

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 14 2021

OVERVIEW

This report summarises data of COVID-19 cases admitted to hospital in all provinces of South Africa. The report is based on data collected from 5 March 2020 to 10 April 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 10 April 2021, 231,237 COVID-19 admissions were reported from 644 facilities (393 publicsector and 251 private-sector) in all nine provinces of South Africa. There were 121,918 (52.7%) and 109,319 (47.3%) admissions reported in public and private sector respectively. The majority of COVID-19 admissions were reported from four provinces, Gauteng 62,631 (27.1%), followed by Western Cape 46,779 (20.2%), KwaZulu-Natal 45,162 (19.5%) and Eastern Cape 29,694 (12.8%).
- Of the 231,237 admissions, 3,575 (1.6%) patients were in hospital at the time of this report, 175,878 (76.1%) patients were discharged alive or transferred out and 51,784 (22.4%) patients died of COV/ID
- Of the 223,058 COVID-19 patients who had recorded in-hospital outcome (died and discharged), the case fatality ratio (CFR) was 23.2%. On multivariable analysis, factors

associated with in-hospital mortality were older age groups; male sex; Black African, Coloured and Indian race; admission in the public sector; and having comorbid hypertension, diabetes, chronic cardiac disease, chronic renal disease, malignancy, HIV, current and past tuberculosis, and obesity. Compared to the Western Cape Province, individuals hospitalised in all other provinces (Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West and Northern Cape provinces) were more likely to die in-hospital.

WEEK 14 2021

METHODS

DATCOV hospital surveillance for COVID-19 admissions, was initiated on the 1 April 2020. Data are submitted by public and private hospitals that have agreed to report COVID-19 admissions through DATCOV surveillance in all nine provinces of South Africa.

A COVID-19 case was defined as a person with a positive reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay for SARS-CoV-2 or a person who had a positive SARS-CoV-2 antigen test who was admitted to hospital. While DATCOV contains all COVID-19 admissions reported including multiple admissions in one patient, this report includes only the most recent COVID-19 admission for each patient.

An individual was defined as having severe disease if treated in high care or intensive care unit (ICU), or ventilated or diagnosed with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) or if dead. Case fatality ratio (CFR) was calculated for all closed cases, i.e. COVID-19 deaths divided by COVID-19 deaths plus COVID-19 discharges, excluding individuals who are still admitted in hospital.

Data are submitted by public and private hospitals that have agreed to report COVID-19 admissions through DATCOV surveillance in all nine provinces of South Africa. On 15 July 2020, the National Health Council decided that all hospitals should report to DATCOV. As of 10 April 2021, a total of 644 facilities submitted data on hospitalised COVID-19 cases, 393 from public sector and 251 from private sector (Table 1). This reflects 100% coverage of all public and private hospitals that have had COVID-19 admissions to date.

Table 1. Number of hospitals reporting data on COVID-19 admissions by province and sector, South Africa, 5 March 2020 to 10 April 2021

| Name of province | Public Sector | Private Sector |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Eastern Cape | 85 | 18 |
| Free State | 35 | 20 |
| Gauteng | 39 | 91 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 70 | 45 |
| Limpopo | 41 | |
| Mpumalanga | 31 | |
| North West | 16 | 12 |
| Northern Cape | 17 | 8 |
| Western Cape | 59 | 41 |
| South Africa | 393 | 251 |

WEEK 14 2021

RESULTS

Epidemiological and geographic trends in admissions

From 5 March 2020 to 10 April 2021, a total of 231,237 COVID-19 admissions were reported from 644 facilities in all nine provinces of South Africa. Of these admissions, 121,918 (52.7%) and 109,319 (47.3%) were reported in public and private sector, respectively. The peak weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave surpassed the numbers during the peak of the first wave in both sectors (Figure 1). Since week 1 2021, numbers of COVID-19 admissions have decreased in both public and private sector. Decreases in the most recent week may reflect delays in data submission

