

## **COVID-19 Weekly Provincial Epidemiology Brief: Week ending 7 November 2020 (Week 45)**

### **Methods**

Additional methods for this report can be found in the Weekly Epidemiologic Brief (Link). Data on province and district allocation was based on geocoding algorithm using in order of priority (i) completeness of patient data, (ii) submitting doctor's address, (iii) registering doctor's address and as final option, (iv) the guarantor's address data. The geocoding algorithm used the most complete data for assigning data on province and district where adequate information was provided on the lab request form at the time of sample collection. Data on district allocation may lag resulting in number of cases in recent weeks missing district allocation. Prevalence and incidence risk by districts should be interpreted with caution.

### **District trends of COVID-19 cases**

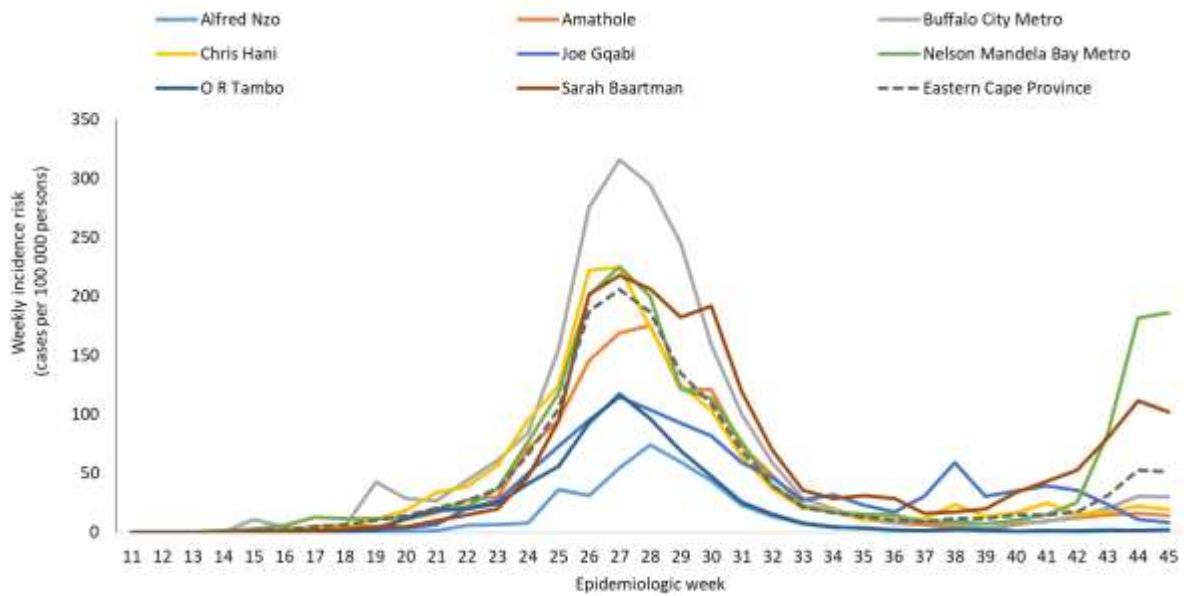
#### **Eastern Cape Province**

Of the 101 336 cases reported from Eastern Cape Province, 88 958 (87.8%) had allocation by district. Nelson Mandela Bay District (23 172/88 958, 26.1%) followed by Buffalo City District (16 963/88 958, 19.1%) contributed the majority of cases. In the past week, the weekly incidence risk decreased by 1.2 cases per 100 000 persons in the Eastern Cape Province (2.3% decrease). In the past week, Nelson Mandela Bay District (186.2 cases per 100 000 persons), followed by Sarah Baartman District (102.1 cases per 100 000 persons), and Buffalo City District (29.7 cases per 100 000 persons) reported the highest weekly incidence risk. In week 45, three districts, the Nelson Mandela Bay District (4.2 cases per 100 000, 2.3% increase), Alfred Nzo District (0.8 cases per 100 000 persons, 50.0% increase) and OR Tambo District (0.5 cases, 30% increase) reported an increase in weekly incidence risk and five districts reported a decline in weekly incidence risk, compared to week 44. The decline in weekly incidence risk ranged from 9.5 cases per 100 000 persons in Sarah Baartman to 0.7 cases per 100 000 persons in Buffalo City District (Figure 1a). The weekly incidence risk for Nelson Mandela Bay increased sharply from week 42, stabilising in week 45. Sarah Baartmen District showed a gradual increase from week 39 to week 44.

The majority of cases from Eastern Cape Province were in the 40-59-year age group (37 880/100 539, 37.7%) followed closely by the 20-39-year old age group (37 338/100 539, 37.1%). In the past week, individuals in the 40-59-year age group (111.1 cases per 100 000 persons), followed by ≥60-year age group (71.9 cases per 100 000 persons), and 20-39-year-age group (65.9 cases per 100 000 persons) reported the highest weekly incidence risk, all other age groups reported weekly incidence risk below 20 cases per 100 000 persons. Compared to the previous week, three age groups (0-4, 5-9 and 20-39

years) reported an increase in weekly incidence risk, the increase ranged from 1.6 cases per 100 000 persons in the 0-4-year-age group (42.3% increase) to 1.0 case per 100 000 persons (1.6% increase) in the 20-39-year-age group (Figure1b).

