological standards for safe discharge.

However, compliance results only reflect the quality of tests that have been conducted. The monitoring compliance level on the WSKS provides further context by showing whether municipalities are performing the required number of tests. In 2025, full monitoring compliance (100%) was achieved in the Eastern

Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, North West and Western Cape. In contrast, as shown in table 9 below, several provinces did not meet the required testing frequency.

*Table 9: Monitoring compliance levels in provinces in 2025*

PROVINCE	MONITORING COMPLIANCE (WSKS 2025)
Free State	39,44%
Gauteng	87,51%
Limpopo	71,71%
Northern Cape	90,44%

Low monitoring compliance means that fewer tests are being performed than required, creating data gaps that can obscure the true state of wastewater treatment in those provinces.

These data gaps become particularly evident in the case of the eleven sewage treatment plants where AfriForum could not perform tests due to either denied access or non-operational

infrastructure. The microbiological compliance levels for these plants as recorded on the DWS's Integrated Regulatory Information System (IRIS) are set out in table 10 below.<sup>11</sup>

*Table 10: Microbiological compliance levels of sewage treatment plants where AfriForum could not perform tests in 2025*

PROVINCE	MUNICIPALITY	SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT	MICROBIOLOGICAL COMPLIANCE (IRIS 2025)
Free State	Dihlabeng LM	Bethlehem	0,00%
	Mafube LM	Frankfort	0,00%
	Matjhabeng LM	Welkom	66,70%
	Moqhaka LM	Kroonstad	18,20%
Gauteng	Ekurhuleni Metro	Erwat Actonville (Benoni)	95,10%
		Erwat Jan Smuts (Brakpan)	89,90%
		Erwat Northmead (Benoni)	66,60%
Limpopo	Elias Motsoaledi LM	Groblerdal	20,00%
North West	City of Matlosana LM	Hartbeesfontein (Lethabong)	0,00%
		Klerksdorp	0,00%
		Orkney	0,00%
LEGEND	COMPLIANCE LEVEL		
Excellent	90–100%		
Acceptable	80–<90%		
Average	50–<80%		
Poor	31–<50%		
Bad	0–<31%		

The wide range in compliance among these plants, from 0% to above 90%, demonstrates why limited access and inconsistent reporting are problematic. In cases where AfriForum was prevented from sampling, or where plants were non-operational, official records alone provide an incomplete picture. In several cases, such as Hartbeesfontein, Klerksdorp, Orkney and Frankfort, the recorded compliance of 0% confirms that untreated or poorly treated sewage likely continues to be discharged into rivers.

These discrepancies underscore the value of independent verification: without parallel

monitoring, gaps in official data can conceal the true extent of wastewater pollution across the country.

### Integrated trends and long-term patterns (2021–2025)

When viewed together, AfriForum's 2025 results for municipal drinking water and treated sewage effluent reveal a mixed picture. Most municipalities continue to deliver drinking water that meets national safety standards, while the treatment of sewage remains severely deficient in almost every province.

<sup>11</sup> Department of Water and Sanitation (South Africa). (n.d.) Integrated Regulatory Information System (IRIS): My River. Available at: <https://ws.dws.gov.za/IRIS/myriver.aspx?c2VvcD0xJnNob3dfYWxsPTE=> (Accessed on 29 October 2025).

## Combined 2025 performance

Four provinces achieved 100% compliance for drinking water in 2025: KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Limpopo and Gauteng. Among these, only Limpopo recorded any sewage treatment plants producing clean effluent (18% compliance), while in the other three provinces, AfriForum's tests found that none of the sampled plants met minimum discharge standards.

The Western Cape stands out as the only province that performed relatively well in both categories, with 94% of drinking water samples being safe and 29% of sewage treatment plants being compliant. In contrast, Mpumalanga remains the weakest performer overall, with 69% of drinking water tests being safe and none of the sewage treatment plants meeting microbiological standards.

Very few areas outside the Western Cape achieved strong results in both categories. At municipal level, Tzaneen, Naboomspruit (Mookgophong), Potchefstroom, Stilfontein and Ventersdorp are among the few that maintained safe drinking water and adequately treated sewage effluent, indicating that effective management is possible even under challenging conditions.

