

1. Quality of life indexes

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The range of objective and subjective questions included in the Quality of Life survey provides an opportunity to assess overall trends through combining various indicators into indexes. The Quality of Life (QoL) and Marginalisation indexes both provide insight into the state of the Gauteng City-Region.

Quality of Life index

The QoL index for 2015 draws on 58 indicators that can either be weighted by ten dimensions (global life satisfaction, family, community, health, dwelling, infrastructure, connectivity, work, security and socio-political attitudes) or by the full set of indicators. Traditionally the QoL index has only been calculated using the dimension weighting, but we see value in providing both options of weighting by dimensions and indicators. Both versions of the index (Figure 1) indicate continued overall improvement since 2011. As in previous years, Gauteng's QoL mean score for 2015 (6.20 out of 10) is driven up by dimensions such as 'infrastructure', 'dwelling' and 'health', but pushed down by others including 'global life satisfaction', 'work' and 'socio-political attitudes' (Figure 2). Continued high scores for 'infrastructure' (access to services, self-reported improvement in community and water cleanliness, and evictions for non-payment of bills) reflect the impact of good service provision. However, factors that are more difficult for government to address, such as 'community' and 'socio-political attitudes', remain low, despite small improvements in these dimensions since 2013.

QoL means vary significantly across race groups with Africans being the only race group in 2015 that fall below the provincial average (6.20), with a score of 5.98 (Figure 3). Whites consistently had the highest QoL – always above average – with a mean score of 7.04 in 2015.

Quality of Life index by municipality

Figure 4 presents the spatial distribution of QoL means by ward. Although areas of higher QoL concentrate in the three metros, they also contain some of the starkest differences between adjacent wards. The ward QoL means range from 4.18 in Tshwane (west of Atteridgeville) to 7.71 in Johannesburg (including and around Bryanston).

The QoL index means for each municipality are shown in Figure 5. The 2015 data positions Randfontein with the

highest score (6.36) followed by Mogale City (6.28) and Johannesburg (6.27). All other municipalities fall below the provincial average, although only fractionally by Ekurhuleni (6.19).

Of concern is the drop in Tshwane from having the highest quality of life score in 2013 to falling below the provincial average in 2015. This deterioration has been driven primarily by drops in 'global life satisfaction', 'family', and 'security', despite increases in 'health' and 'infrastructure' dimensions.

Although still well below the provincial average, Westonaria shows a consistent trend of increasing quality of life since 2009, driven in part by increases in the 'infrastructure' and 'socio-political attitudes' dimensions. This is in contrast to Lesedi, which has deteriorated over time principally as a result of low 'global life satisfaction', 'socio-political' and 'work' scores.

More information regarding the QoL index can be found in the table of 'QoL index indicators and dimensions 2009-2015' for each municipality.

Marginalisation index

The Marginalisation index provides a measurement of the psycho-social status of Gauteng residents. The index combines 29 variables, which are grouped into ten dimensions, including relationships, housing, connectivity, crime/safety, participation, health, hunger, alienation/extreme views, government and life satisfaction. Similarly to the QoL index, these dimensions are combined into a single score out of 10. In contrast to the QoL index higher scores out of 10 reflect higher marginalisation and thus a negative result. The overall 2015 marginalisation score for Gauteng is 2.48, which is worse than all previous years (Figure 6). The key drivers of this negative trend were the deteriorating level of reported participation in clubs, societies and other community organisations, and worsening of the health dimension (poor health affecting work or social activities) (Figure 7). All other dimensions showed improvements since 2013.

The marginalisation scores can be grouped into four categories including 'fine', 'OK', 'at risk' and 'marginalised'. Figure 8 shows that there has been a

steady decrease in the proportion of people in the top category ('fine'), with 2015 (10%) nearly half the size of this group compared to 2009 (18%). This deterioration is evident in the increase in people falling into the 'OK' category, but most concerning are the increases in the 'at risk' and 'marginalised' categories. These trends highlight an increasing need for psycho-social support.