a



b

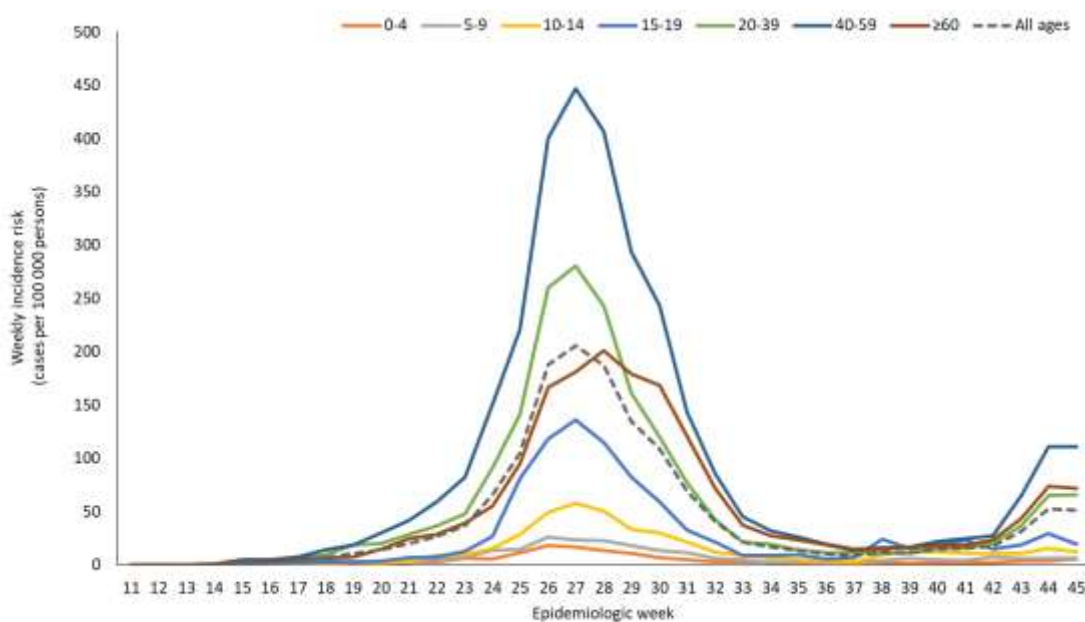


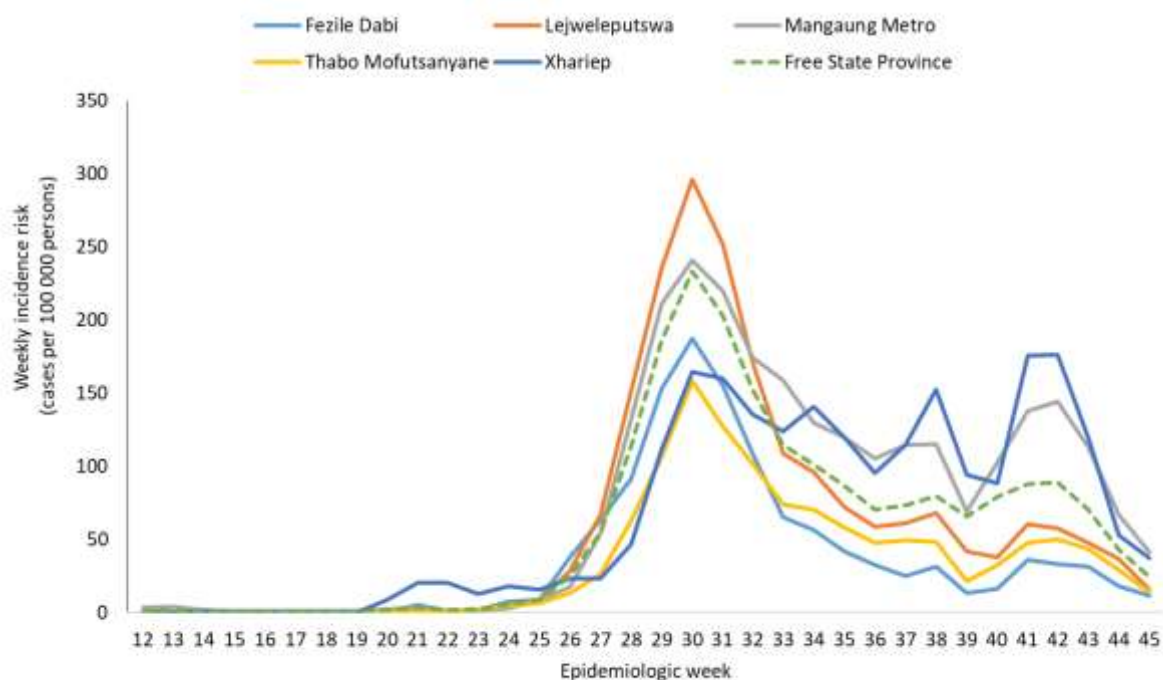
Figure 1: Weekly incidence risk of PCR-confirmed cases of COVID-19 by epidemiologic week, Eastern Cape Province, 3 March-7 November 2020 (a) by district (n= 88 958, 12 378 missing district) (b) by age group in years (n= 100 539, 797 missing age)

### Free State Province

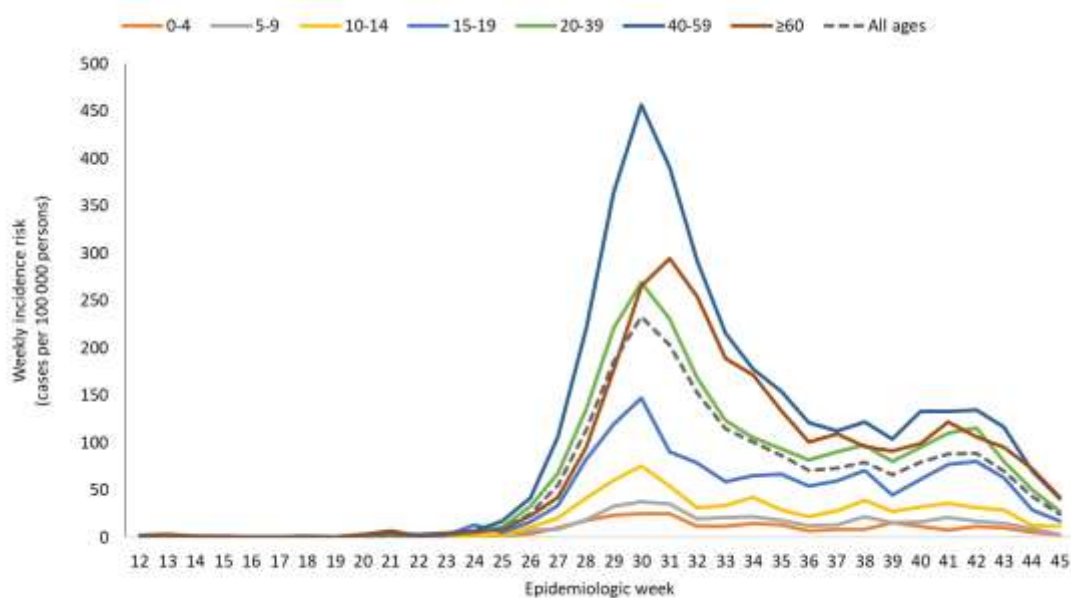
Of the 57 935 cases reported from Free State Province, 53 020 (91.5%) had allocation by district. Mangaung District (21 761/53 020; 41.0%) followed by Lejweleputswa District (12 931/53 020, 24.4%) contributed the majority of cases. In the past week, the weekly incidence risk in the Free State Province decreased by 18.4 cases per 100 000 persons (42.8% decrease), compared to week 44. Mangaung District (41.0 cases per 100 000 persons) followed by the Xhariep District (37.1 cases per 100 000 persons) reported the highest weekly incidence risk. In week 45, all the districts reported a decline in incidence risk, compared to the previous week. The percent reduction in weekly incidence risk ranged from 57.9% in Lejweleputswa District to 29.4% in Xhariep District (Figure 2a).

The majority of cases from Free State were in the 20-39-year old age group (22 393/57 780, 38.8%) followed by the 40-59-year age group (20 773/57 780, 36.0%). In week 45 there was a reduction in weekly incidence risk in all age groups, compared to the previous week. The reduction in weekly incidence risk ranged from 30.2 cases per 100 000 (41.7% reduction) in the ≥60 -year age group to 0.3 cases per 100 000 persons (2.9% reduction) in the 10-14-year age group (Figure 2b).

