

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 12 2021

OVERVIEW

This report summarises data of COVID-19 cases admitted to DATCOV hospital surveillance sites in all provinces. The report is based on data collected from 5 March 2020 to 27 March 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 27 March 2021, 250,455 COVID-19 admissions and 51,527 in-hospital deaths were reported from 644 facilities (393 public-sector and 251 private-sector) in all nine provinces of South Africa.
- Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions remain low in all provinces but small increases in admissions in Northern Cape and Free State provinces have been observed.

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METHODS

DATCOV, a hospital surveillance system for COVID-19 admissions, was initiated on the 1 April 2020. 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. 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. For the calculation of cumulative incidence risks, StatsSA mid-year population estimates for 2020 were utilised.

Achieving the end-of-wave threshold corresponds to having a time period (E.g. a week or two weeks) where the 7 day moving average of cases is sustained at or lower than a small fraction of recent peak incidence. We set the end-of-wave threshold as 15% of the peak incidence or case load, measured in terms of 7-day moving average of case incidence. We specifically use last 7-day average incidence per 1 million capita as reported in Our World in Data; for the purposes of this analysis, using the 7-day running average (either absolute or per capita) would be equivalent.

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 27 March 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. As new hospitals join the surveillance system, they have retrospectively captured all admissions recorded although there may be some backlogs in retrospective data capture.

Table 1. Number of hospitals reporting data on COVID-19 admissions by province and sector, South Africa, 5 March 2020-27 March 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 | 7 |
| Mpumalanga | 31 | 9 |
| North West | 16 | 12 |
| Northern Cape | 17 | 8 |
| Western Cape | 59 | 41 |
| South Africa | 393 | 251 |

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RESULTS

Epidemiological and geographic trends in admissions

From 5 March 2020 to 27 March 2021, a total of 250,455 COVID-19 admissions were reported from 644 facilities in all nine provinces of South Africa. 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.

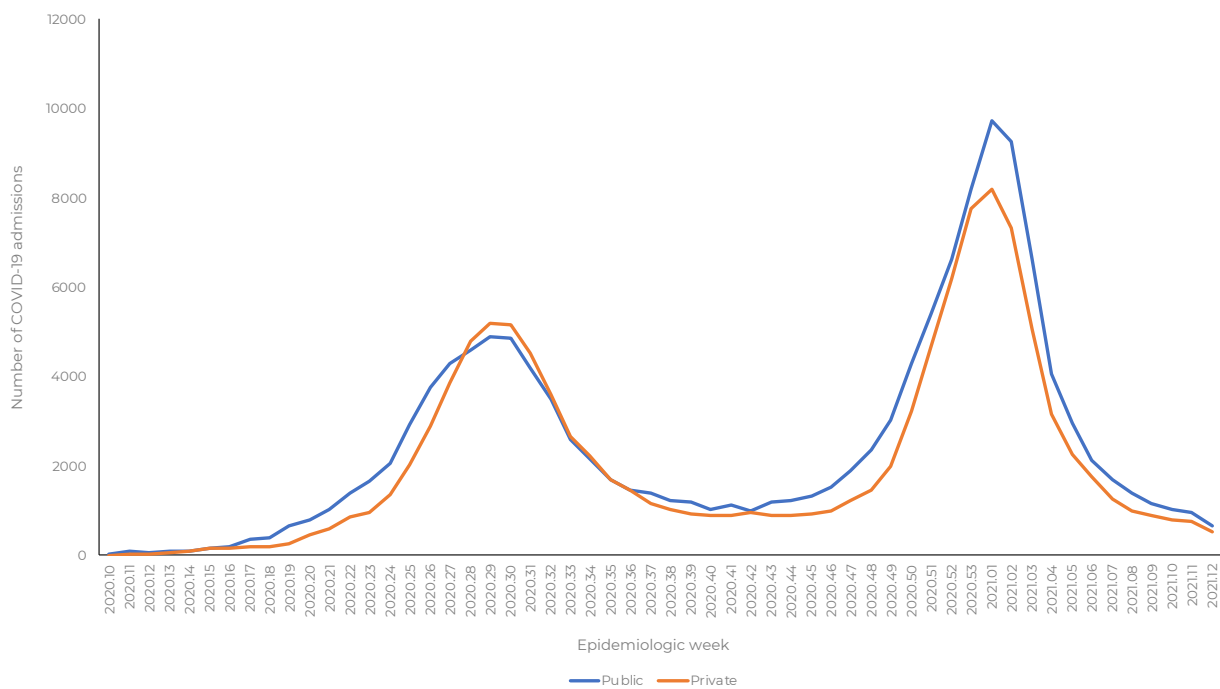


Figure 1. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020–27 March 2021, n=250,455

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The majority of admissions were recorded in four provinces, Gauteng 64,525 (26%), Western Cape 57,418 (23%), Eastern Cape 31,498 (13%) and KwaZulu-Natal 47,500 (19%) provinces (Figure 2). The weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave surpassed the numbers during the peak of the first wave in all provinces except Free State. Numbers of COVID-19 admissions have decreased in all provinces. Reductions in the most recent week may be as a result of delayed reporting.

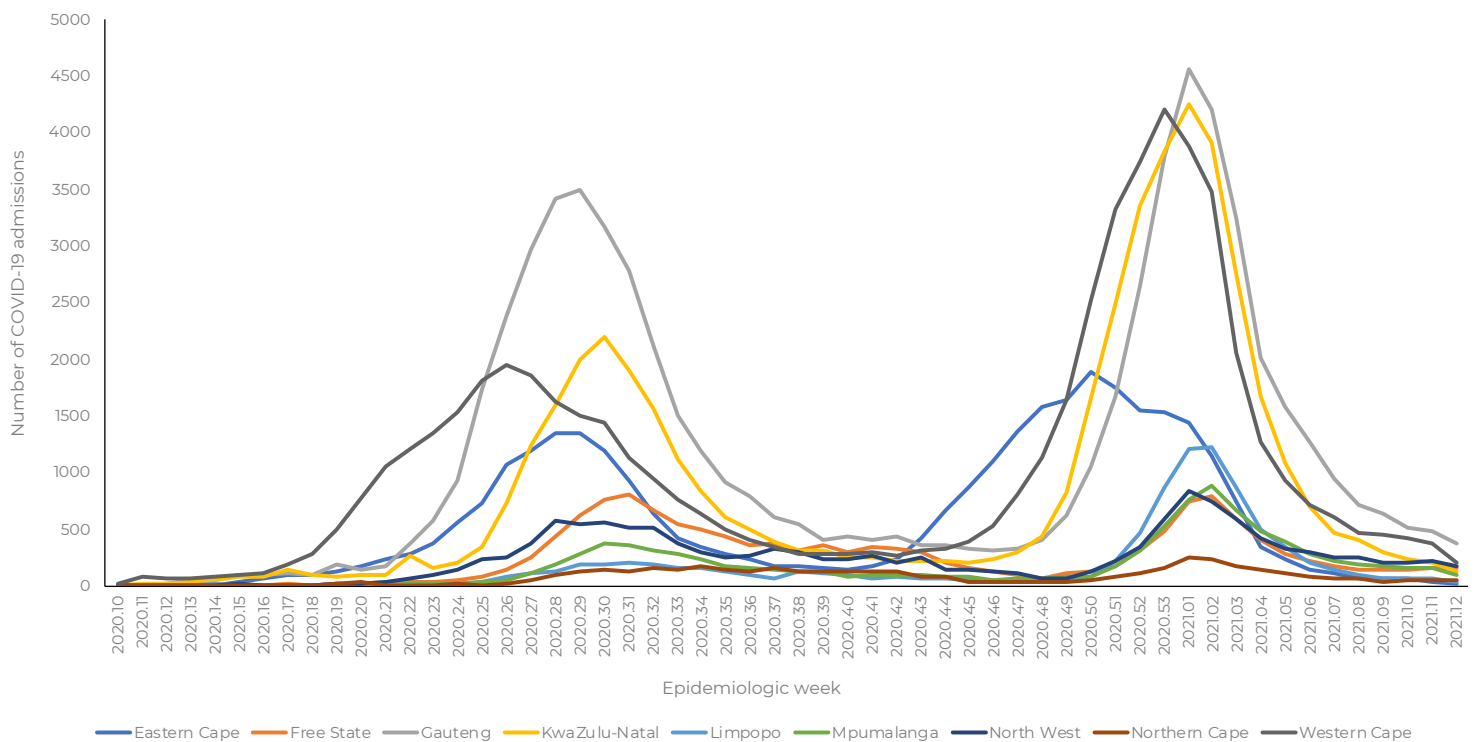


Figure 2. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by province and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n=250,455

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EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN IN-HOSPITAL MORTALITY

The weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the second wave surpassed the numbers during the peak of the first wave in both sectors (Figure 3). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of deaths have decreased in both sectors.

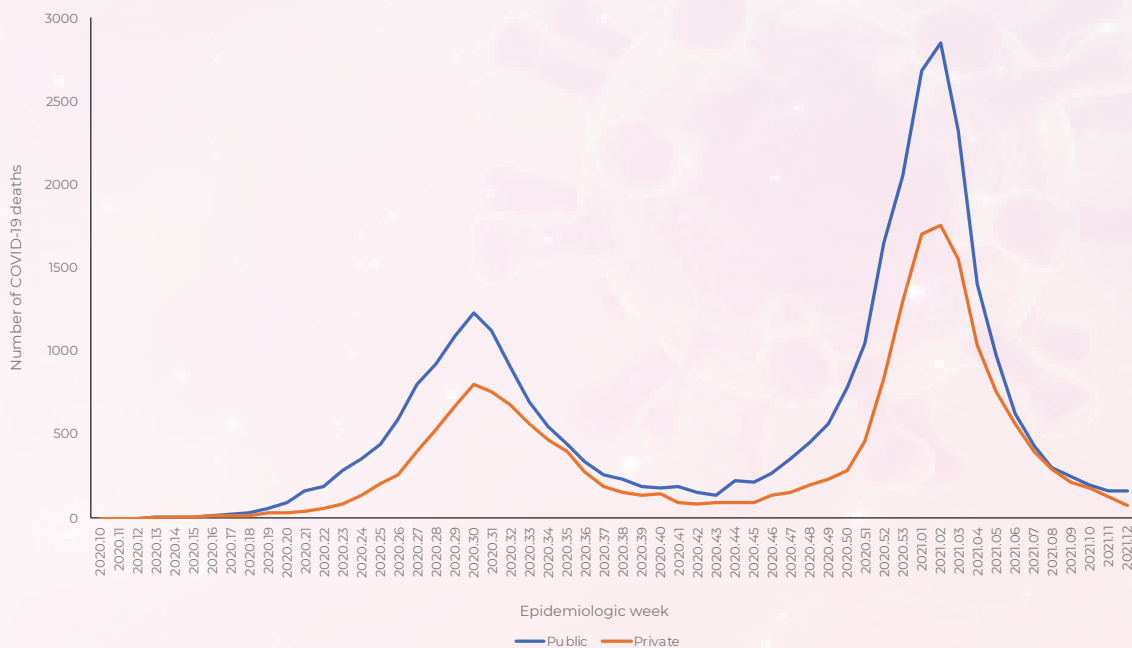


Figure 3. Number of in-hospital COVID-19 in-hospital deaths reported per week by health sector and epidemiologic week, South Africa, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n=51,527

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Most deaths were reported in Eastern Cape 9,410 (18%), Gauteng 11,987 (23%), Western Cape 9,858 (19%) and KwaZulu-Natal 10,519 (20%) (Figure 4). The weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the second wave surpassed the numbers during the peak of the first wave in all provinces except Free State. The numbers of COVID-19 deaths have decreased in all provinces.

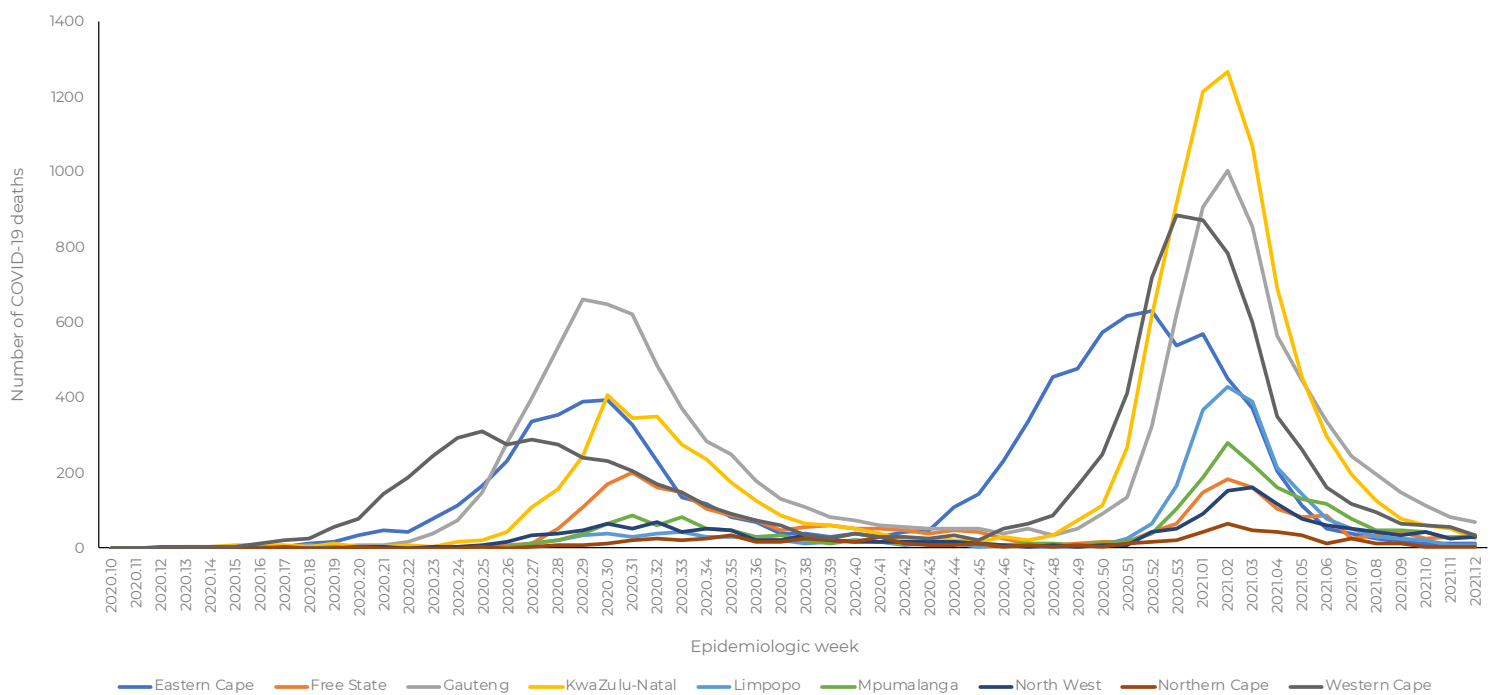


Figure 4. Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by province and epidemiologic week of death, South Africa, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n=51,527

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The cumulative incidence risks of COVID-19 admissions and in-hospital deaths were highest in Western Cape and Eastern Cape provinces (Table 2).