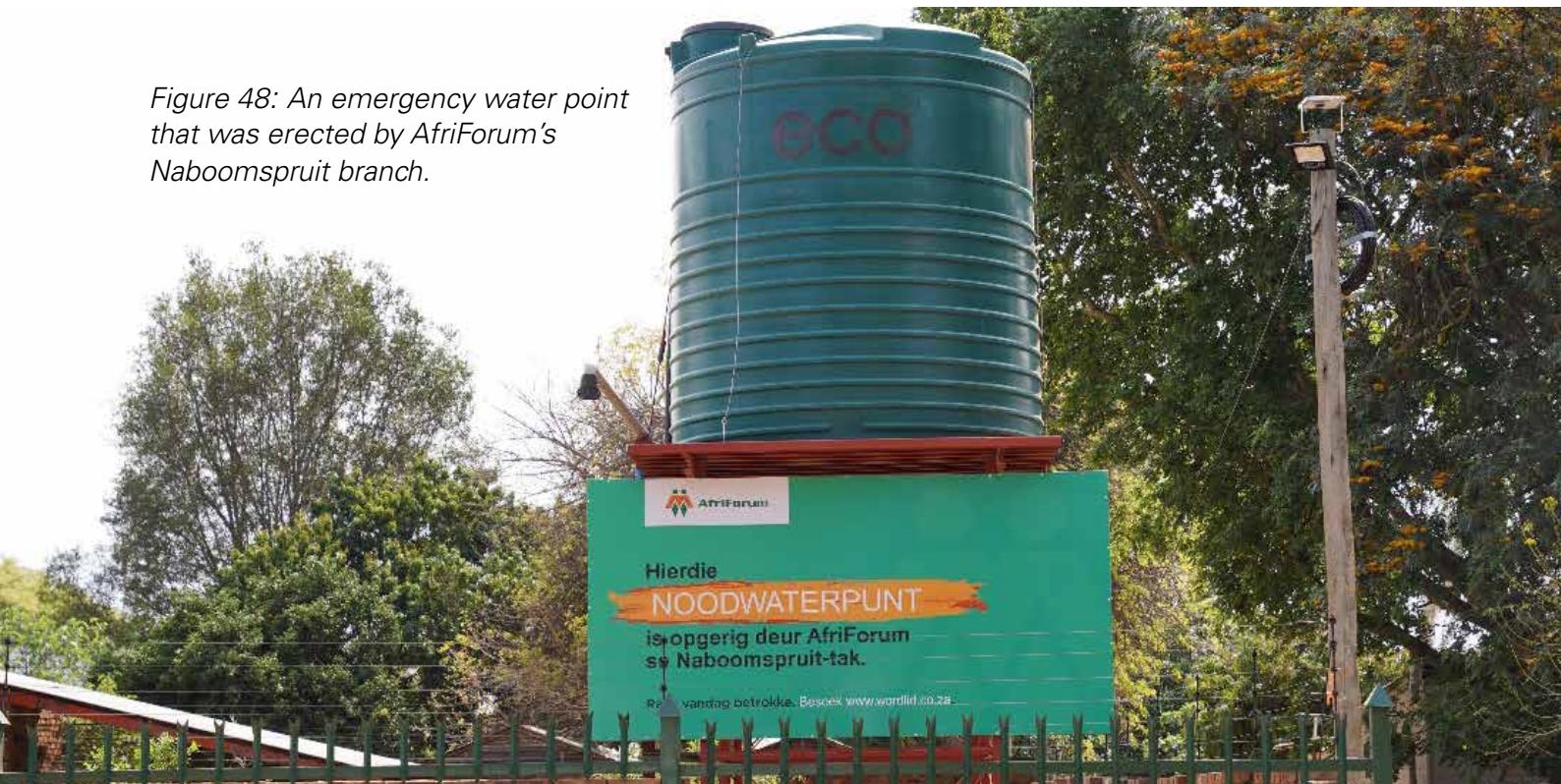
## Multi-year trends (2021–2025)

The results over the five-year period from 2021 to 2025 show stability in national drinking water safety, with annual compliance rates fluctuating between 98% and 87%. This indicates that most municipal water supply systems are maintaining a basic standard of operation, although performance is trending downward and a significant portion of the population remains at risk of exposure to unsafe water.

In contrast, sewage treatment performance has shown little improvement. Since 2021, compliance levels for treated effluent have remained below 20% in every year. The Free State and Eastern Cape have not recorded a single instance of adequately treated sewage effluent in any of AfriForum's annual tests over the past five years. This pattern points to entrenched failure in sewage treatment across large parts of the country, resulting in the ongoing contamination of rivers and dams.

Regarded side by side, the data sets confirm that South Africa's water safety challenge is twofold: while most municipalities can still supply drinking water that meets legal standards, very few can treat sewage to a level that prevents pollution of the same resources on which those supplies depend. The imbalance between input and output quality remains the most critical weakness in the country's water management system.

Figure 48: An emergency water point that was erected by AfriForum's Naboomspruit branch.



## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

South Africa's water crisis remains entrenched, with little progress toward lasting solutions. The pattern of stagnation over the past five years shows that stability does not equal sustainability. South Africa's water system appears to be holding steady on the surface, but beneath it, untreated sewage continues to erode the foundations of water security.

While most municipalities still deliver drinking water that meets minimum safety standards, a growing share of communities are exposed to unsafe water. At the same time, the failure of sewage treatment plants continues to pollute the rivers and dams that supply most of the country's drinking water. The quality of drinking water ultimately depends on the condition of the natural sources from which it originates. When rivers and dams are polluted by untreated sewage, the ability of treatment plants to supply clean water declines sharply.

This pollution creates a vicious cycle that drives up treatment costs, increases the risk of waterborne diseases, and further weakens already fragile freshwater ecosystems.

At the heart of the problem lies chronic municipal mismanagement. Many municipalities lack the capacity, funding and technical expertise to maintain existing infrastructure, let alone expand it to meet growing demand. Poor coordination between local, provincial and national government adds to the crisis. The result is a widening gap between the constitutional promise of access to clean water and what millions of South Africans experience on a daily basis.

Although the Department of Water and Sanitation has acknowledged the seriousness of the problem, government's response has been slow and fragmented. The scale of the crisis has become too great for government to resolve on its own. Service delivery continues to decline, infrastructure continues to fail, and accountability remains absent.

