

# THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

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## BACKGROUND

### The schooling context and COVID-19 disruptions

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- There are 13 million (~22% of SA population) children in school (95% public, 5% independent)
- The majority of public school are no-fee charging (quintile 1-3 schools)

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- Partial reopening and phased grade return from June 2020

The week starting:

	June					July				August					September				October				November				
Gr	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30
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Gr	7	14	1	8	15	22	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	
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Key:

	Schools closed for all, or specific grades and no NIDS-CRAM data collection was taking place
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	Weeks during which ordinary schools were open and no NIDS-CRAM data collection was taking place
	Weeks during which ordinary schools were open and NIDS-CRAM data collection was taking place
	Weeks during which the NSC examinations were being written by grade 12 learners
	Earlier 2021 academic year reopening by private schools
	School holidays scheduled for private schools
	Break between 2020 and 2021 academic years

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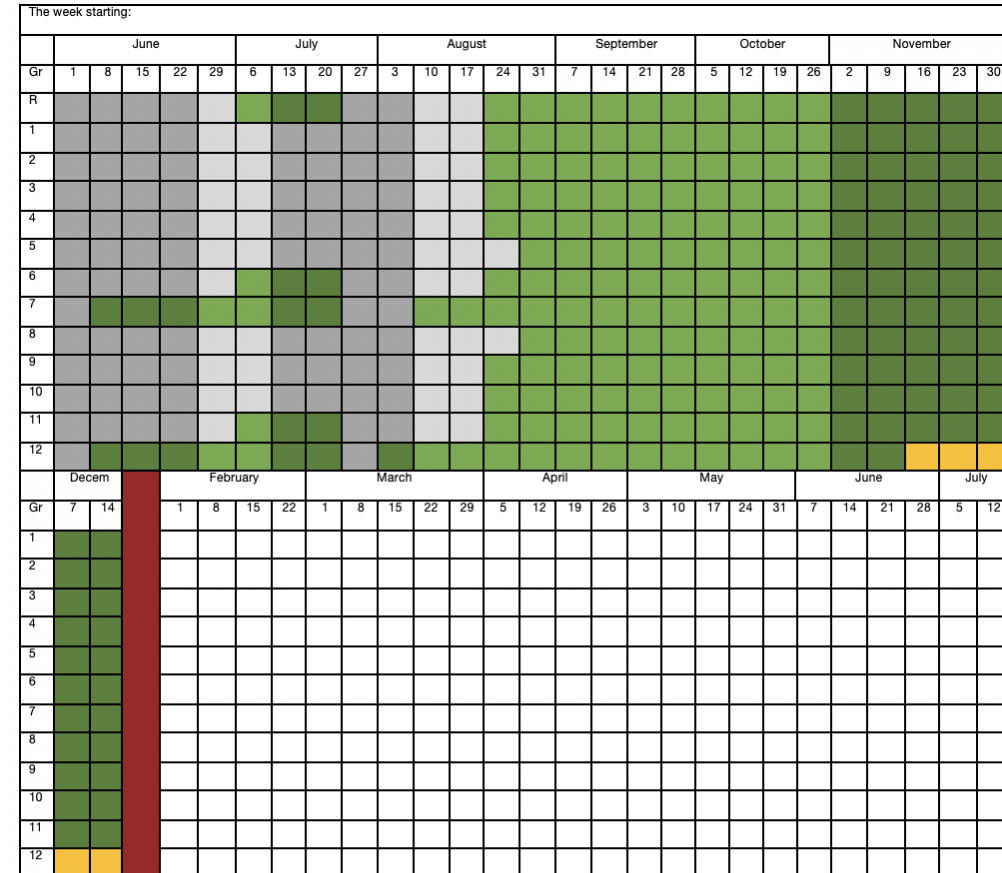
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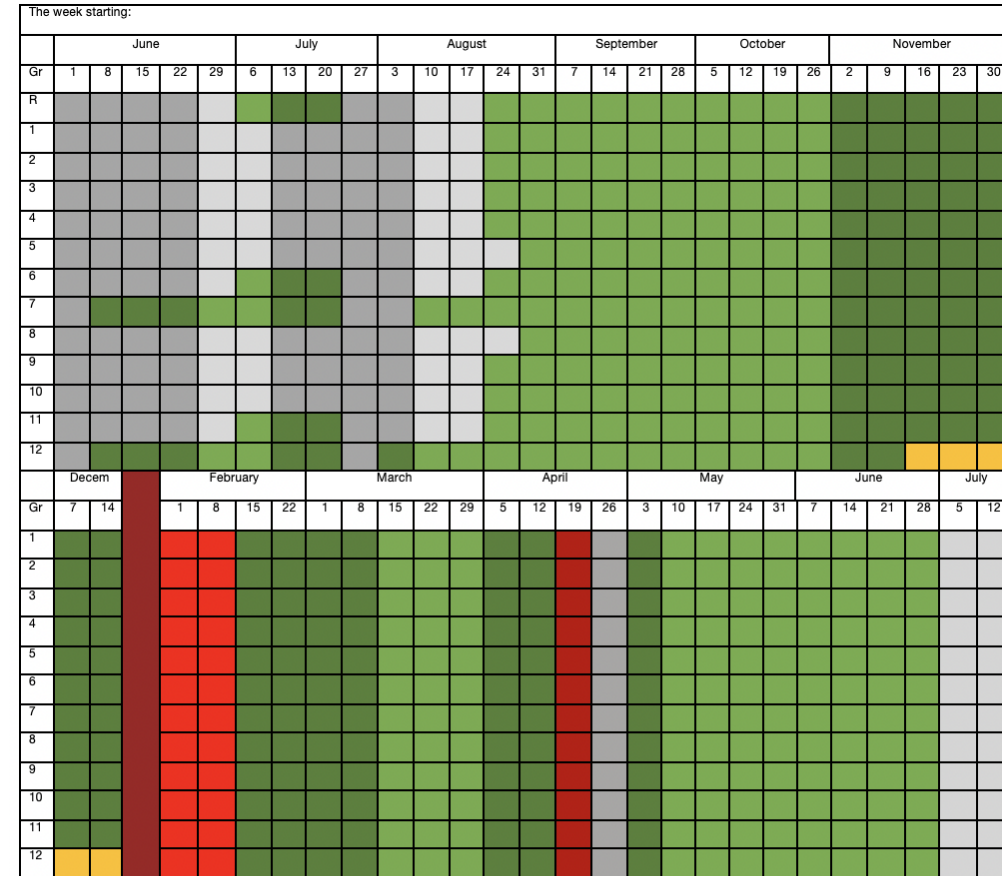
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### Up to 196 days (~60%) of the school year lost in 2020

- Schools were closed fully in March until June 2020
- Partial reopening and phased grade return from June 2020
- Full return of all grades from August 2020
- Fewer disruptions in 2021
  - 2 -week delay in reopening for 2021 academic year
  - 9 day early closure in 2<sup>nd</sup> term
- However, consideration needs to be given to continuation of timetable guidelines that result in bi-weekly rotational attendance, alternating classes on different days of the week, and platooning.



