

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR  
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 20 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 22 May 2021.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 22 May 2021, 270,025 COVID-19 admissions and 55,876 in-hospital deaths were reported from 646 facilities (394 public-sector and 252 private-sector) in all nine provinces of South Africa.
- Since the end of the second wave, increases in admissions in Gauteng, Northern Cape, North West 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 22 May 2021, a total of 646 facilities submitted data on hospitalised COVID-19 cases, 394 from public sector and 252 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 2020-22 May 2021

Name of province	Public Sector	Private Sector
Eastern Cape	85	18
Free State	35	20
Gauteng	39	91
KwaZulu-Natal	70	46
Limpopo	41	7
Mpumalanga	31	9
North West	17	12
Northern Cape	17	8
Western Cape	59	41
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>252</b>

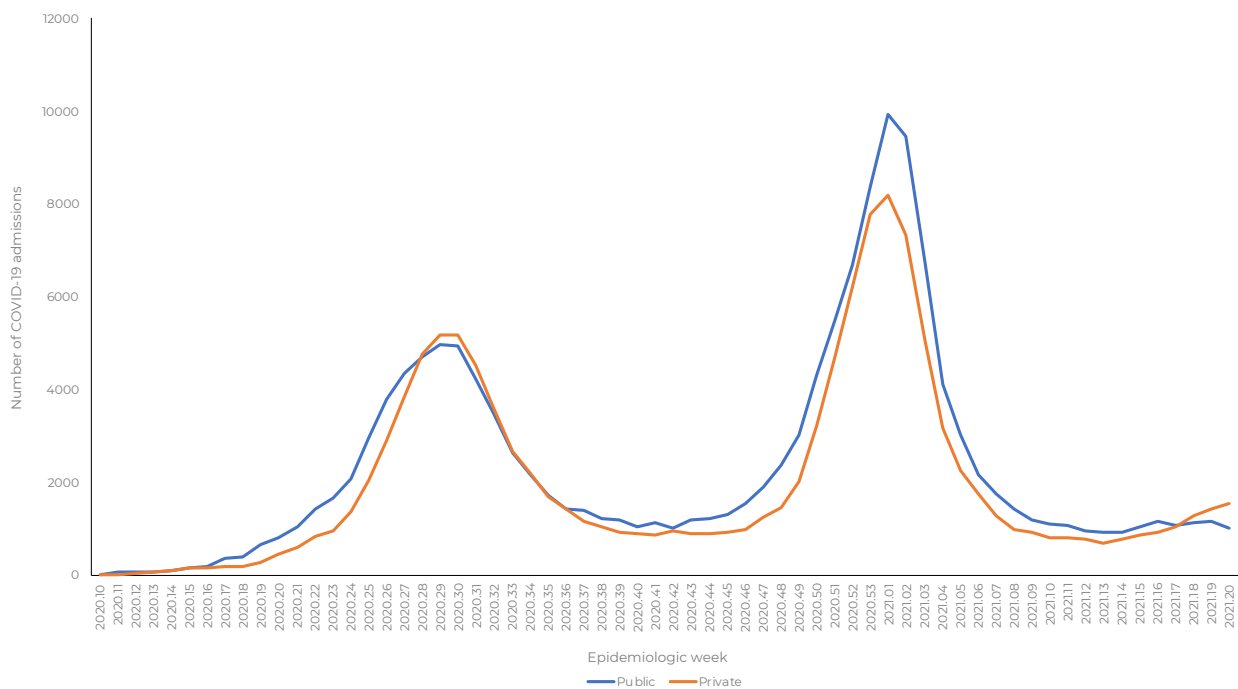
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## RESULTS

### Epidemiological and geographic trends in admissions

From 5 March 2020 to 22 May 2021, a total of 270,025 COVID-19 admissions were reported from 646 facilities in all nine provinces of South Africa. The 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 14 2021, numbers of COVID-19 admissions have increased particularly in the private sector. Decreases in the most recent week may reflect delays in data submission.