Marginalisation index by municipality

Figure 9 presents the Marginalisation index means for each municipality. Remembering that high scores reflect a negative result and low scores are positive, Mogale City has the lowest mean (2.19) and Westonaria maintains the highest Marginalisation index score (2.75). Of concern is that all three metros saw a worsening of their respective means since 2013, and now all fall above the 2013 provincial average (2.39). Merafong is the only municipality whose marginalisation has consistently deteriorated since 2011 – besides the metros, all other municipality have seen an improvement since 2013. The municipalities with the highest proportion of residents falling into the 'marginalised' and 'at risk' categories are Westonaria (9% marginalised, 13% at risk), Ekurhuleni (6% marginalised, 9% at risk) and Merafong (6% marginalised, 11% at risk). Mogale City has a significantly higher proportion of people in the top 'fine' category (18%), followed by Westonaria (12%) and Randfontein (12%).

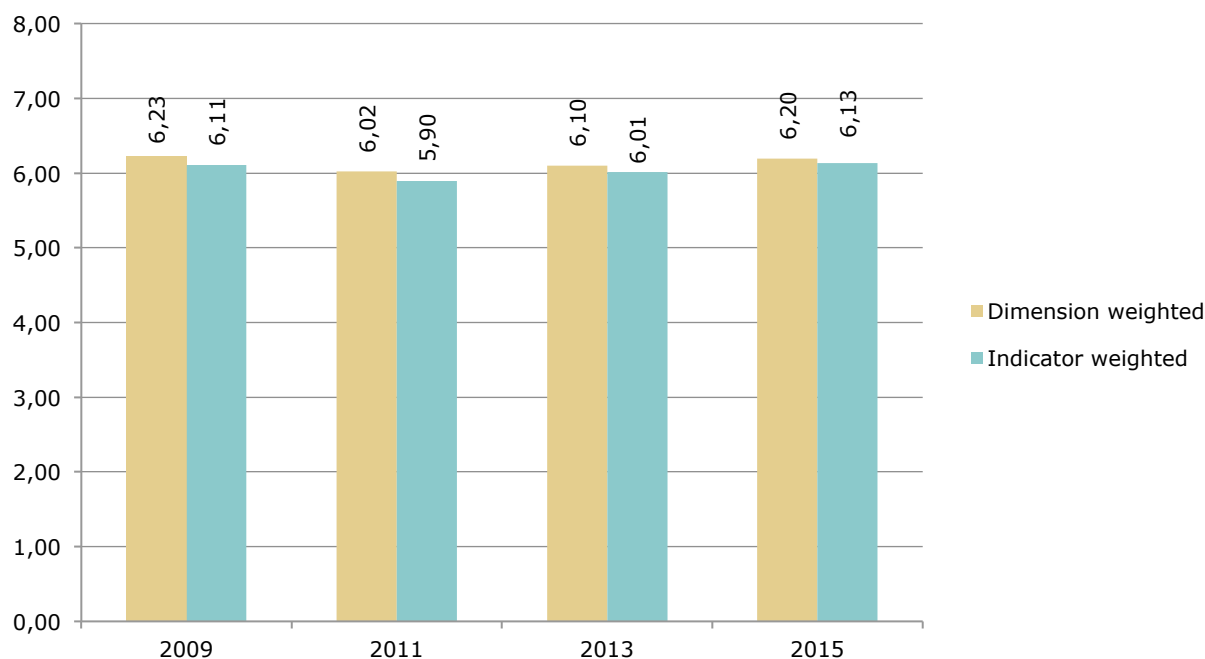


Figure 1: Quality of life Gauteng means (out of 10): 2009, 2011, 2013 & 2015.