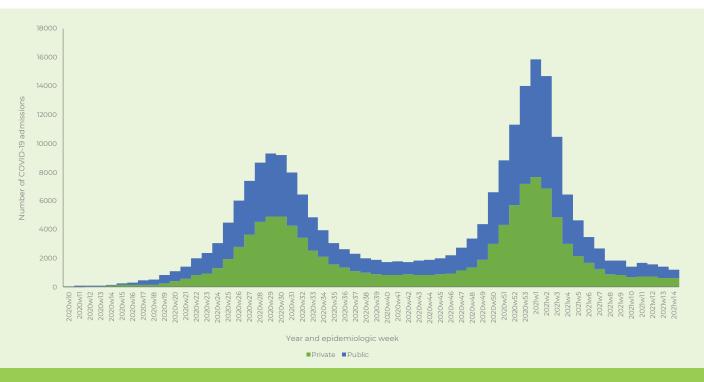


Figure 1. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiological week of diagnosis, 5 March 2020-10 April 2021, n= 231,237

WEEK 14 2021

The majority of admissions 184266/231,237(79.7%) were recorded in four provinces, with the highest number reported in Gauteng 62,631(27.1%), followed by Western Cape 46,779 (20.2%), KwaZulu-Natal 45,162 (19.5%) and Eastern Cape 29,694, 12.8%) provinces. The weekly admission in second wave exceeded peak in first wave in all provinces except Free State (Figure 2).

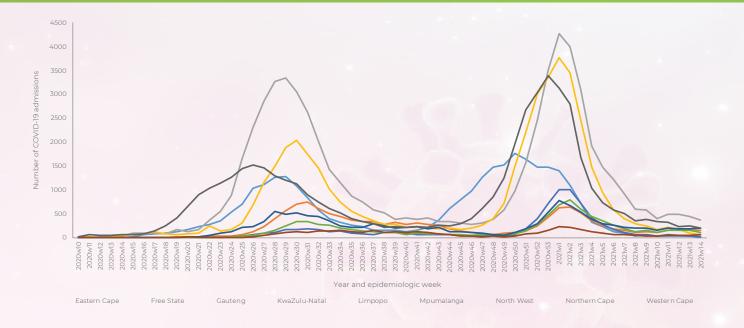


Figure 2. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by province and epidemiological week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020-10 April 2021, n= 231,237

WEEK 14 2021

DEMOGRAPHIC AND CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF COVID-19 ADMISSIONS

The median age of COVID-19 admissions was 53 years (interquartile range [IQR] 40 - 65). There were 9,422 (4.1%) admissions in patients 18 years and younger and 39,438 (17.1%) in patients older than 70 years. Among admitted individuals with COVID-19, 128,963 (55.8%) were female. Females were more common than males in all age groups except in individuals younger than 10 years (Figure 3).

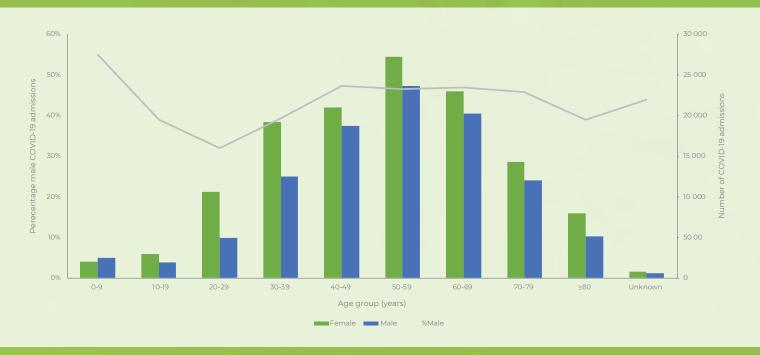


Figure 3. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by age, sex and percentage of males, South Africa, 5 March 2020-10 April 2021, n= 231.237

WEEK 14 2021

Of the 155,773 (67.4%) patients for whom race was known, 122,509 (78.7%) were Black African, 10,677 (6.9%) were Coloured, 8,877 (5.7%) were Indian, 13,293 (8.5%) were White and 417 (0.3%) were classified as Other race group. There were 7,201 (3.1%) health care workers (HCW) that were reported to be hospitalised. Among the 52,997 admissions in females of child-bearing age 15-50 years, there were 5,912 (11.2%) females admitted who were pregnant or within 6 weeks post-partum.