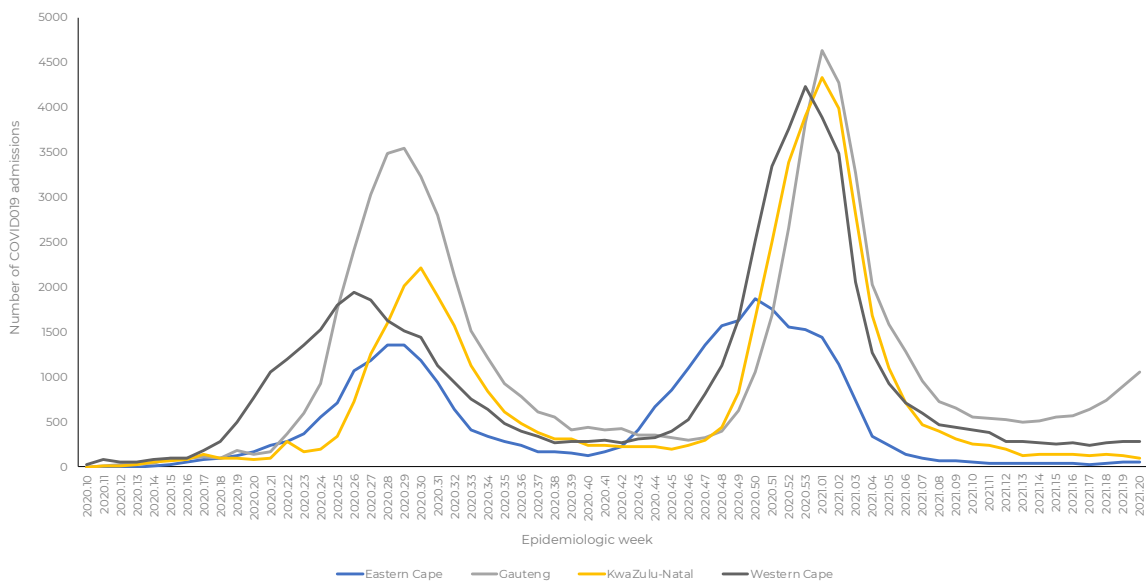


**Figure 1.** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020–22 May 2021, n=270,025

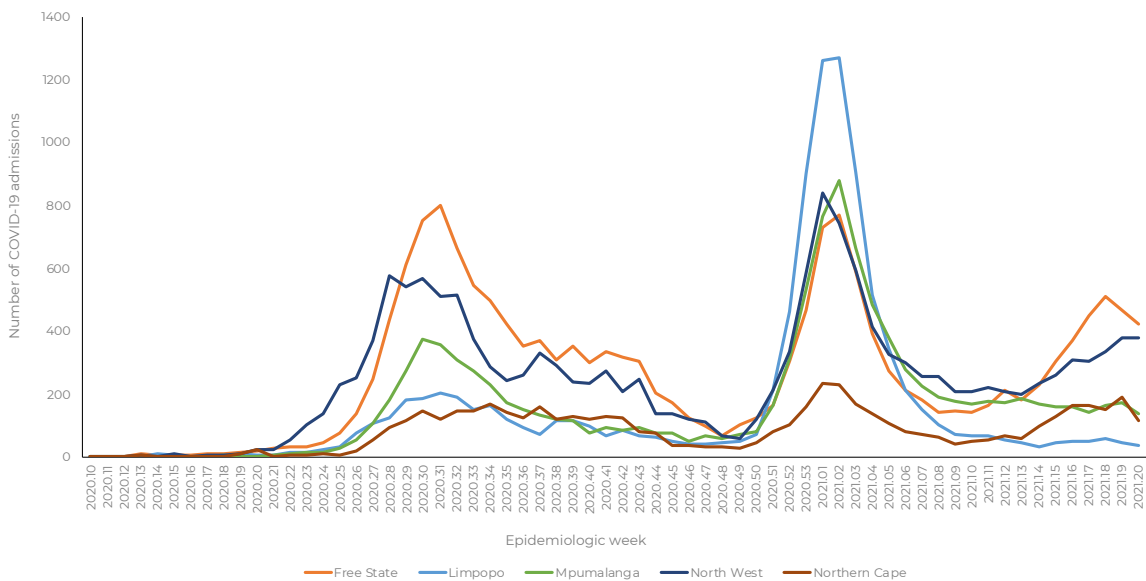
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The majority of admissions were recorded in four provinces, Gauteng 71,127 (26%), Western Cape 59,777(22%), Eastern Cape 31827 (12%) and KwaZulu-Natal 49347 (18%) provinces. The weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave surpassed the numbers during the peak of the first wave in all provinces except Free State. Numbers of COVID-19 admissions have increased in Gauteng, Northern Cape, North West and Free State in the past eight weeks (Figures 2a and 2b). Reductions in the most recent week may be as a result of delayed reporting.



**Figure 2a.** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by provinces with highest admissions and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=270,025



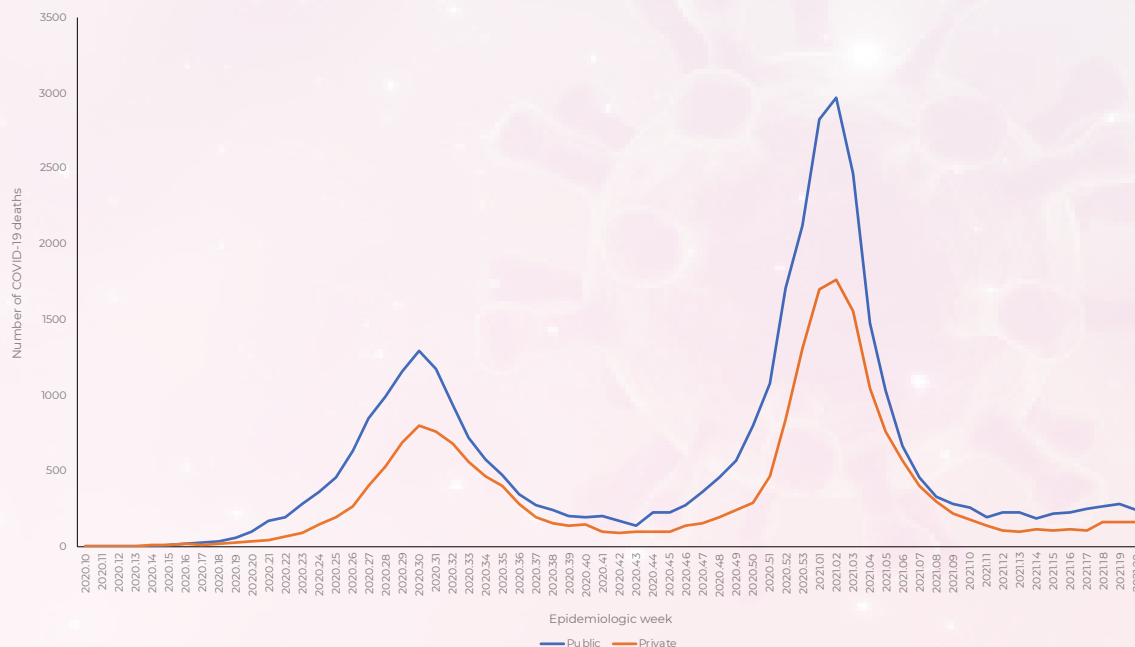
**Figure 2b.** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by provinces with lowest admissions and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=270,025

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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). The number of deaths has increased in both sectors in the past three weeks.