Table 2. Number and cumulative incidence risk of COVID-19 hospitalisations and in-hospital deaths per 100,000 persons by province, South Africa, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021

| Province | Provincial Population mid 2020* | Cumulative admissions | Cumulative Admissions / 100,000 | Cumulative deaths | Cumulative deaths / 100,000 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Eastern Cape | 6734001 | 31498 | 467.7 | 9410 | 139.7 |
| Free State | 2928903 | 13830 | 472.2 | 2700 | 92.2 |
| Gauteng | 15488137 | 64,525 | 416.6 | 11982 | 77.3 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 11531628 | 47500 | 411.9 | 10519 | 91.2 |
| Limpopo | 5852553 | 9023 | 154.2 | 2463 | 42.1 |
| Mpumalanga | 4679786 | 9235 | 197.3 | 2224 | 47.5 |
| North West | 4108816 | 13,294 | 323.5 | 1672 | 40.7 |
| Northern Cape | 1292786 | 4,132 | 319.6 | 699 | 54.1 |
| Western Cape | 7005741 | 57,418 | 819.6 | 9858 | 140.7 |
| South Africa | 59622350 | 250,455 | 420.1 | 51,527 | 86.4 |

*StatsSA mid-year population estimates 2020

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PROVINCIAL TRENDS

The number of COVID-19 admissions decreased in all provinces from week 11 to week 12 of 2021. The highest proportion of new admissions were in Gauteng, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal (Table 3). Decreases in the most recent week may in part reflect delays in data submission. There were 9 of 52 (17%) districts across the country, Amathole and Chris Hani (Eastern Cape), Fezile Dabi, Mangaung Metro and Xhariep (Free State), Amajuba and Harry Gwala (KwaZulu-Natal) and John Taolo Gaetsewe and Pixley Ka Seme (Northern Cape) that reported increased admissions over the previous 14 days (Appendix 1).

Table 3. Percentage change in COVID-19 admissions, epidemiologic week 11 to week 12 of 2021, by province, South Africa

| Province | Hospital admissions | | Percentage change in admissions | Percentage of total new admissions | Incidence risk of new admissions /100,000 persons |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| | Week 11 | Week 12* | | | |
| Eastern Cape | 32 | 20 | -38 | 1.7 | 0.3 |
| Free State | 149 | 156 | 5 | 13.0 | 5.3 |
| Gauteng | 484 | 368 | -24 | 30.7 | 2.4 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 196 | 120 | -39 | 10.0 | 1.0 |
| Limpopo | 61 | 30 | -51 | 2.5 | 0.5 |
| Mpumalanga | 160 | 94 | -41 | 7.8 | 2.0 |
| North West | 213 | 165 | -23 | 13.8 | 4.0 |
| Northern Cape | 47 | 44 | -6 | 3.7 | 3.4 |
| Western Cape | 371 | 201 | -46 | 16.8 | 2.9 |
| South Africa | 1,713 | 1,198 | -30 | 100.0 | 2.0 |

* Reporting of new admissions in the most recent week may be delayed

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EASTERN CAPE

In both waves there were higher numbers of admissions in the public sector. Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in both sectors. Since the end of the second wave the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have remained low in both sectors (Figure 5).

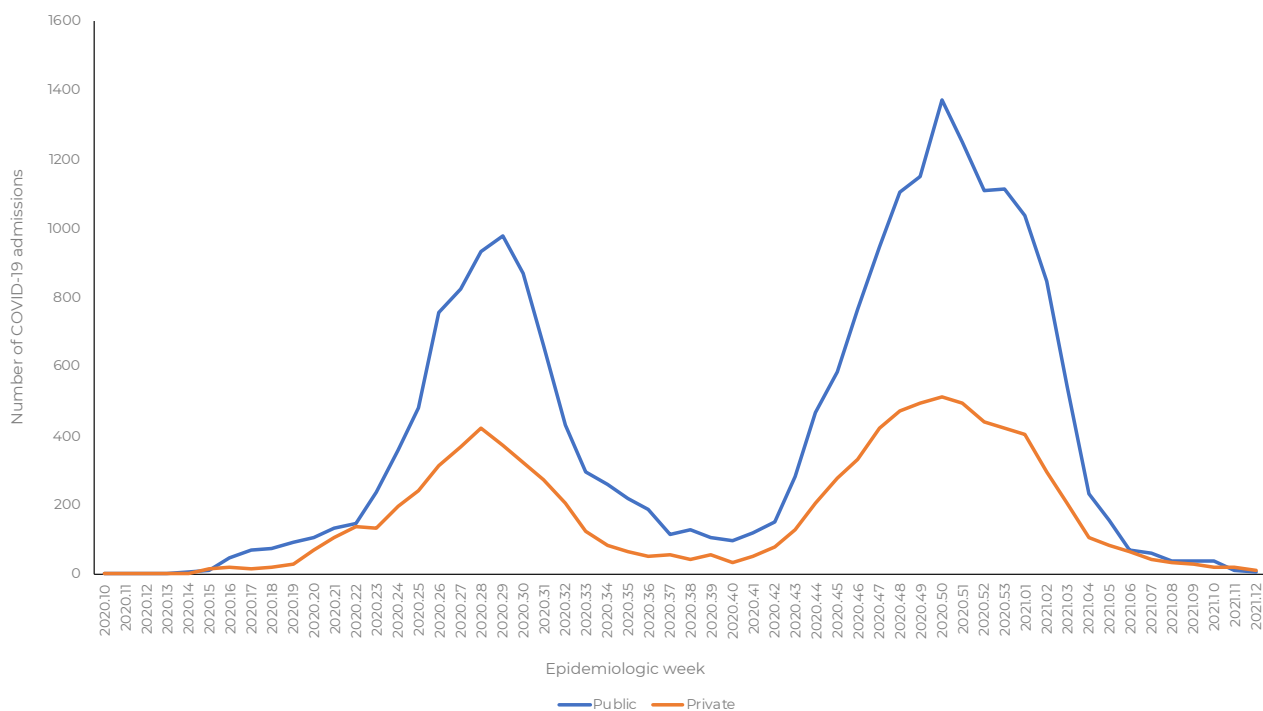


Figure 5: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Eastern Cape, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n= 31,514

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The weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in all districts (Figure 6). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have remained low in all districts.

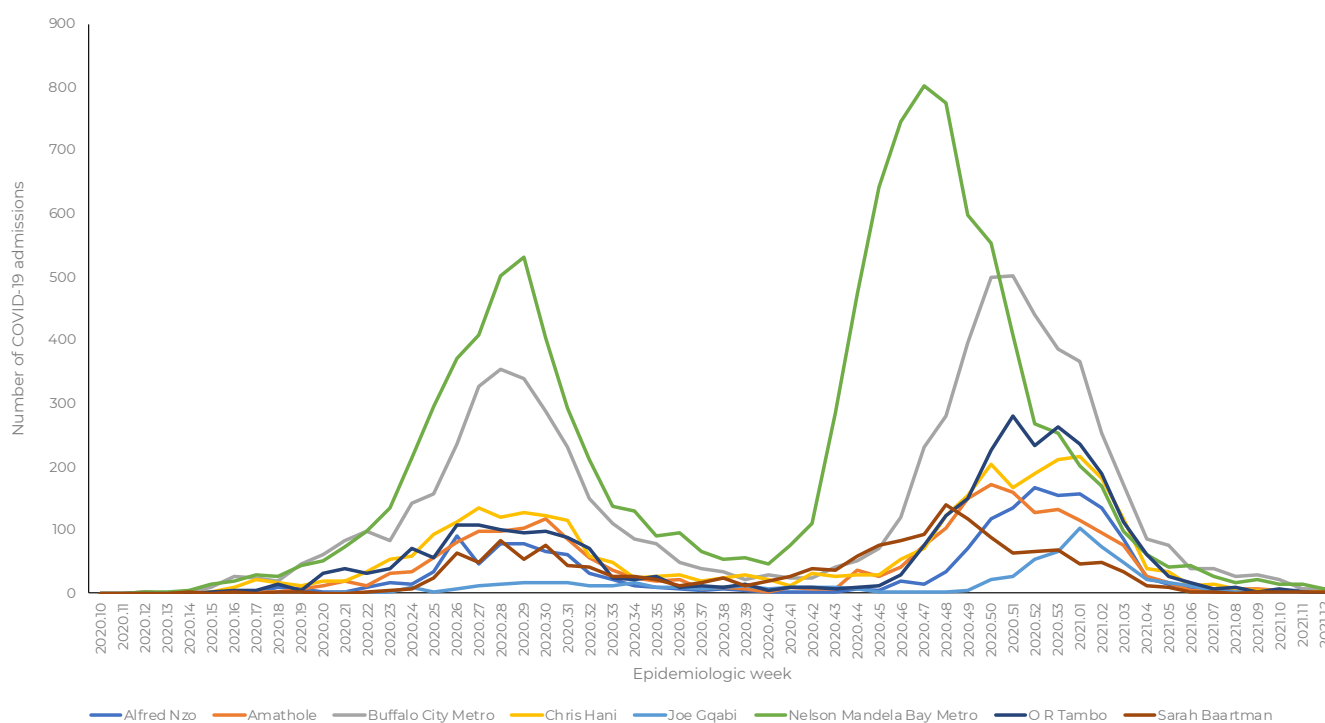


Figure 6. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Eastern Cape, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n=31,514

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All districts showed a decrease in COVID-19 admission between week 11 and week 12 2021 except Amathole and Chris Hani. The highest proportion of new admissions and the highest incidence risk of new admissions was in Buffalo City Metro (Table 4).

Table 4: Number and percentage change in COVID-19 admissions, epidemiologic week 11 to week 12 of 2021, by district, Eastern Cape

| District | Cumulative hospital admissions | Admissions Week 11 | Admissions Week 12 | Percentage change in admissions | Percentage of total new admissions | Incidence risk of new admissions /100 000 persons |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Alfred Nzo | 1793 | 4 | 2 | -50 | 10.0 | 1.2 |
| Amathole | 2357 | 1 | 3 | 200 | 15.0 | 1.9 |
| Buffalo City Metro | 7320 | 8 | 6 | -25 | 30.0 | 3.7 |
| Chris Hani | 3293 | 1 | 2 | 100 | 10.0 | 1.4 |
| Joe Gqabi | 707 | 2 | 0 | -100 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Nelson Mandela Bay | 11111 | 14 | 6 | -57 | 30.0 | 2.5 |
| O R Tambo | 3180 | 1 | 0 | -100 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Sarah Baartman | 1737 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5.0 | 1.0 |

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The weekly deaths at the peak of the second wave exceeded the numbers of deaths at the peak of the first wave in all districts (Figure 7). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 deaths have remained low in all districts.

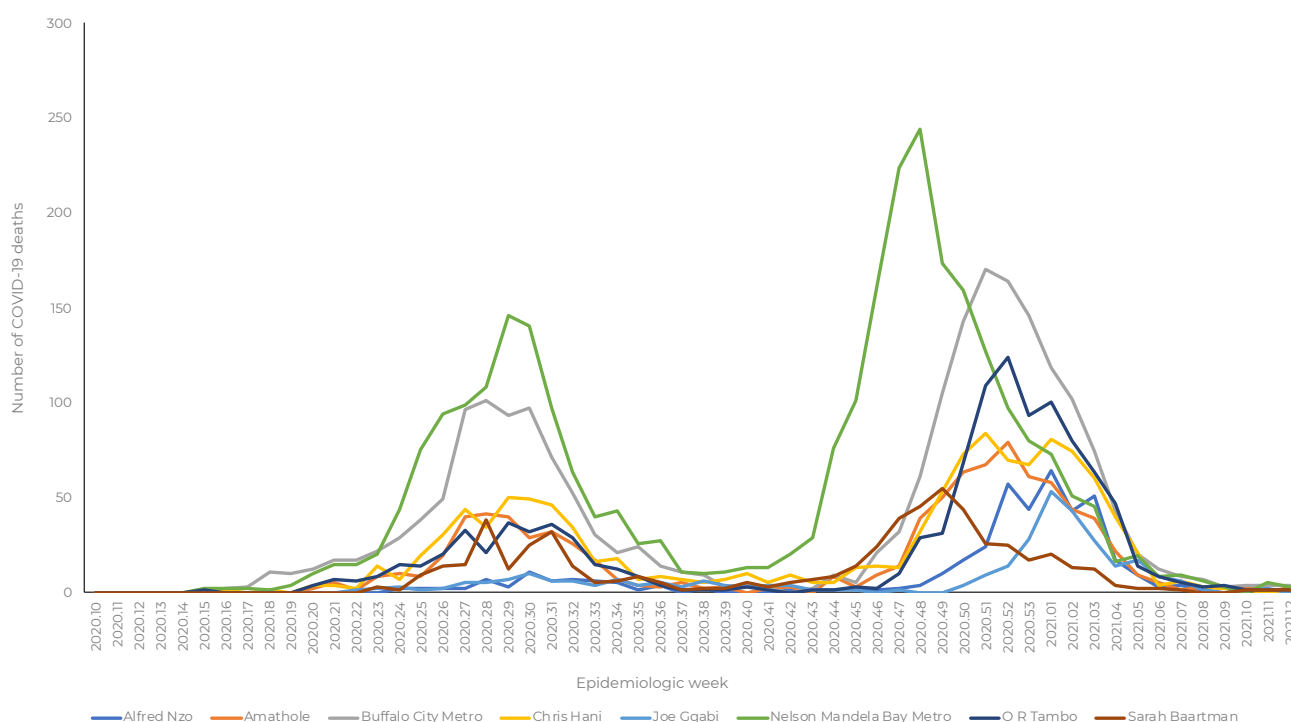


Figure 7. Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Eastern Cape, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n=9,410

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WESTERN CAPE

In both waves there were higher numbers of admissions in the public sector. Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in both sectors (Figure 8). Since the end of the second wave the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have remained low in both sectors.