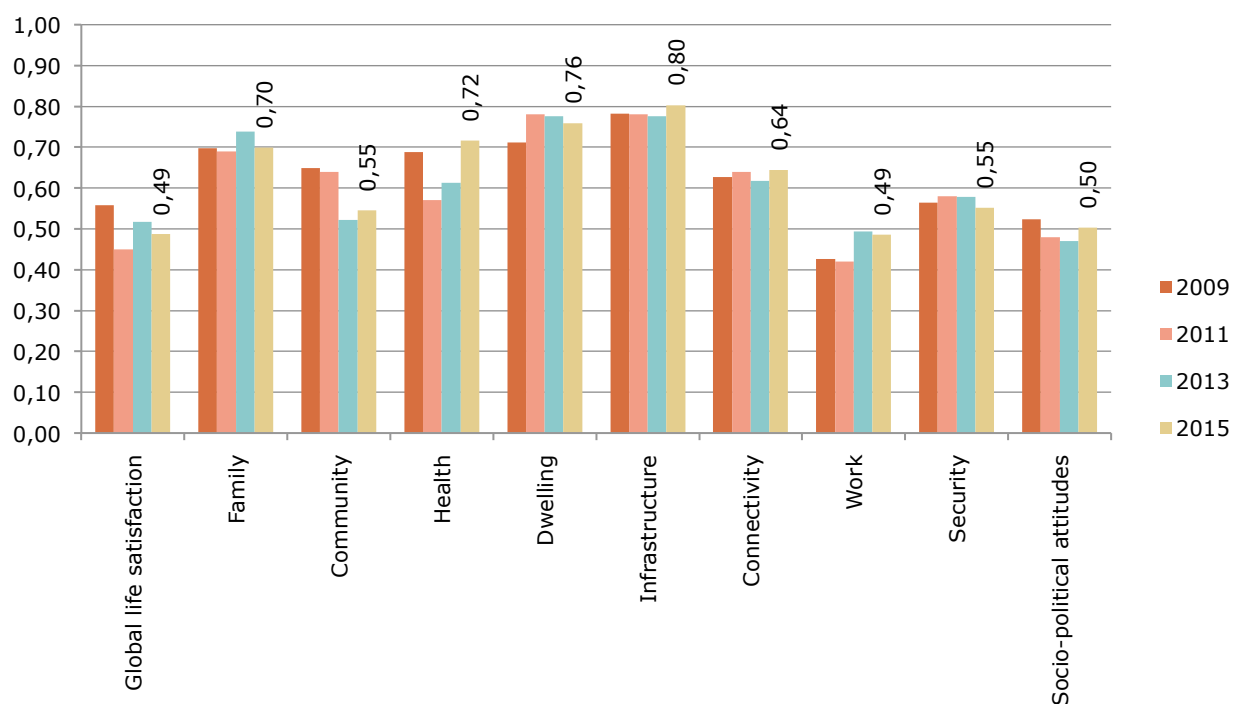


Figure 2: Quality of life index dimension means (2009, 2011, 2013 & 2015).

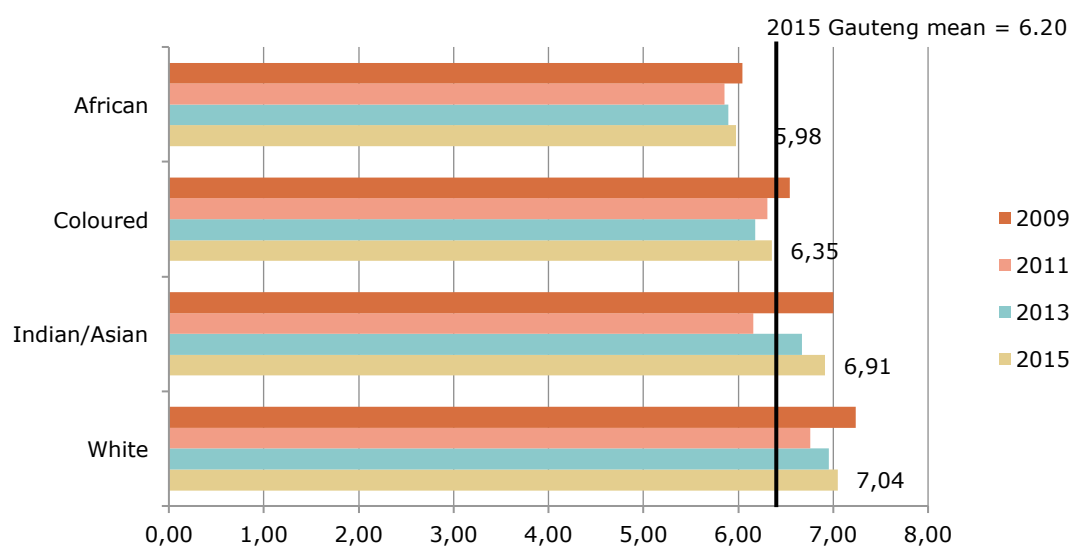


Figure 3: Quality of life index means by race (2009, 2011, 2013 & 2015).