Among 177,174 (76.6%) patients for whom comorbid conditions were known, 80,579 (45.5%) had no comorbid condition reported, 51,165 (28.9%) had one comorbid condition reported, 33,871(19.1%) had two comorbid conditions and 11,559 (6.5%) had three or more comorbid conditions reported. The most commonly reported comorbidities were hypertension (64,495, 36.4%) and diabetes (45,885, 25.9%); there were 14,834 (8.4%) patients who were HIV-infected, 2,999 (1.7%) patients with active tuberculosis (TB) and 4,771 (2.1%) patients with previous history of TB (Table 2). Obesity, defined by body mass index where available or by the subjective opinion of the attending HCW, while not consistently recorded for all reported COVID-19 admissions, was recorded as a risk factor in 9,168 (3.9%) of all patients hospitalised.

Table 2. Reported comorbid conditions among COVID-19 admissions, South Africa, 5 March 2020 to 10 April 2021, n=177,174*

| Comorbid disease* | n | % |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------|
| Hypertension | 64,495 | 36.4 |
| Diabetes mellitus | 45,885 | 25.9 |
| Chronic cardiac disease | 4,474 | |
| Chronic pulmonary disease/ Asthma | 10,942 | |
| Chronic renal disease | 4,304 | |
| Malignancy | 1,218 | 0.7 |
| HIV | 14,834 | 8.4 |
| Active tuberculosis | 2,999 | |
| Previous history of tuberculosis | 4,771 | 2.1 |

^{*} Multiple comorbid conditions are counted more than once so the total number may be more than the total number of individuals reporting comorbid conditions.

^{**} Presence of a comorbid condition includes only the conditions reported in the table; obesity is not included

WEEK 14 2021

OUTCOMES

Of the 231,237 admitted individuals, 3,575 (1.6%) were currently in hospital, 171,274 (74.1%) were discharged alive, 4,604 (2.0%) were transferred out to either higher-level care or step-down facilities and 51,784 (22.4%) died in hospital of COVID-19. Of the 223,058 COVID-19 patients who had recorded in-hospital outcome (died and discharged), the case fatality ratio (CFR) was 23.2%.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN MORTALITY

The peak numbers of weekly deaths were higher in the second wave than the first wave. The CFR was higher in the public health sector (27.4%) than in the private health sector (18.7%) (p<0.001). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of deaths have decreased in both sectors (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Number of COVID-19 deaths reported per week by health sector and epidemiologic week, South Africa, 5 March 2020-10 April 2021, n= 51,784

WEEK 14 2021

Most deaths were reported in Gauteng (12,083, 20.0%), followed by Western Cape (9,808, 21.3%), Eastern Cape (9,353, 32.5%) and KwaZulu-Natal (10,563, 24. 4%). The weekly deaths in second wave exceeded peak in first wave in all provinces except Free State (Figure 5).

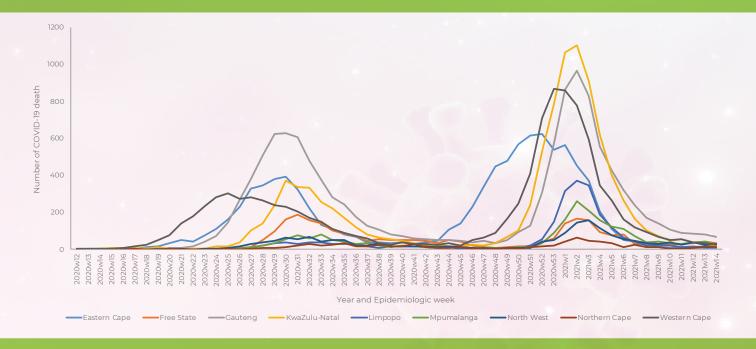


Figure 5: Number of reported COVID-19 deaths, by province and epidemiological week of death, South Africa, 5 March 2020-10 April 2021, n= 51,784

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF DEATHS

The median age of patients who died was 63 (IQR 53 – 72) years, and for those who were discharged alive was 50 (IQR 37 – 61) years. There were 309 (0.6%) deaths in children aged \leq 18 years, many of these deaths were in children with serious underlying comorbid conditions. There were 2,715 (5.2%) deaths in patients younger than 40 years (Figure 6). The CFR was higher in males (25.2%) than females (21.7%) (p<0.001).