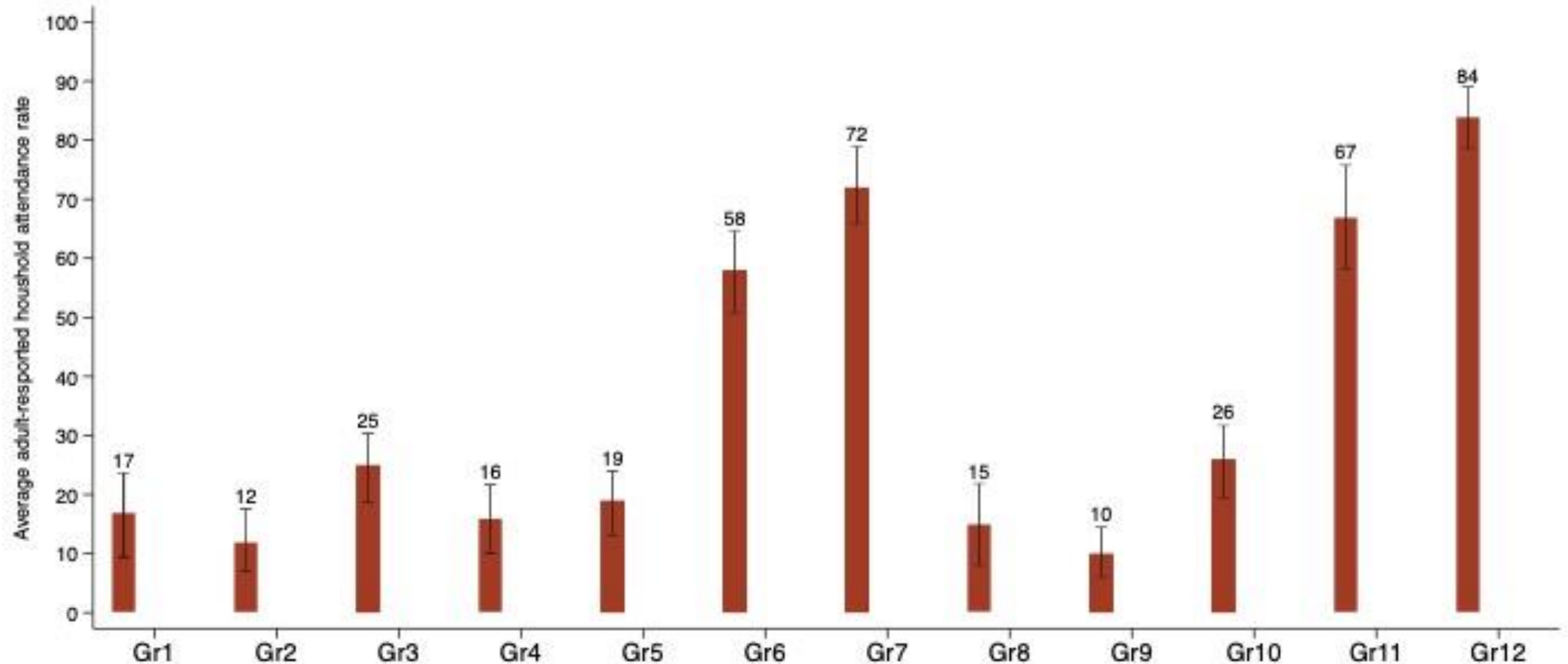
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## ATTENDANCE

### BY GRADE

Attendance in July 2020 (**NIDS-CRAM Wave 2**) largely followed patterns of phased school reopening

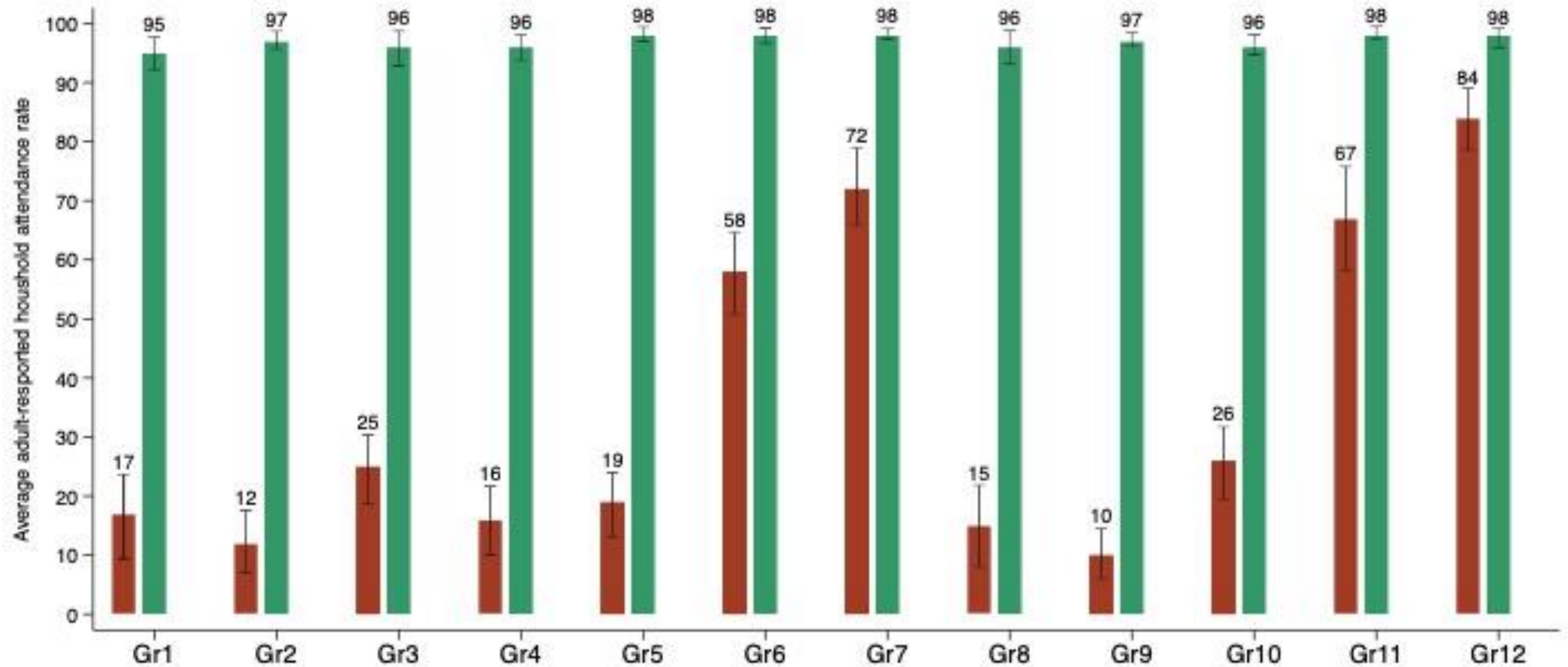




## ATTENDANCE

### BY GRADE

By November 2020 (**NIDS-CRAM WAVE 3**), 97% of adults reported that children had returned to school