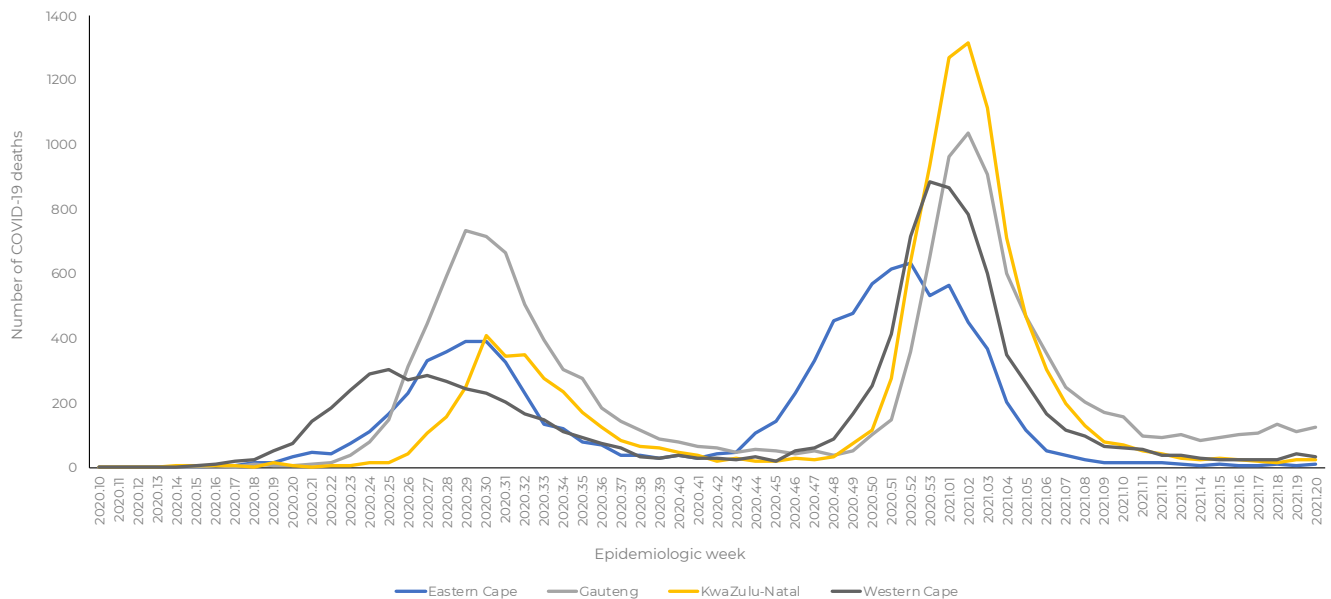


**Figure 3.** Number of in-hospital COVID-19 in-hospital deaths reported per week by health sector and epidemiologic week, South Africa, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=55,876

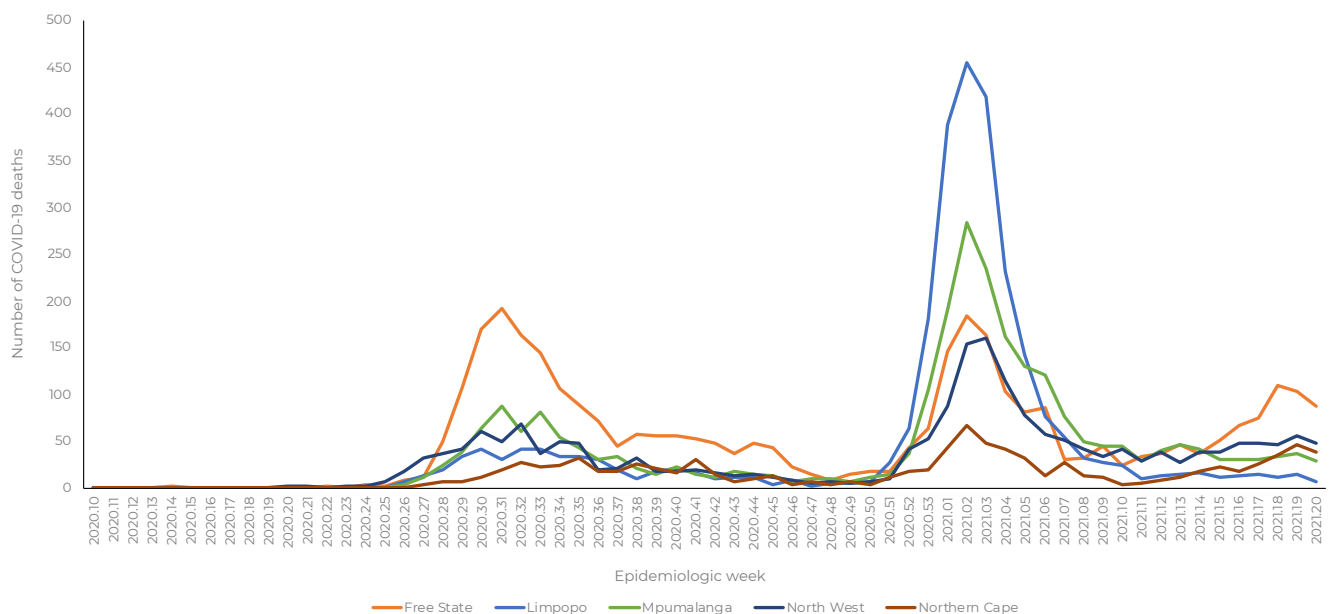
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Most deaths were reported in Gauteng 13,782 (25%), Western Cape 10,078 (18%), Eastern Cape 9,486 (17%) and KwaZulu-Natal 11,029 (20%). The weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the second wave surpassed the numbers during the peak of the first wave in all provinces except Free State. The numbers of COVID-19 deaths have increased in Gauteng, Northern Cape, North West and Free State in the past seven weeks (Figures 4a and 4b).



**Figure 4a.** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by province with highest deaths and epidemiologic week of death, South Africa, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=55,876



**Figure 4b.** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by province with lowest deaths and epidemiologic week of death, South Africa, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=55,876

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The cumulative incidence risks of COVID-19 admissions and in-hospital deaths were highest in Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Free State 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 2020-22 May 2021

Province	Provincial Population mid 2020*	Cumulative admissions	Cumulative Admissions / 100,000	Cumulative deaths	Cumulative deaths / 100,000
Eastern Cape	6734001	31827	472.6	9486	140.9
Free State	2928903	16746	571.7	3308	112.9
Gauteng	15488137	71,127	459.2	13782	89.0
KwaZulu-Natal	11531628	49347	427.9	11027	95.6
Limpopo	5852553	9651	164.9	2713	46.4
Mpumalanga	4679786	10607	226.7	2548	54.4
North West	4108816	15,764	383.7	2008	48.9
Northern Cape	1292786	5,179	400.6	924	71.5
Western Cape	7005741	59,777	853.3	10077	143.8
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>59622350</b>	<b>270,025</b>	<b>452.9</b>	<b>55,873</b>	<b>93.7</b>

\*StatsSA mid-year population estimates 2020

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## PROVINCIAL TRENDS

There was an increase in the average COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in Eastern Cape, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, North West and Western Cape (Table 3). Decreases in the most recent week may in part reflect delays in data submission. There were 20 of 52 (38%) districts across the country that reported increased admissions over the previous 14 days, Alfred Nzo, Amathole, Nelson Mandela Metro, O R Tambo and Sarah Baartman (Eastern Cape), Thabo Mofutsanyana (Free State), City of Johannesburg Metro, City of Tshwane Metro, Ekurhuleni Metro and West Rand (Gauteng), Amajuba, uMkhanyakude and UThukela (KwaZulu-Natal), Waterberg (Limpopo), Dr. Kenneth Kaunda and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati (North West), Pixley Ka Seme (Northern Cape) and Cape Winelands, Garden Route and Overberg (Western Cape) (Appendix 1).