a



b



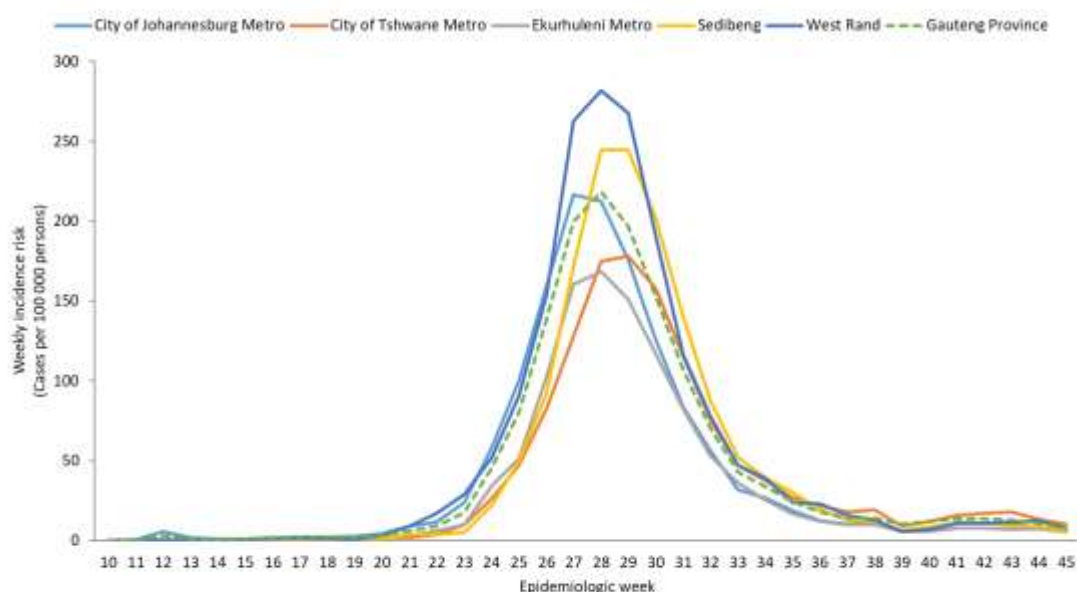
**Figure 2.:** Weekly incidence risk of PCR-confirmed cases of COVID-19 by epidemiologic week, Free State Province, 3 March-7 November 2020 (a) by district (n= 53 020, 4 916 missing district ) (b) by age group in years (n= 57 780, 156 missing age)

Gauteng Province

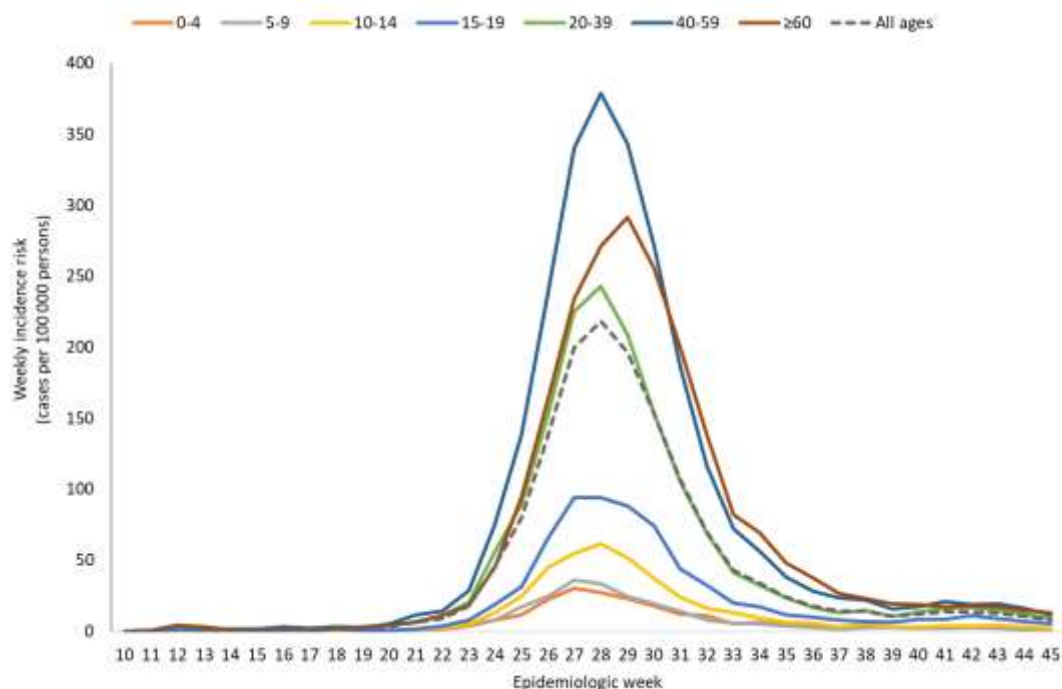
Of the 230 294 cases from Gauteng Province, 206 461 (89.7%) had allocation by district. City of Johannesburg (83 693/206 461, 40.5%) followed by City of Tshwane (47 474/206 461, 23.0%) contributed just under two-thirds of cases in Gauteng Province. In the past week, the weekly incidence risk decreased by 2.8 cases per 100 000 persons in the Gauteng Province (26.4% decrease), compared to week 44. All the districts reported a weekly incidence risk below 15 cases per 100 000 persons, and declining weekly incidence risk compared to week 44. The reduction in weekly incidence risk ranged from 4.6 cases per 100 000 persons (37.6%, decrease) in West Rand District to 2.0 cases per 100 000 persons (23.8%, decrease) in City of Johannesburg (Figure 3a).

The majority of cases from Gauteng Province were in the 20-39-year old age group (98 122/227 919, 43.1%) followed by the 40-59-year age group (84 141/227 919, 36.9%). In week 45 compared to week 44 there was a reduction in weekly incidence risk in all age groups, except 5-9-year-age group which showed a slight increase (0.2 cases per 100 000 persons). The reduction in incidence risk ranged from 4.9 cases per 100 000 persons (30.0% reduction) in the 40-59-year-age group to 0.6 cases per 100 000 persons (21.2% reduction) in the 10-14- year age group (Figure 3b).

a



b



**Figure 3:** Weekly incidence risk of PCR-confirmed cases of COVID-19 by epidemiologic week, Gauteng Province, 3 March-7 November 2020 (a) by district (n= 206 461, 23 833 missing district) (b) by age group in years (n= 227 919, 2 375 missing age)