AfriForum believes that the only viable path forward lies in stronger local action and community self-reliance. Through its water quality watch project, AfriForum enables communities to monitor local water



# CLEAN IN, DIRTY OUT

## South Africa's municipal water system imbalance

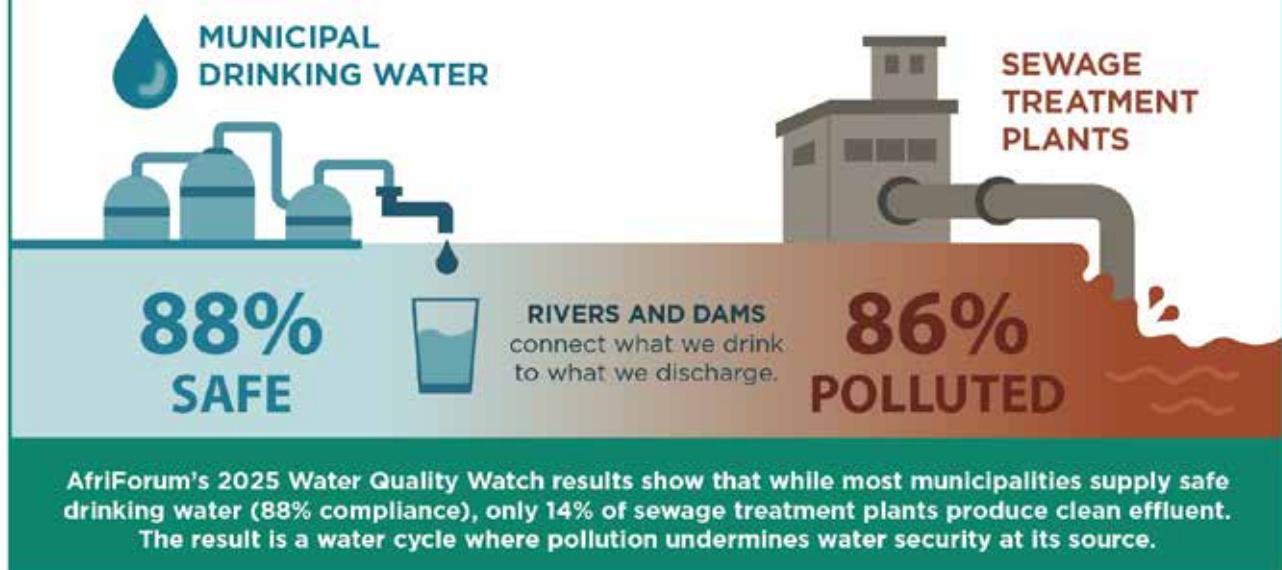


Figure 49: Clean in, dirty out: South Africa's municipal water system imbalance.

quality independently, share findings with municipalities, and demand accountability. Where municipalities fail, communities must be ready and equipped to act.

AfriForum will continue to:

- Cooperate with municipalities willing to work transparently to restore compliance.
- Request written action plans from municipalities where tests indicate that water is unsafe or polluted.
- Offer technical guidance and support where capacity is lacking.
- Expand community-driven initiatives such as establishing emergency water points, and repair projects for municipal infrastructure like boreholes and pumps.

South Africa's water crisis now poses a greater threat than the country's energy crisis, because it is directly life-threatening. This report must

serve as a warning that urgent action is needed to prevent the complete collapse of municipal water and sanitation services.

Ultimately, South Africa's water security hangs in the balance. Government's failure to uphold its constitutional duty to protect and manage water resources has a direct and damaging impact on communities. The country's water future will therefore depend on a greater sharing of responsibility between government and the people it serves. Communities must become active custodians of the systems that sustain them. Independent monitoring, such as AfriForum's water quality watch, brings transparency to the national picture of water quality and gives communities a voice to speak out about the safety of their most vital resource: water.

If you would like to take part in AfriForum's water quality watch project and have the water in your community tested, contact us at [diens@afriforum.co.za](mailto:diens@afriforum.co.za).

## Annexure 1: Complete municipal drinking water quality results (2021–2025)

Table 11: Municipal drinking water quality test results for the Eastern Cape (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Eastern Cape</b>						
Aliwal North (Maletswai)	Walter Sisulu LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	
Cradock (Nxuba)	Inxuba Yethemba LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	Safe
East London	Buffalo City Metro			Safe	Safe	Safe
Elliot	Sakhisizwe LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
Graaff-Reinet	Dr Beyers Naudé LM	Safe	Safe	Safe		
Jeffreys Bay	Kouga LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Patensie	Kouga LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	
Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha)	Nelson Mandela Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Uitenhage (Kariega)	Nelson Mandela Metro	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
	Tested	8	5	9	8	6
	Safe	8	5	9	7	6
	Unsafe	0	0	0	1	0