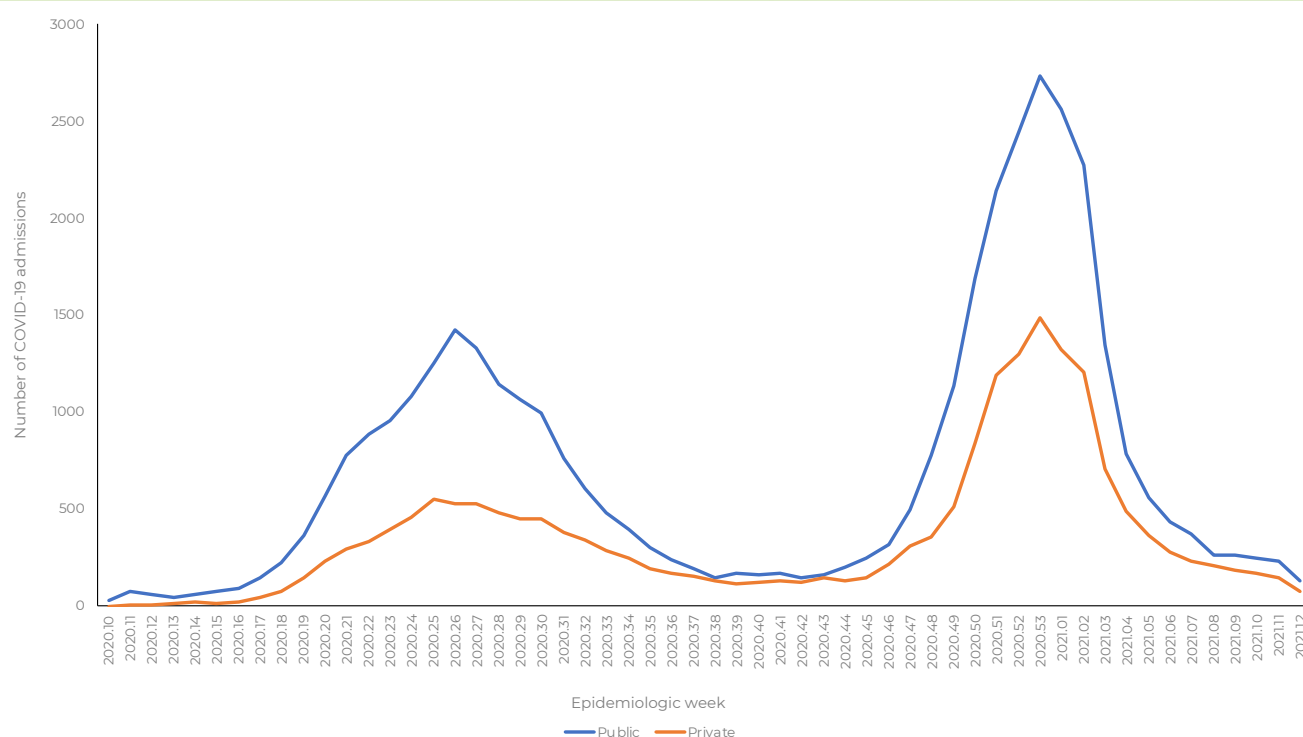


Figure 8: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Western Cape, 5 March 2020-30 January 2021, n=57,418

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Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in all districts (Figure 9). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have remained low in all districts.

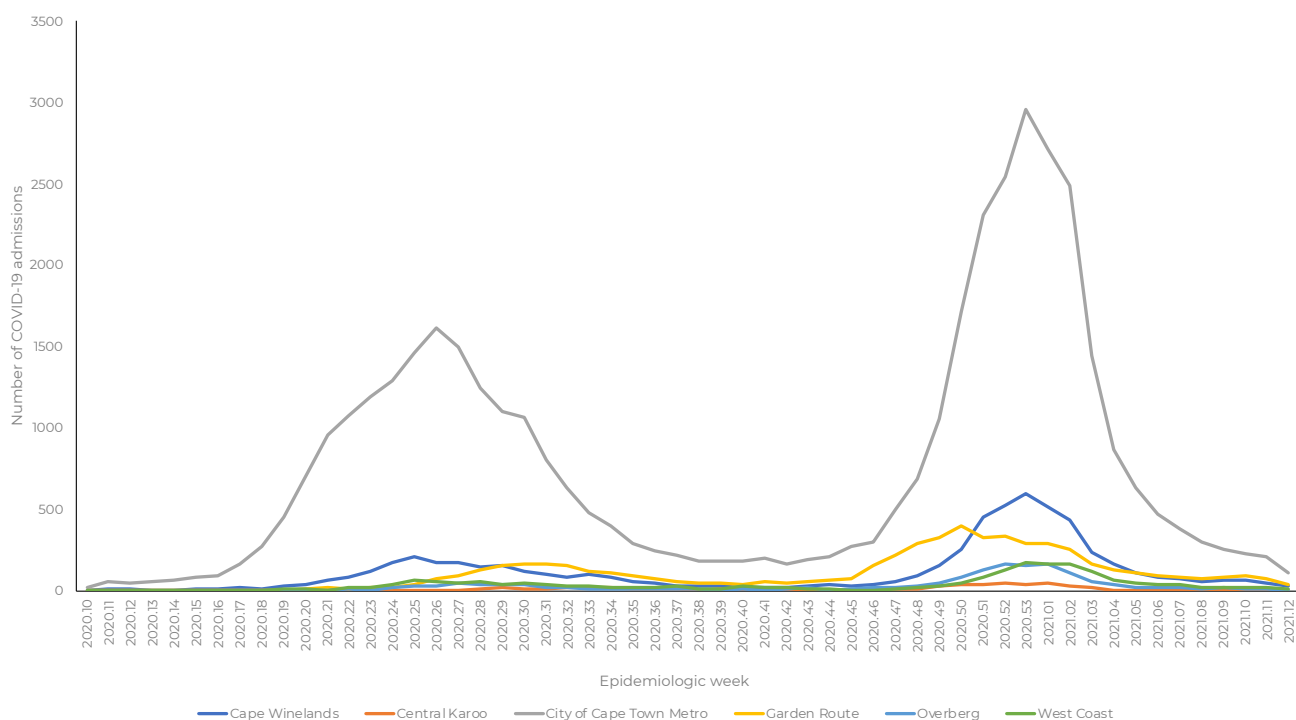


Figure 9: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Western Cape, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n=57,418

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All districts showed a decrease in COVID-19 admission between week 11 and week 12 2021 except Central Karoo. The highest proportion of new admissions was in City of Cape Town Metro (Table 5).

Table 5: Percentage change in COVID-19 admissions, epidemiologic week 11 to week 12 of 2021, by district, Western Cape

| District | Cumulative hospital admissions | Admissions Week 11 | Admissions Week 12 | Percentage change in admissions | Percentage of total new admissions | Incidence risk of new admissions /100 000 persons |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Cape Winelands | 6338 | 46 | 30 | -35 | 14.9 | 1.6 |
| Central Karoo | 526 | 4 | 6 | 50 | 3.0 | 4.0 |
| City of Cape Town Metro | 41311 | 212 | 111 | -48 | 55.2 | 1.2 |
| Garden Route | 5764 | 78 | 39 | -50 | 19.4 | 3.1 |
| Overberg | 1557 | 10 | 4 | -60 | 2.0 | 0.7 |
| West Coast | 1922 | 21 | 11 | -48 | 5.5 | 1.2 |

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Weekly deaths at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the first wave in all districts (Figure 10). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 deaths has remained low in all districts.

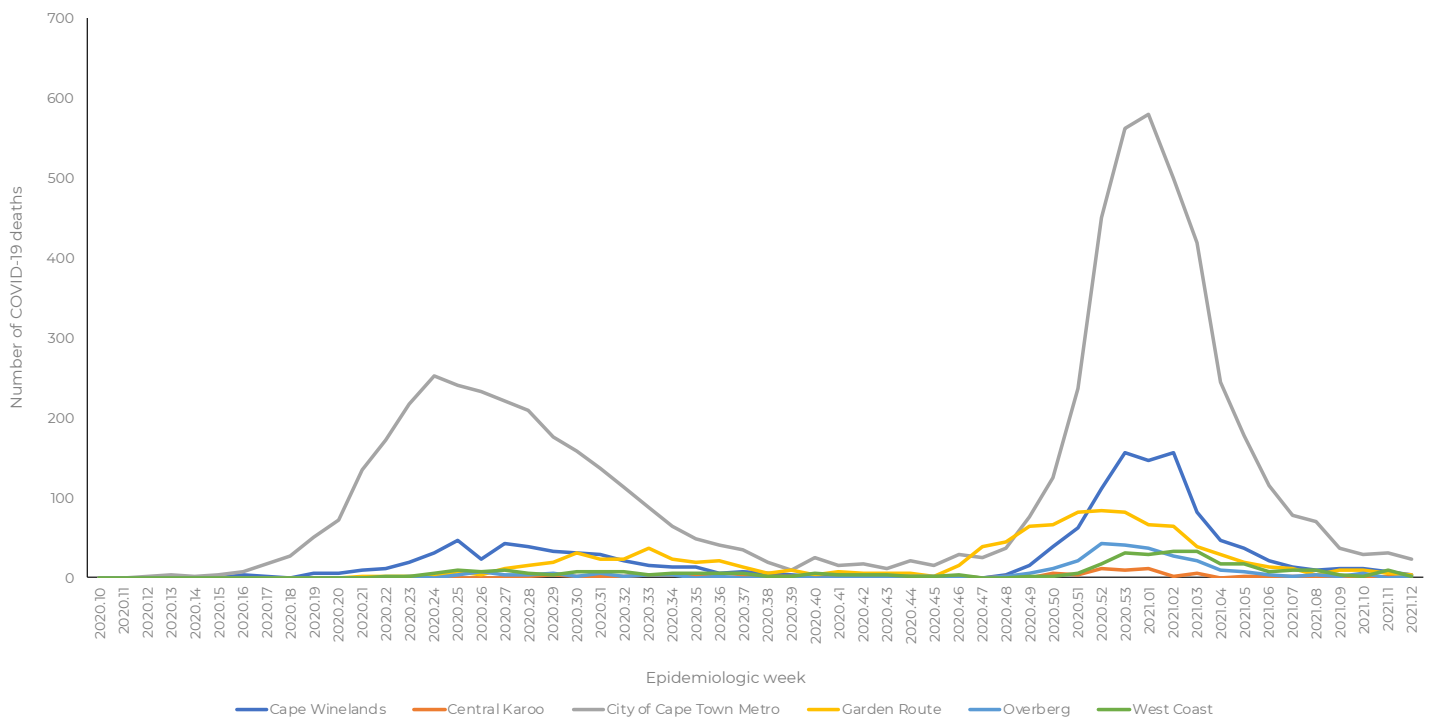


Figure 10: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Western Cape, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n=9,858

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KWAZULU-NATAL

In both waves there were higher numbers of admissions in the private sector. Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in both sectors (Figure 11). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have been low in both sectors.

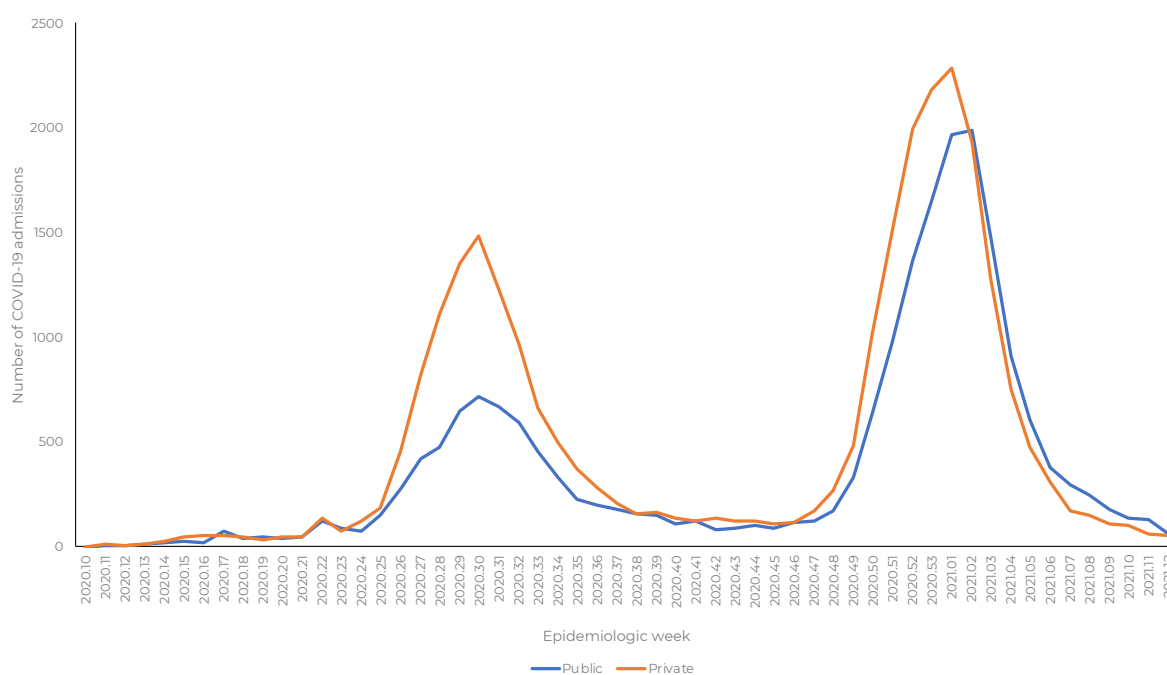


Figure 11: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n= 47,500

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Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in all districts except Amajuba (Figure 12). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have remained low in all districts.