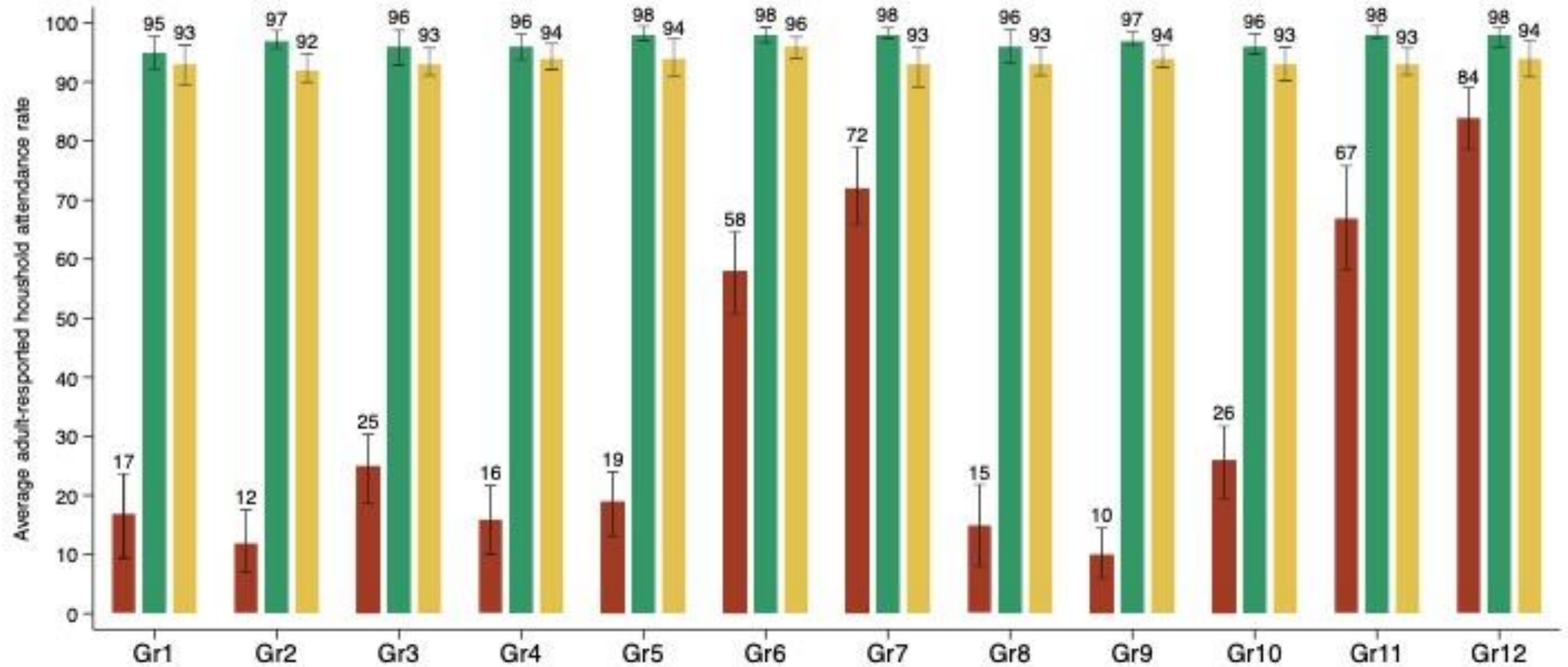




## ATTENDANCE

### BY GRADE

In April 2021 (**NIDS-CRAM WAVE 5**), reported attendance was down from end 2020 to 94.8%

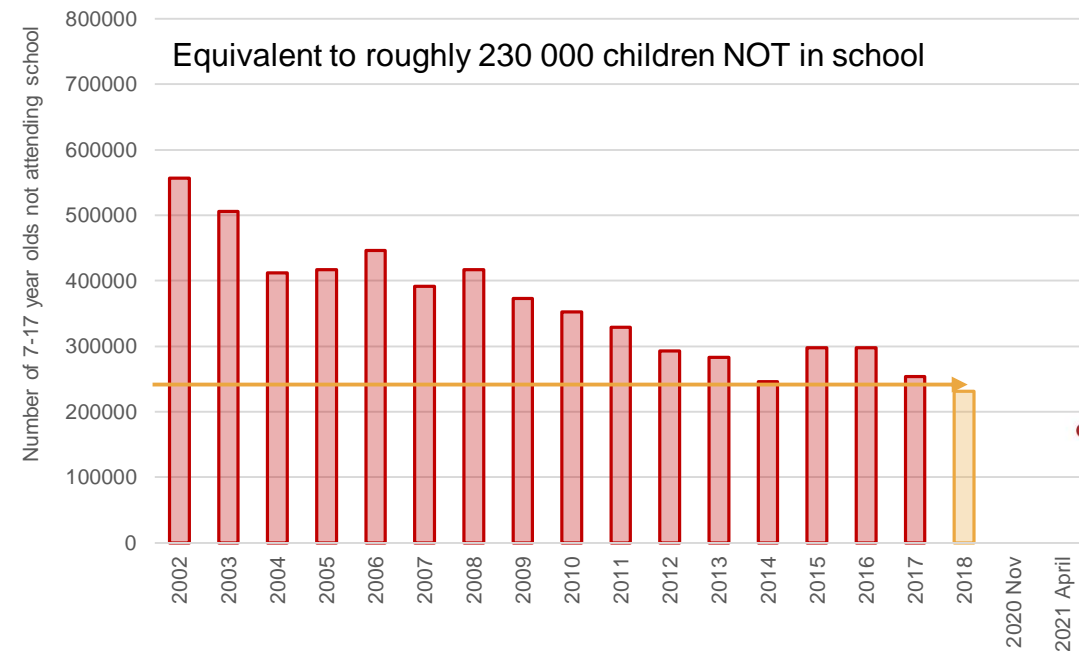
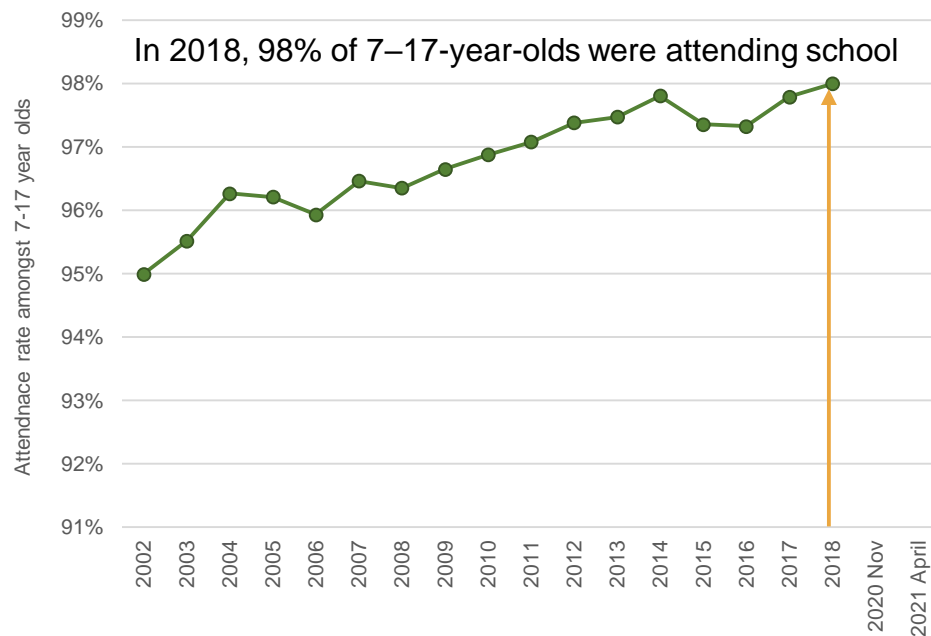


## ATTENDANCE & DROPOUT

*“Are there any learners in your household who have not yet returned to school this year?”*

In **November 2020**, **94.7%** of adults living with 7- to 17-year-olds reported that **ALL learners** in the household had **returned** to school in 2021. In **April 2021**, this proportion was **89.9%**.