WEEK **14** 2021

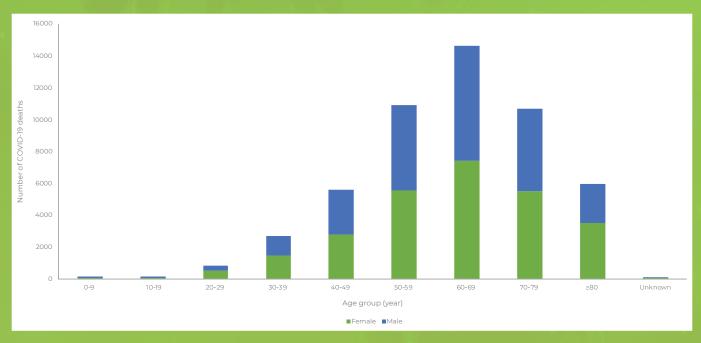


Figure 6: Number of reported COVID-19 deaths by age and gender, South Africa, 5 March 2020-10 April 2021, n= 51,784

COMMON COMORBIDITIES REPORTED AMONG DEATHS

In all age groups older than 40 years, hypertension and diabetes were most commonly reported comorbidities among patients who died. In patients between 20 and 60 years, HIV, tuberculosis and obesity were commonly reported (Figure 7).

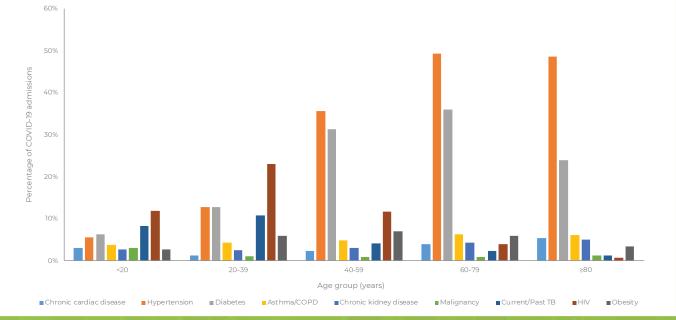


Figure 7: Frequency of comorbid conditions for reported COVID-19 deaths by age group, South Africa, 5 March 2020-10 April 2021, n= 51,784

WEEK 14 2021

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH IN-HOSPITAL MORTALITY

On multivariable analysis, factors associated with in-hospital mortality were older age groups; male sex; Black African, Coloured and Indian race; admission in the public sector; and having comorbid hypertension, diabetes, chronic cardiac disease, chronic renal disease, malignancy, HIV, current tuberculosis alone or both current and past tuberculosis, and obesity. Compared to March 2020, CFR increased to the peak of wave 1 in July, decreased post-wave, then increased to the peak of wave 2 in January 2021, then decreased again. Compared to the Western Cape Province, individuals hospitalised in all other provinces (Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West and Northern Cape provinces) were more likely to die in hospital (Table 3 and Figure 8).

Table 3: Univariate and multivariable analysis of factors associated with mortality among 223,058 individuals with in-hospital outcome (discharges and deaths), South Africa, 5 March 2020 to 10 April 2021

| Characteristic | Case-fatality ratio | Unadjusted (95% CI) | OR | p-value | Adjusted (95% CI) | OR* | p-value |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----|---------|-------------------|-----|---------|
| Age group | | | | | | | |
| <20 years | 309/8,907 (3.5) | Reference | | | Reference | | |
| 20-39 years | 3,563/45,494 (7.8) | 2.3 (2.1-2.7) | | <0.001 | 2.7 (2.2-3.2) | | <0.001 |
| 40-59 years | 16,522/87,455 (18.9) | 6.4 (5.7-7.3) | | <0.001 | 7.2 (6.0-8.7) | | <0.001 |
| 60-79 years | 25,323/67,116 (37.7) | 16.9 (15.0-18.9) | | <0.001 | 17.8 (14.3-20.9) | | <0.001 |
| ≥80 years | 5,952/12,706 (46.8) | 24.5 (21.8-27.6) | | <0.001 | 31.2 (25.0-37.0) | | <0.001 |
| Unknown age | 115/1,380 (8.3) | 2.5 (2.0-3.2) | | <0.001 | 4.7 (2.6-10.1) | | <0.001 |
| Sex | | | | | | | |
| Female | 26,934/124,404 (21.7) | Reference | | | Reference | | |
| Male | 24,832/98,529 (25.2) | 1.3 (1.2-1.4) | | <0.001 | 1.3 (1.3-1.4) | | <0.001 |
| Race | | | | | | | |
| White | 2,732/12,905 (21.2) | Reference | | | Reference | | |
| Black | 29,085/116,827 (24.9) | 1.2 (1.2-1.3) | | <0.001 | 1.3 (1.2-1.4) | | <0.001 |
| Coloured | 2,353/10,217 (23.0) | 1.1 (1.0-1.2) | | 0.001 | 1.2 (1.1-1.3) | | <0.001 |
| Indian | 2,031/8,641 (23.5) | 1.1 (1.0-1.2) | | <0.001 | 1.3 (1.2-1.4) | | <0.001 |
| Other | 75/385 (19.5) | 0.9 (0.7-1.3) | | 0.424 | 1.1 (0.7-1.8) | | 0.790 |
| Unknown | 15,508/74,083 (20.9) | 1.0 (0.9-1.1) | | 0.542 | 1.5 (1.4-1.6) | | <0.001 |
| Healthcare worker | | | | | | | |
| No | 50,915/216,017 (23.6) | Reference | | | | | |
| Yes | 869/7,041 (12.3) | 0.5 (0.4-0.5) | | <0.001 | | | |
| Peri-partum | | | | | | | |
| No | 4,661/45,386 (10.2) | Reference | | | | | |
| Yes | 187/5,779 (3.2) | 0.3 (0.2-0.3) | | <0.001 | | | |