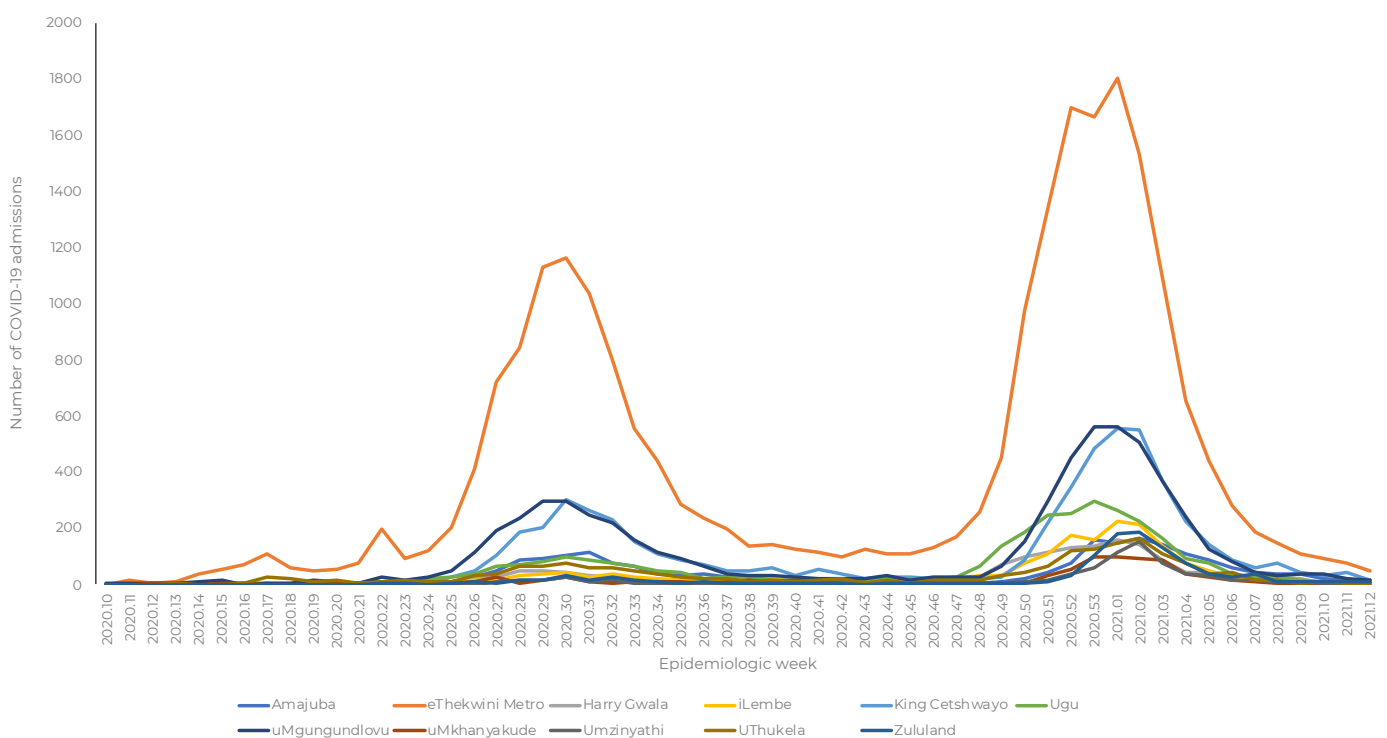


Figure 12: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n= 47,500

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All districts showed a decrease in COVID-19 admission between week 11 and week 12 2021 except Harry Gwala. The highest proportion of new admissions was in eThekweni Metro (Table 6).

Table 6: Percentage change in COVID-19 admissions, epidemiologic week 11 to week 12 of 2021, by district, KwaZulu-Natal

| District | Cumulative hospital admissions | Admissions Week 11 | Admissions Week 12 | Percentage change in admissions | Percentage of total new admissions | Incidence risk of new admissions /100 000 persons |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Amajuba | 2044 | 15 | 15 | 0 | 12.5 | 2.2 |
| eThekweni Metro | 23034 | 74 | 48 | -35 | 40.0 | 1.0 |
| Harry Gwala | 1511 | 3 | 6 | 100 | 5.0 | 1.0 |
| iLembe | 1842 | 4 | 3 | -25 | 2.5 | 0.4 |
| King Cetshwayo | 5545 | 44 | 14 | -68 | 11.7 | 1.2 |
| Ugu | 3114 | 10 | 4 | -60 | 3.3 | 0.4 |
| uMgungundlovu | 6065 | 20 | 13 | -35 | 10.8 | 0.9 |
| uMkhanyakude | 795 | 7 | 4 | -43 | 3.3 | 0.5 |
| Umzinyathi | 717 | 4 | 3 | -25 | 2.5 | 0.4 |
| UThukela | 1785 | 5 | 2 | -60 | 1.7 | 0.2 |
| Zululand | 1048 | 10 | 8 | -20 | 6.7 | 0.8 |

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Weekly deaths at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the first wave in all districts (Figure 13). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 deaths has remained low in all districts.

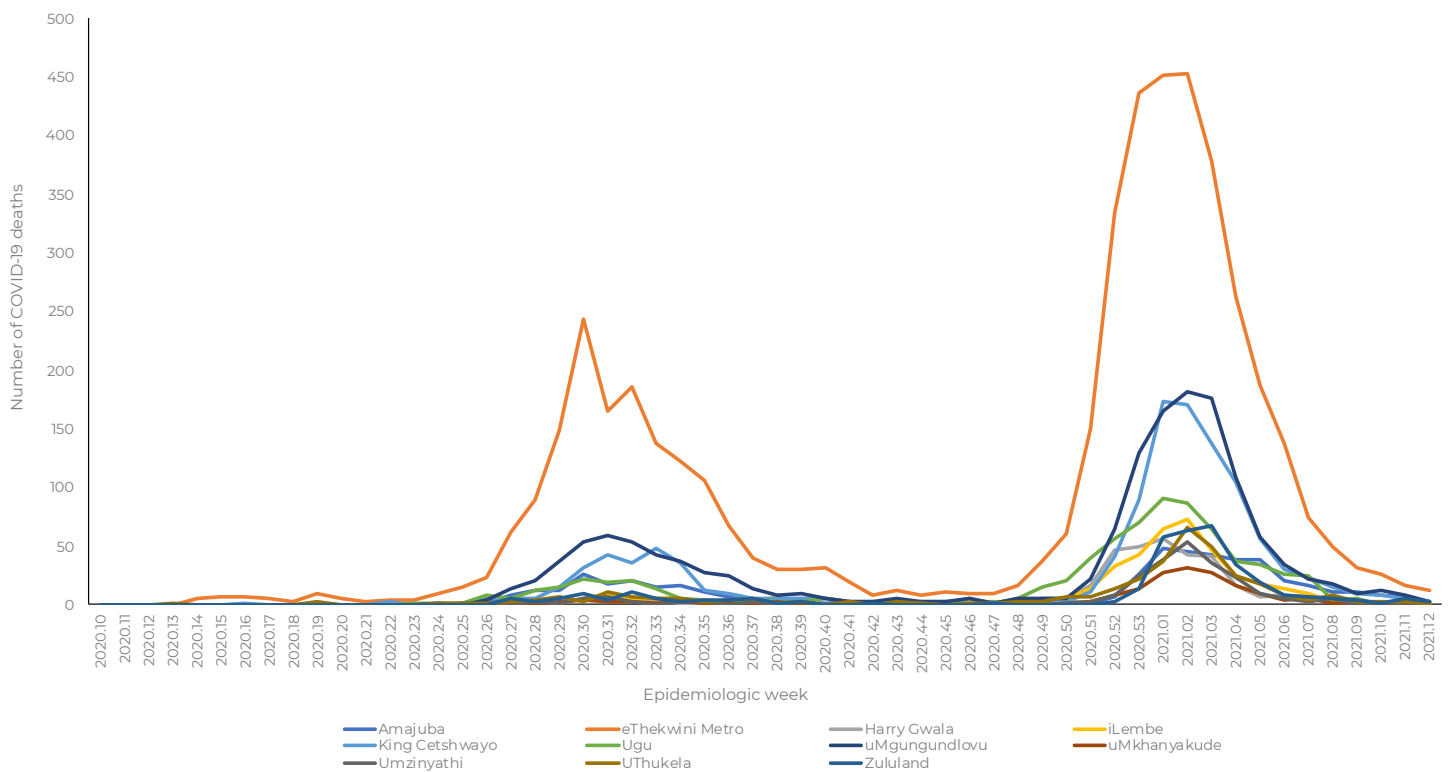


Figure 13: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n= 10,519

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GAUTENG

In both waves there were higher numbers of admissions in the private sector. Weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in the private and public sectors (Figure 14). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have remained low.

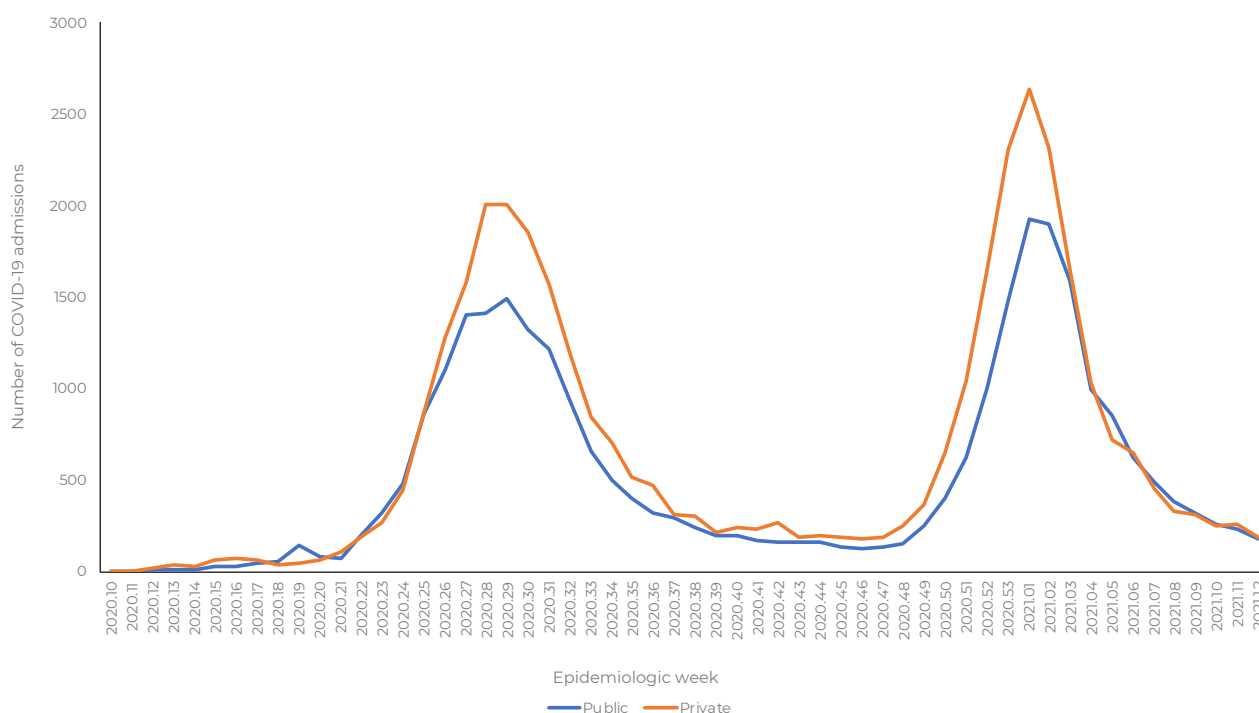


Figure 14: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n= 64,525

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Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in City of Johannesburg Metro, City of Tshwane Metro and West Rand (Figure 15). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have remained low in all districts.

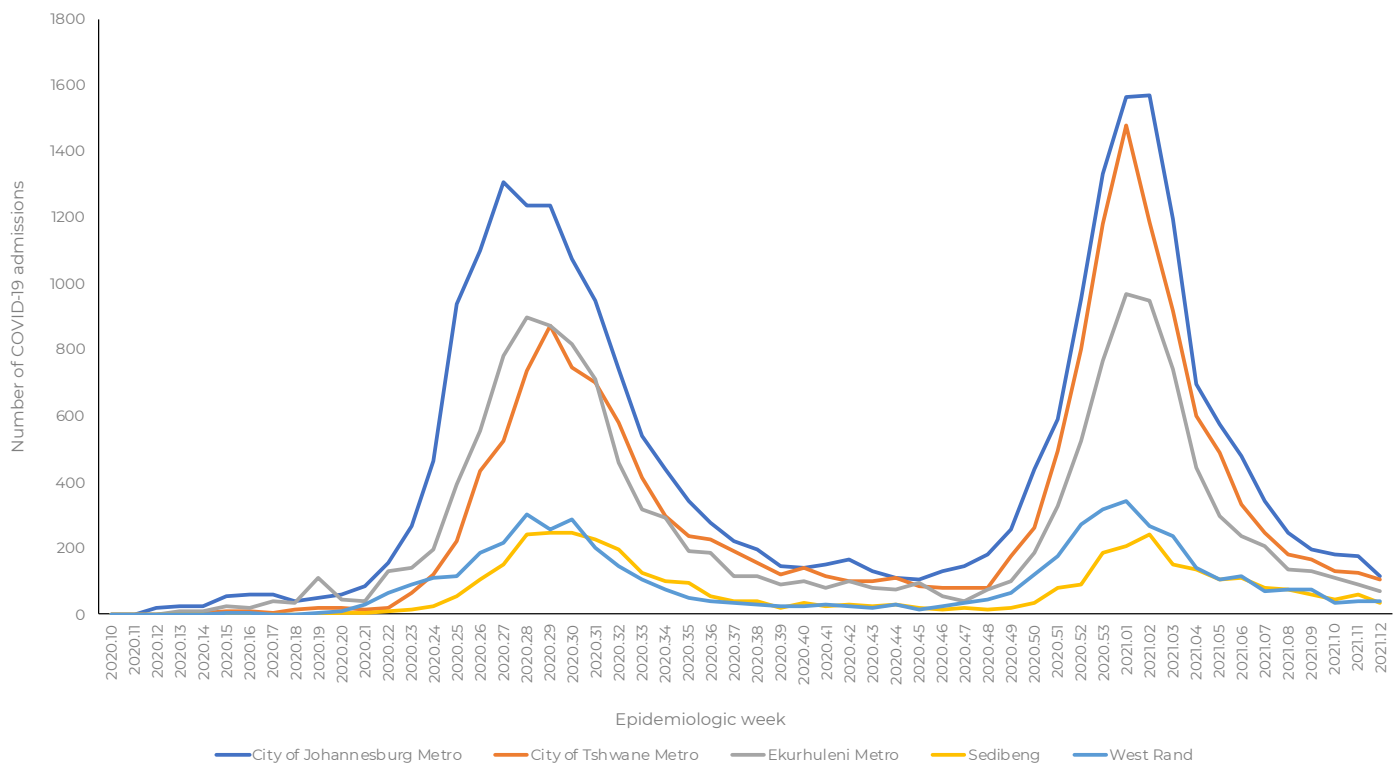


Figure 15: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n= 64,525

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All districts showed decrease in COVID-19 admission between week 11 and week 12 2021. The highest proportion of new admissions were in City of Johannesburg and City of Tshwane Metros (Table 7).

Table 7: Percentage change in COVID-19 admissions, epidemiologic week 11 to week 12 of 2021, by district, Gauteng

| District | Cumulative hospital admissions | Admissions Week 11 | Admissions Week 12 | Percentage change in admissions | Percentage of total new admissions | Incidence risk of new admissions /100 000 persons |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| City of Johannesburg Metro | 24270 | 174 | 118 | -32 | 32.1 | 0.5 |
| City of Tshwane Metro | 16553 | 125 | 108 | -14 | 29.3 | 0.8 |
| Ekurhuleni Metro | 14601 | 89 | 68 | -24 | 18.5 | 0.5 |
| Sedibeng | 3960 | 58 | 36 | -38 | 9.8 | 1.0 |
| West Rand | 5141 | 38 | 38 | 0 | 10.3 | 1.1 |

Weekly deaths at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the first wave in City of Tshwane Metro, Ekurhuleni Metro and West Rand (Figure 16). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 deaths has remained low in all districts except City of Johannesburg which continues to report higher numbers of deaths in the past three weeks.