We can compare this to **pre-COVID-19** (GHS 2018) proportion of **96.4%**.



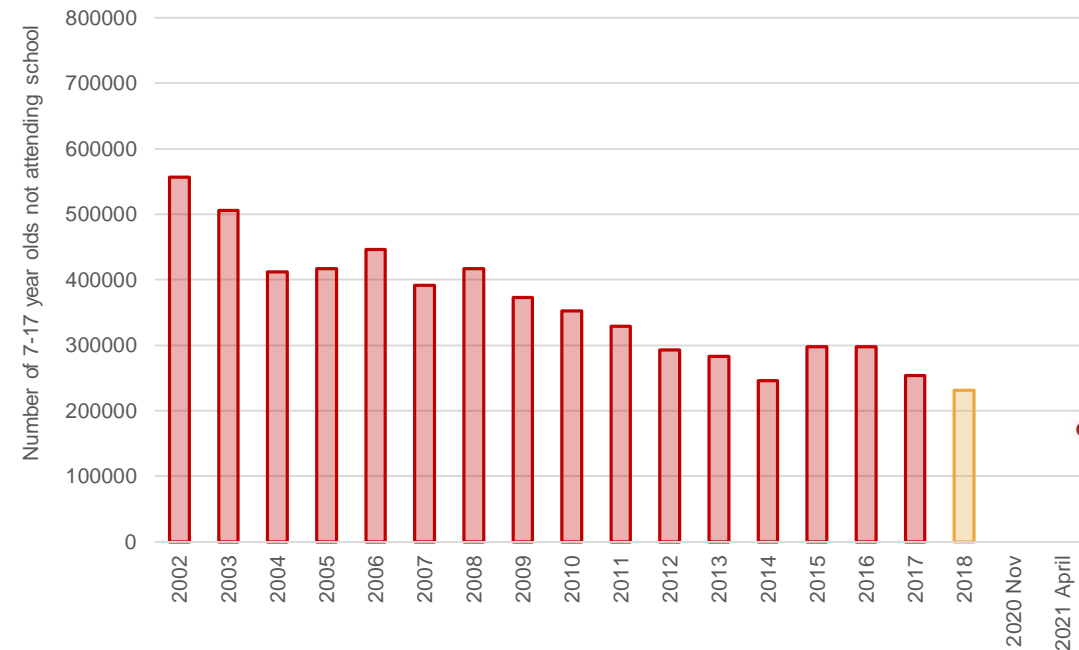
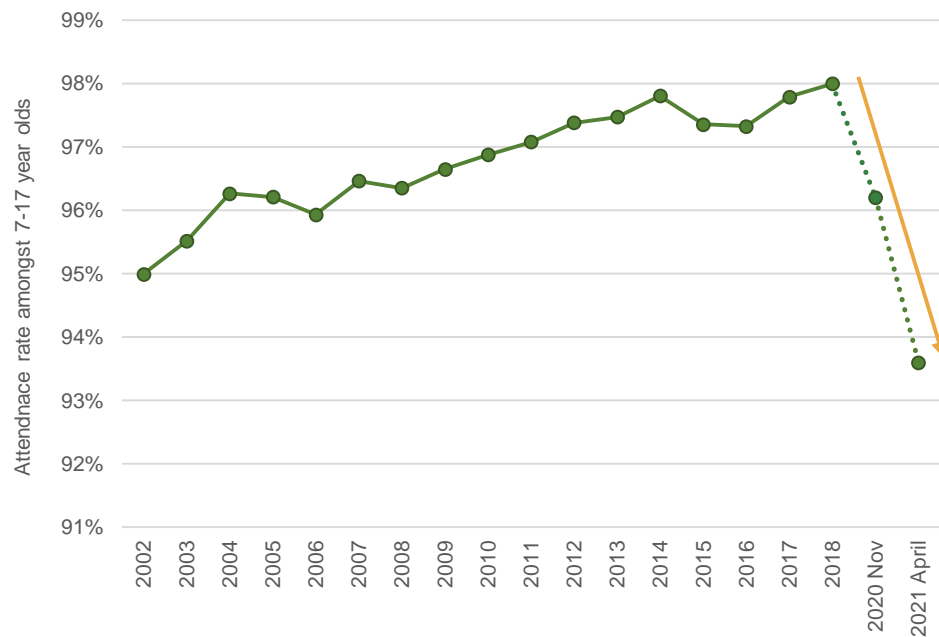
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Assuming equivalent distributions of learners across households, we estimate **attendance has fallen to 93-94%** ...



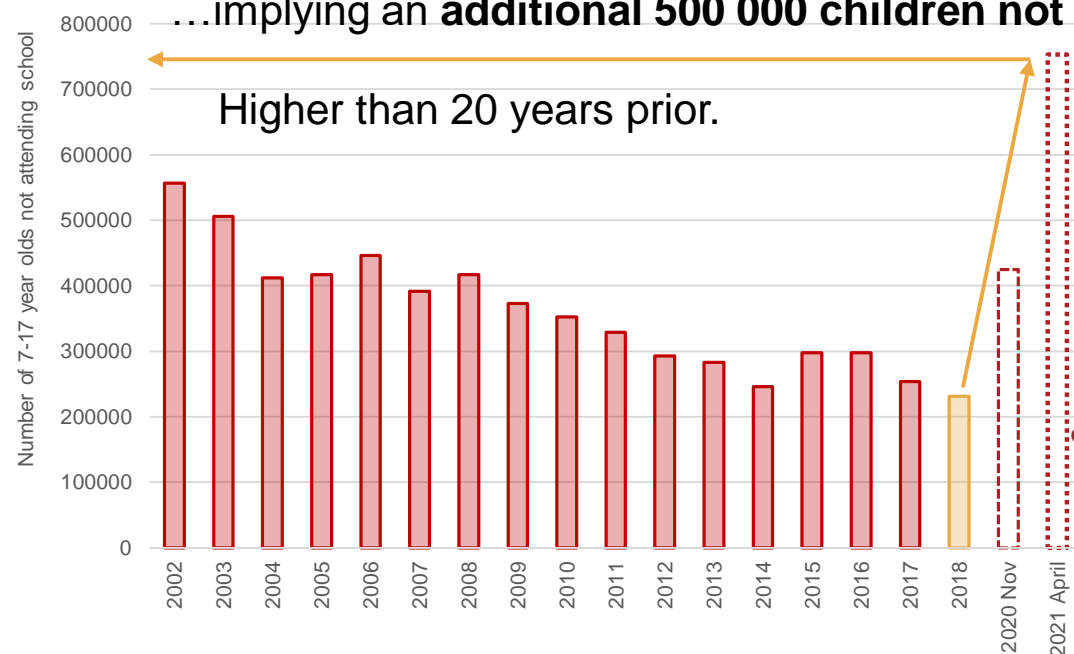
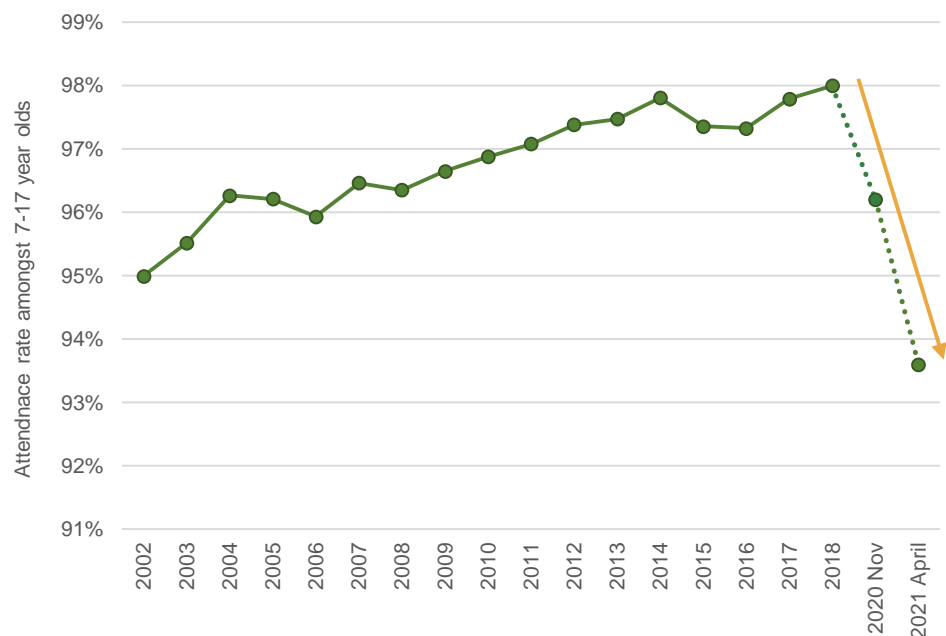
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Assuming equivalent distributions of learners across households, we estimate **attendance has fallen to 93-94% ...**  
**...implying an additional 500 000 children not attending.**