QoL Index: mean score per ward

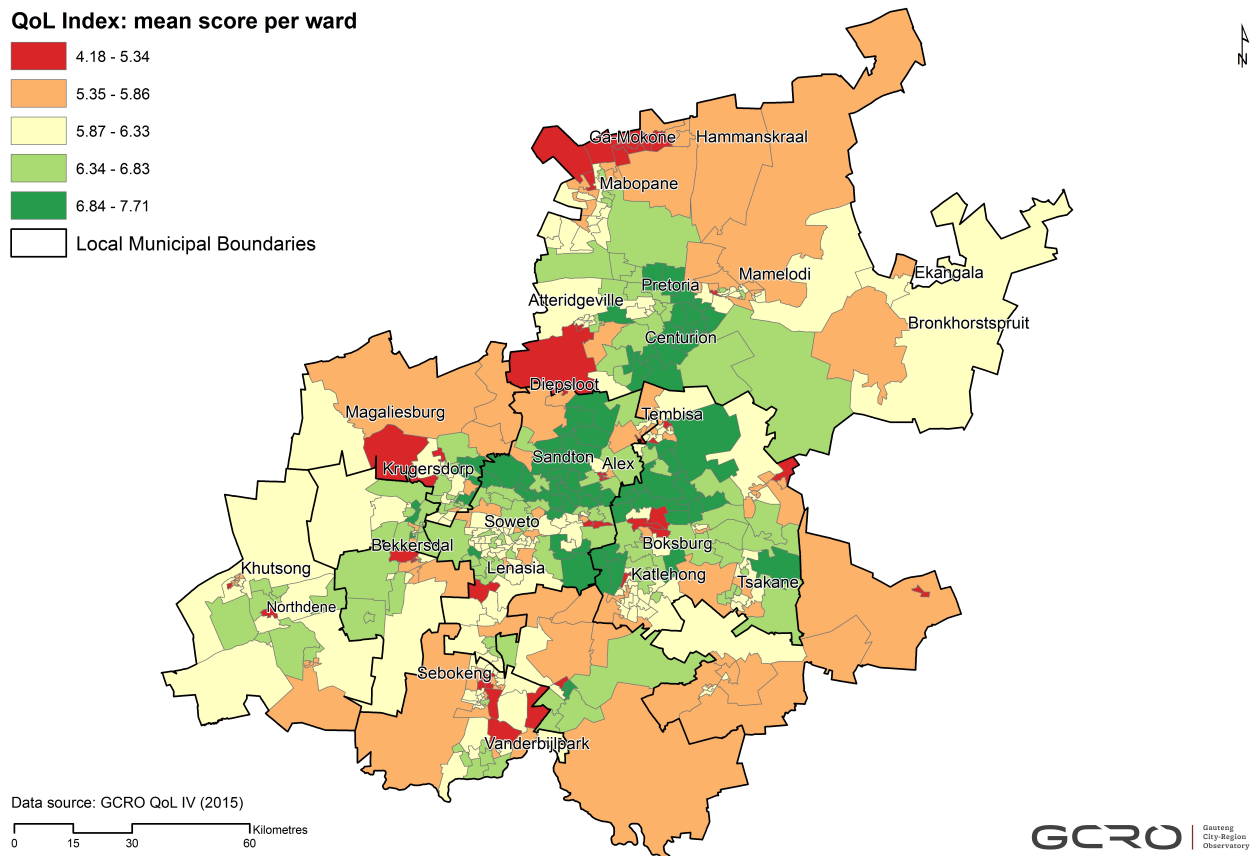
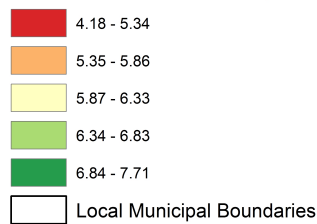


Figure 4: Quality of life index means by ward. The spatial distribution of QoL means shows stark contrasts between adjacent wards across the province. QoL scores tend to be higher in core areas, whereas the peripheral areas have lower mean scores. The distribution continues to reflect apartheid spatial patterns.

