



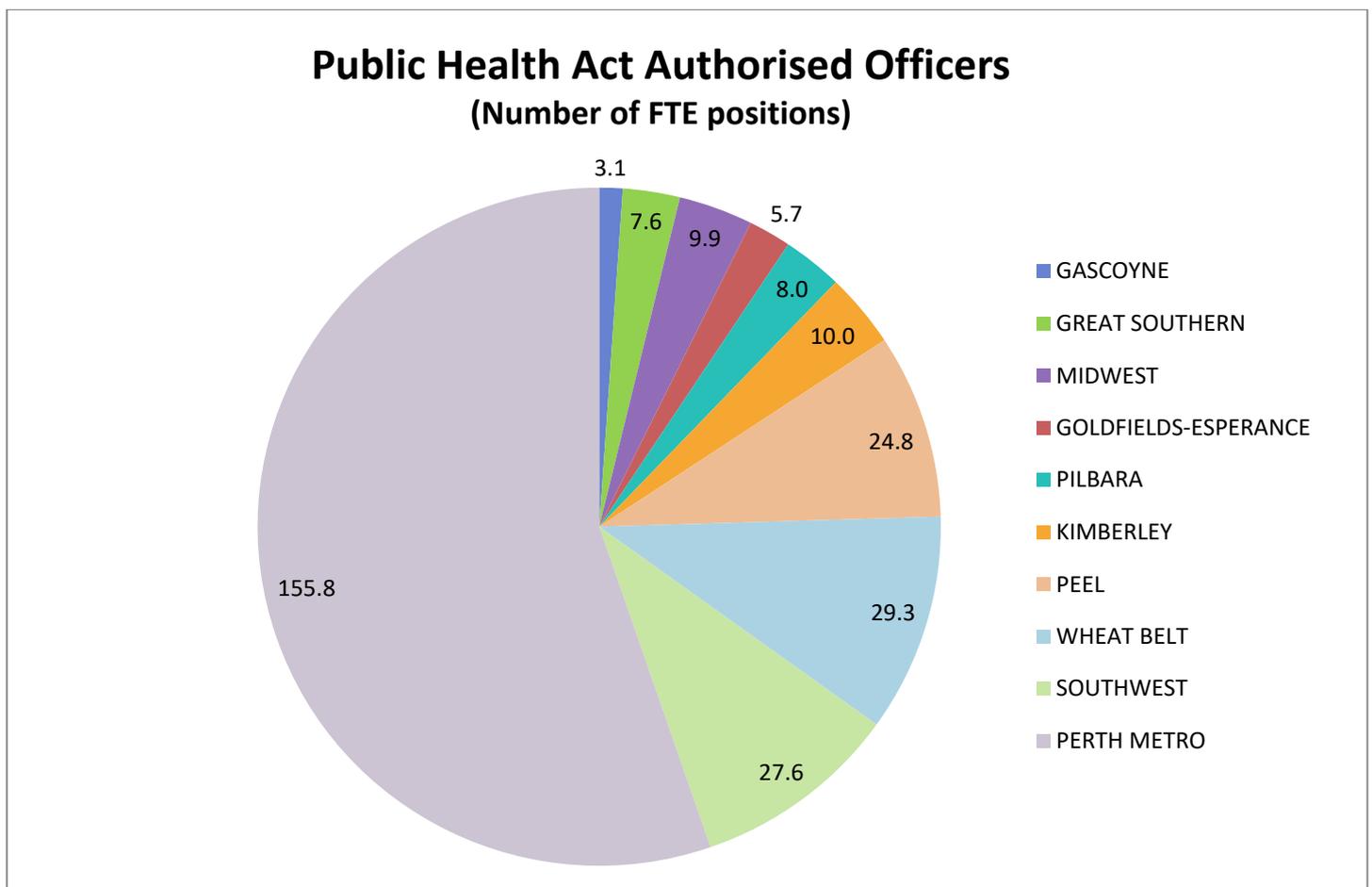
2019/2020 *Public Health Act 2016* Enforcement Agency Reporting

Section 22 of the *Public Health Act 2016* (the Public Health Act) requires local government (LG) to report to the Chief Health Officer on the performance of functions under the Public Health Act.

The reporting survey for the period of 2019/2020 was undertaken and 137 of a total of 137 Western Australia LGs provided their response to the survey. The number of LGs that reported in 2018/2019 was also 137.

Authorised Officers

During the 2019/2020 reporting period, there were 281.7 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Public Health Act Authorised Officers employed by local governments. A summary is provided below.



The LG with the highest number of authorised officers reported having 11.3 FTE positions, while two LGs reported not having any positions.

There was a total decrease of ten (-3.6%) FTE authorised officer positions in the 2019/2020 reporting period when compared to the 2018/2019 reporting period.