**Table 3.** Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, South Africa, 24 April-22 May 2021

Province	Hospital admissions		Percentage change in admissions	Hospital deaths		Percentage change in deaths
	Previous 14 days average admissions	Current 14 days average admissions		Previous 14 days average deaths	Current 14 days average deaths	
Eastern Cape	4.86	7.36	51.47	1.29	1.21	-5.56
Free State	68.29	63.50	-7.01	13.14	13.57	3.26
Gauteng	98.79	139.50	41.21	17.29	16.86	-2.48
KwaZulu-Natal	18.93	16.86	-10.94	2.64	3.50	32.43
Limpopo	7.71	5.93	-23.15	1.93	1.43	-25.93
Mpumalanga	21.71	22.07	1.64	4.57	4.64	1.56
North West	45.57	54.07	18.65	6.64	7.36	10.75
Northern Cape	22.36	21.86	-2.24	4.29	6.00	40.00
Western Cape	37.00	40.07	8.30	3.43	5.43	58.33
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>4.86</b>	<b>7.36</b>	<b>51.47</b>	<b>1.29</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>-5.56</b>

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

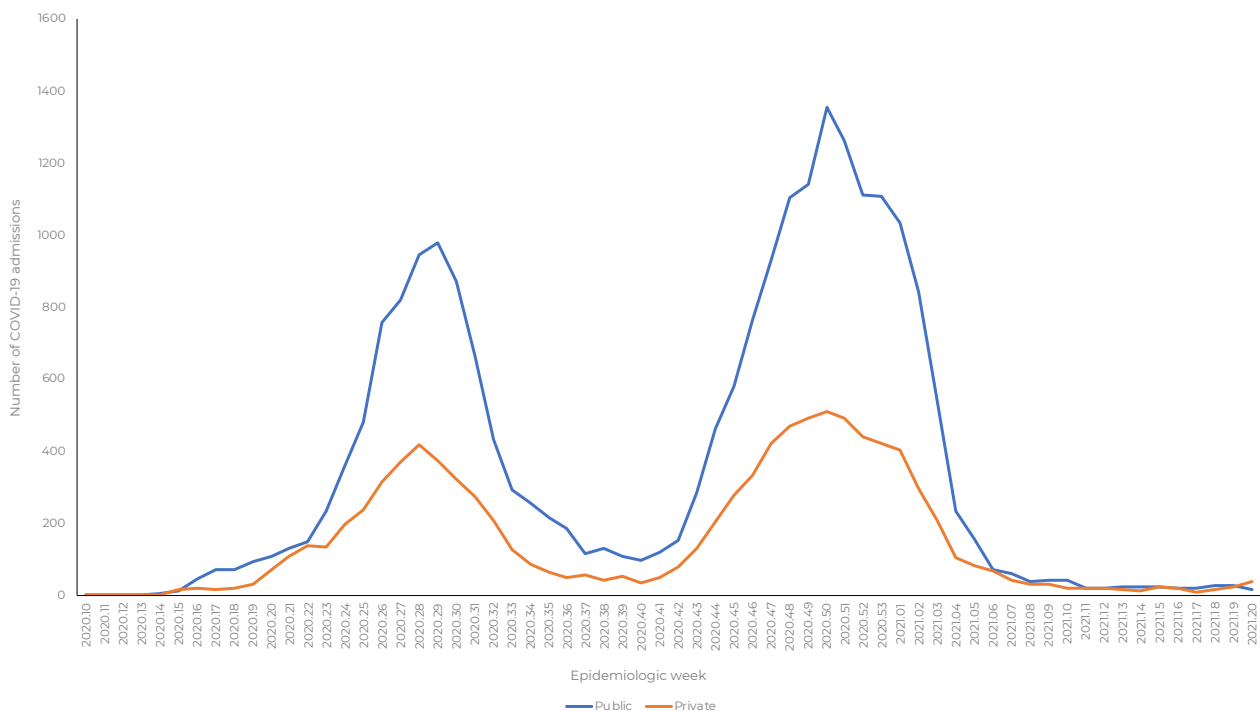


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## EASTERN CAPE

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).