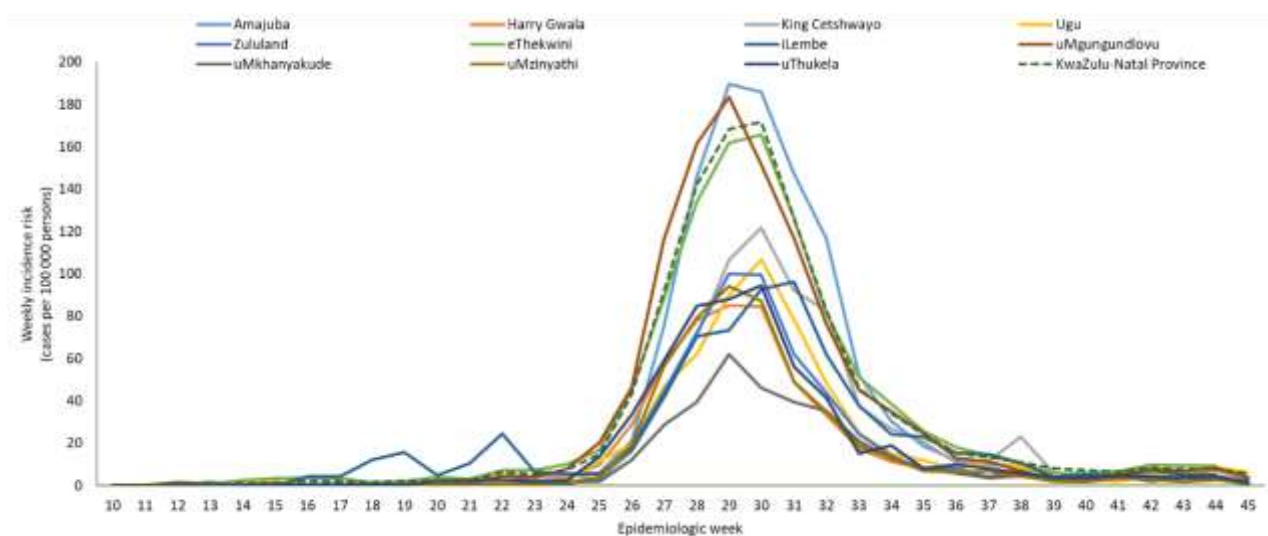


### KwaZulu-Natal Province

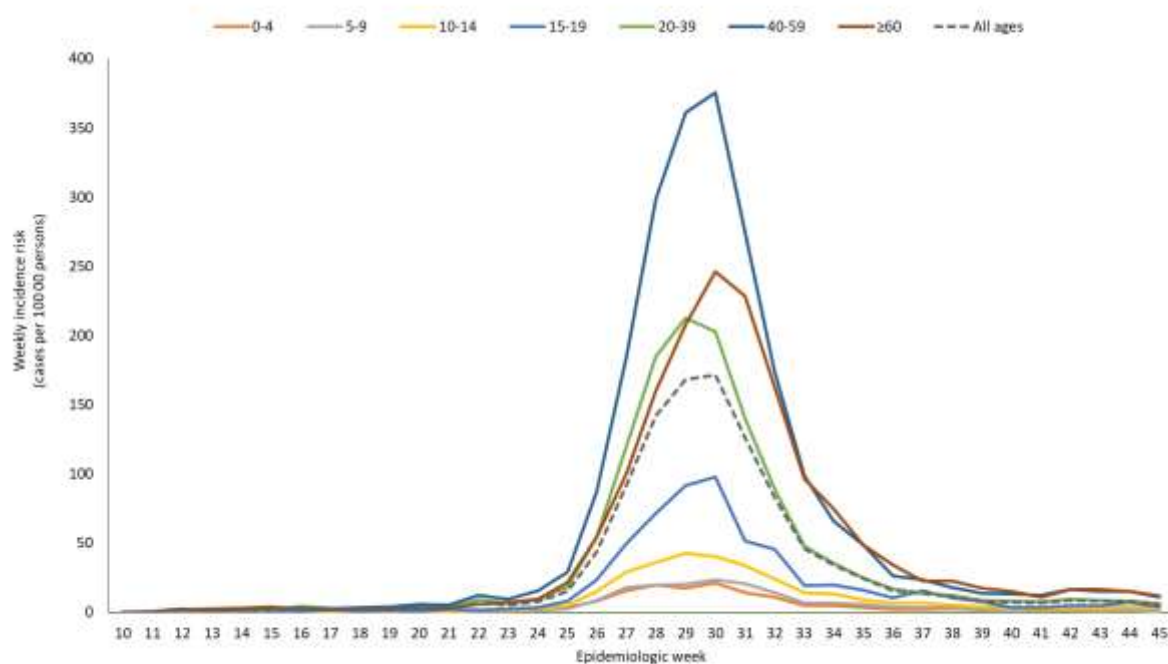
A total of 124 012 cases were reported from KwaZulu-Natal Province, of which 94 895 (76.5%) had allocation by district. eThekweni District (43 165/94 895, 45.4%) followed by uMgungundlovu District (12 324/94 895, 13.0%) contributed the majority of cases from KwaZulu-Natal. In week 45 compared to week 44, the weekly incidence risk decreased by 2.1 cases per 100 000 persons in the KwaZulu-Natal Province (25.9% decrease). In the past week, all the districts reported a weekly incidence risk below 10 cases per 100 000 persons. Compared to week 44, in the past week, all districts reported a decrease in weekly incidence risk, except for the uMkhanyakude District which reported no change in weekly incidence risk. The reduction ranged from 4.3 cases per 100 000 persons (52.1% decrease) in uMgungundlovu District to 1 case per 100 000 persons (35.3% and 21.7% decrease) in Amajuba District and Zululand District, respectively (Figure 4a).

The majority of cases from KwaZulu-Natal Province were in the 20-39-year-age group (49 987/123 057, 40.6%) followed by the 40-59-year age group (44 163/123 057, 35.9%). In week 45 compared to week 44 there was a decline in weekly incidence risk in all age groups, the decline ranged from 4.4 cases per 100 000 persons (29.1% reduction) in ≥60-year-age group to 0.6 cases per 100 000 persons (40.0% reduction) in 0-4-year-age group (Figure 4b).

a



b



**Figure 4:** Weekly incidence risk of PCR-confirmed cases of COVID-19 by epidemiologic week, KwaZulu-Natal Province, 3 March-7 November 2020 (a) by district (n=94 895, 29 117 missing district) (b) by age group in years (n= 123 057, 955 missing age)