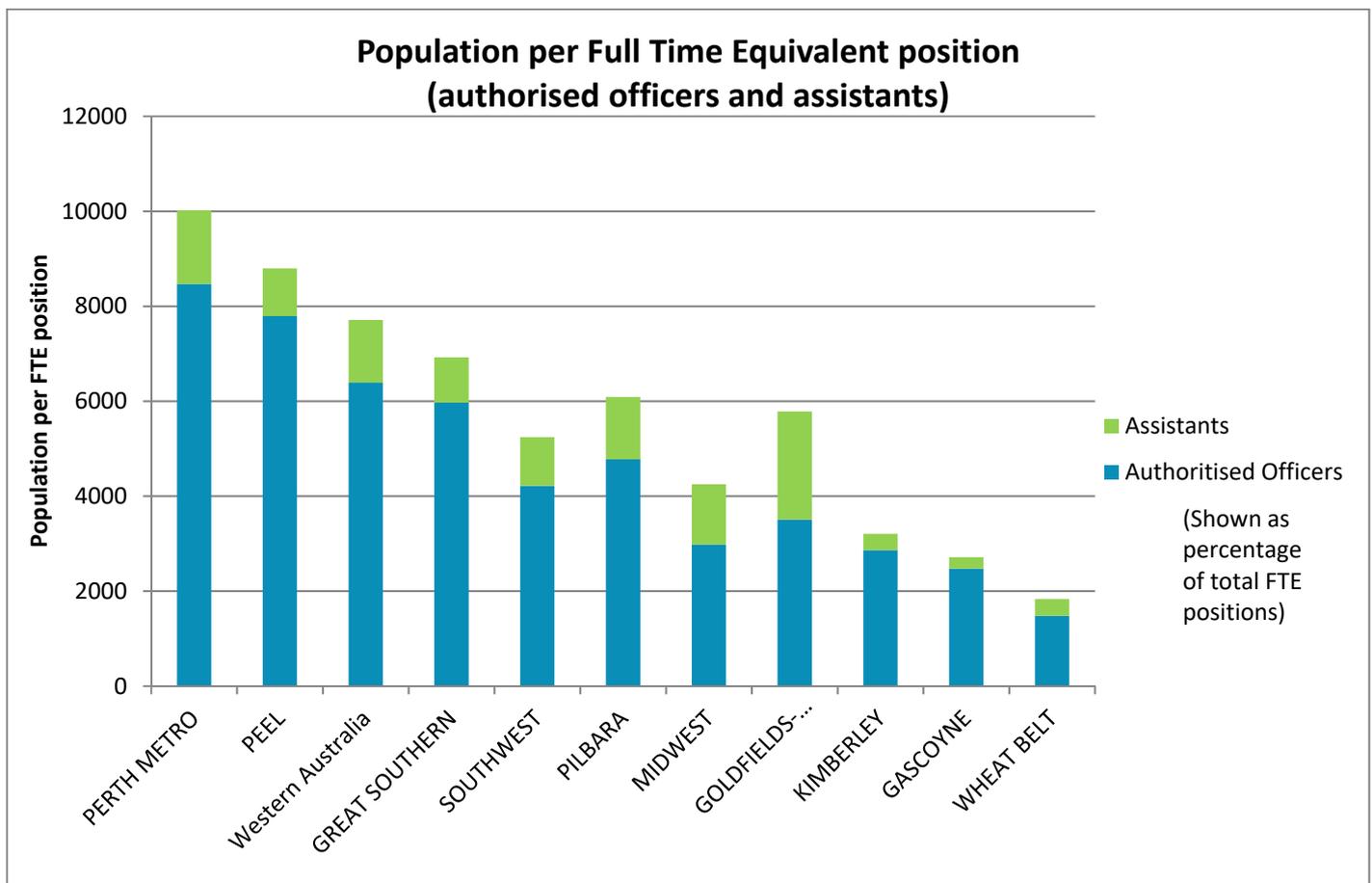
45% of LGs reported a decrease in FTE positions while 28% reported an increase. The remaining 27% of LGs reported no changes in their FTE positions. It should be noted that the 2019/2020 FY was subject to pressures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The total number of FTE positions that assisted authorised officers for the 2019/2020 period was 58.2 FTE positions. This total number was down 28% from the 81.7 FTE positions of the 2018/2019 reporting period but similar to the 58.1 FTE positions that assisted authorised officers in the 2017/2018 reporting period after correcting for the 3 local governments that didn't report in that period.

The LG with the highest number of authorised officer assistant positions reported having 4 FTE positions, while 47% (65) of LGs reported not having any.