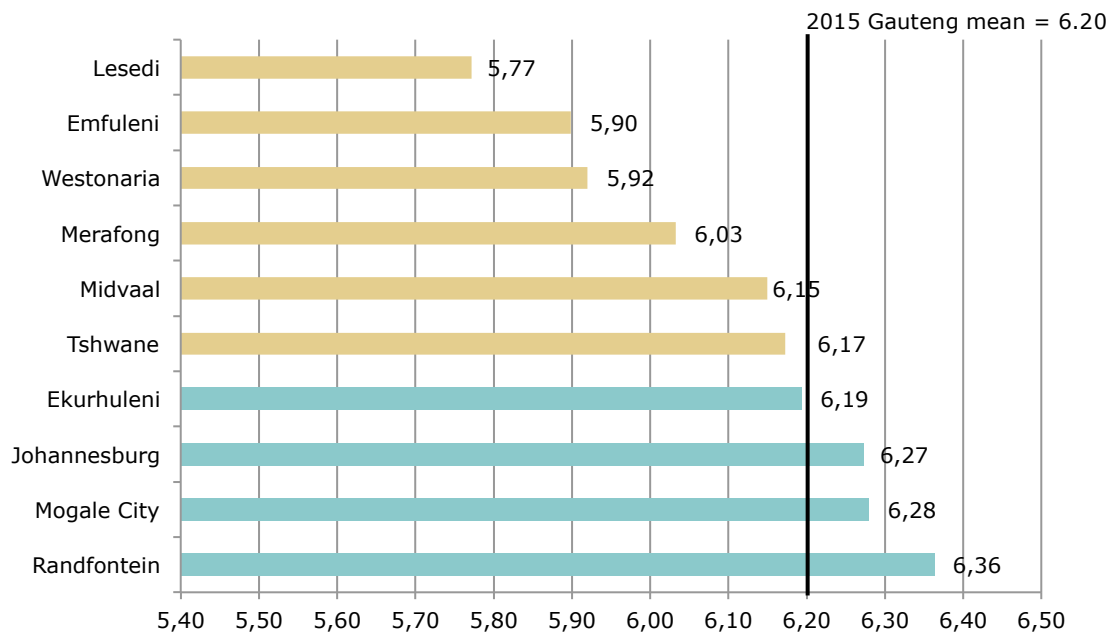


Figure 5: Quality of life index means by municipality (Gauteng mean = 6.20) In 2015 Randfontein scored the highest in the Quality of life index, followed by Mogale City and Johannesburg. All other municipalities' Quality of Life scores fell below the provincial average, with Lesedi significantly lower than all other municipalities.

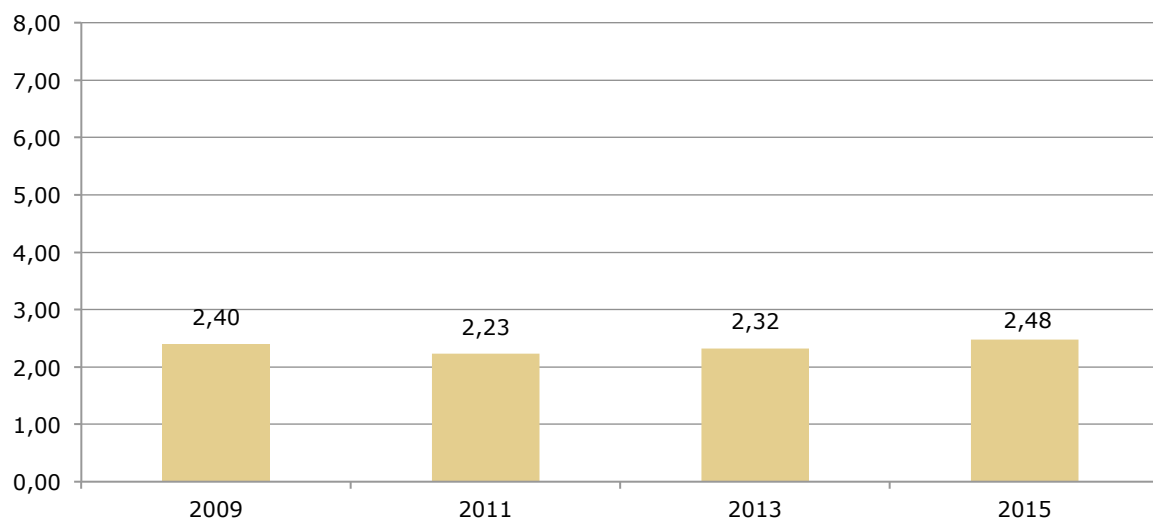


Figure 6: Marginalisation index means (out of 10): 2009, 2011, 2013 & 2015.