WEEK **14** 2021

| Comorbid condition | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------------|
| No co-morbidity | 13,156/78,157 (16.8) | Reference | | | |
| 1 co-morbid condition | 13,201/49,277 (26.8) | 1.8 (1.7-1.8) | <0.001 | | |
| 2 comorbid conditions | 10,939/32,617 (33.4) | 2.4 (2.4-2.5) | <0.001 | | |
| ≥3 comorbid conditions | 3,783/11,192 (33.8) | 2.5 (2.4-2.6) | <0.001 | | |
| Unknown | 10,705/51,815 (20.7) | 1.3 (1.2-1.3) | <0.001 | | |
| | | | | | |
| Hypertension | | | | | |
| No | 19,362/103,991 (18.6) | Reference | | Reference | |
| Yes | 20,031/62,159 (32.2) | 2.0 (1.9-2.1) | <0.001 | 1.1 (1.1-1.2) | <0.001 |
| Diabetes mellitus | | | | | |
| No | 23,066/118,110 (19.7) | Reference | | Reference | |
| Yes | 14,915/44,489 (33.5) | 2.0 (2.0-2.1) | <0.001 | 1.4 (1.3-1.4) | <0.001 |
| 165 | 14,213/44,402 (33.3) | 2.0 (2.0-2.1) | -0.001 | 1.4 (1.5-1.4) | ١٥.٥٥١ |
| Chronic cardiac disease | | | | | |
| No | 32,920/148,119 (22.2) | Reference | | Reference | |
| Yes | 1,591/4,248 (37.5) | 2.0 (1.9-2.2) | <0.001 | 1.2 (1.1-1.3) | 0.001 |
| | | | | | |
| Chronic pulmonary | | | | | |
| disease/Asthma | | | | | |
| No | 31,566/141,129 (22.4) | Reference | | | |
| Yes | 2,669/10,662 (25.0) | 1.1 (1.1-1.2) | 0.001 | | |
| Chronic renal disease | | | | | |
| No | 32,423/147,346 (22.0) | Reference | | Reference | |
| Yes | 1,810/4,177 (43.3) | 2.7 (2.5-2.9) | <0.001 | 1.5 (1.4-1.6) | <0.001 |
| 103 | 1,010/1,177 (13.3) | 2.7 (2.3 2.3) | 10.001 | 1.5 (1.1 1.0) | 10.001 |
| Malignancy | | | | | |
| No | 33,571/149,951 (22.4) | Reference | | Reference | |
| Yes | 442/1,159 (38.1) | 2.1 (1.9-2.4) | <0.001 | 1.8 (1.5-2.0) | <0.001 |
| | | | | | |
| HIV | | | | | |
| No | 31,098/140,174 (22.2) | Reference | | Reference | |
| Yes | 3,465/14,076 (24.6) | 1.1 (1.1-1.2) | <0.001 | 1.3 (1.3-1.4) | <0.001 |
| | | (/ | | (1.5 1. 1) | |
| Tuberculosis | | | | | |
| No | 31,663/143,192 (22.1) | Reference | | Reference | |
| Previous | 766/3,050 (25.1) | 1.2 (1.1-1.3) | <0.001 | 1.1 (0.9-1.2) | 0.227 |
| Current | 265/1,014 (26.1) | 1.2 (1.0-1.3) | 0.018 | 1.3 (1.1-1.6) | <0.001 |
| Current and previous | 312/1,317 (23.7) | 1.1 (0.9-1.3) | 0.133 | 1.5 (1.4-1.8) | <0.001 |
| editerit and previous | <u> </u> | (U.J-1.3) | 0.133 | 1.3 (1.4-1.0) | |
| Obesity | | | | | |
| No | 12,200/52,677 (23.2) | Reference | | Reference | |
| Yes | 2,809/8,623 (32.6) | 1.6 (1.5-1.7) | <0.001 | 1.3 (1.2-1.4) | <0.001 |
| Unknown | 36,763/161,653 (22.7) | 0.9 (0.9-1.0) | 0.047 | 0.9 (0.9-1.0) | 0.134 |
| OHKHOWII - | 30,703/101,033 (ZZ.7) | 0.5 (0.5-1.0) | 0.047 | 0.5 (0.5-1.0) | 0.134 |
| | | | | | |