Table 12: Municipal drinking water quality test results for the Free State (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Free State</b>						
Allanridge	Matjhabeng LM	Safe	Safe			
Bethlehem	Dihlabeng LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	
Bloemfontein	Mangaung Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Boshof	Tokologo LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe
Bothaville	Nala LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Brandfort	Masilonyana LM			Safe	Safe	
Bultfontein	Tswelopele LM			Safe	Safe	Safe
Dealesville	Tokologo LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Deneysville	Metsimaholo LM			Safe	Safe	Safe
Frankfort	Mafube LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Harrismith	Maluti-A-Phofung LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Heilbron	Ngwathe LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	
Hennenman	Matjhabeng LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	
Hertzogville	Tokologo LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
Koffiefontein	Letsemeng LM		Unsafe			
Koppies	Ngwathe LM	Safe		Unsafe	Safe	Safe
Kroonstad	Moqhaka LM	Safe	Unsafe		Safe	Safe
Luckhoff	Letsemeng LM		Safe			
Odendaalsrus	Matjhabeng LM	Safe	Safe		Safe	
Parys	Ngwathe LM	Safe	Unsafe	Unsafe	Unsafe	Unsafe
Petrus Steyn	Nketoana LM	Safe		Safe		
Reitz	Nketoana LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Riebeeckstad	Matjhabeng LM					
Sasolburg	Metsimaholo LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Senekal	Setsoto LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Steynsrus	Moqhaka LM		Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Theunissen	Masilonyana LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	
Ventersburg	Matjhabeng LM			Safe	Safe	
Viljoenskroon	Moqhaka LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Virginia	Matjhabeng LM			Safe	Safe	
Welkom	Matjhabeng LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	Safe
Winburg	Masilonyana LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	Safe
Zastron	Mohokare LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	
	Tested	24	23	27	28	19
	Safe	24	20	25	24	17
	Unsafe	0	3	2	4	2

Table 13: Municipal drinking water quality test results for Gauteng (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Gauteng</b>						
Alberton	Ekurhuleni Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Benoni	Ekurhuleni Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe		
Boksburg	Ekurhuleni Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	
Brakpan	Ekurhuleni Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Bronkhorstspruit	Tshwane Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	
Centurion	Tshwane Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Cullinan	Tshwane Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe		
Edenvale	Ekurhuleni Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Fochville	Merafong City LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Germiston	Ekurhuleni Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Heidelberg	Lesedi LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Kempton Park	Ekurhuleni Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Krugersdorp	Mogale City LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Lochvaal	Emfuleni LM	Safe	Safe			
Magaliesburg	Mogale City LM	Safe	Safe			
Meyerton	Midvaal LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Pretoria East	Tshwane Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Pretoria North	Tshwane Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Pretoria West	Tshwane Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Randburg	Johannesburg Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Randfontein	Rand West City LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Roodepoort	Johannesburg Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	
Springs	Ekurhuleni Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	
Vanderbijlpark	Emfuleni LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Vereeniging	Emfuleni LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Westonaria	Rand West City LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	Safe
	Tested	26	26	24	22	18
	Safe	26	26	24	21	18
	Unsafe	0	0	0	1	0

Table 14: Municipal drinking water quality test results for KwaZulu-Natal (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>						
Amanzimtoti (eManzimtoti)	eThekwini Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Dundee	Endumeni LM			Safe	Safe	Safe
Durban	eThekwini Metro			Safe		Safe
Hluhluwe	Big 5 Hlabisa LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	Safe
Margate	Ray Nkonyeni LM	Safe	Safe		Safe	Safe
Newcastle	Newcastle LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Nottingham Road	uMgungundlovu DM		Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Paarlpietersburg	eDumbe LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Pinetown	eThekwini Metro		Safe			
Pongola	uPongola LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	Safe
Ramsgate	Ray Nkonyeni LM			Safe	Safe	
Richards Bay	uMhlathuze LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Utrecht	eMadlangeni LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Vryheid	Abaqulusi LM	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	Unsafe	Safe
		Tested	9	11	12	12
		Safe	9	11	11	9
		Unsafe	0	0	1	3
						0

Table 15: Municipal drinking water quality test results for Limpopo (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Limpopo</b>						
Ellisras (Lephalale)	Lephalale LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Groblersdal	Elias Motsoaledi LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Haenertsburg	Greater Tzaneen LM	Safe	Safe		Safe	Safe
Hoedspruit	Maruleng LM		Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Marble Hall	Sekhukhune DM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Messina (Musina)	Musina LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Naboomspruit (Mookgophong)	Mookgophong-Modimolle LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Nylstroom (Modimolle)	Mookgophong-Modimolle LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Phalaborwa	Ba-Phalaborwa LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Pietersburg (Polokwane)	Polokwane LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Potgietersrus (Mokopane)	Mogalakwena LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Roedtan	Mookgophong-Modimolle LM	Safe	Safe		Safe	Safe
Thabazimbi	Thabazimbi LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Tzaneen	Greater Tzaneen LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Warmbaths (Bela-Bela)	Bela-Bela LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	Safe
		Tested	14	15	13	15
		Safe	14	15	13	15
		Unsafe	0	0	0	1
						0