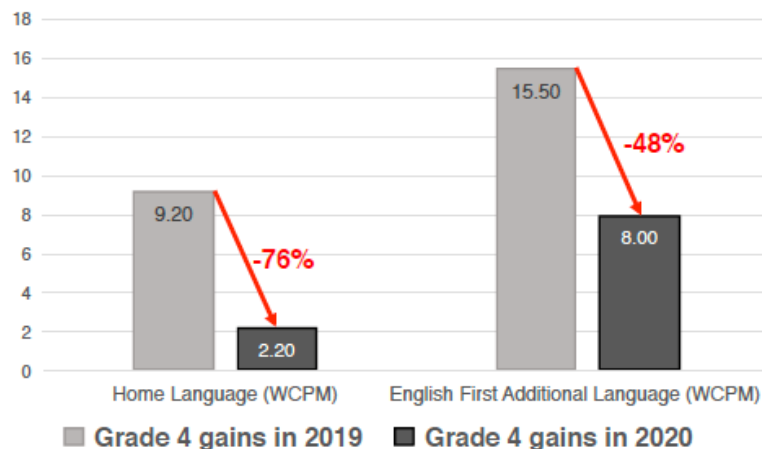


# LEARNING LOSSES

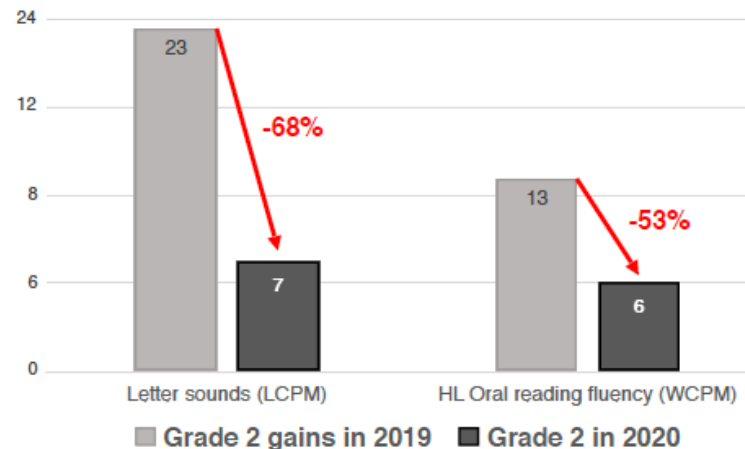
## USING COHORT STUDIES OF FOUNDATION PHASE LEARNERS IN QUINTILE 1-3 SCHOOLS

- Comparisons of learning gains over a year of schooling in the EGRS II (2020) study to the EGRS I (2019) and Story Powered Schools (2019) found evidence of learning losses equivalent to **50-75% of a year of learning**.
  - This was calculated after an average 120 school days lost amongst grade 1 to grade 5 learners.
- Comparison of Gr2 2019 and 2020 performances across the same schools in the EC indicate similar range of learning lost
- **Extrapolating to June 2021**, children in no-fee schools have **learnt 70 - 100% less** compared to what they normally learn.

Panel A (Mpumalanga)



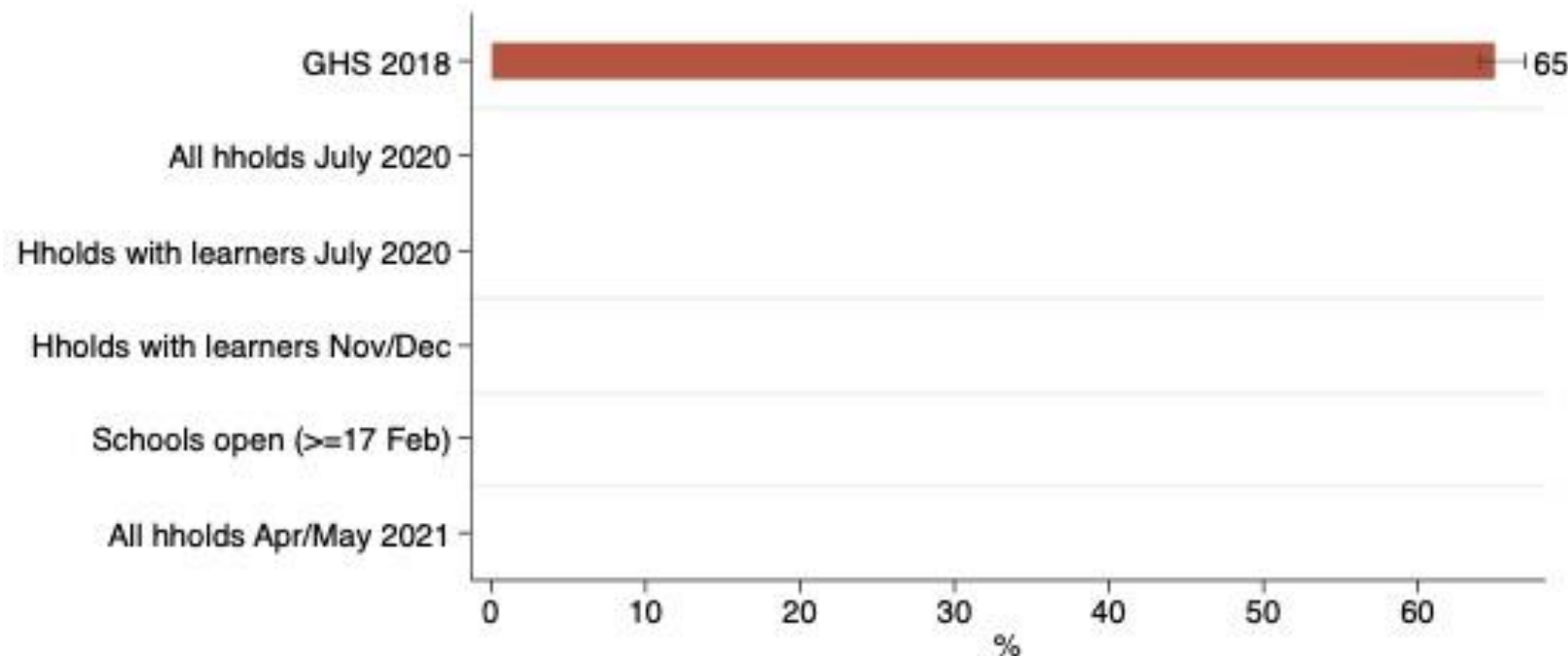
Panel B (Eastern Cape)