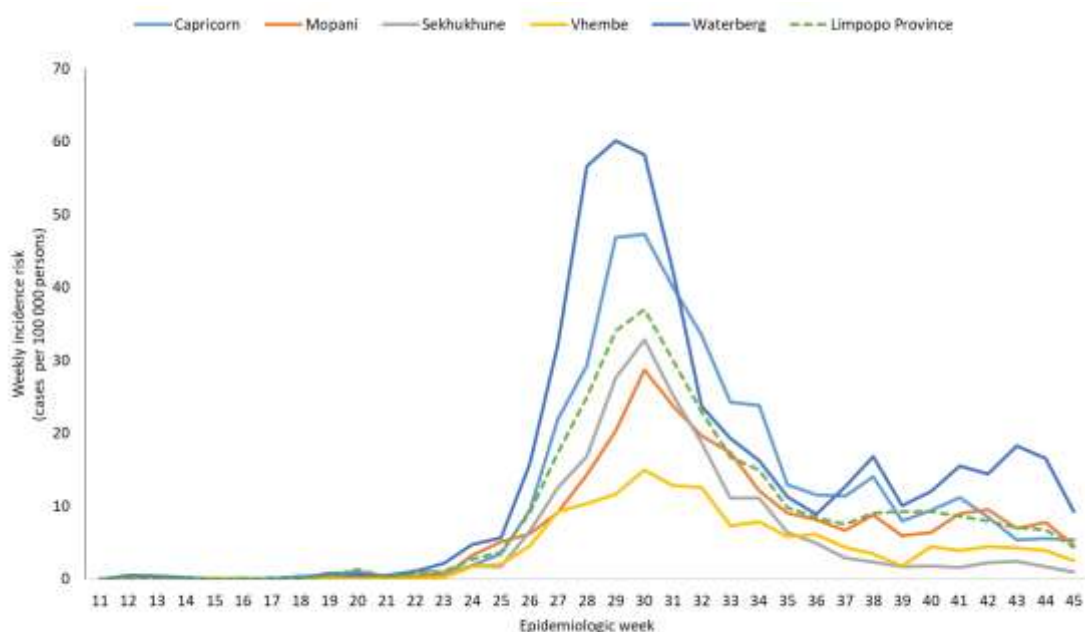


### Limpopo Province

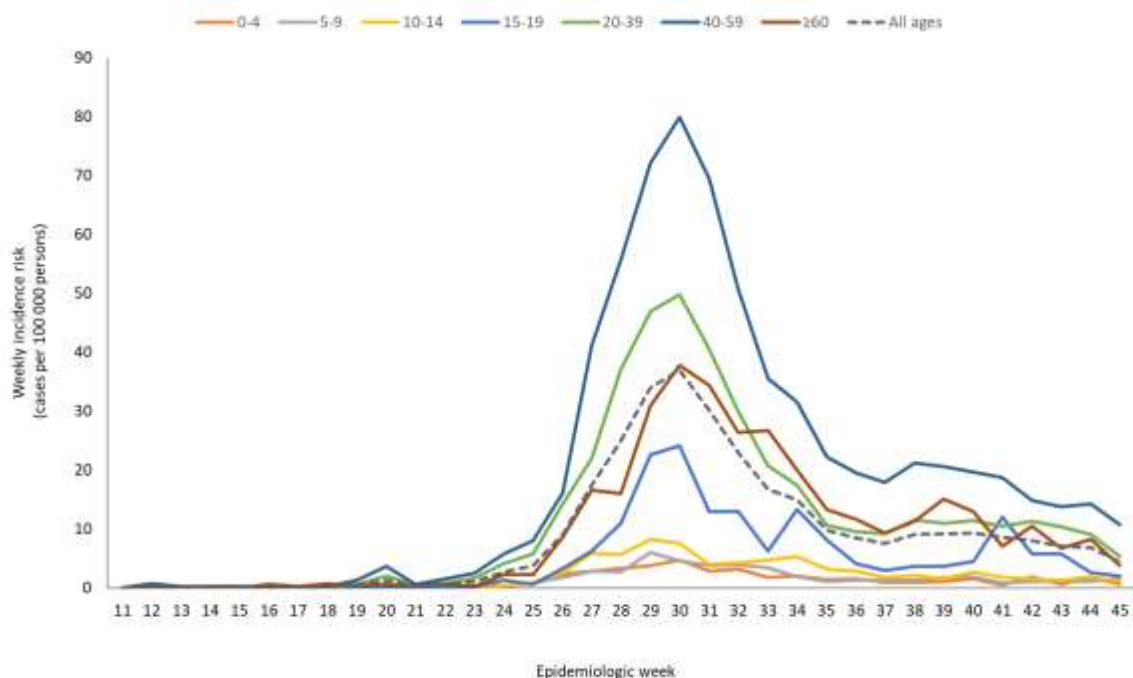
A total of 17 930 cases were reported from Limpopo Province, of which 16 002 (89.2%) had allocation by district. Capricorn District (5 087/16 002, 31.8%) followed by Waterberg District (3 619/16 002, 22.6%) reported the majority of cases. In the past week, the weekly incidence risk decreased by 2.4 cases per 100 000 persons in the Limpopo Province (35.1% decrease), compared to previous week. In the past week, all districts reported weekly incidence risk below 10 cases per 100 000 persons each and a decline in weekly incidence risk compared to previous week. The decline ranged from 7.3 cases per 100 000 persons (43.9% decrease) in Waterberg District to 0.2 cases per 100 000 persons (4.1% decrease) in Capricorn District (Figure 5a).

The majority of cases from Limpopo Province were in the 20-39-year age group (7 242/17 865, 40.5%) followed by the 40-59-year age group (6 890/17 865, 38.6%). In week 45, the weekly incidence risk declined in all age groups, except 5-9-year-age group where incidence risk increased by 0.6 cases per 100 000 persons (57.1% increase), compared to previous week. The decline ranged from 4.4 cases per 100 000 persons (53.5% decrease) in ≥60-year-age group to 1.1 cases per 100 000 persons in 0-4-year-age group (Figure 5b).

a



b



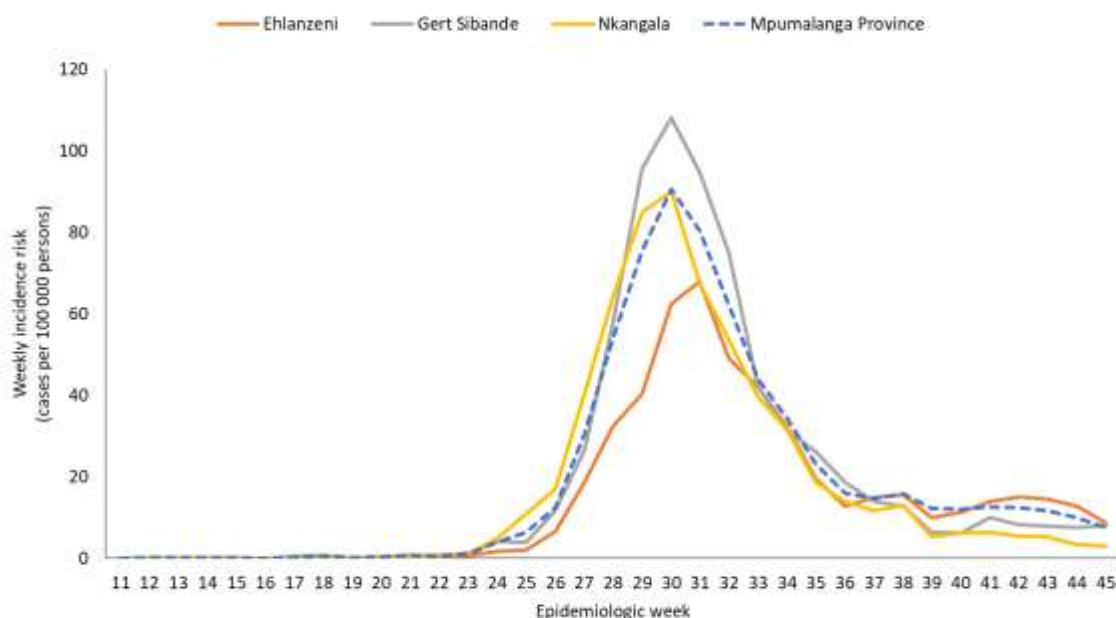
**Figure 5:** Weekly incidence risk of PCR-confirmed cases of COVID-19 by epidemiologic week, Limpopo Province, 3 March-7 November 2020 (a) by district (n= 16 002, 1 928 missing district) (b) by age group in years (n= 17 865, 65 missing age)

**Mpumalanga Province**

A total of 30 273 cases were reported from Mpumalanga Province, of which 27 428 (90.6%) had allocation by district. Three districts contributed similar proportions, with Nkangala District contributing the bigger percentage of cases (9 646/27 428, 35.2%) followed by Ehlanzeni District (9 307/27 428, 33.9%) and Gert Sibande District (9 646/27 428, 30.9%). In the past week, the weekly incidence risk decreased by 2.5 cases per 100 000 persons in the Mpumalanga Province (25.1% decrease). All the districts reported a decrease in weekly incidence risk, compared to the previous week, except Gert Sibande where weekly incidence risk increased by 0.6 cases per 100 000 persons (7.4% increase). The decline ranged from 4.2 cases per 100 000 persons in Ehlanzeni District (32.9% decrease) to 0.5 cases per 100 000 persons (14.5% decrease) in Nkangala District (Figure 6a).