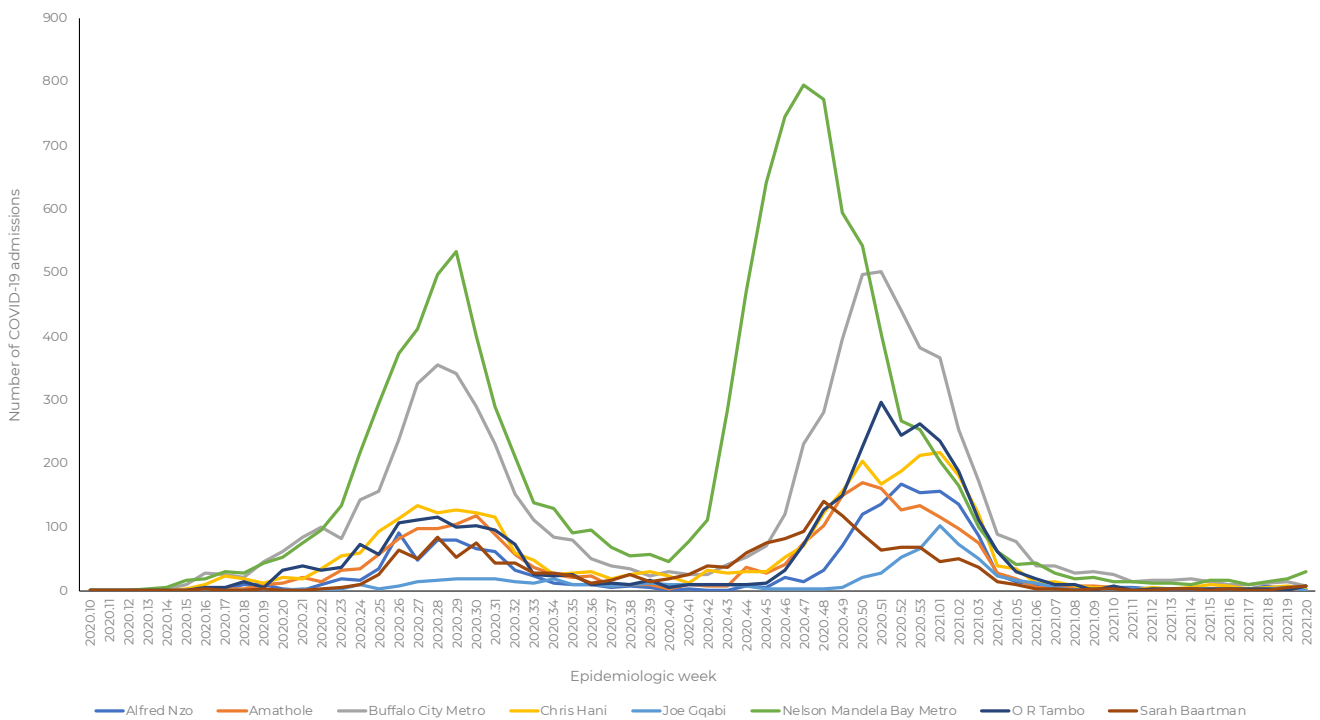


**Figure 5:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Eastern Cape, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=31,827

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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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). There have been small increases in admissions in a few districts over the past two weeks.

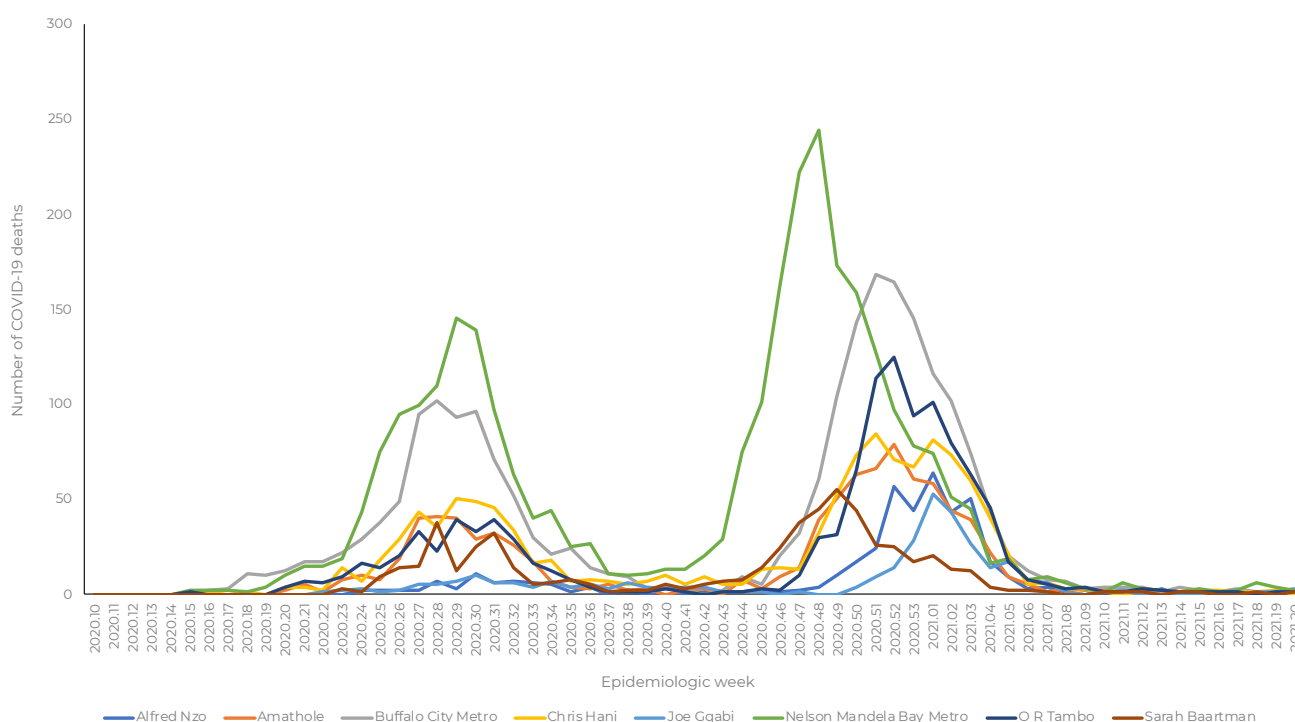


**Figure 6.** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Eastern Cape, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=31,827

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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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 2020-22 May 2021, n= 9,486

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All districts showed small increases in COVID-19 admissions between the previous 14 days average admissions and the current 14 days average admissions except Alfred Nzo, Amathole and Buffalo City Metro (Table 4). The highest percentage change in admissions was in Sarah Baartman.