## SCHOOL MEALS

- National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) is one of the strategic ongoing safety nets
- Provides **daily meals to more than 10 million learners** ~ 82% of public sector learners
- According to GHS 2018, 65% of all learners attending school received a meal on a weekly basis

*“In the past 7 days (14 days) , have any learners in your household received a meal from a school?”*

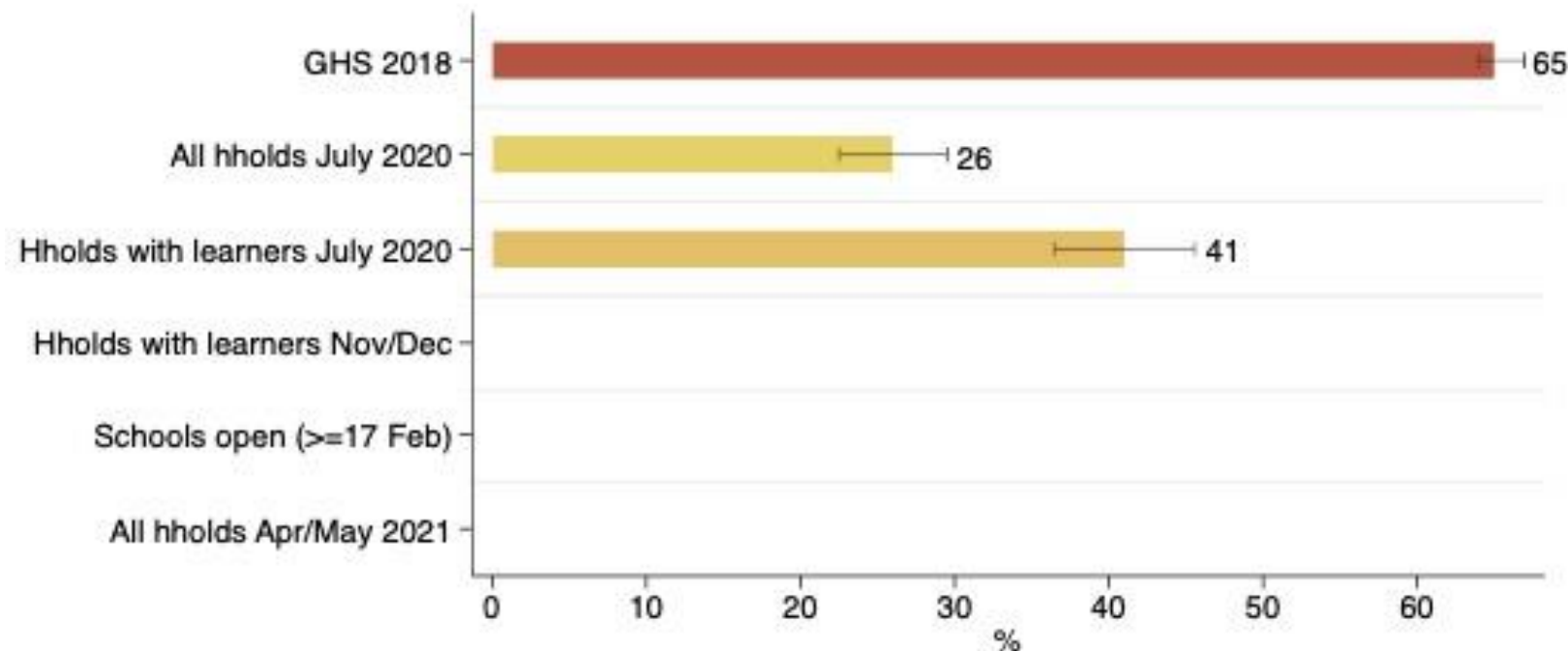




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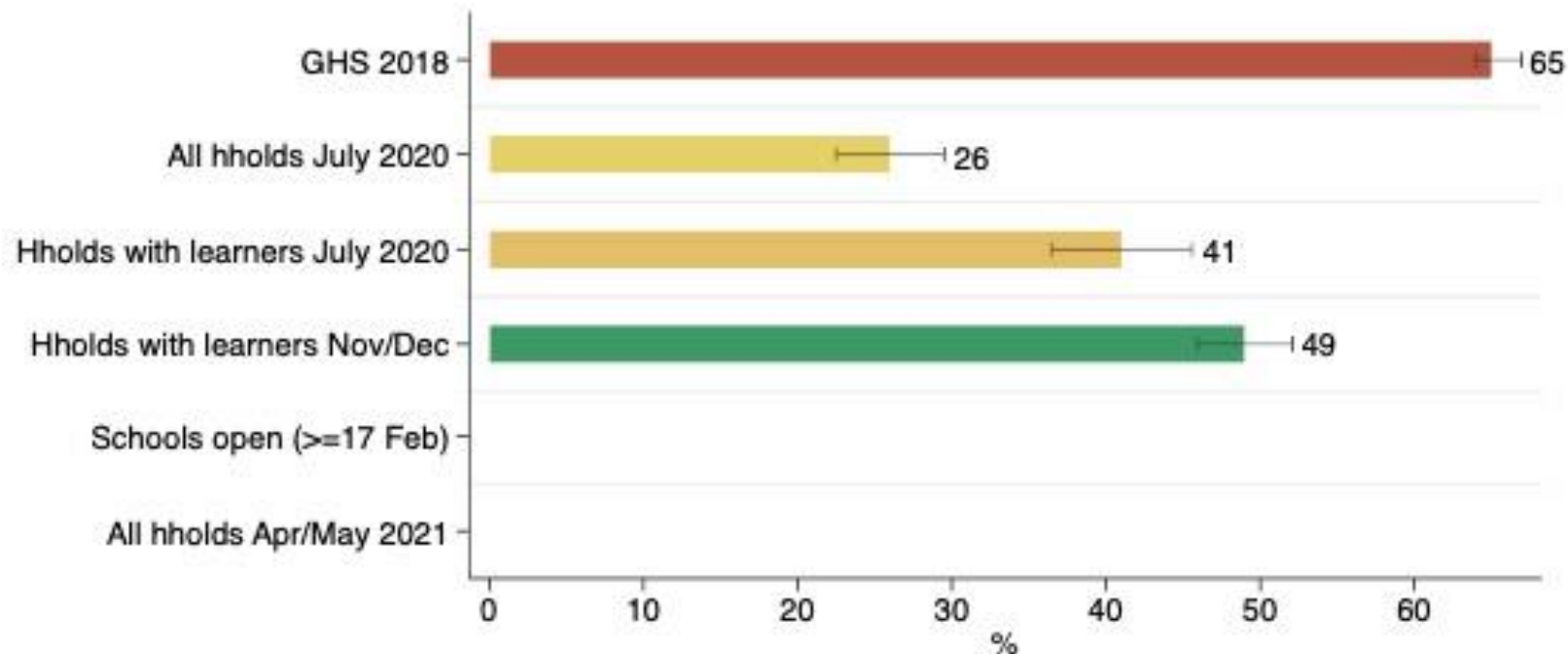