Table 16: Municipal drinking water quality test results for Mpumalanga (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Mpumalanga</b>						
Amersfoort	Pixley Ka Seme LM	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	Unsafe	Unsafe
Badplaas (eManzana)	Chief Albert Luthuli LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
Balfour	Dipaleseng LM	Safe		Safe	Unsafe	Unsafe
Barberton	Mbombela LM	Safe		Unsafe	Safe	
Belfast (eMakhazeni)	Emakhazeni LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
Bethal	Govan Mbeki LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Breyten	Msukaligwa LM	Safe		Unsafe		Safe
Carolina	Chief Albert Luthuli LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
Charl Cilliers	Govan Mbeki LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
Chrissiesmeir	Msukaligwa LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
Delmas	Victor Khanye LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Dullstroom	Emakhazeni LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Embalenhle	Govan Mbeki LM					Safe
Ermelo	Msukaligwa LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe
Evander	Govan Mbeki LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Greylingstad (Nthorwane)	Dipaleseng LM			Safe	Unsafe	Unsafe
Hendrina	Steve Tshwete LM				Safe	Unsafe
Kinross	Govan Mbeki LM		Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Kriel	Emalahleni LM		Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe
Leandra (Thuli Fakude)	Govan Mbeki LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
Lydenburg (Mashishing)	Thaba Chweu LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
Machadodorp (eNtokozweni)	Emakhazeni LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Unsafe
Malelane	Nkomazi LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	
Middelburg	Steve Tshwete LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Morgenzon	Lekwa LM	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	Safe	Unsafe
Nelspruit (Mbombela)	Lekwa LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Ogies	Emalahleni LM		Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe
Piet Retief (eMkhondo)	Mkhondo LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Sabie	Thaba Chweu LM	Safe		Unsafe		Safe
Secunda	Govan Mbeki LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Standerton	Lekwa LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Sundra	Victor Khanye LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
Trichardt	Govan Mbeki LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Volksrust	Pixley Ka Seme LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Unsafe
Wakkerstroom	Pixley Ka Seme LM	Safe		Safe	Unsafe	Safe
Witbank (eMalahleni)	Emalahleni LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe
Witvтир	Mbombela LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
	Tested	31	19	35	34	35
	Safe	31	19	30	30	24
	Unsafe	0	0	5	4	11

Table 17: Municipal drinking water quality test results for the Northern Cape (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Northern Cape</b>						
Barkly West	Dikgatlong LM			Safe		Safe
Calvinia	Hantam LM				Safe	
De Aar	Emthanjeni LM				Unsafe	
Delportshoop	Dikgatlong LM		Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Douglas	Siyancuma LM	Safe	Safe			
Garies	Kamiesberg LM					Unsafe
Hartswater	Phokwane LM	Unsafe	Safe		Unsafe	Safe
Hopetown	Thembelihle LM	Safe	Safe		Safe	
Jan Kempdorp	Phokwane LM	Unsafe	Safe		Unsafe	Safe
Kakamas	Kai !Garib LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	
Kamieskroon	Kamiesberg LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
Kathu	Gamagara LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Keimoes	Kai !Garib LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe
Kimberley	Sol Plaatje LM	Unsafe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	Unsafe
Kuruman	Ga-Segonyana LM	Safe	Unsafe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Orania	Orania Dorpsraad	Safe	Safe		Safe	
Postmasburg	Tsantsabane LM	Safe		Safe	Unsafe	Safe
Prieska	Siyathemba LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Springbok	Nama Khoi LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Upington	Dawid Kruiper LM	Safe	Unsafe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Vanderkloof	Renosterberg LM		Safe		Safe	
Warrenton	Magareng LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	
Williston	Karoo Hoogland LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Tested		17	17	14	20	15
Safe		14	15	14	13	12
Unsafe		3	2	0	7	3

Table 18: Municipal drinking water quality test results for the North West (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>North West</b>						
Biesiesvlei	Ditsobotla LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	
Bloemhof	Lekwa-Teemane LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Brits	Madibeng LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Christiana	Lekwa-Teemane LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Coligny	Ditsobotla LM	Safe	Unsafe		Unsafe	
Delareyville	Tswaing LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Groot Marico	Ramotshere Moiloa LM	Safe	Safe		Safe	Safe
Hartbeesfontein (Lethabong)	City of Matlosana LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	Safe
Hartbeespoort	Madibeng LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	
Klerksdorp	City of Matlosana LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Koster	Kgetlengrivier LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	
Lichtenburg	Ditsobotla LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe
Mooinooi	Madibeng LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe
Orkney	City of Matlosana LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Ottosdal	Tswaing LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Potchefstroom	JB Marks LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Rustenburg	Rustenburg LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Sannieshof	Tswaing LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Schweizer-Reneke	Mamusa LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	Safe
Stella	Naledi LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	
Stilfontein	City of Matlosana LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Swartruggens	Kgetlengrivier LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe
Ventersdorp	Ventersdorp LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Vryburg	Naledi LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Wolmaransstad	Maquassi Hills LM	Unsafe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Zeerust	Ramotshere Moiloa LM	Safe		Safe	Unsafe	
	Tested	26	24	24	26	20
	Safe	25	23	24	22	17
	Unsafe	1	1	0	4	3