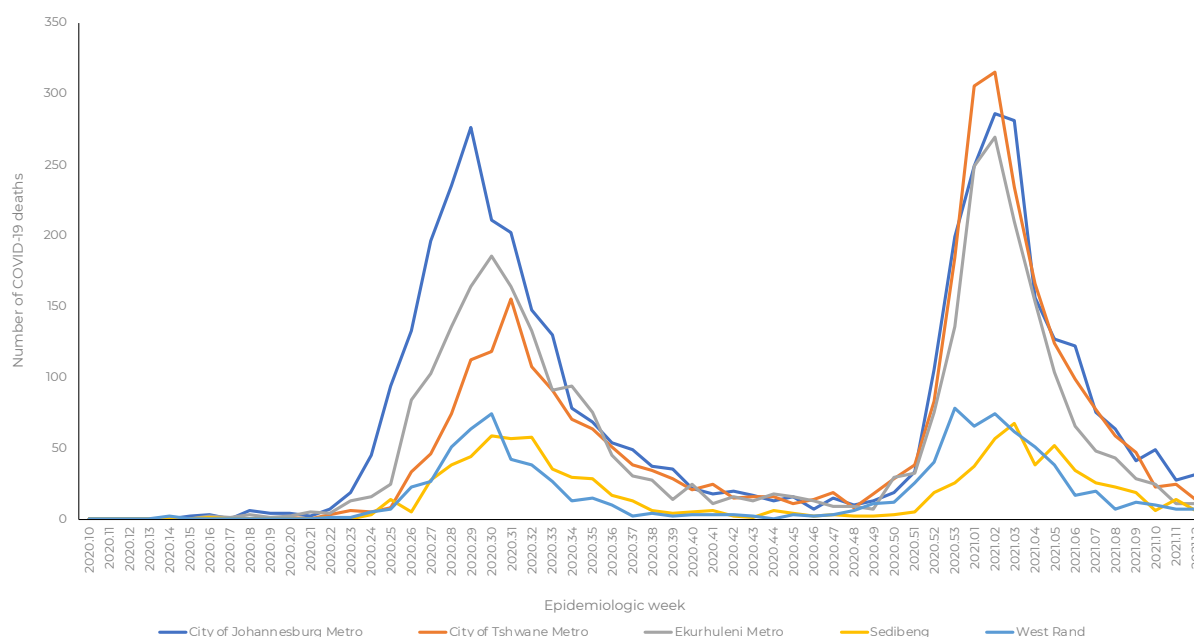


Figure 16: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n=11,982

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LIMPOPO

In the first wave there were roughly equal numbers of admissions in both sectors, but in the second wave there were higher numbers of admissions in the public sector. Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in both sectors (Figure 17). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have remained low in both sectors.

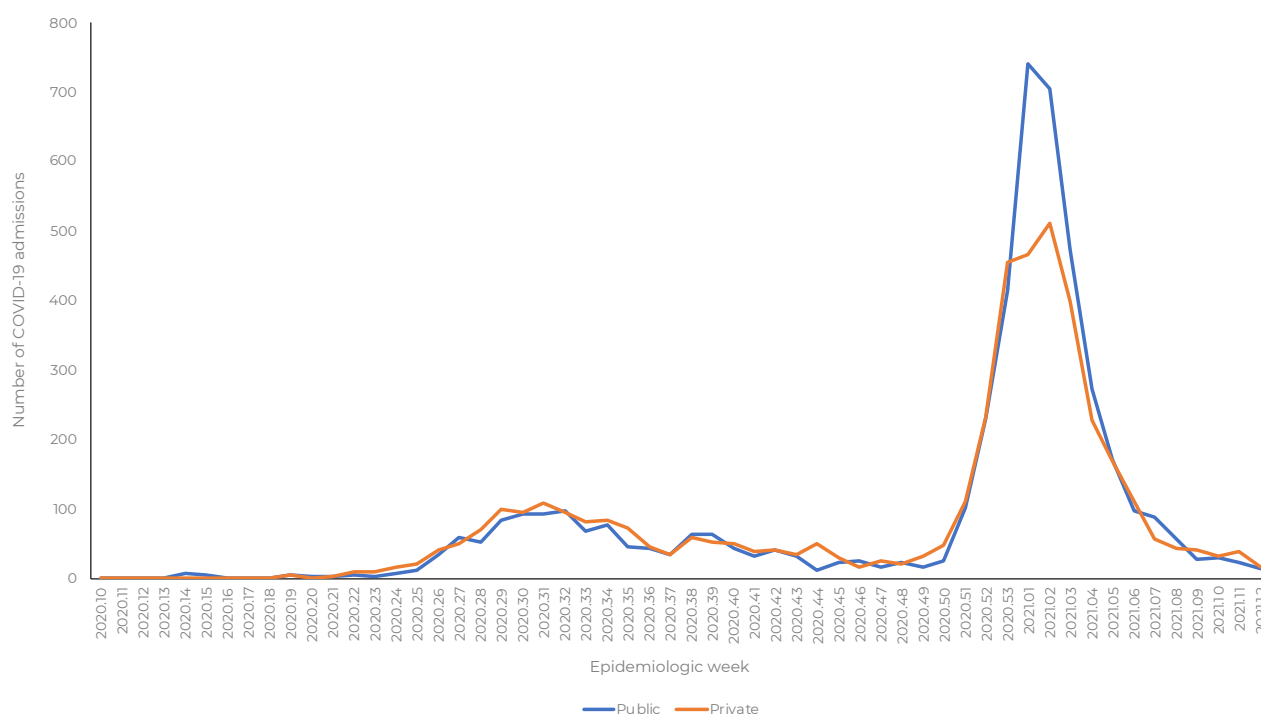


Figure 17: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Limpopo, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n= 9,023

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Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in all districts (Figure 18). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have remained low in all districts.

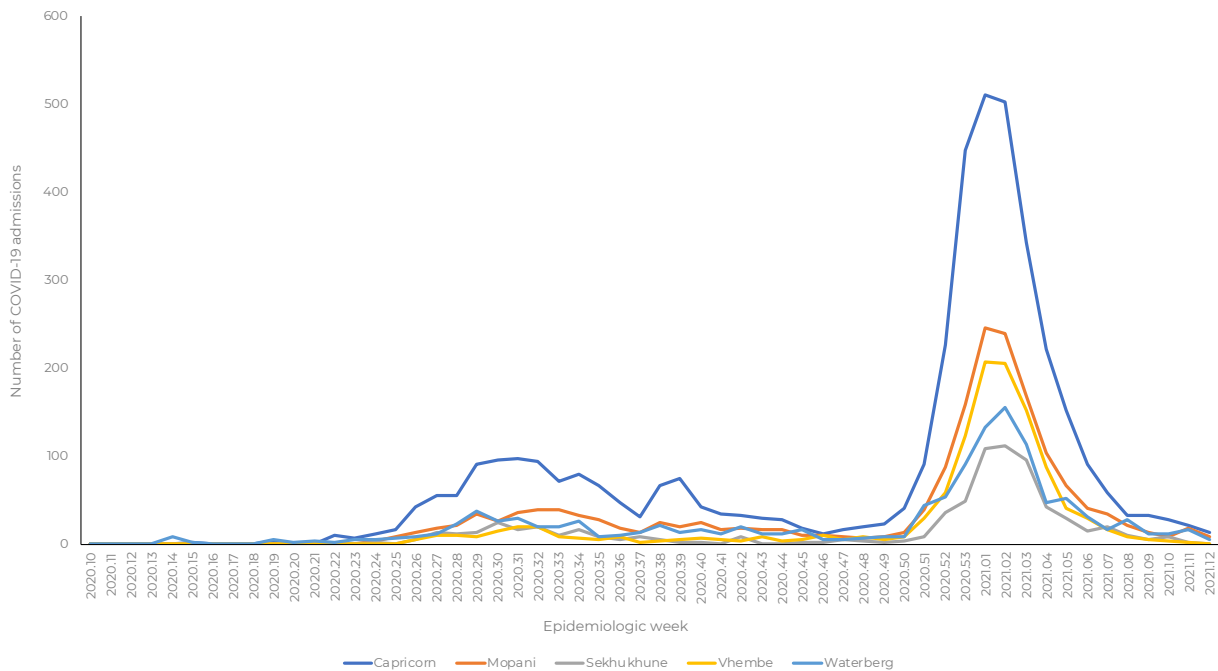


Figure 18: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Limpopo, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n= 9,023

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All districts showed decreases in COVID-19 admission between week 11 and week 12 2021. The highest proportion of new admissions was in Capricorn (Table 8).

Table 8: Percentage change in COVID-19 admissions, epidemiologic week 11 to week 12 of 2021, by district, Limpopo

| District | Cumulative hospital admissions | Admissions Week 11 | Admissions Week 12 | Percentage change in admissions | Percentage of total new admissions | Incidence risk of new admissions /100 000 persons |
|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Capricorn | 4088 | 22 | 14 | -36 | 46.7 | 3.6 |
| Mopani | 1778 | 18 | 8 | -56 | 26.7 | 2.3 |
| Sekhukhune | 736 | 2 | 1 | -50 | 3.3 | 0.3 |
| Vhembe | 1173 | 2 | 1 | -50 | 3.3 | 0.2 |
| Waterberg | 1248 | 17 | 6 | -65 | 20.0 | 2.7 |

Weekly deaths at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the first wave in all districts (Figure 19). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 deaths have remained low in all districts.

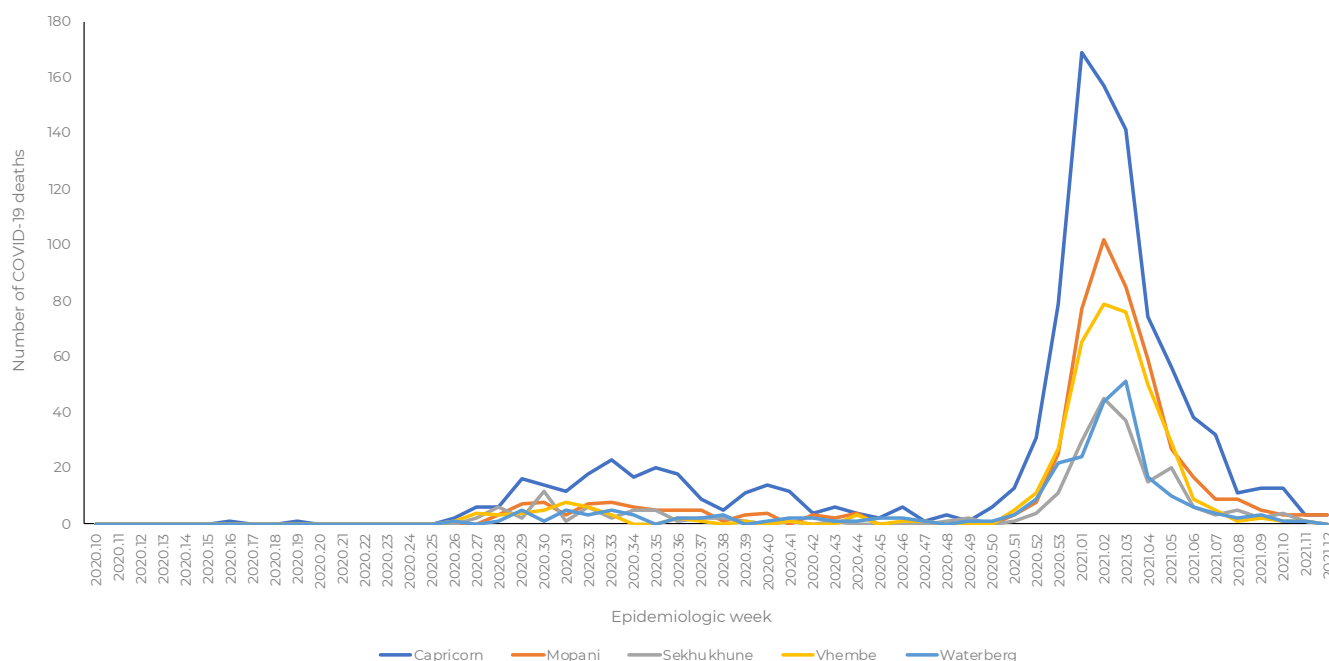


Figure 19: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Limpopo, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n= 2,463

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FREE STATE

In the first wave there were roughly equal numbers of admissions in both sectors, but in the second wave there were higher numbers of admissions in the public sector (Figure 20). Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in the public sector. The numbers of COVID-19 admissions have increased in both sectors over the past two weeks.

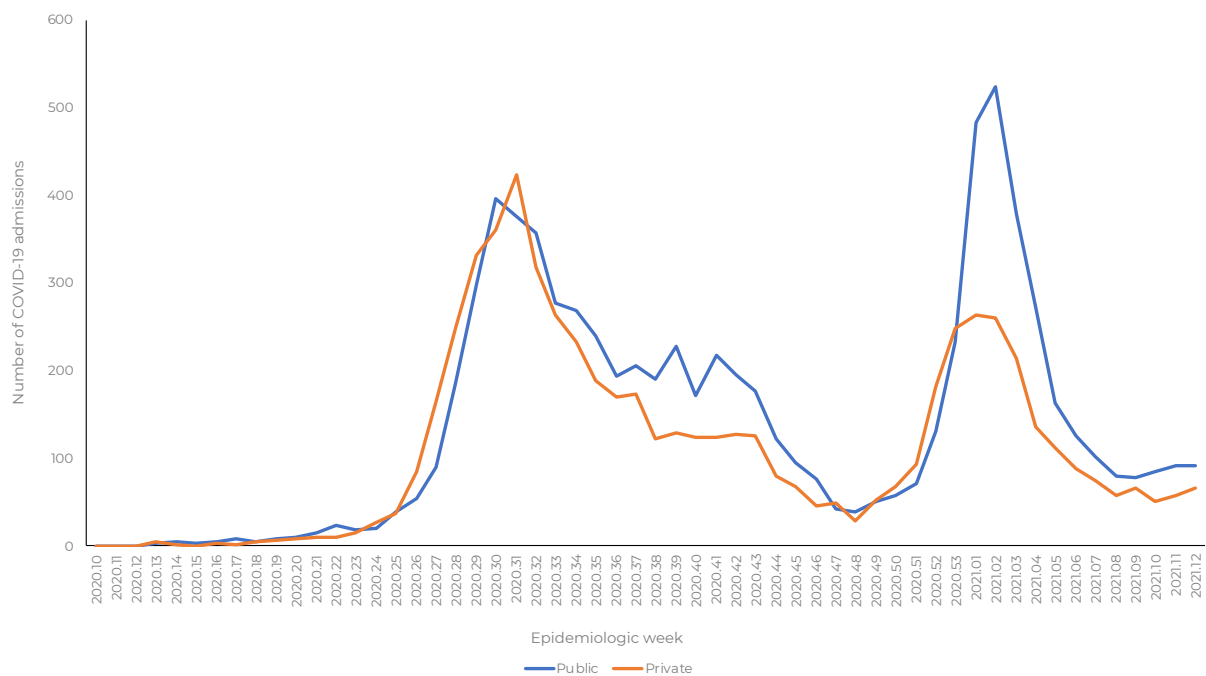


Figure 20: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Free State, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n= 13,830

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Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in Fezile Dabi, Thabo Mofutsanyane and Xhariep (Figure 21). Admissions have increased in three districts in the past week.