WEEK **14** 2021

| Month of admission | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| March 2020 | 47/404 (11.6) | Reference | | Reference | |
| April 2020 | 185/1,453 (12.7) | 1.1 (0.8-1.6) | 0.555 | 1.3 (0.8-1.9) | 0.282 |
| May 2020 | 1,070/5,801 (18.5) | 1.9 (1.3-2.4) | 0.001 | 1.5 (1.1-2.2) | 0.025 |
| June 2020 | 3,695/18,222 (20.3) | 2.0 (1.4-2.8) | <0.001 | 1.6 (1.1-2.2) | 0.022 |
| July 2020 | 8,348/38,282 (21.8) | 2.2 (1.6-3.0) | <0.001 | 1.4 (0.9-2.1) | 0.057 |
| August 2020 | 3,712/19,740 (18.8) | 1.9 (1.4-2.6) | <0.001 | 1.1 (0.8-1.6) | 0.548 |
| September 2020 | 1,318/8,894 (14.8) | 1.3 (1.0-2.0) | 0.078 | 0.9 (0.6-1.3) | 0.395 |
| October 2020 | 1,171/7,782 (15.1) | 1.4 (1.0-2.0) | 0.061 | 0.9 (0.6-1.3) | 0.429 |
| November 2020 | 2,510/11,137 (22.5) | 2.3 (1.7-3.2) | <0.001 | 1.3 (0.9-1.8) | 0.181 |
| December 2020 | 10,663/39,707 (26.8) | 2.9 (2.1-4.0) | <0.001 | 2.0 (1.4-2.8) | <0.001 |
| January 2021 | 15,348/52,304 (29.3) | 3.3 (2.4-4.5) | <0.001 | 2.0 (1.4-2.9) | <0.001 |
| February 2021 | 2,426/12,121 (20.0) | 1.9 (1.4-2.7) | <0.001 | 1.2 (0.9-1.8) | 0.140 |
| March 2021 | 1,167/6,500 (18.0) | 1.7 (1.2-2.6) | 0.001 | 1.2 (0.8-1.8) | 0.249 |
| April 2021 | 118/656 (17.9) | 1.7 (1.2-2.4) | 0.006 | 0.9 (0.6-1.4) | 0.633 |
| Health sector | | | | | |
| Private sector | 19,981/106,927 (18.7) | Reference | | Reference | |
| Public sector | 31,803/116,131 (27.4) | 1.6 (1.6-1.7) | <0.001 | 1.4 (1.3-1.4) | <0.001 |
| | | | | | |
| Province | | | | | |
| Western Cape | 9,808/45,964 (21.3) | Reference | | Reference | |
| Eastern Cape | 9,353/28,769 (32.5) | 1.8 (1.7-1.8) | <0.001 | 2.0 (1.9-2.1) | <0.001 |
| Free State | 2,720/12,126 (22.4) | 1.0 (0.9-1.1) | 0.009 | 1.3 (1.2-1.4) | <0.001 |
| Gauteng | 12,083/60,539 (20.0) | 0.9 (0.9-0.9) | <0.001 | 1.2 (1.1-1.3) | <0.001 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 10,563/43,306 (24.4) | 1.2 (1.1-1.2) | <0.001 | 1.5 (1.4-1.6) | <0.001 |
| Limpopo | 2,514/8,332 (30.2) | 1.6 (1.5-1.7) | <0.001 | 1.7 (1.6-1.9) | <0.001 |
| Mpumalanga | 2,294/8,619 (26.6) | 1.3 (1.2-1.4) | <0.001 | 1.3 (1.2-1.4) | <0.001 |
| North West | 1,715/11,747 (14.6) | 0.6 (0.6-0.7) | <0.001 | 1.1 (1.0-1.2) | 0.001 |
| Northern Cape | 734/3,656 (20.1) | 0.9 (0.8-1.0) | 0.073 | 1.3 (1.2-1.5) | <0.001 |
| Ever ICU | | | | | |
| No | 36,494/192,454 (18.9) | Reference | | | |
| Yes | 15,290/30,604 (50.0) | 4.3 (4.2-4.4) | <0.001 | | |
| Ever High Care | | | | | |
| No No | 45,733/204,436 (22.4) | Reference | | | |
| Yes | 6,051/18,622 (32.5) | 1.7 (1.6-1.7) | <0.001 | | |
| 163 | 0,031/10,022 (32.3) | 1.7 (1.0-1.7) | -0.001 | | |
| Ever ventilated | | | | | |
| No | 43,503/210,281 (20.7) | Reference | | | |
| Yes | 8,281/12,777 (64.8) | 7.1 (6.9-7.4) | <0.001 | | |
| Ever on oxygen | | | | | |
| No | 23,310/129,884 (18.0) | Reference | | | |
| Yes | 28,474/93,174 (30.6) | 2.0 (1.9-2.0) | <0.001 | | |
| | | | | | |