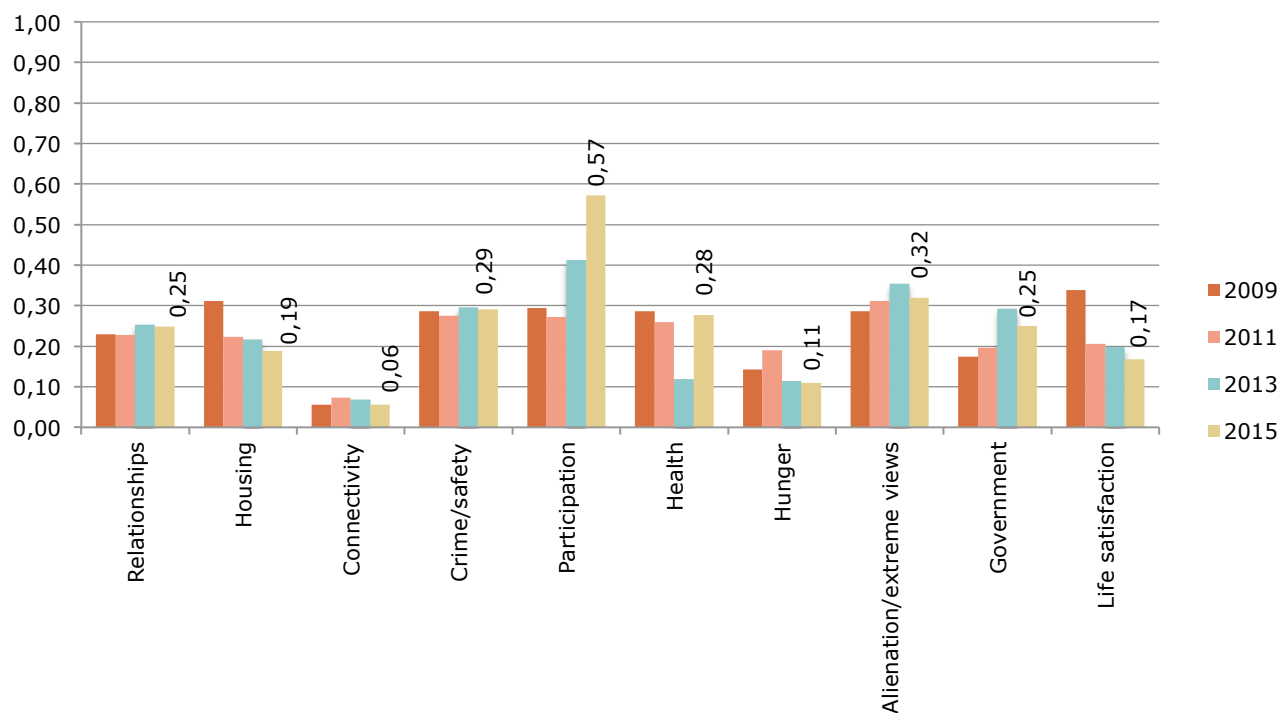


Figure 7: Marginalisation index dimension means (2009, 2011, 2013 & 2015).