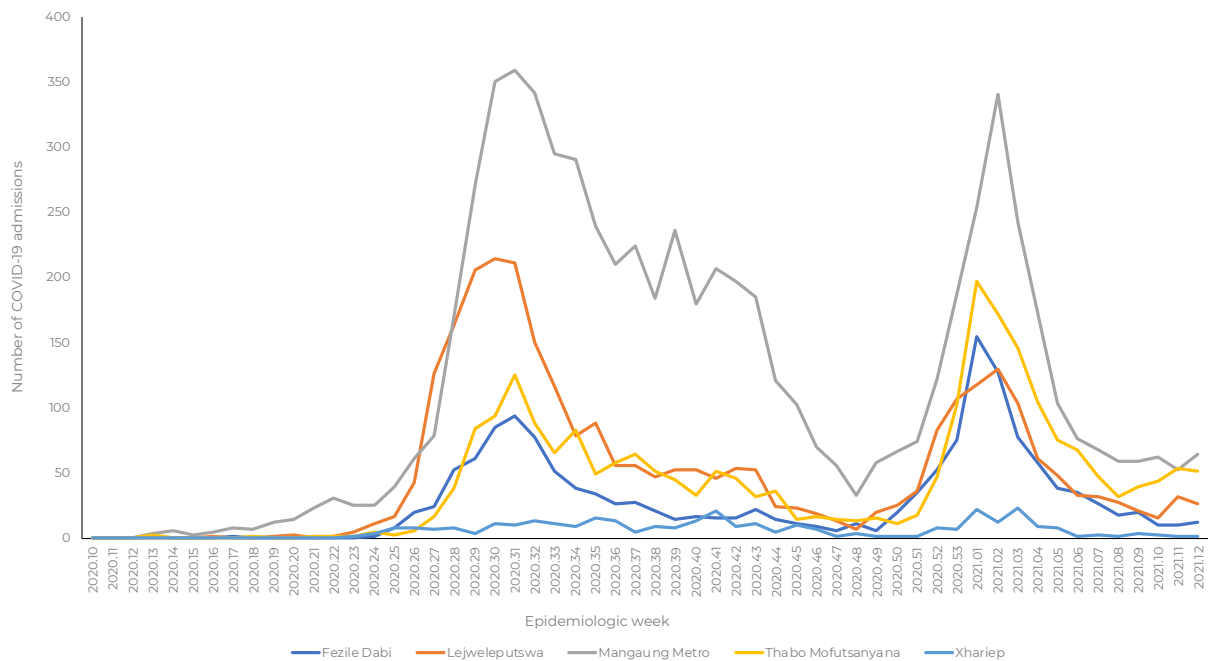


Figure 21: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Free State, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n= 13,830

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Three districts showed increases in COVID-19 admission between week 11 and week 12 2021, Fezile Dabi, Mangaung Metro and Xhariep. The highest proportion of new admissions were in Mangaung Metro and Thabo Mofutsanyana (Table 9).

Table 9: Percentage change in COVID-19 admissions, epidemiologic week 11 to week 12 of 2021, by district, Free State

| District | Cumulative hospital admissions | Admissions Week 11 | Admissions Week 12 | Percentage change in admissions | Percentage of total new admissions | Incidence risk of new admissions /100 000 persons |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Fezile Dabi | 1537 | 10 | 12 | 20 | 7.7 | 1.5 |
| Lejweleputswa | 2860 | 32 | 27 | -16 | 17.3 | 2.6 |
| Mangaung Metro | 6731 | 52 | 64 | 23 | 41.0 | 4.7 |
| Thabo Mofutsanyana | 2366 | 54 | 51 | -6 | 32.7 | 4.3 |
| Xhariep | 336 | 1 | 2 | 100 | 1.3 | 1.0 |

Weekly deaths at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the first wave in Thabo Mofutsanyana, Fezile Dabi and Xhariep (Figure 22). The numbers of COVID-19 deaths have increased in three districts over the last two weeks, Thabo Mofutsanyane, Mangaung Metro and Fezile Dabi.

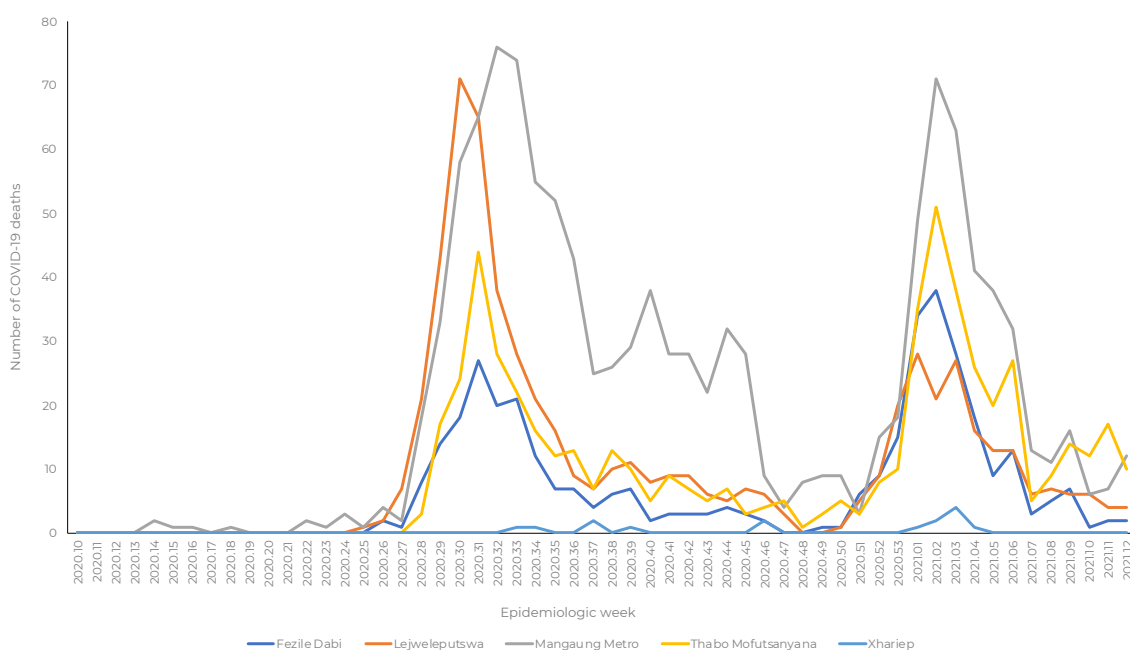


Figure 22: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Free State, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n=2,700

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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MPUMALANGA

In the first wave there were higher numbers of admissions in the private sector, but in the second wave there were higher numbers of admissions in the public sector. Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in both sectors (Figure 23). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have remained low in both sectors.

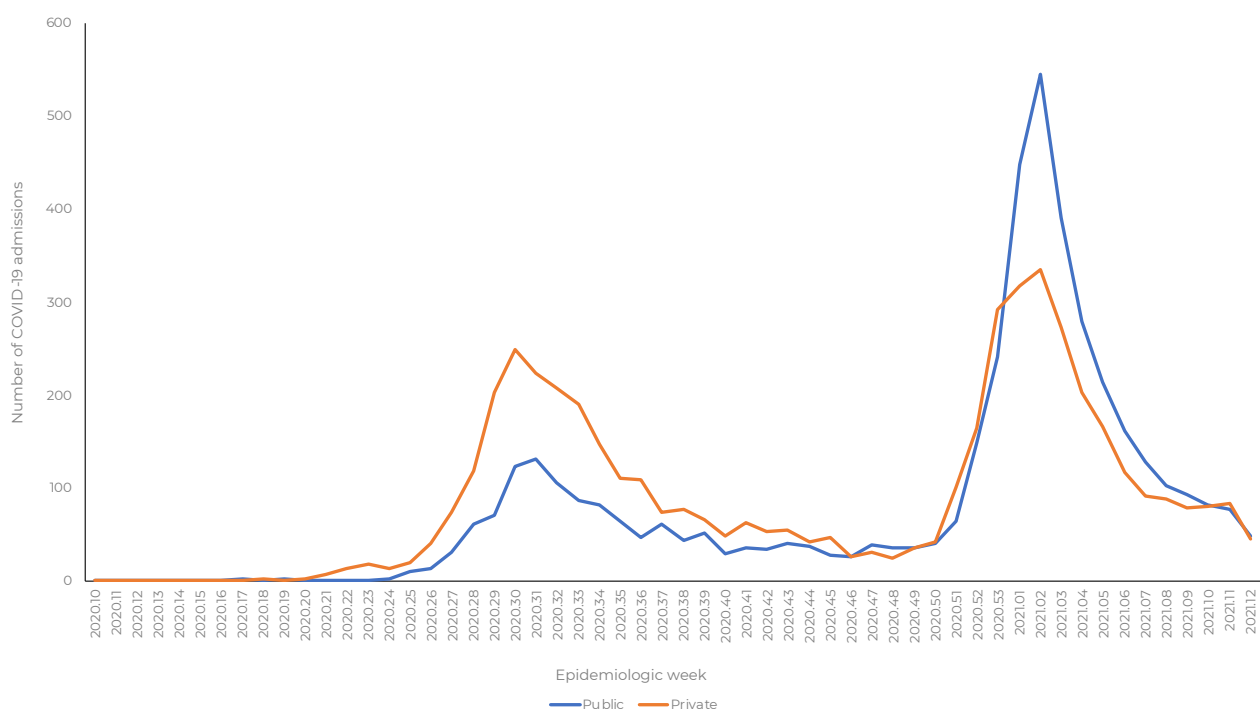


Figure 23: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n= 9,235

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in all districts (Figure 24). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have remained low in all districts.

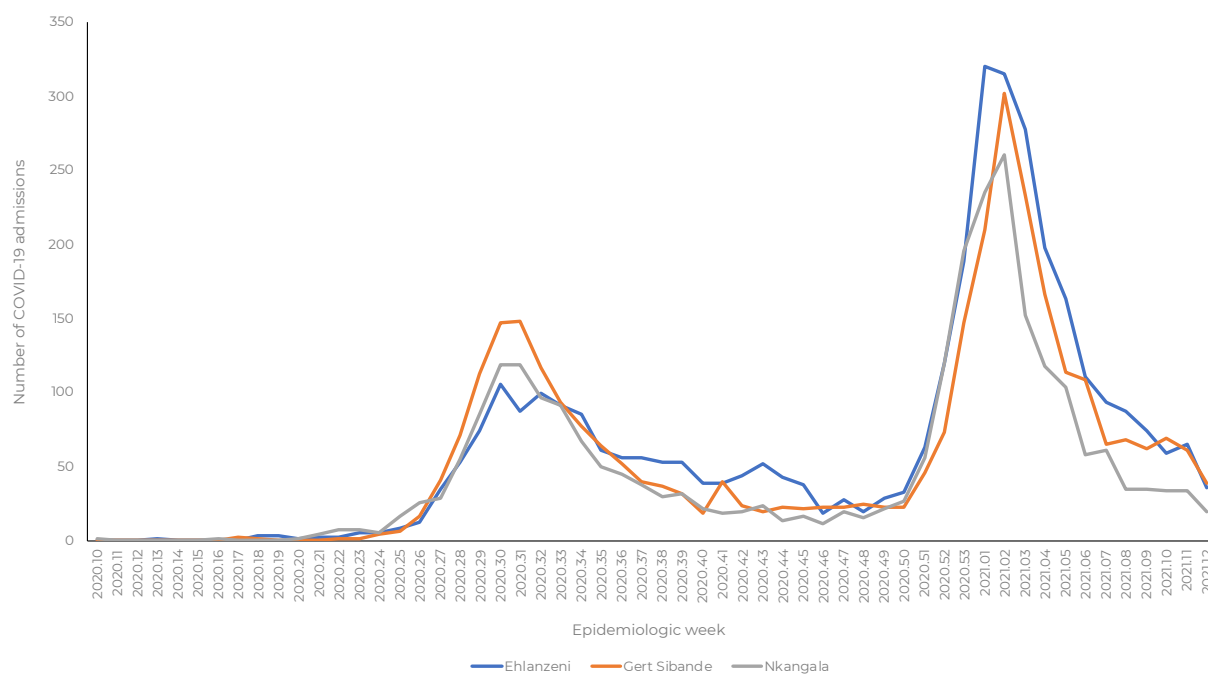


Figure 24: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n=9,235

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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All districts showed a decrease in COVID-19 admission between week 11 and week 12 2021. The highest proportion of new admissions were in Gert Sibande (Table 10).

Table 10: Percentage change in COVID-19 admissions, epidemiologic week 11 to week 12 of 2021, by district, Mpumalanga

| District | Cumulative hospital admissions | Admissions Week 11 | Admissions Week 12 | Percentage change in admissions | Percentage of total new admissions | Incidence risk of new admissions /100 000 persons |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Ehlanzeni | 3504 | 65 | 36 | -45 | 38.3 | 2.1 |
| Gert Sibande | 3087 | 61 | 39 | -36 | 41.5 | 3.3 |
| Nkangala | 2644 | 34 | 19 | -44 | 20.2 | 1.3 |

Weekly deaths at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the first wave in all districts with numbers now decreasing (Figure 25). The numbers of COVID-19 deaths have increased in two districts in the past week, Ehlanzeni and Nkangala.

