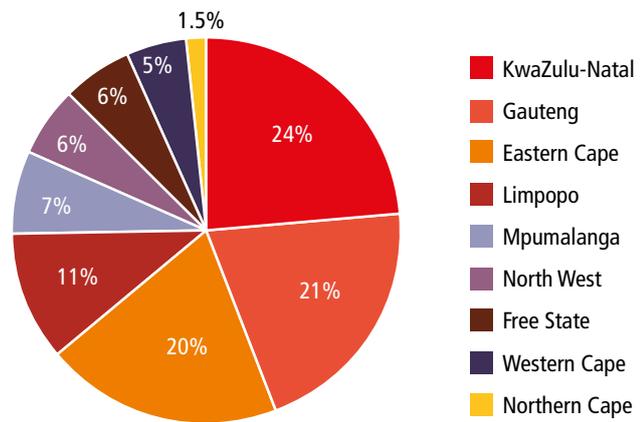




# Household energy sources

There are roughly 14.5 million households in South Africa (51 million people). 82.7% of these households are electrified: highest figures in Free State (92.9%) and Northern Cape (90.3%); lowest in Eastern Cape (74.7%) and KwaZulu-Natal (77.9%). About 2.1 million households are non-electrified and use other domestic energy sources; and 2% access electricity through illegal connections.

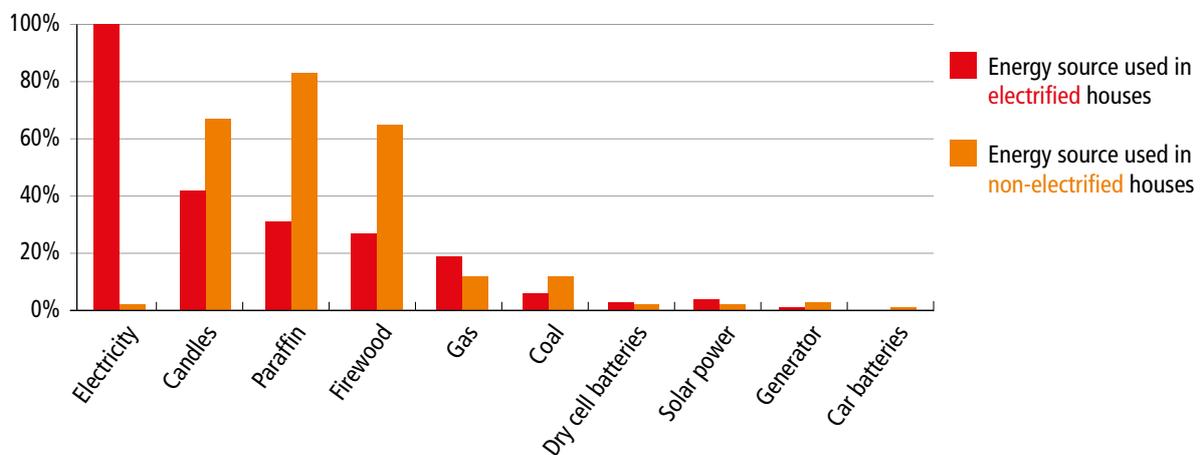
Figure 1: Households without electricity, by province (2012)



## The energy mix

Electrified and non-electrified South African households use multiple fuels for various reasons, such as affordability and behavioural preferences (see Figure 2). Energy policies and programmes have mainly focused on electricity, rather than on addressing the safety risks of all energy sources. We need to ensure the safe usage of **all** energy carriers used in homes.

Figure 2: Use of energy sources in households, by electrification status





## Household energy sources for lighting

84.7% of households use electricity; 11.4% use candles;

2.9% use paraffin; and very small percentages either use solar, gas or no energy source.

**Electrified households:** 45% use electricity for lighting; 43% use multiple energy sources.

**Non-electrified households:** 41% use candles and paraffin; 37% use candles only; 9% use paraffin only.

## Household energy sources for cooking

74% of households use electricity; 13% use wood;

9% use paraffin; 4% use other sources, like gas.

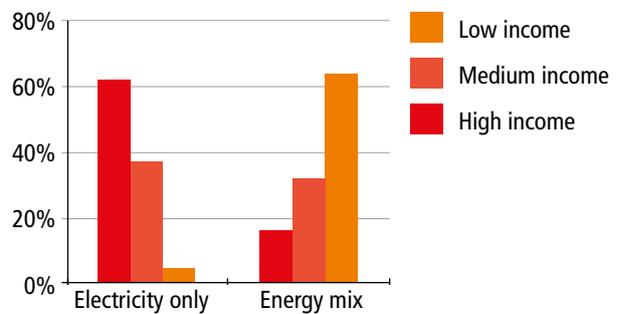
**Higher income groups** use electricity only, or electricity and gas. **Lower income groups** use multiple energy sources – an energy mix.

## Household energy sources for heating

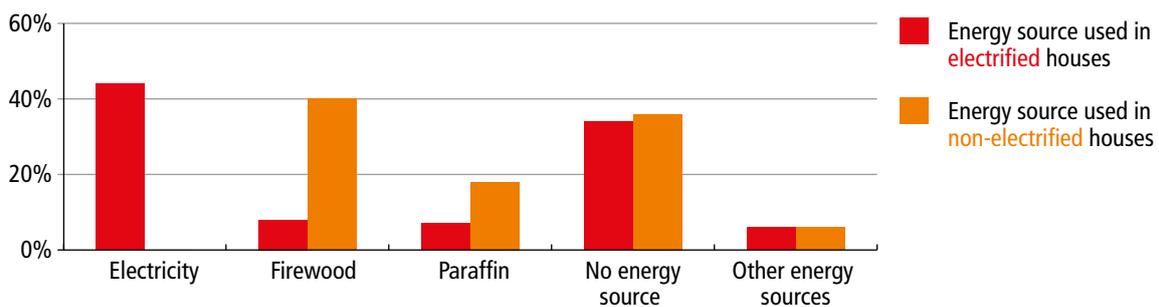
59% of households use electricity; 15% wood;

12% use no energy source, but wear warm clothes and use blankets; 9% use paraffin.

**Figure 3:** Energy sources for cooking, by income group



**Figure 4:** Energy source for heating, by electrification status



**Electrified households:** 44% use electricity.

**Non-electrified households:** 40% use wood; 18% use paraffin; 36% use no energy source.

## References

- Department of Energy, Republic of South Africa. (2012). *Survey of energy-related behaviour and perceptions in South Africa – Residential Sector.*
- Statistics South Africa. (2012). *Census 2011.*