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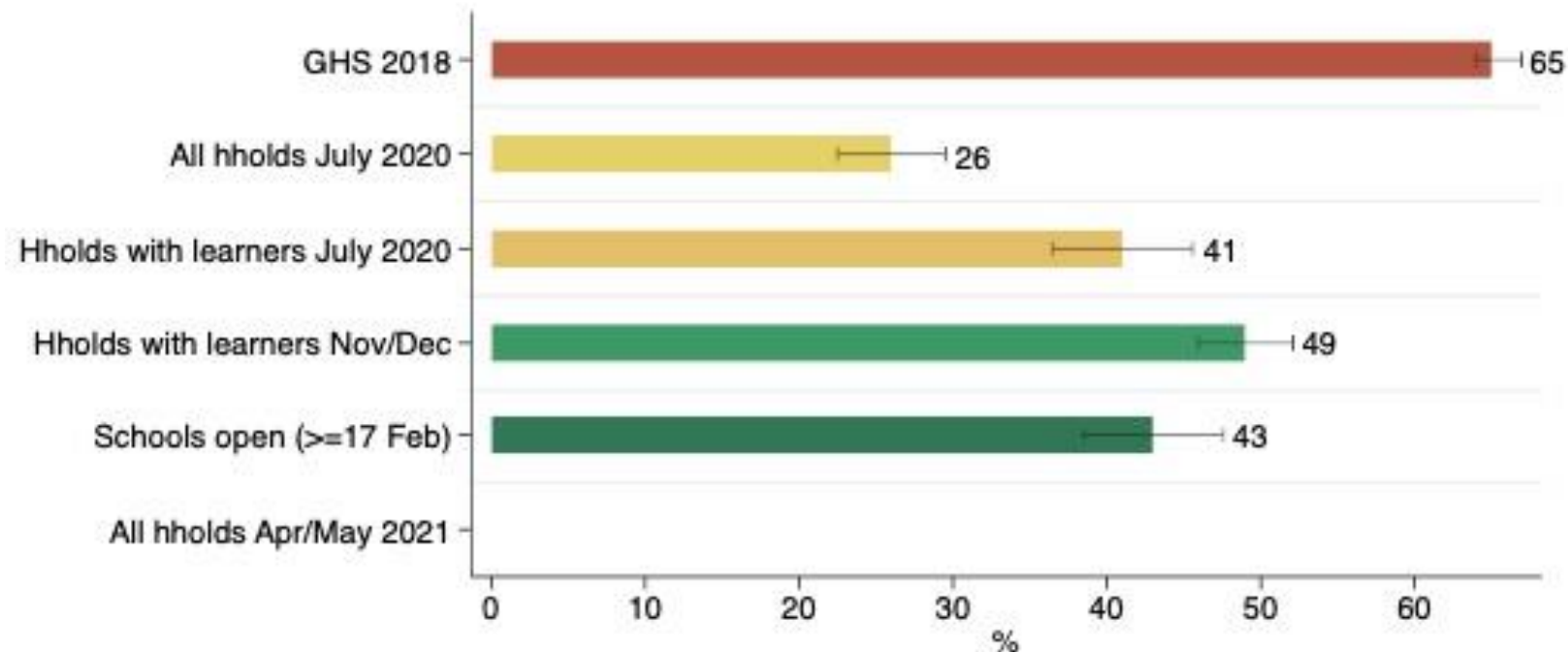
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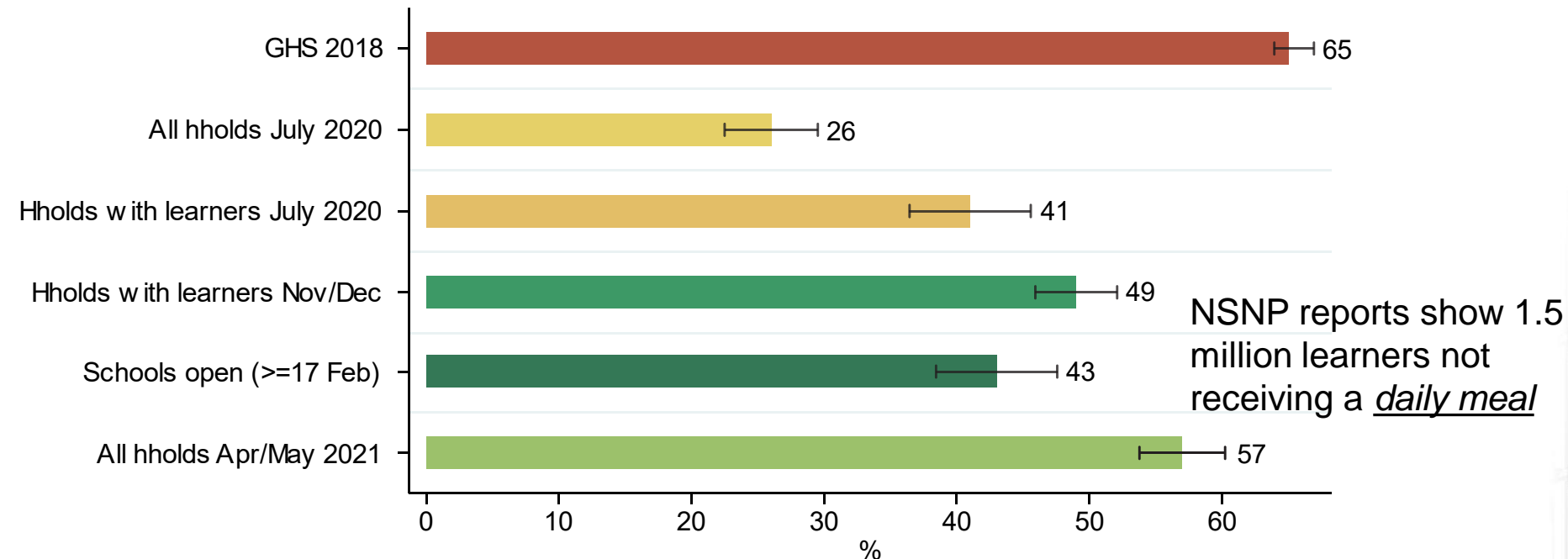
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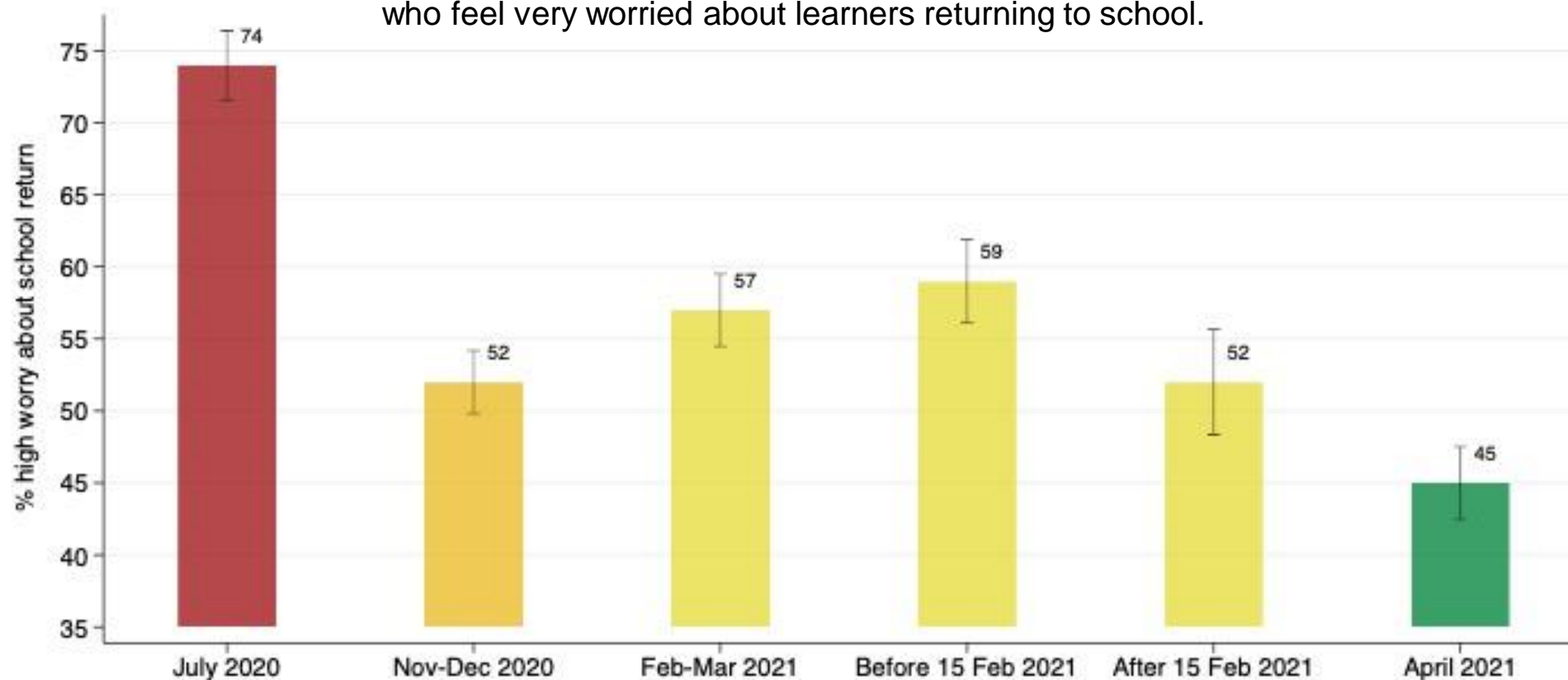