**Table 4:** 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Eastern Cape, 24 April-22 May 2021

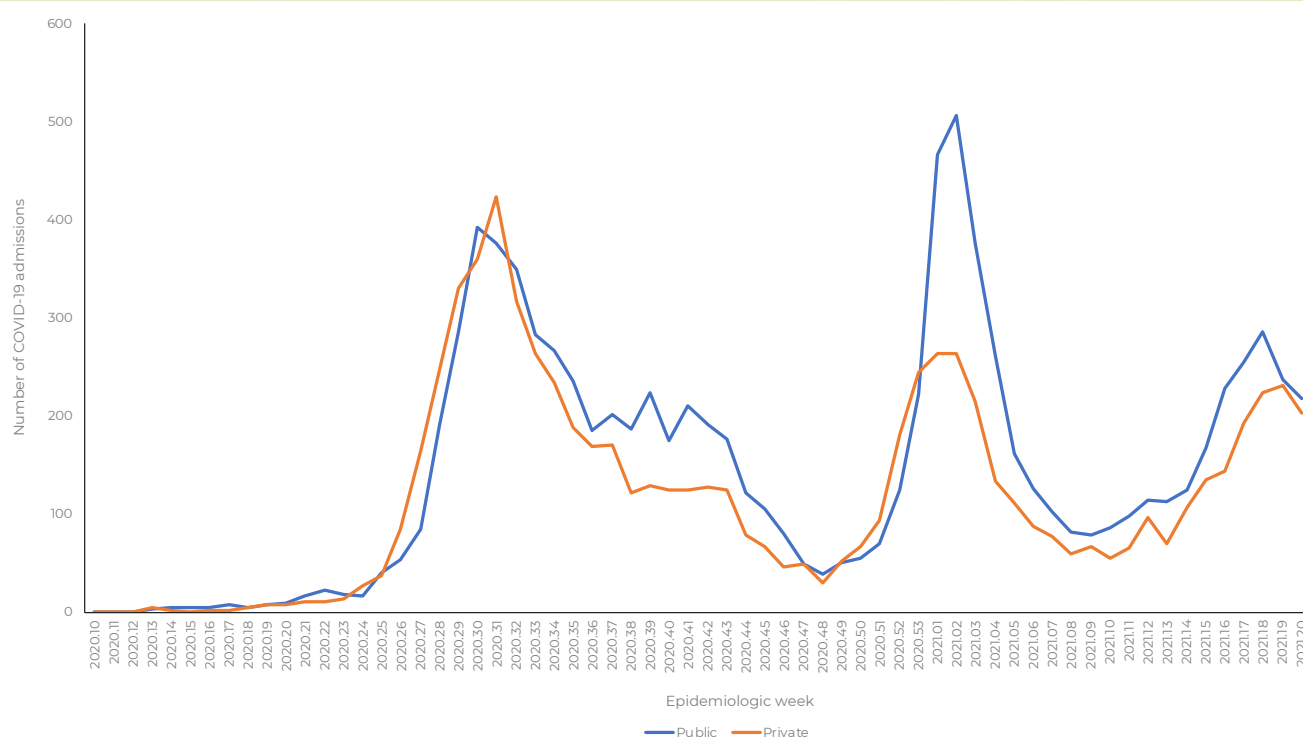
District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
Alfred Nzo	0.57	0.21	-62.50	0.00	0.07	0.00
Amathole	0.14	0.00	-100.00	0.07	0.00	-100.00
Buffalo City Metro	1.43	1.36	-5.00	0.29	0.07	-75.00
Chris Hani	0.43	0.64	50.00	0.14	0.14	0.00
Joe Gqabi	0.21	0.36	66.67	0.07	0.29	300.00
Nelson Mandela Bay	1.57	3.43	118.18	0.57	0.43	-25.00
O R Tambo	0.43	0.50	16.67	0.07	0.14	100.00
Sarah Baartman	0.07	0.86	1100.00	0.07	0.07	0.00

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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 8). 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 nine weeks.

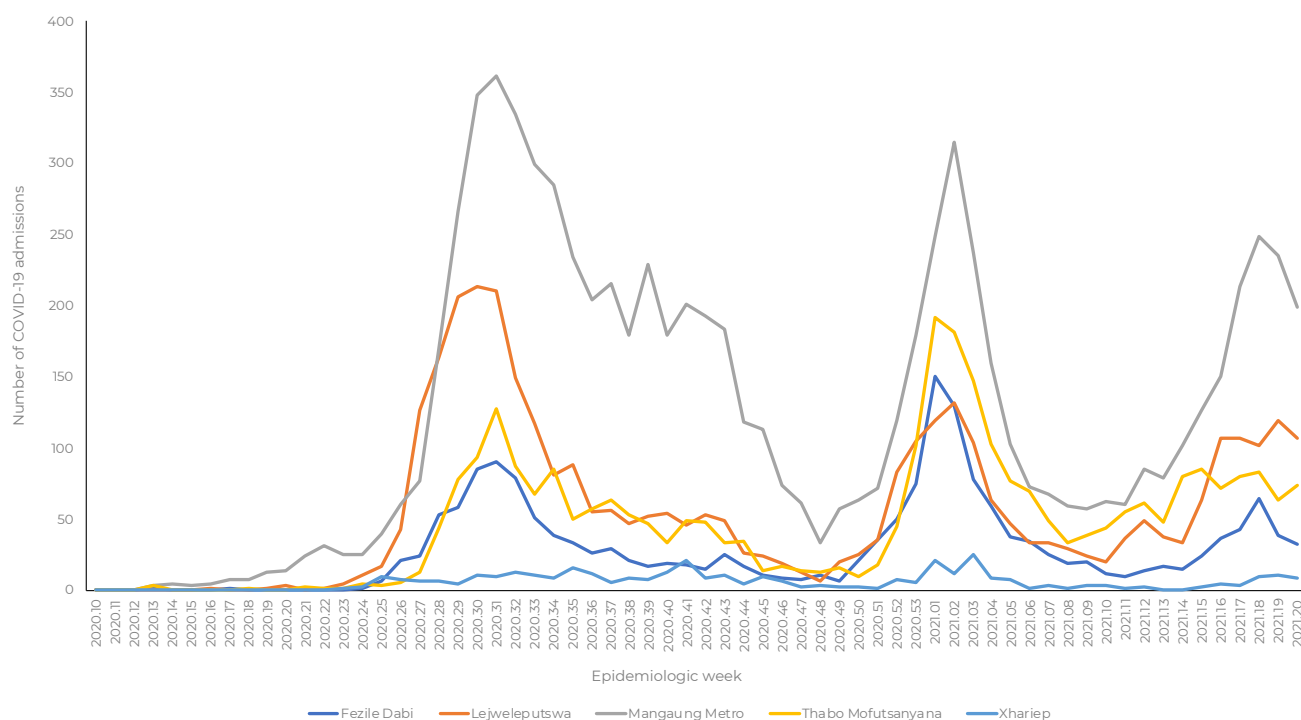


**Figure 8:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Free State, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=16,746

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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 9). Admissions have increased in all districts in the past nine weeks.