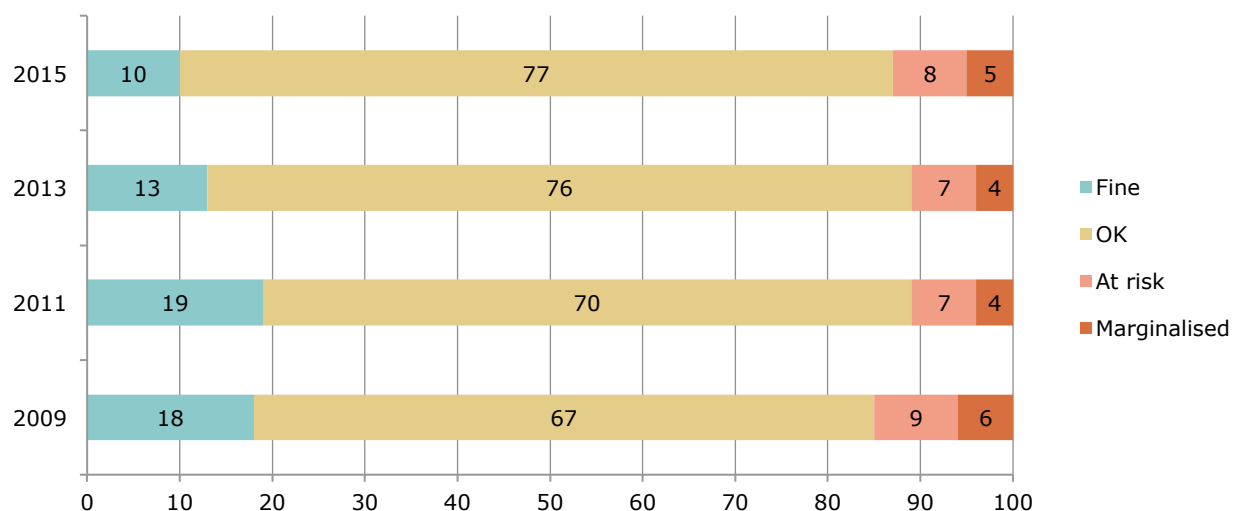


Figure 8: Marginalisation index categories (2009, 2011, 2013 & 2015).

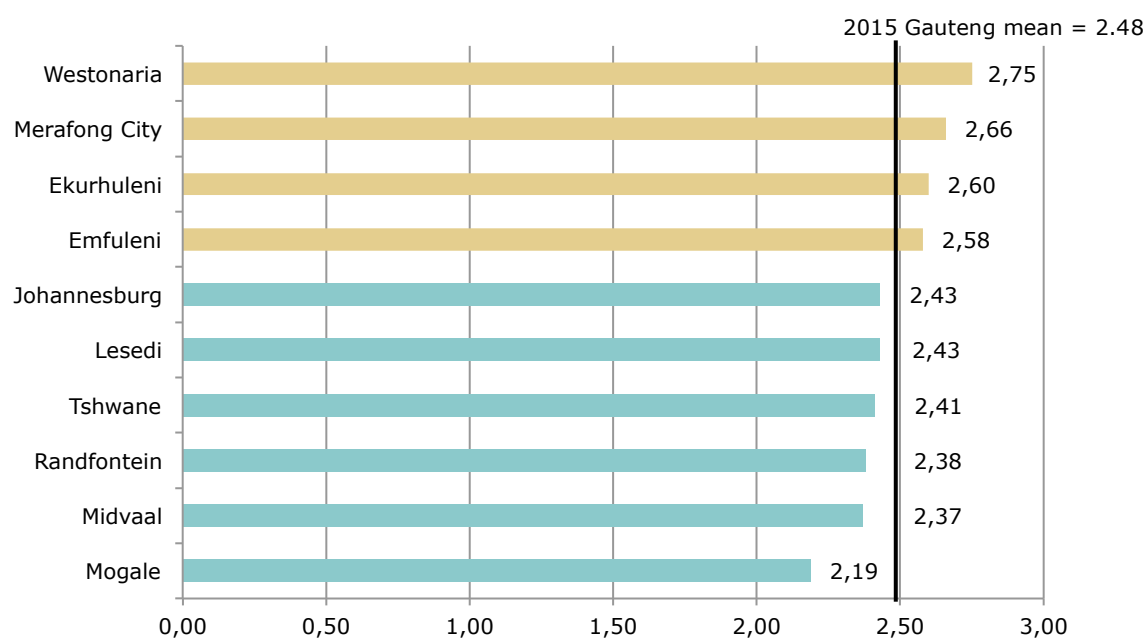


Figure 9: Marginalisation index means by municipality (Gauteng mean = 2.48).

OTHER RECENT RESEARCH IN THIS THEME:

- Clusters of dissatisfaction with local governance performance (January 2016) by Koech Cheruiyot et al., GCRO Map of the Month
- Quality of life survey 2013 city benchmarking report (2015) by all GCRO staff, GCRO Research Report
- Quality of life survey and service delivery protests (July 2015) by Samy Katumba et al., GCRO Map of the Month
- Marginalisation in the GCR (March 2014) by Prof David Everatt, GCRO Vignette
- A composite index of quality of life for the Gauteng city-region: a principal component analysis approach (2013) by Talita Greyling, GCRO Occasional Paper

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