^{*} Multivariable model excluded all individuals with unknown comorbid conditions

WEEK 14 2021

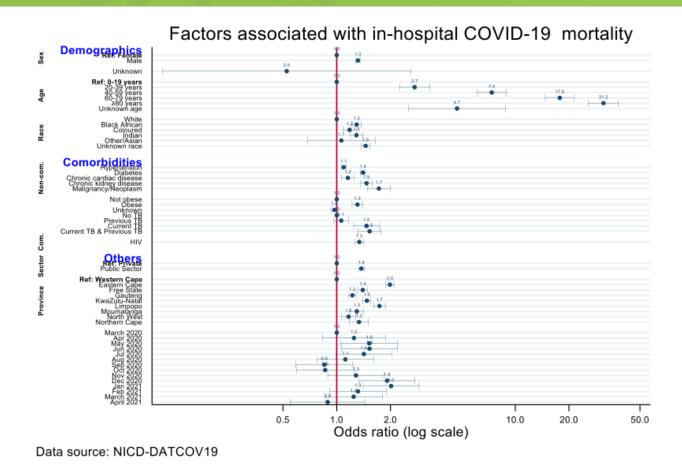


Figure 8: Multivariable analysis of factors associated with mortality among 223,058 individuals with inhospital outcome (discharges and deaths). South Africa. 5 March 2020 to 10 April 2021

WEEK 14 2021

DISCUSSION

DATCOV currently includes 231,237 admissions from 644 public and private hospitals in all nine provinces in South Africa. It also includes 51,784 deaths that have occurred to date.

The findings confirm factors associated with in-hospital mortality were older age groups; male sex; Black, Indian and Coloured race; and having comorbid hypertension, diabetes, chronic cardiac disease, chronic renal disease, malignancy, HIV, current and previous tuberculosis, and obesity.

Trends in CFR over time and provincial differences may be affected by many factors such as hospital admission criteria, timeousness of closing cases, testing criteria in different provinces, and the severity of illness in admitted cases.

The availability of reliable surveillance data is of critical importance to gain a better understanding of the epidemiology of COVID-19 in South Africa, to monitor the COVID-19 epidemic and to respond with adequate control measures. It has been suggested that when local transmission is widespread and testing strategies change, hospital admission or mortality surveillance systems provide a more reliable picture of the epidemic progression than overall confirmed case numbers.