Table 19: Municipal drinking water quality test results for the Western Cape (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Western Cape</b>						
Albertinia	Hessequa LM				Safe	Safe
Bellville	Cape Town Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Bitterfontein	Matzikama LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
Botrivier	Theewaterskloof LM					Safe
Bredasdorp	Cape Agulhas LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Clanwilliam	Cederberg LM		Safe	Safe	Safe	
Darling	Swartland LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	
De Doorns	Breede Valley LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
De Rust	Oudtshoorn LM				Safe	Safe
Durbanville	Cape Town Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Gansbaai	Overstrand LM	Safe	Safe		Safe	
George	George LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Gordons Bay	Cape Town Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	
Gouritzmond	Hessequa LM				Safe	Safe
Great Brak River	Mossel Bay LM		Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Hartenbos	Mossel Bay LM		Safe	Safe		
Heidelberg	Hessequa LM			Safe	Safe	Safe
Hermanus	Overstrand LM	Safe	Safe		Safe	
Jongensfontein	Hessequa LM				Safe	Safe
Kalbaskraal	Swartland LM	Safe	Safe			
Klawer	Matzikama LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
Klein Brak River	Mossel Bay LM		Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Kleinmond	Overstrand LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	
Knysna	Knysna LM				Safe	Unsafe
Kraaifontein	Cape Town Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Lamberts Bay	Cederberg LM					Safe
Langebaan	Saldanha Bay LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	
Lutzville	Matzikama LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
Malmesbury	Swartland LM	Safe	Safe	Safe		Safe
Montagu	Langeberg LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Moorreesburg	Swartland LM		Safe		Safe	
Mossel Bay	Mossel Bay LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	
Nuwerus	Matzikama LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
Oudtshoorn	Oudtshoorn LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Paarl	Drakenstein LM		Safe	Safe	Safe	
Pearly Beach	Overstrand LM	Safe	Safe		Unsafe	
Riversdale	Hessequa LM				Safe	Safe
Robertson	Langeberg LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Western Cape</b>						
Saldanha	Saldanha Bay LM			Safe	Safe	
Sedgefield	Knysna LM					Safe
Slangrivier	Hessequa LM				Safe	Safe
Somerset West	Cape Town Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	
Stanford	Overstrand LM					Safe
Stellenbosch	Stellenbosch LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Still Bay	Hessequa LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe
Strand	Cape Town Metro	Safe	Safe	Safe	Unsafe	Safe
Struisbaai	Cape Agulhas LM					Safe
Swellendam	Swellendam LM		Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
Vanrhynsdorp	Matzikama LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	
Velddrif	Bergvriver LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	
Vredendal	Matzikama LM	Safe		Safe	Safe	Safe
Vredendal South	Matzikama LM	Safe				
Wellington	Drakenstein LM	Safe			Safe	
Worcester	Breede Valley LM	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe	Safe
	Tested	33	30	35	45	35
	Safe	33	30	35	42	33
	Unsafe	0	0	0	3	2

## Annexure 2: Complete treated sewage effluent quality results (2021–2025)

Table 20: Treated sewage effluent quality test results for the Eastern Cape (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Eastern Cape</b>						
Aliwal North (Maletsuai)	Walter Sisulu LM	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted	
Cradock (Nxuba)	Inxuba Yethemba LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Elliot	Sakhisizwe LM	Polluted				
Graaff-Reinet	Dr Beyers Naudé LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted		
Jeffreys Bay	Kouga LM	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted	
East London (Quinera Waste Water Treatment Works)	Buffalo City Metro			Polluted		Polluted
Patensie	Kouga LM	Polluted			Polluted	
Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha)	Nelson Mandela Metro	Polluted				
Uitenhage (Kariega) (Kelvin Jones Waste Water Treatment Works)	Nelson Mandela Metro	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Tested		8	2	6	5	3
Clean		0	0	0	0	0
Polluted		8	2	6	5	3
Inexecutable		0	0	0	0	0

Table 21: Treated sewage effluent quality test results for the Free State (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Free State</b>						
Bethlehem	Dihlabeng LM	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted	Inexecutable
Bloemfontein (Renosterspruit)	Mangaung Metro			Polluted		
Bloemfontein (Roodeval)	Mangaung Metro	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Bothaville	Nala LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	
Bultfontein	Tswelepele LM	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Frankfort	Mafube LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Inexecutable
Harrismith	Maluti-A-Phofung LM	Polluted		Polluted	Inexecutable	
Heilbron	Ngwathe LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	
Hertzogville	Tokologo LM	Polluted				
Kroonstad	Moqhaka LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted		Inexecutable
Parys	Ngwathe LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Reitz	Nketoana LM	Polluted	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted
Sasolburg	Metsimaholo LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Inexecutable
Senekal	Setsoto LM		Polluted	Inexecutable	Polluted	
Steynsrus	Moqhaka LM					Polluted
Viljoenskroon	Moqhaka LM		Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Welkom	Matjhabeng LM	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted	Inexecutable
Winburg	Masilonyana LM	Polluted		Polluted	Inexecutable	
Zastron	Mohokare LM			Polluted	Polluted	
	Tested	14	10	15	13	6
	Clean	0	0	0	0	0
	Polluted	14	10	15	13	6
	Inexecutable	0	0	1	2	5

Table 22: Treated sewage effluent quality test results for Gauteng (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Gauteng</b>						
Benoni (Erwat Actonville)	Ekurhuleni Metro				Clean	Inexecutable
Benoni (Erwat Northmead)	Ekurhuleni Metro				Clean	Inexecutable
Brakpan (Erwat Jan Smuts)	Ekurhuleni Metro			Polluted	Clean	Inexecutable
Bronkhorstspruit (Godrich)	Tshwane Metro	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Centurion (Sunderland Ridge)	Tshwane Metro	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Cullinan	Tshwane Metro					
Edenvale	Ekurhuleni Metro	Polluted				
Fochville	Merafong City LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Heidelberg (Erwat Ratanda)	Lesedi LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Johannesburg (Northern Waste Water Treatment Works, Diepsloot)	Johannesburg Metro				Polluted	Polluted
Kempton Park (Erwat Hartebeestfontein)	Ekurhuleni Metro	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Krugersdorp (Percy Stewart)	Mogale City LM		Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Meyerton (Midvaal)	Midvaal LM	Clean	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted
Pretoria East (Baviaanspoort)	Tshwane Metro	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Pretoria North (Rooiwal)	Tshwane Metro	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Pretoria West (Daspoort)	Tshwane Metro	Polluted	Clean	Polluted	Clean	Polluted
Randfontein (Elandsvlei)	Randfontein LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Springs	Ekurhuleni Metro	Clean		Clean	Polluted	
Vanderbijlpark (Rietspruit)	Emfuleni LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Vanderbijlpark (Sebokeng)	Emfuleni LM	Polluted	Polluted			
Vereeniging (Leeuwkuil)	Emfuleni LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Westonaria	Rand West City LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	
Tested		16	15	15	19	14
Clean		2	1	1	4	0
Polluted		14	14	14	15	14
Inexecutable		0	0	0	0	3