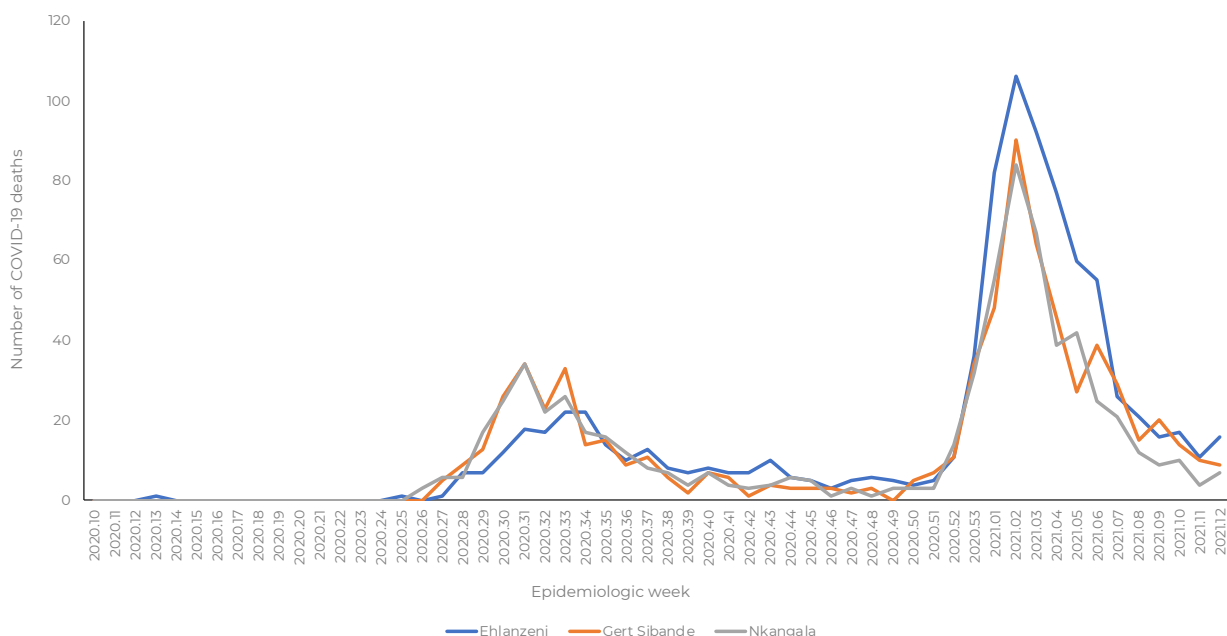


Figure 25: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n= 2,224

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 12 2021

NORTH WEST

In both waves there were higher numbers of admissions in the public sector. Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in both sectors (Figure 26). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have remained low in the private sector but has taken some time to return to low numbers, similar to what was observed in the first wave.

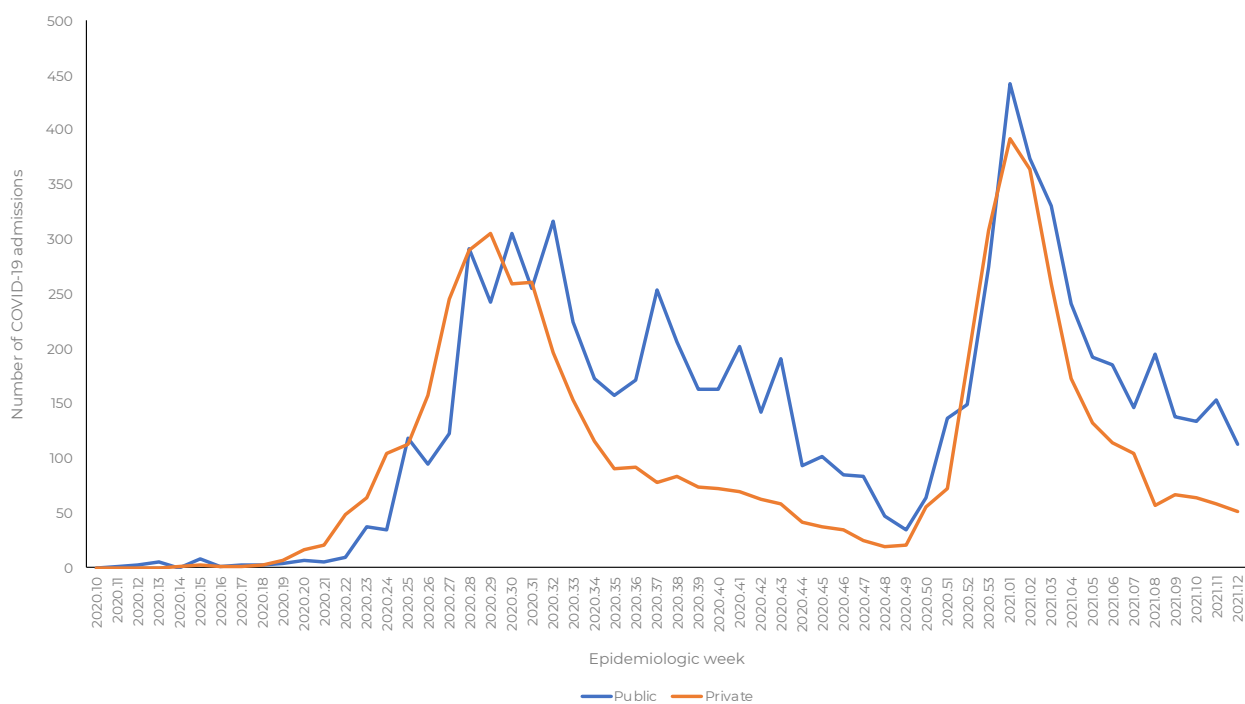


Figure 26: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, North West, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n= 13,294

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 12 2021

Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in all districts except Dr Kenneth Kaunda (Figure 27). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have remained low in all districts but has taken some time to return to low numbers in Dr Kenneth Kaunda district, similar to what was observed in the first wave.

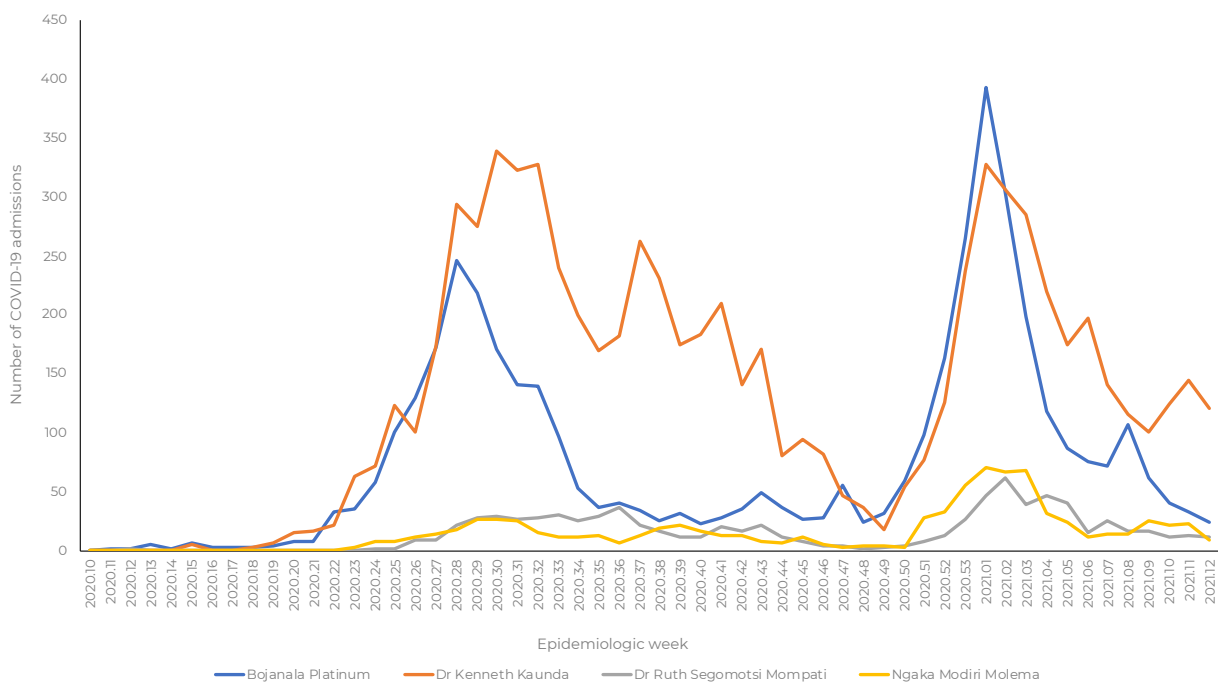


Figure 27: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, North West, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n= 13,294

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 12 2021

All districts showed a decrease in COVID-19 admission between week 11 and week 12 2021. The highest proportion of new admissions were in Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Bojanala Platinum (Table 11).

Table 11: Percentage change in COVID-19 admissions, epidemiologic week 11 to week 12 of 2021, by district, North West

| District | Cumulative hospital admissions | Admissions Week 11 | Admissions Week 12 | Percentage change in admissions | Percentage of total new admissions | Incidence risk of new admissions /100 000 persons |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Bojanala Platinum | 4227 | 33 | 24 | -27 | 14.5 | 0.8 |
| Dr Kenneth Kaunda | 7415 | 144 | 120 | -17 | 72.7 | 9.1 |
| Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti | 817 | 13 | 12 | -8 | 7.3 | 1.5 |
| Ngaka Modiri Molema | 835 | 23 | 9 | -61 | 5.5 | 0.6 |

Weekly deaths at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the first wave in all districts (Figure 28). The numbers of COVID-19 deaths have increased in all districts except Bojanala in the past two weeks.

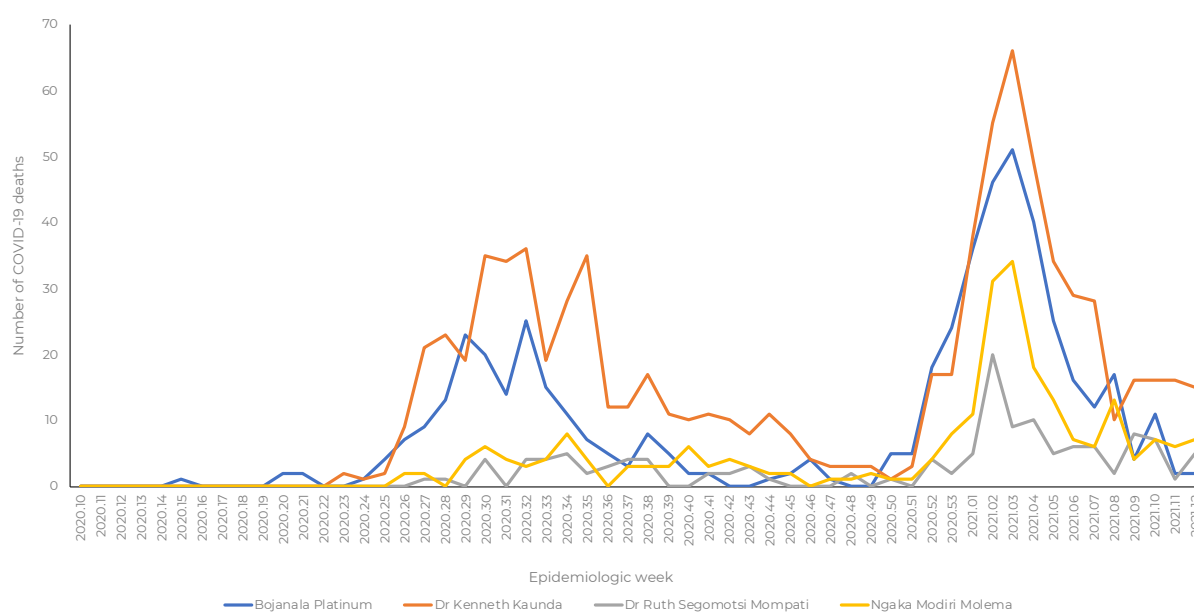


Figure 28: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, North West, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n= 1,672

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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NORTHERN CAPE

In both waves there were roughly equal numbers of admissions in both sectors. Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeding the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in both sectors (Figure 29). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions decreased but in the past three weeks have increased in the private sector.

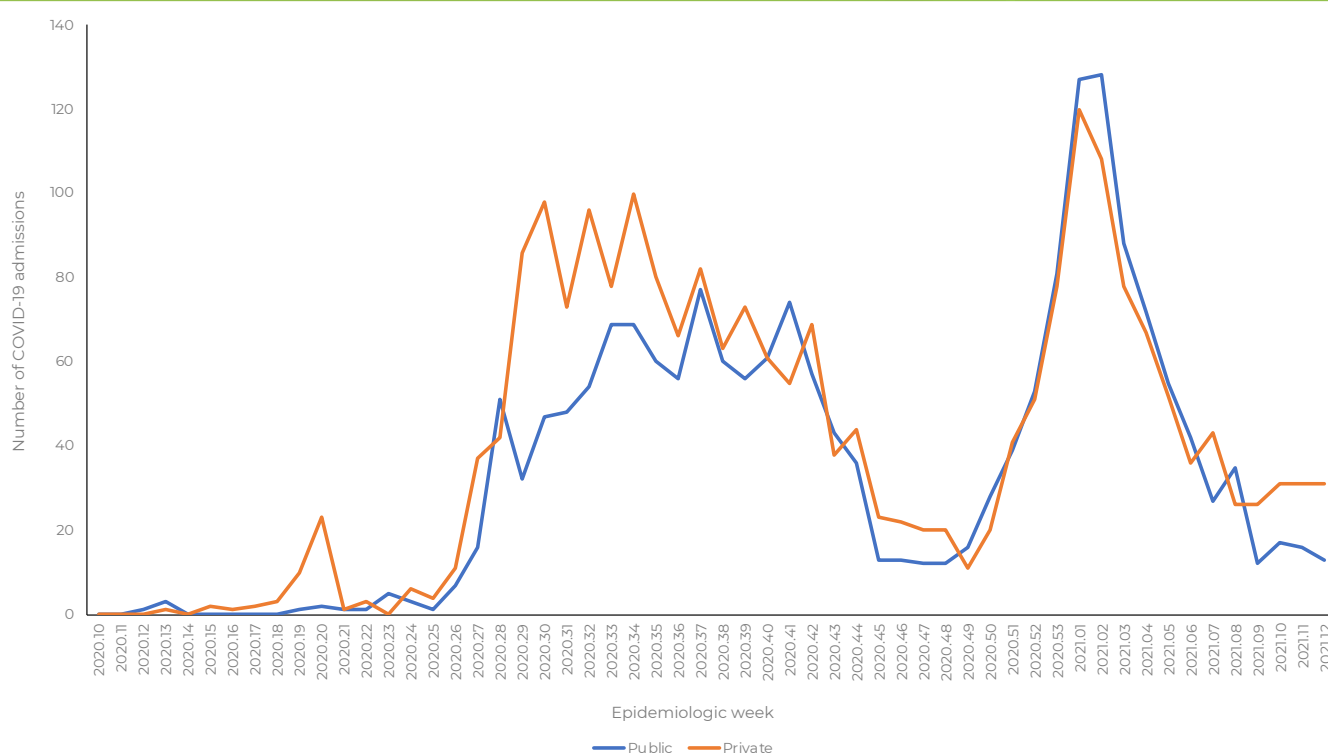


Figure 29: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n=4,132

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 12 2021

Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly number of admissions during the peak of the first wave in Pixley ka Seme, Namakwa and ZF Mgcawu districts (Figure 30). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions decreased but in the past three weeks have increased particularly in Frances Baard and John Taolo Gaetsewe districts.