DATCOV provides real-time data and summary analyses, which inform modelling and reporting at a national level. It also addresses a knowledge gap, in the lack of data from low and middle income countries (LMIC), allowing for analysis of COVID-19 epidemiology in a country with a younger population, unique disease profile with epidemics of both infectious (HIV and tuberculosis) and non-communicable diseases, and an overburdened public health system.

LIMITATIONS

DATCOV now includes reporting from all hospitals with COVID-19 admissions but many hospitals are yet to reach complete submission of historic data. Data quality in a surveillance system is dependent on the information submitted by healthcare institutions. It is not possible for the NICD to verify or check the quality of all these data, however, the NICD has built-in data quality checks. Delays in reporting of admissions and deaths may affect the numbers reported in the most recent week. The National Department of Health have recruited data capturers in six provinces to support hospitals to improve data submission.

In patients with non-communicable diseases, the current data collection platform is not able to distinguish between those that had pre-existing disease and those that were newly-diagnosed; and between those with well or poorly controlled disease. New variables have been introduced to allow for this analysis. For obesity, the platform now also captures weight, height and BMI.

Data on socioeconomic status are not collected. Data on treatment and medical interventions have not been analysed because the data were incomplete. Efforts are ongoing to improve the quality and completeness of data on symptom of these data will be included in future reports.

As hospitals reached capacity, admission criteria may change and therefore influence trends and inferences about the progression of the epidemic. DATCOV only reports hospital-based admissions and deaths and therefore does not include deaths occurring outside hospitals. DATCOV now has a module to record out-of-hospital deaths.

WEEK 14 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All public and private sector hospitals submitting data to DATCOV Private hospital groups submitting data to DATCOV:

- Netcare
- Life Healthcare
- Mediclinic Southern Africa
- National Hospital Network (NHN)
- Clinix Health Group
- Lenmed
- Joint Medical Holdings (JMH)

WEEK **14** 2021

APPENDIX

The table below summarises COVID-19 admissions by age and sex, and includes all COVID-19 admissions that have been reported, including multiple admissions in one patient. It therefore includes 254,345 admissions while the main analysis in this report includes 231,237 admissions in unique patients.

Table 4: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions and deaths by age and gender, South Africa, 5 March 2020 to 10 April 2021

| ADM | IISSIONS | | | | D | EATHS | | |
|----------------|----------|--------|---------|--------|--------|-------|---------|-------|
| Age (years) | Female | Male | Unknown | Total | Female | Male | Unknown | Total |
| | 1709 | 2064 | 9 | 3782 | 57 | 58 | | 116 |
| 5-9 | 465 | 594 | | 1062 | 9 | | | |
| | 799 | 761 | | 1560 | 22 | | | 45 |
| 15-19 | 2461 | 1315 | | 3779 | 67 | 64 | | 131 |
| | 4278 | | | 6433 | 163 | 119 | | 282 |
| 25-29 | 7267 | 3290 | 6 | 10563 | 361 | 218 | | 579 |
| | 9931 | 5756 | | 15690 | 632 | | | |
| 35-39 | 11069 | 7858 | | 18934 | 876 | 762 | | 1639 |
| | 10665 | 9238 | | 19907 | 1131 | 1153 | | 2285 |
| 45-49 | | 11264 | 9 | 23528 | 1674 | 1726 | | |
| | 14285 | 12614 | | 26901 | 2284 | 2294 | | 4579 |
| 55-59 | | 13480 | 8 | 29198 | 3310 | 3120 | | 6431 |
| 60-64 | 13953 | | | 26486 | 3725 | 3827 | | 7553 |
| 65-69 | | 10038 | | 21556 | 3754 | | | |
| | 9230 | 8081 | | | 3176 | 3053 | | 6233 |
| 75-79 | 6579 | 5279 | | 11864 | 2388 | 2161 | | 4550 |
| 80-84 | | | | 8089 | 1856 | | | 3259 |
| 85-89 | | | | 4019 | 992 | | | |
| 90-94 | | | | 1628 | 521 | 261 | | 782 |
| >=95 | | | | 591 | 162 | 76 | | 238 |
| Unknown | 773 | 622 | 38 | 1433 | 53 | 61 | 1 " | 115 |
| Total | 141676 | 112510 | 139 | 254325 | 27213 | 25047 | 18 | 52278 |