Table 23: Treated sewage effluent quality test results for KwaZulu-Natal (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>						
Amanzimtoti (eManzimtoti)	eThekweni Metro	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted		
Dundee	Endumeni LM			Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Durban	eThekweni Metro			Polluted	Polluted	
Hluhluwe	Big 5 Hlabisa LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Margate	Ray Nkonyeni LM	Polluted	Polluted			
Newcastle	Newcastle LM	Polluted	Polluted			
Paulpietersburg	eDumbe LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Pongola	uPongola LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Ramsgate	Ray Nkonyeni LM			Polluted		
Richards Bay	uMhlathuze LM	Polluted	Polluted	Clean	Polluted	
Utrecht	eMadlangeni LM	Polluted	Polluted	Clean	Polluted	Polluted
Vryheid	Abaqulusi LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
		Tested	9	9	10	8
		Clean	0	0	2	0
		Polluted	9	9	8	8
		Inexecutable	0	0	0	0

Table 24: Treated sewage effluent quality test results for Limpopo (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Limpopo</b>						
Ellisras (Lephalale)	Lephalale LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Groblersdal	Elias Motsoaledi LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Inexecutable
Marble Hall	Ephraim Mogale LM	Polluted	Polluted	Inexecutable	Inexecutable	Polluted
Messina (Musina)	Musina LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Naboomspruit (Mookgophong)	Modimolle-Mookgophong LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Clean
Nylstroom (Modimolle)	Modimolle-Mookgophong LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Phalaborwa	Ba-Phalaborwa LM	Polluted			Polluted	Polluted
Pietersburg (Polokwane)	Polokwane LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Potgietersrus (Mokopane)	Mogalakwena LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Thabazimbi	Thabazimbi LM			Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Tzaneen	Greater Tzaneen LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Clean
Warmbaths (Bela-Bela)	Bela-Bela LM	Polluted	Polluted	Clean	Polluted	Polluted
		Tested	11	10	10	11
		Clean	0	0	1	0
		Polluted	11	10	9	11
		Inexecutable	0	0	1	1

Table 25: Treated sewage effluent quality test results for Mpumalanga (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Mpumalanga</b>						
Belfast (eMakhazeni)	Emakhazeni LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	
Bethal	Govan Mbeki LM	Polluted	Inexecutable	Inexecutable	Polluted	Polluted
Delmas	Victor Khanye LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Dullstroom	Emakhazeni LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Embalenhle	Govan Mbeki LM					Polluted
Ermelo	Msukaligwa LM	Clean	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Evander	Govan Mbeki LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Kinross	Govan Mbeki LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Leandra (Thuli Fakude)	Govan Mbeki LM	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted	
Lydenburg	Thaba Chweu LM	Inexecutable	Inexecutable	Polluted	Polluted	
Machadodorp (eNtokozweni)	Emakhazeni LM	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Middelburg	Steve Tshwete LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Nelspruit (Mbombela)	Mbombela LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	
Piet Retief (eMkhondo)	Mkhondo LM	Clean	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Secunda	Govan Mbeki LM				Polluted	
Standerton	Lekwa LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Trichardt	Govan Mbeki LM	Clean	Polluted	Clean	Polluted	Polluted
Witbank (eMalahleni)	Emalahleni LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Witrievier	Mbombela LM		Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	
		Tested	15	13	16	18
		Clean	3	0	1	0
		Polluted	12	13	15	18
		Inexecutable	1	2	1	0

Table 26: Treated sewage effluent quality test results for the Northern Cape (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Northern Cape</b>						
Carolusberg	Nama Khoi LM			Polluted	Polluted	
De Aar	Emthanjeni LM				Polluted	
Delportshoop	Dikgatlong LM					
Douglas	Siyancuma LM	Polluted				Polluted
Hartswater	Phokwane LM	Polluted	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted
Hopetown	Thembelihle LM	Polluted				
Jan Kempdorp	Phokwane LM	Polluted	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted
Kakamas	Kai !Garib LM		Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	
Kamieskroon	Kamiesberg LM	Polluted				
Kathu	Gamagara LM	Polluted		Clean	Clean	
Keimoes	Kai !Garib LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	
Kimberley	Sol Plaatje LM	Polluted	Clean	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Kuruman	Ga-Segonyana LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Okiep	Nama Khoi LM			Polluted	Polluted	
Orania	Orania Dorpsraad	Clean				
Postmasburg	Tsantsabane LM					Polluted
Prieska	Siyathemba LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	
Springbok	Nama Khoi LM		Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	
Steinkopf	Nama Khoi LM			Polluted	Polluted	
Upington	Khara Hais LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Vaalharts	Phokwane LM	Polluted				
Warrenton	Magareng LM	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted	
Williston	Karoo Hoogland LM	Polluted				
Tested		15	9	12	15	7
Clean		1	1	1	1	0
Polluted		14	8	11	14	7
Inexecutable		0	0	0	0	0