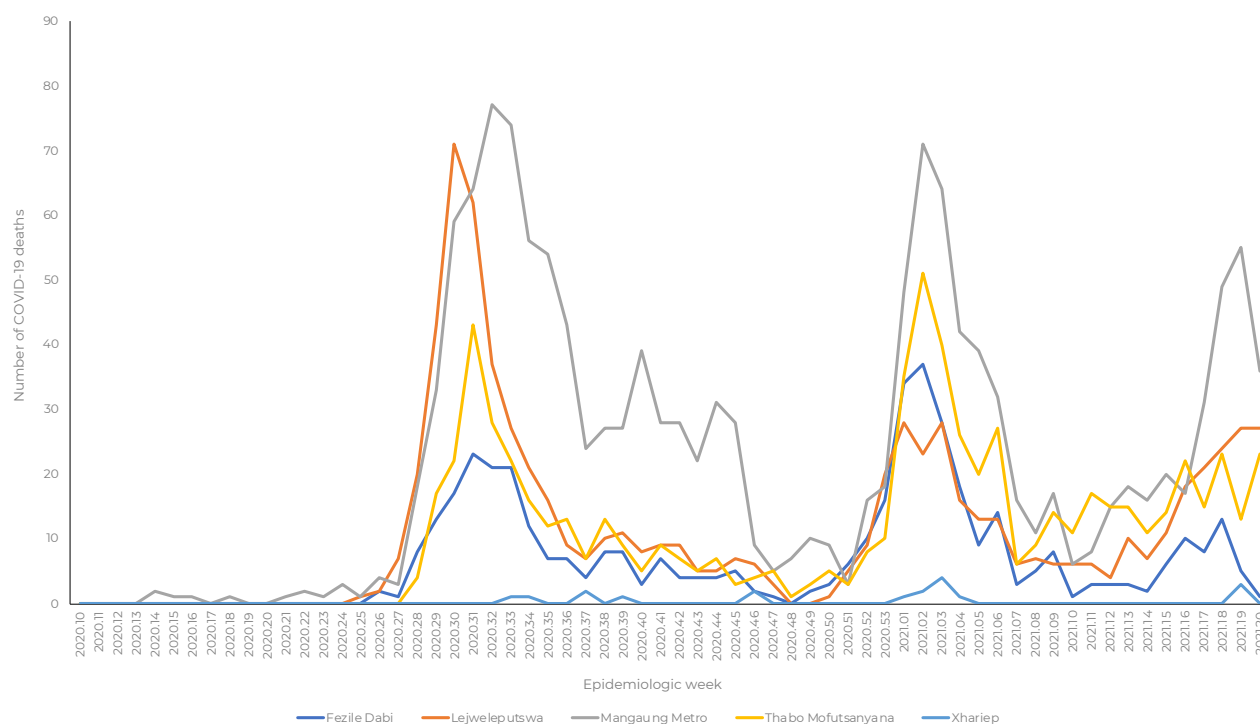


**Figure 9:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Free State, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=16,746

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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 Thabo Mofutsanyana, Fezile Dabi and Xhariep (Figure 10). The numbers of COVID-19 deaths have increased in four districts over the last six weeks, Mangaung Metro, Thabo Mofutsanyana, Lejweleputswa and Fezile Dabi.



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There have been increases in COVID-19 admission between previous 14 days average admissions and current 14 days average admissions in Lejweleputswa and Xhariep. The highest percentage change in admissions was in Xhariep (Table 5).

**Table 5:** Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Free State, 24 April-22 May 2021

District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
Fezile Dabi	7.71	5.07	-34.26	1.50	0.43	-71.43
Lejweleputswa	14.93	16.14	8.13	3.21	3.86	20.00
Mangaung Metro	33.07	31.00	-6.26	5.71	6.50	13.75
Thabo Mofutsanyana	11.64	9.86	-15.34	2.71	2.57	-5.26
Xhariep	0.93	1.43	53.85	0.00	0.21	0.00

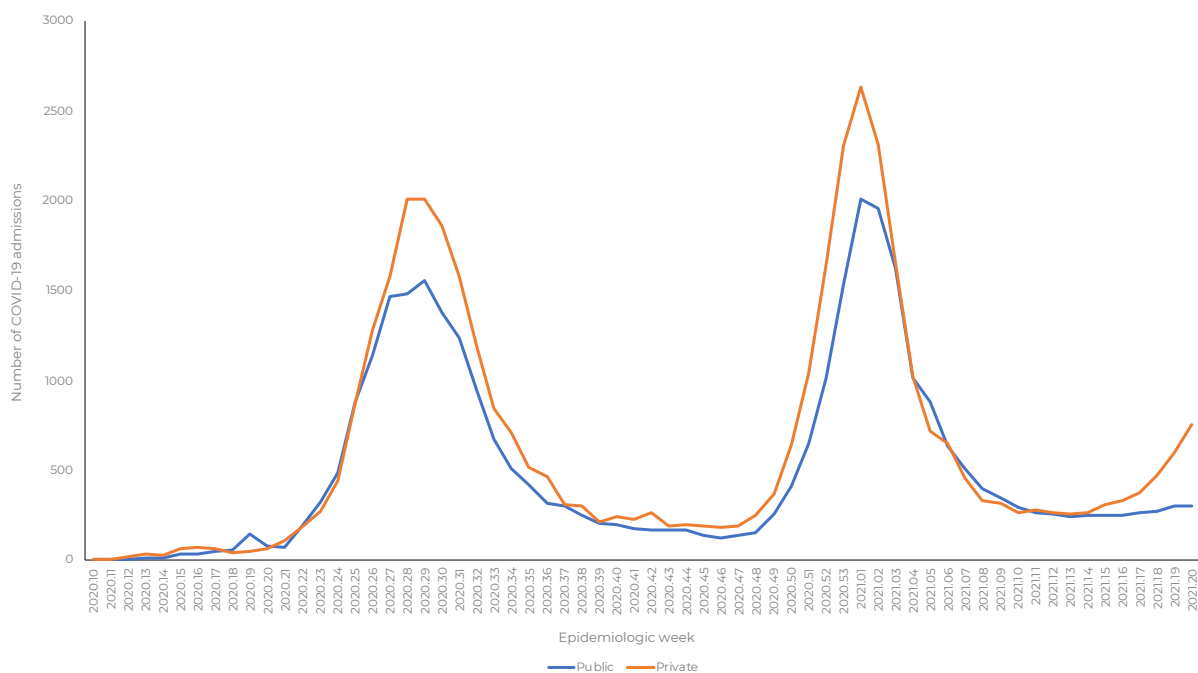


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## GAUTENG

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). There has been an increase in admission in both sectors in the past six weeks, more marked in the private sector.