The majority of cases from Mpumalanga Province were in the 20-39-year age group (13 134/29 927, 43.9%) followed by the 40-59-year age group (10 770/29 927, 36.0%). In the past week, the 40-59-year age group (15.3 cases per 100 000 persons) reported the highest weekly incidence risk. The weekly incidence risk was below 10 cases per 100 000 persons for the other age groups. All age groups reported a decline, except 0-4-year-age group which reported no change in weekly incidence risk, compared to the previous week. The decline ranged from 6.2 cases per 100 000 persons (47.9% decrease) in ≥60-year-age group to 0.2 cases per 100 000 persons (9.1% decrease) in 10-14-year-age group (Figure 6b).

a



b

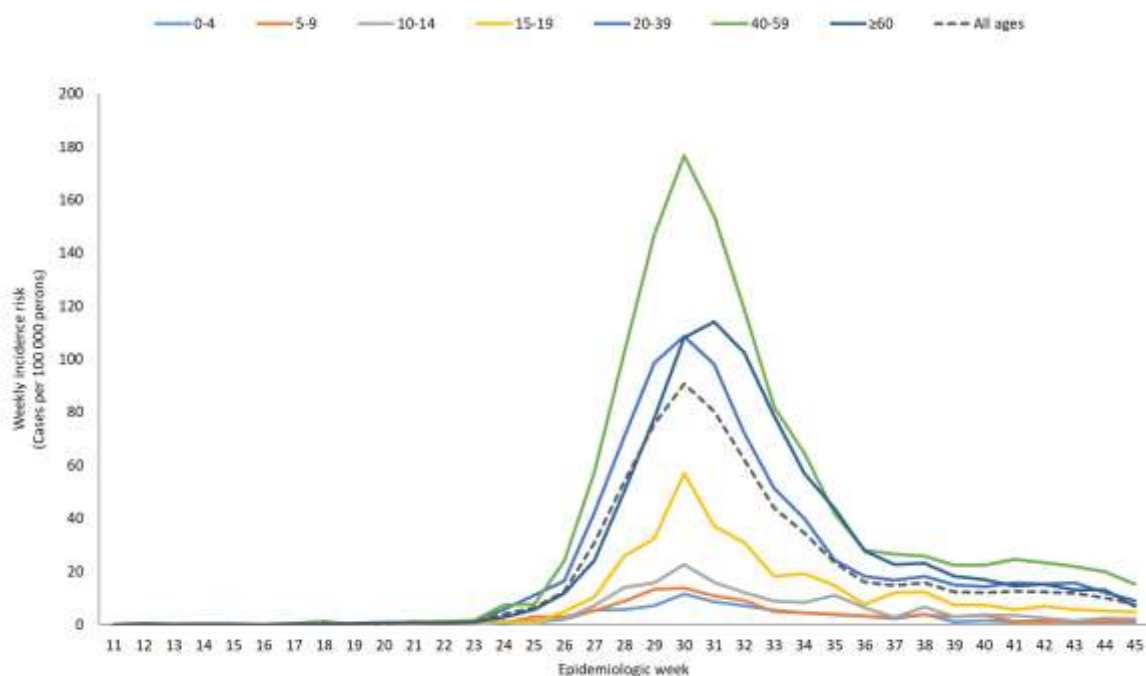


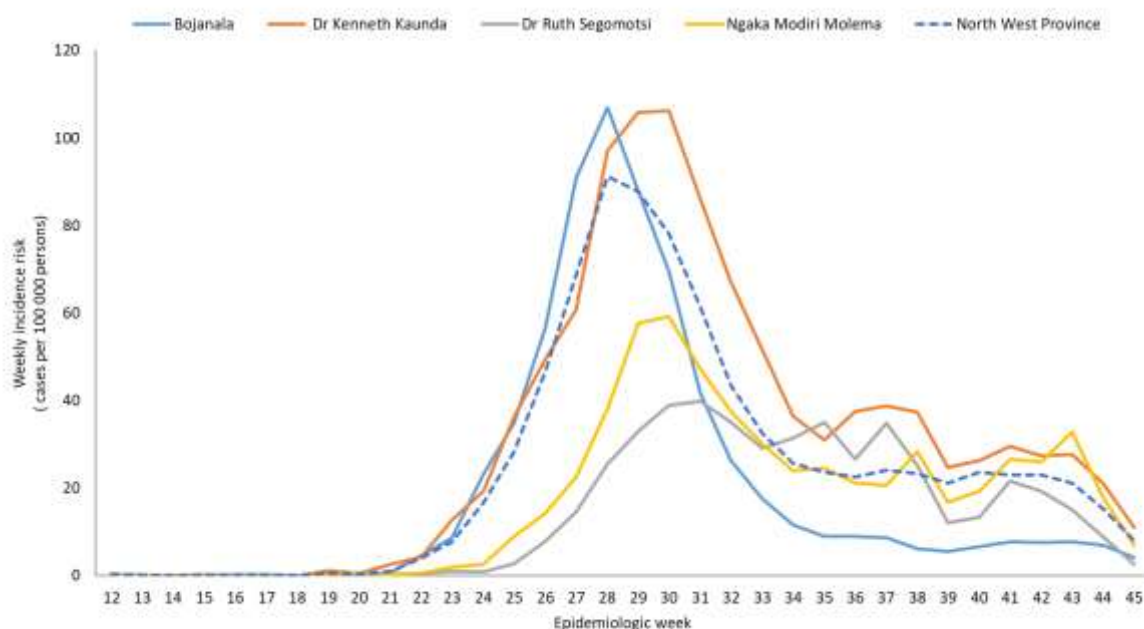
Figure 6: Weekly incidence risk of PCR-confirmed cases of COVID-19 by epidemiologic week, Mpumalanga Province, 3 March-7 November 2020 (a) by district (n=27 428, 2 845 missing district) (b) by age group in years (n=29 927, 346 missing age)

### North West Province

Of the 33 859 cases reported from North West Province, 28 731 (84.9%) cases had allocation by district. Bojanala Platinum District (12 760/28 731, 44.4%) followed by Dr Kenneth Kaunda District (8 379/28 731, 29.2%) contributed the majority of cases. In the past week, the weekly incidence risk decreased by 7.2 cases per 100 000 persons in the North West Province (47.0% decrease), compared to previous week. In the past week, all districts reported weekly incidence risks below 15 cases per 100 000 persons and a decline in weekly incidence risk. The decline ranged from 10.8 cases per 100 000 persons (60.9% decrease) in Ngaka Modiri Molema District to 2.7 cases per 100 000 persons (39.6% decrease) in Bojanala District (Figure 7a).

The majority of cases from North West Province were in the 40-59-year age group (14 214/33 576, 42.3%) followed by the 20-39-year age group (12 905/33 576, 38.4%). In the past week, all age groups reported a decline in weekly incidence risk, compared to the previous week. The decline ranged from 14.6 cases per 100 000 persons (58.7% decline) in ≥60-year age group to 0.5 cases per 100 000 persons (66.7% and 18.2% decline) in the 0-4- and 10-14-year age groups, respectively (Figure 7b).