Table 27: Treated sewage effluent quality test results for the North West (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>North West</b>						
Biesiesvlei	Ditsobotla LM	Polluted				
Bloemhof	Lekwa-Teemane LM	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Brits	Madibeng LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted		Polluted
Buffelspoort	Madibeng LM					
Christiana	Lekwa-Teemane LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Coligny	Ditsobotla LM	Polluted	Polluted		Polluted	Clean
Delareyville	Tswaing LM	Polluted	Polluted	Clean	Polluted	Polluted
Groot Marico	Ramotshere Moiloa LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Hartbeesfontein (Lethabong)	City of Matlosana LM		Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Inexecut-able
Hartbeespoort	Madibeng LM	Polluted		Clean	Polluted	Polluted
Klerksdorp	City of Matlosana LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Inexecut-able
Koster	Kgetlengrivier LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	
Lichtenburg	Ditsobotla LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Mahikeng	Mahikeng LM	Polluted				
Mooinooi	Madibeng LM	Clean	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	
Orkney	City of Matlosana LM			Polluted	Polluted	Inexecut-able
Ottosdal	Tswaing LM			Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Potchefstroom	JB Marks LM	Polluted	Polluted	Clean	Clean	Clean
Rustenburg	Rustenburg LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Sannieshof	Tswaing LM	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted	
Schweizer-Reneke	Mamusa LM	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Stella	Naledi LM	Polluted				
Stilfontein	City of Matlosana LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Clean
Swartruggens	Kgetlengrivier LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Ventersdorp	Ventersdorp LM	Polluted	Polluted	Clean	Polluted	Clean
Vryburg	Naledi LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Wolmaransstad	Maquassi Hills	Clean	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Zeerust	Ramotshere Moiloa LM	Clean		Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
	Tested	24	17	23	23	18
	Clean	3	0	4	1	4
	Polluted	21	17	19	22	14
	Inexecutable	0	0	0	0	3

Table 28: Treated sewage effluent quality test results for the Western Cape (2021–2025)

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Western Cape</b>						
Albertinia	Hessequa LM					Polluted
Bellville	Cape Town Metro	Polluted		Clean	Clean	Clean
Bitterfontein	Matzikama LM	Polluted		Clean	Clean	Clean
Botrivier	Theewaterskloof LM					Polluted
Bredasdorp	Cape Agulhas LM	Polluted		Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Clanwilliam	Cederberg LM				Polluted	
Darling	Swartland LM	Clean		Clean	Clean	Polluted
De Doorns	Breede Valley LM	Polluted		Polluted	Clean	Polluted
Durbanville	Cape Town Metro				Polluted	
Gansbaai	Overstrand LM	Polluted		Inexecut-able	Polluted	
George (Gwaing)	George LM			Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
George (Outeniqua)	George LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Gordons Bay	Cape Town Metro			Clean	Polluted	Polluted
Great Brak River	Mossel Bay LM	Clean	Clean	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Hartenbos	Mossel Bay LM	Clean	Clean	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Hawston	Overstrand LM	Clean		Polluted	Polluted	
Heidelberg	Hessequa LM			Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Hermanus	Overstrand LM	Clean		Inexecut-able	Polluted	
Klawer	Matzikama LM	Clean		Clean	Clean	Clean
Kleinmond	Overstrand LM	Clean		Polluted	Polluted	
Knysna	Knysna LM				Polluted	Polluted
Kraaifontein	Cape Town Metro	Polluted		Clean	Polluted	Polluted
Lamberts Bay	Cederberg LM					Polluted
Langebaan	Saldanha Bay LM	Polluted		Clean	Clean	
Lutzville	Matzikama LM			Polluted	Clean	Clean
Malmesbury (Moorreesburg)	Swartland LM	Clean		Clean	Clean	
Montagu	Langeberg LM	Polluted	Clean	Clean	Polluted	Clean
Mossel Bay (Pinnacle Point)	Mossel Bay LM		Clean	Polluted	Polluted	
Nuwerus	Matzikama LM	Polluted		Clean	Clean	Clean
Oudtshoorn	Oudtshoorn LM	Polluted	Clean	Clean	Polluted	Polluted
Paarl	Drakenstein LM			Polluted	Polluted	
Riebeek-Kasteel	Swartland LM					Polluted
Riversdale	Hessequa LM					Clean
Robertson	Langeberg LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Saldanha	Saldanha Bay LM			Clean	Clean	

Place	Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Western Cape</b>						
Scottsdene	Cape Town Metro	Polluted				Polluted
Stellenbosch	Stellenbosch LM	Clean	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Clean
Still Bay	Hessequa LM	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Struisbaai	Cape Agulhas LM					Polluted
Swellendam	Swellendam LM		Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
Vanrhynsdorp	Matzikama LM	Polluted		Clean	Clean	
Velddrif	Bergrivier LM	Polluted		Clean	Clean	
Vredendal	Matzikama LM	Clean		Clean	Clean	Polluted
Wellington	Drakenstein LM	Polluted		Clean	Clean	
Worcester	Breede Valley LM	Clean		Polluted	Polluted	Clean
Tested		28	10	33	38	31
Clean		11	5	16	14	9
Polluted		17	5	17	24	22
Inexecutable		0	0	2	0	0



# AFRIFORUM'S WATER QUALITY WATCH REPORT