## PARENT & CAREGIVER WORRY ABOUT RETURN TO SCHOOL

*“How worried are you about learners in your household returning to school during the COVID-19 pandemic?”*

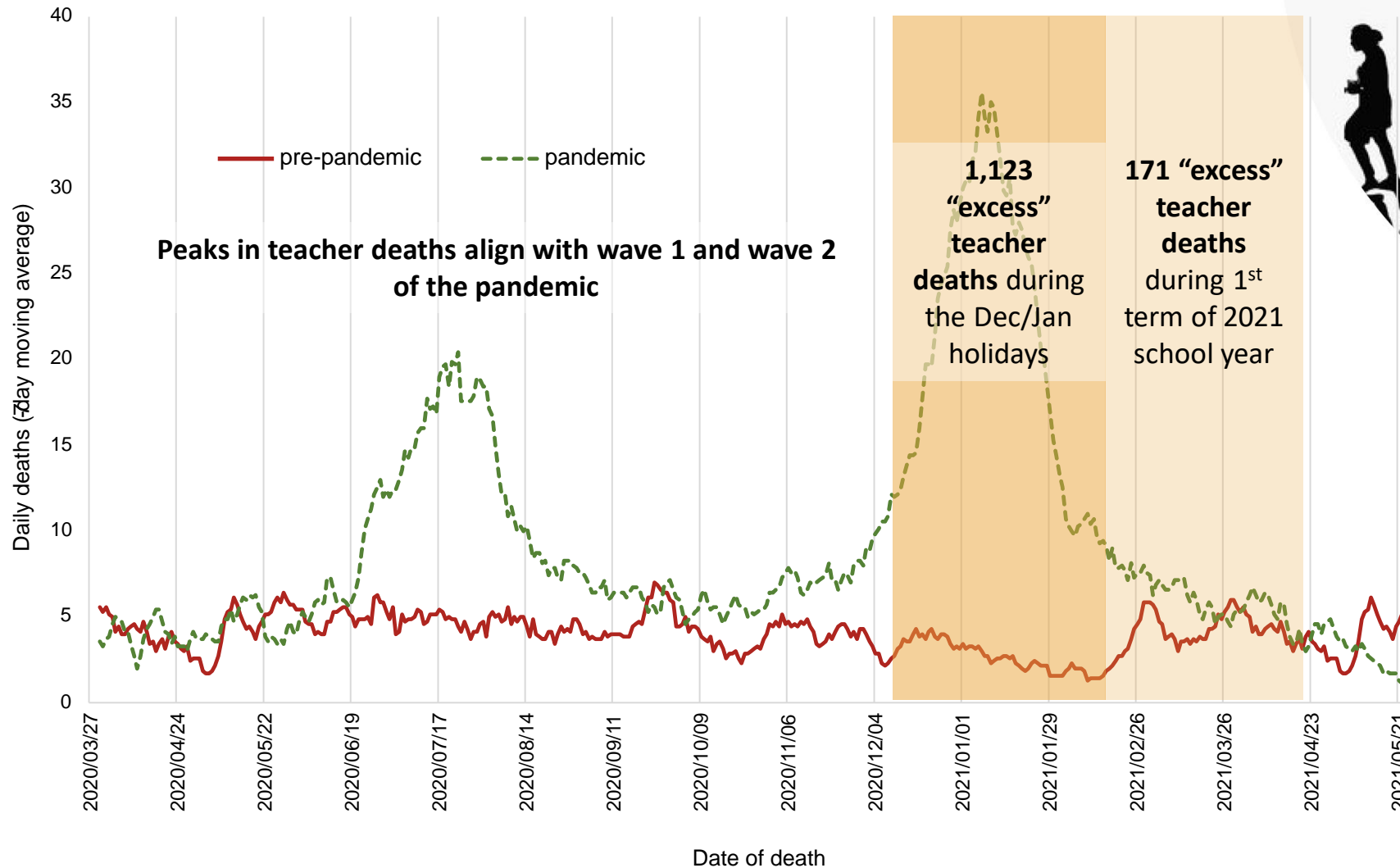
Those living in more vulnerable households (i.e. food insecurity, hunger, children lacked access to school meals) more likely to be very worried.

Significantly higher rates of learner non-return to school in 2021 reported by parents/caregivers who feel very worried about learners returning to school.



# TEACHER INFECTIONS

DAILY TEACHER DEATHS IN 2019 BEFORE THE PANDEMIC, AND DURING THE PANDEMIC 2020/21







# THANK YOU

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

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