a



b

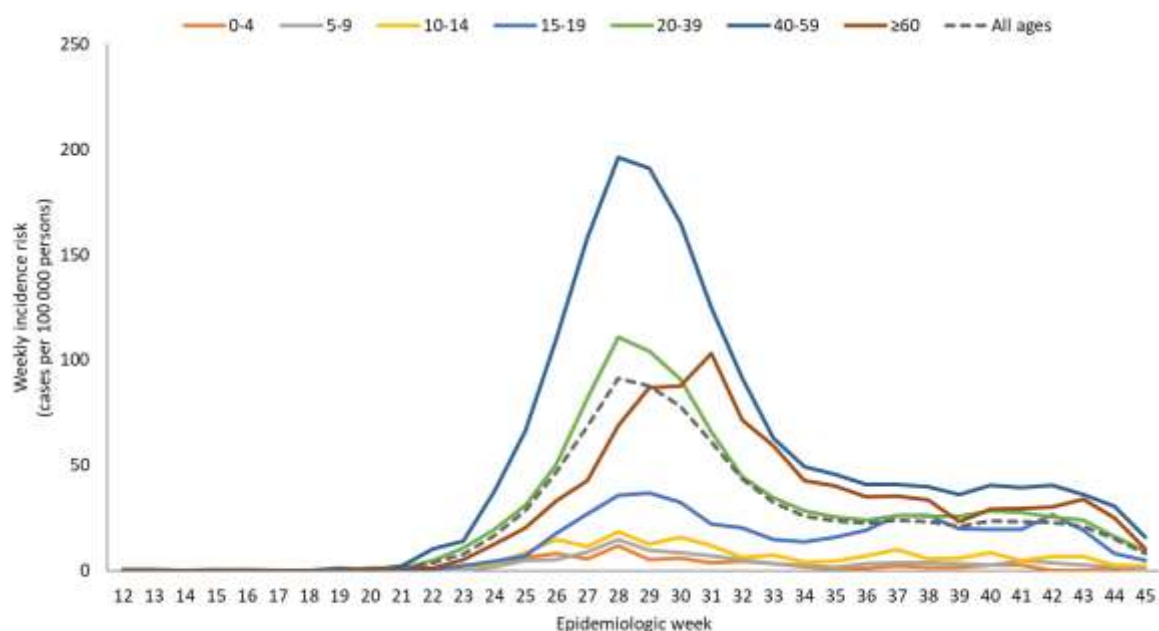


Figure 7: Weekly incidence risk of PCR-confirmed cases of COVID-19 by epidemiologic week, North West Province, 3 March-7 November 2020 (a) by district (n=28 731, 5 128 missing district) (b) by age group in years (n=33 576, 283 missing age)

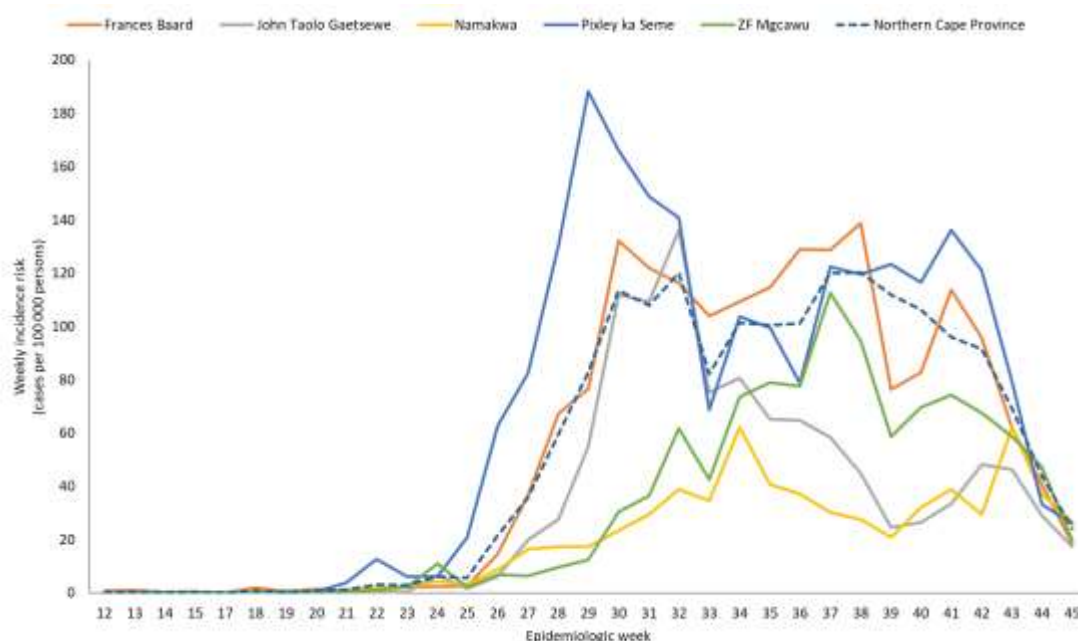


### Northern Cape Province

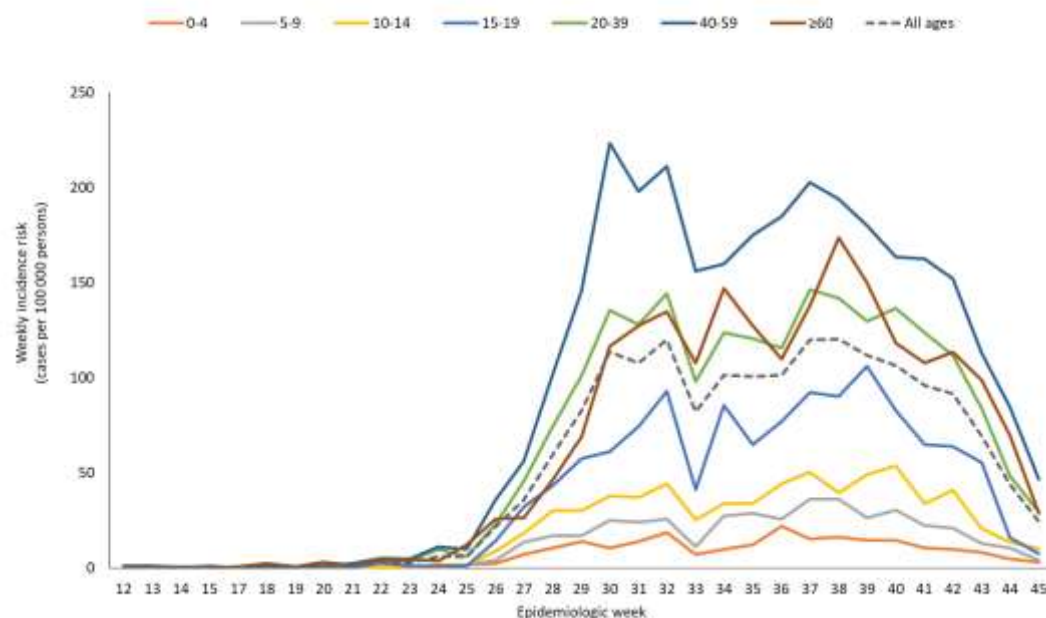
Of the 22 396 cases reported from Northern Cape Province, 18 755 (83.7%) had allocation by district. Frances Baard District (7 452/18 755, 39.7%) followed by Pixley ka Seme District (4 635/18 755, 24.7%) reported the majority of cases. In the past week, the weekly incidence risk decreased by 19.8 cases per 100 000 persons (45.0% decrease) in the Northern Cape Province, compared to the previous week. In the past week, weekly incidence risk decreased in all districts. The reduction in weekly incidence risk ranged from 27.5 cases per 100 000 persons (58.3% decline) in ZF Mgcawu District to 7.1 cases per 100 000 persons (21.4% decline) in Pixley ka Seme District (Figure 8a).