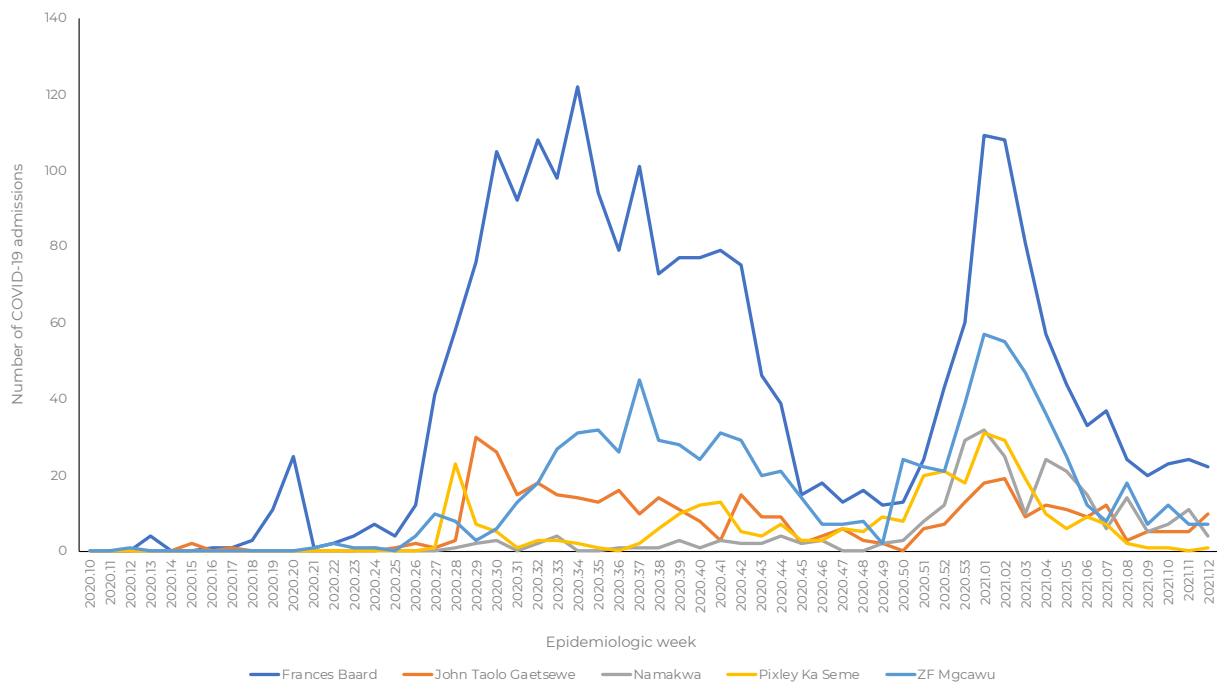


Figure 30: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n=4,132

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 12 2021

All districts showed a decrease in COVID-19 admission between week 11 and week 12 2021 except John Taolo Gaetsewe and Pixley Ka Seme. The highest proportion of new admissions were in Frances Baard district (Table 12).

Table 12: Percentage change in COVID-19 admissions, epidemiologic week 11 to week 12 of 2021, by district, Northern Cape

| District | Cumulative hospital admissions | Admissions Week 11 | Admissions Week 12 | Percentage change in admissions | Percentage of total new admissions | Incidence risk of new admissions /100 000 persons |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Frances Baard | 2311 | 24 | 22 | -8 | 50.0 | 12.1 |
| John Taolo Gaetsewe | 397 | 5 | 10 | 100 | 22.7 | 8.4 |
| Namakwa | 264 | 11 | 4 | -64 | 9.1 | 7.9 |
| Pixley Ka Seme | 314 | 0 | 1 | 100 | 2.3 | 1.1 |
| ZF Mgcawu | 846 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 15.9 | 5.7 |

Weekly deaths at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the first wave in Pixley ka Seme, Namakwa and ZF Mgcawu districts (Figure 31). The numbers of COVID-19 deaths have not returned to low levels in Frances Baard district.

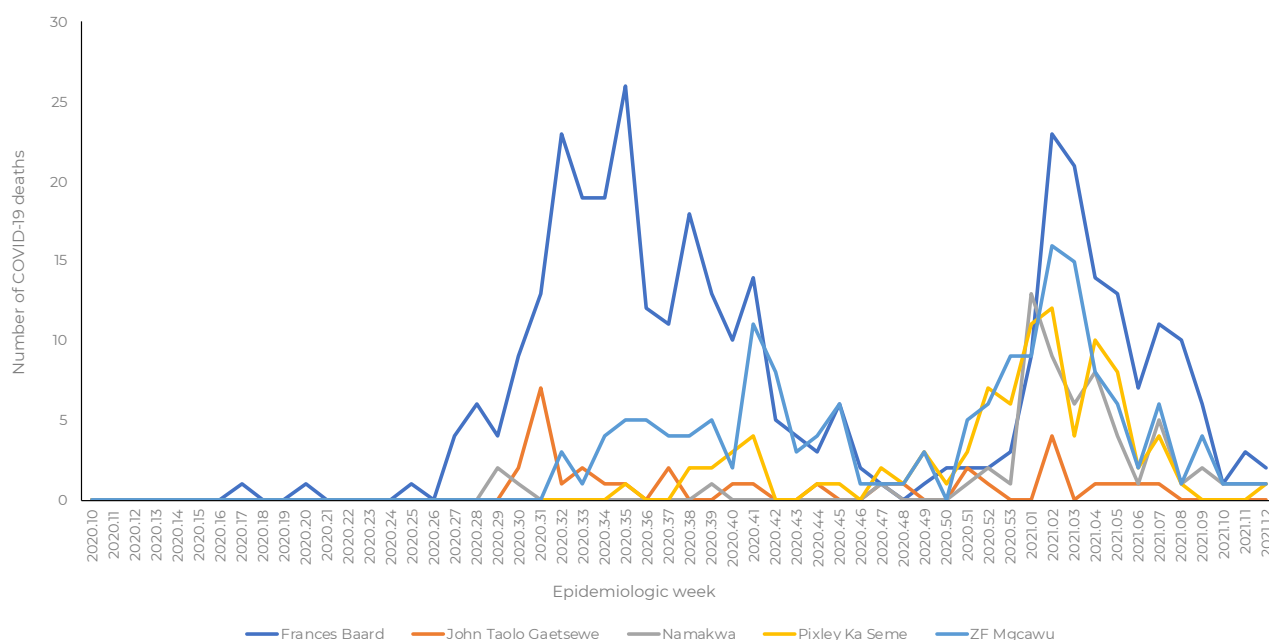


Figure 31: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021, n=699

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 are in the process of recruiting data capturers to support hospitals to improve data submission.

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.

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)

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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APPENDIX

Table 13: Percentage average change in hospital admissions over 14 days, by district, South Africa, 2 January 2020-27 March 2021

| Province | District | Total admissions | Incidence (per 100k) | New admissions | New admissions incidence (per 100k) | % average change (14 days) |
|---------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Eastern Cape | Alfred Nzo | 1793 | 215.44 | 2 | 0.24 | -50.00 |
| | Amathole | 2359 | 295.17 | 5 | 0.63 | 400.00 |
| | Buffalo City Metro | 7320 | 914.00 | 6 | 0.75 | -25.00 |
| | Chris Hani | 3293 | 452.55 | 2 | 0.27 | 100.00 |
| | Joe Gqabi | 707 | 204.95 | 0 | 0.00 | -100.00 |
| | Nelson Mandela Bay Metro | 11113 | 916.11 | 7 | 0.58 | -53.33 |
| | O R Tambo | 3180 | 207.55 | 0 | 0.00 | -100.00 |
| | Sarah Baartman | 1737 | 359.02 | 1 | 0.21 | 0.00 |
| Free State | Fezile Dabi | 1540 | 301.89 | 15 | 2.94 | 36.36 |
| | Lejweleputswa | 2864 | 438.19 | 29 | 4.44 | -19.44 |
| | Mangaung Metro | 6736 | 773.43 | 67 | 7.69 | 19.64 |
| | Thabo Mofutsanyana | 2372 | 310.14 | 55 | 7.19 | 0.00 |
| | Xhariep | 336 | 259.57 | 2 | 1.55 | 100.00 |
| Gauteng | City of Johannesburg Metro | 24280 | 413.87 | 123 | 2.10 | -34.22 |
| | City of Tshwane Metro | 16563 | 444.15 | 115 | 3.08 | -19.58 |
| | Ekurhuleni Metro | 14602 | 366.68 | 73 | 1.83 | -23.16 |
| | Sedibeng | 3963 | 414.75 | 37 | 3.87 | -42.19 |
| | West Rand | 5143 | 538.68 | 39 | 4.08 | -2.50 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | Amajuba | 2044 | 358.27 | 18 | 3.15 | 12.50 |
| | eThekweni Metro | 23046 | 578.87 | 49 | 1.23 | -43.02 |
| | Harry Gwala | 1523 | 296.29 | 18 | 3.50 | 260.00 |
| | iLembe | 1842 | 265.21 | 3 | 0.43 | -25.00 |
| | King Cetshwayo | 5548 | 571.56 | 14 | 1.44 | -70.21 |
| | Ugu | 3114 | 388.41 | 4 | 0.50 | -63.64 |
| | uMgungundlovu | 6069 | 528.00 | 13 | 1.13 | -40.91 |

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 12 2021

| Province | District | Total admissions | Incidence (per 100k) | New admissions | New admissions incidence (per 100k) | % average change (14 days) |
|---------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | uMkhanyakude | 795 | 115.74 | 5 | 0.73 | -44.44 |
| | Umzinyathi | 719 | 126.68 | 3 | 0.53 | -50.00 |
| | UThukela | 1785 | 249.92 | 4 | 0.56 | -42.86 |
| | Zululand | 1048 | 118.98 | 8 | 0.91 | -20.00 |
| Limpopo | Capricorn | 4098 | 313.31 | 18 | 1.38 | -35.71 |
| | Mopani | 1778 | 150.06 | 10 | 0.84 | -56.52 |
| | Sekhukhune | 736 | 61.83 | 1 | 0.08 | -50.00 |
| | Vhembe | 1173 | 82.19 | 1 | 0.07 | -66.67 |
| | Waterberg | 1251 | 168.55 | 6 | 0.81 | -70.00 |
| Mpumalanga | Ehlanzeni | 3507 | 191.77 | 41 | 2.24 | -43.84 |
| | Gert Sibande | 3098 | 249.40 | 51 | 4.11 | -33.77 |
| | Nkangala | 2650 | 164.71 | 20 | 1.24 | -44.44 |
| North West | Bojanala Platinum | 4230 | 219.38 | 26 | 1.35 | -23.53 |
| | Dr Kenneth Kaunda | 7432 | 931.66 | 130 | 16.30 | -14.47 |
| | Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati | 818 | 172.91 | 12 | 2.54 | -14.29 |
| | Ngaka Modiri Molema | 837 | 91.99 | 10 | 1.10 | -56.52 |
| Northern Cape | Frances Baard | 2320 | 559.16 | 24 | 5.78 | -7.69 |
| | John Taolo Gaetsewe | 400 | 147.34 | 10 | 3.68 | 66.67 |
| | Namakwa | 267 | 230.94 | 4 | 3.46 | -77.78 |
| | Pixley Ka Seme | 314 | 148.90 | 1 | 0.47 | 100.00 |
| | ZF Mgcawu | 847 | 302.61 | 8 | 2.86 | 0.00 |
| Western Cape | Cape Winelands | 6429 | 683.02 | 36 | 3.82 | -74.47 |
| | Central Karoo | 530 | 705.60 | 9 | 11.98 | -10.00 |
| | City of Cape Town Metro | 41406 | 899.16 | 176 | 3.82 | -50.28 |
| | Garden Route | 5800 | 930.00 | 64 | 10.26 | -49.21 |
| | Overberg | 1562 | 520.83 | 5 | 1.67 | -68.75 |
| | West Coast | 1927 | 418.17 | 11 | 2.39 | -54.17 |

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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APPENDIX

Table 14: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions and in-hospital deaths by age and gender, South Africa, 5 March 2020-27 March 2021

| Age (years) | ADMISSIONS | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| | Female | Male | Unknown | Total | Female | Male | Unknown | Total |
| 0-4 | 1680 | 2025 | 7 | 3712 | 56 | 56 | 1 | 113 |
| 5-9 | 449 | 589 | 3 | 1041 | 9 | 12 | 0 | 21 |
| 10-14 | 772 | 726 | 0 | 1498 | 21 | 23 | 0 | 44 |
| 15-19 | 2378 | 1272 | 3 | 3653 | 67 | 62 | 0 | 129 |
| 20-24 | 4187 | 2095 | 3 | 6285 | 165 | 119 | 0 | 284 |
| 25-29 | 7128 | 3224 | 6 | 10358 | 356 | 212 | 0 | 568 |
| 30-34 | 9776 | 5662 | 3 | 15441 | 622 | 464 | 0 | 1086 |
| 35-39 | 10899 | 7729 | 7 | 18635 | 863 | 752 | 1 | 1616 |
| 40-44 | 10528 | 9120 | 4 | 19652 | 1111 | 1142 | 1 | 2254 |
| 45-49 | 12079 | 11108 | 9 | 23196 | 1648 | 1703 | 3 | 3354 |
| 50-54 | 14122 | 12436 | 2 | 26560 | 2244 | 2261 | 1 | 4506 |
| 55-59 | 15471 | 13303 | 8 | 28782 | 3257 | 3088 | 1 | 6346 |
| 60-64 | 13745 | 12338 | 12 | 26095 | 3665 | 3764 | 1 | 7430 |
| 65-69 | 11337 | 9887 | 7 | 21231 | 3690 | 3408 | 2 | 7100 |
| 70-74 | 9076 | 7945 | 11 | 17032 | 3126 | 3009 | 4 | 6139 |
| 75-79 | 6466 | 5196 | 6 | 11668 | 2347 | 2123 | 1 | 4471 |
| 80-84 | 4693 | 3254 | 4 | 7951 | 1820 | 1374 | 1 | 3195 |
| 85-89 | 2439 | 1513 | 1 | 3953 | 983 | 709 | 0 | 1692 |
| 90-94 | 1095 | 506 | 1 | 1602 | 516 | 259 | 0 | 775 |
| >=95 | 366 | 213 | 0 | 579 | 153 | 75 | 0 | 228 |
| Unknown | 805 | 635 | 91 | 1531 | 86 | 89 | 1 | 176 |
| Total | 139491 | 110776 | 188 | 250455 | 26805 | 24704 | 18 | 51527 |