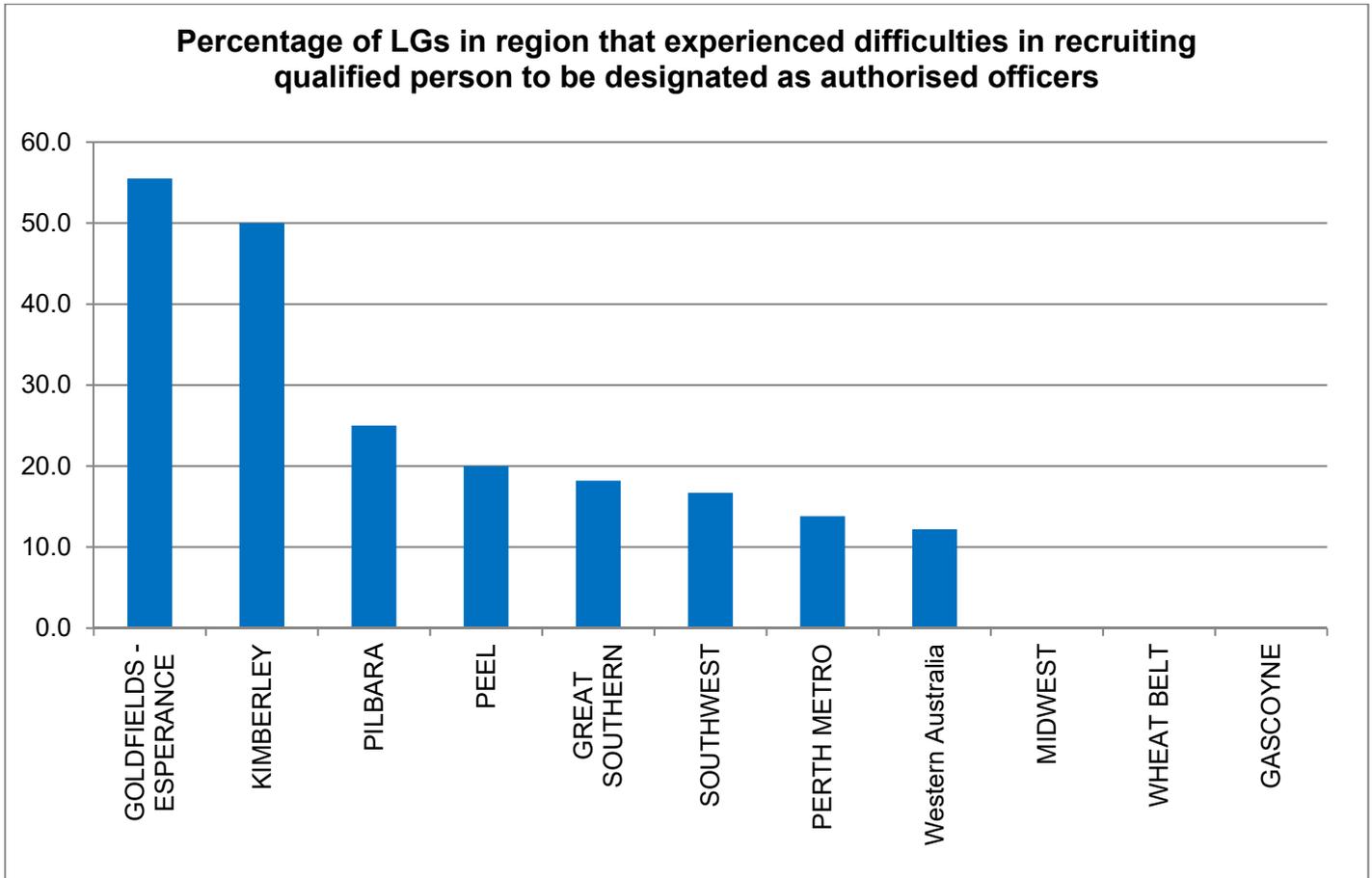
When comparing the average population numbers (ABS, 2018 LGA data) with the combined FTE positions (authorised officers and assistants), Western Australia has an average of 7,710 persons per every FTE position. This number can be compared with the average of 6,900 persons per every FTE position for the 2018/2019 reporting period. The 2017/2018 average was 7,400 persons per every FTE position.

The average population per FTE position for the regions ranged from 1,831 to 10,019 persons per FTE position. This range has increased from the 2018/2019 reporting period where the range was 1,831 to 9,220 persons per FTE position. The difference across the regions for 2018/2019 is shown below.



Recruitment of appropriately qualified persons

During the 2019/2020 reporting period, 17 LGs (12%) experienced difficulties in recruiting appropriately qualified persons to be designated as authorised officers under the Public Health Act. 13 of these LGs were located in regional WA and 4 were located within the Perth Metropolitan Area. This was an improvement compared to the previous reporting period where 19 LGs experienced difficulties. The difference across the regions is shown below.



Additional findings

During the 2019/2020 reporting period, 47 Authorised Officers returned their Certificate of Authority.

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