The majority of cases from Northern Cape Province were in the 20-39-year old age group (8 830/22 179, 39.8%) followed by the 40-59-year old age group (7 663/22 179, 34.6%). In the past week, there was a reduction in weekly incidence risk in all age groups, compared to the previous week. The reduction in weekly incidence risk ranged from 40.9 cases per 100 000 persons (58.7% reduction) in ≥ 60-year age group to 1.6 cases per 100 000 persons (33.3% reduction) in 0-4-year-age group (Figure 8b).

a



b



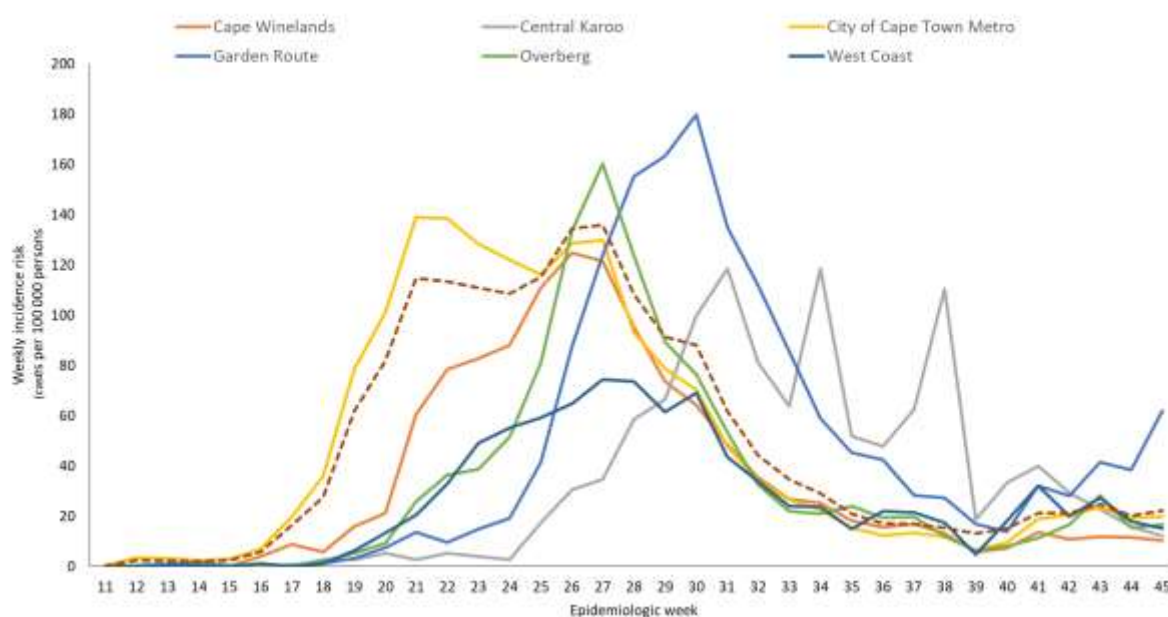
**Figure 8:** Weekly incidence risk of PCR-confirmed cases of COVID-19 by epidemiologic week, Northern Cape Province, 3 March-7 November 2020 (a) by district (n=18 755, 3 641 missing district) (b) by age group in years (n=22 179, 217 missing age)

### Western Cape Province

Of the 119 242 cases reported from Western Cape Province, 108 409 (90.9%) of cases had allocation by district. City of Cape Town District (78 391/108 409, 72.3%) followed by Cape Winelands District (11 557/108 409, 10.7%) contributed the majority of cases, all other districts contributed < 10% each. In the past week, weekly incidence risk increased by 2.1 cases per 100 000 persons (10.6% increase) in the Western Cape Province, compared to previous week. The highest weekly incidence risk was reported by Garden Route District (61.9 cases per 100 000 persons) followed by City of Cape Town District (19.8 cases per 100 000 persons). In the past week, the weekly incidence risk increased in three districts, increase ranging from 23.4 cases per 100 000 persons (60.8% increase) in Garden Route to 0.7 cases per 100 000 persons (3.9% increase) in City of Cape Town District. Three districts reported a decrease in weekly incidence risk, the reduction ranged from 4 cases per 100 000 persons (25.0% decrease) in Central Karoo to 1.3 cases per 100 000 persons (11.1% decrease) in Cape Winelands District (Figure 9a).

The majority of cases from Western Cape Province were in the 20-39-year old age group (49 686/118 800, 41.8%) followed by the 40-59-year age group (43 930/118 800, 37.0). In the past week, the ≥60-year age group (32.9 cases per 100 000 persons), followed by 40-59-year age group (31.4 cases per 100 000 persons), and 20-39-year age group (28.1 cases per 100 000 persons) reported the highest weekly incidence risk. The weekly incidence risk in all other age groups was below 10 cases per 100 000 persons. In week 45, four age groups (40-59-year-age, 20-39-year-age, 5-9-year-age and 10-14-year-age groups) reported an increase in weekly incidence risk, compared to week 44. The increase ranged from 3.8 cases per 100 000 persons (15.9% increase) in 20-39-year age group to 0.9 cases per 100 000 persons (38.5% increase) in 5-9-year age group (Figure 9b).

a



b

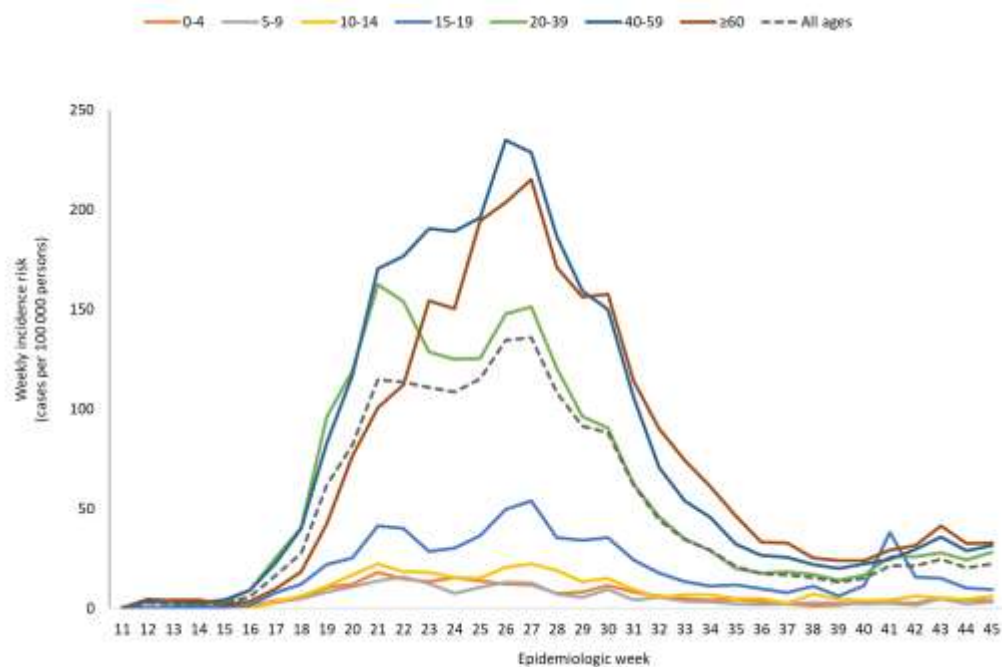


Figure 9: Weekly incidence risk of PCR-confirmed cases of COVID-19 by epidemiologic week, Western Cape Province, 3 March-7 November 2020 (a) by district (n=108 409, 10 833 missing district) (b) by age group in years (n=118 800, 442 missing age)