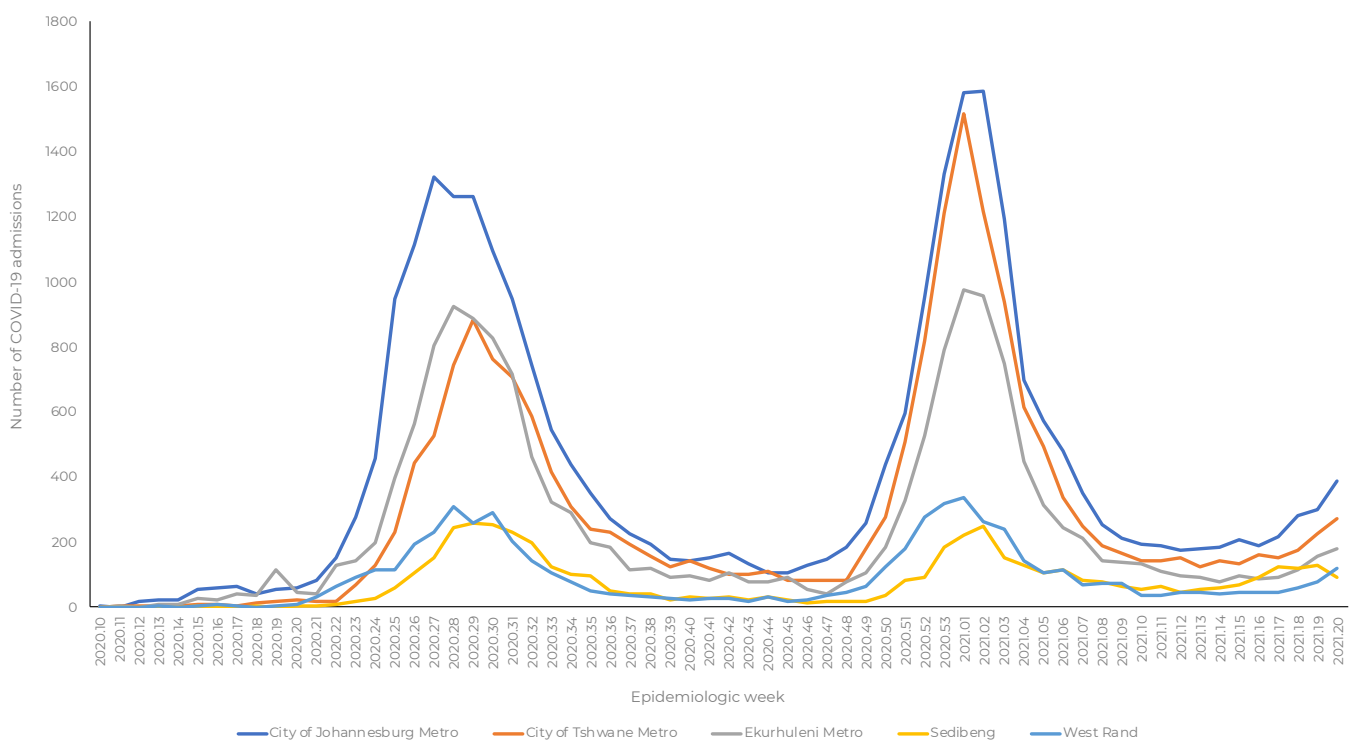


**Figure 11:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=71,127

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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 12). There have been increases in admissions in all districts.

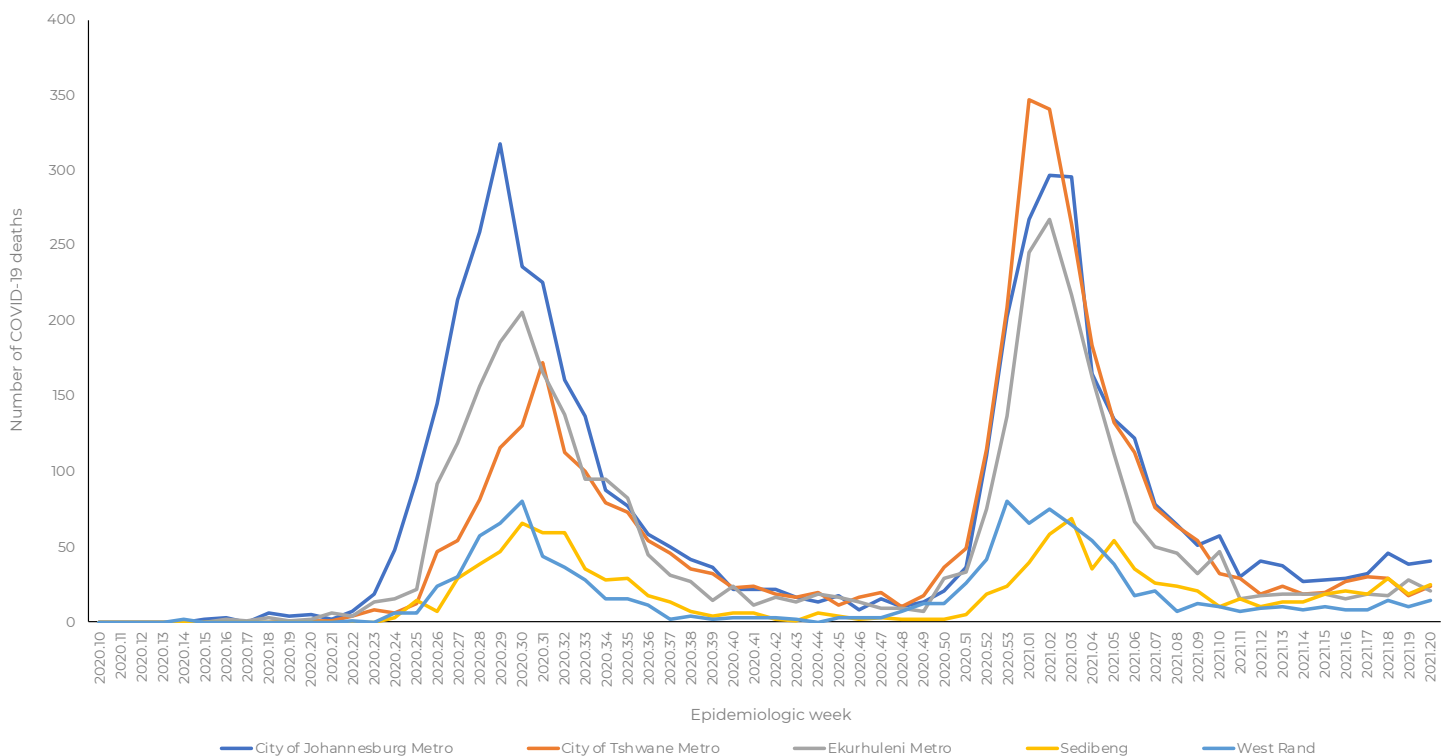


**Figure 12:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=71,127

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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 City of Tshwane Metro, Ekurhuleni Metro and West Rand (Figure 13). The numbers of COVID-19 deaths have increased in all districts.



**Figure 13:** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=13,782

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All districts showed increase in COVID-19 between previous 14 days average admissions and current 14 days average admissions except Sedibeng. The highest percentage change in admissions was in West Rand (Table 6).

**Table 6:** Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Gauteng, 24 April-22 May 2021

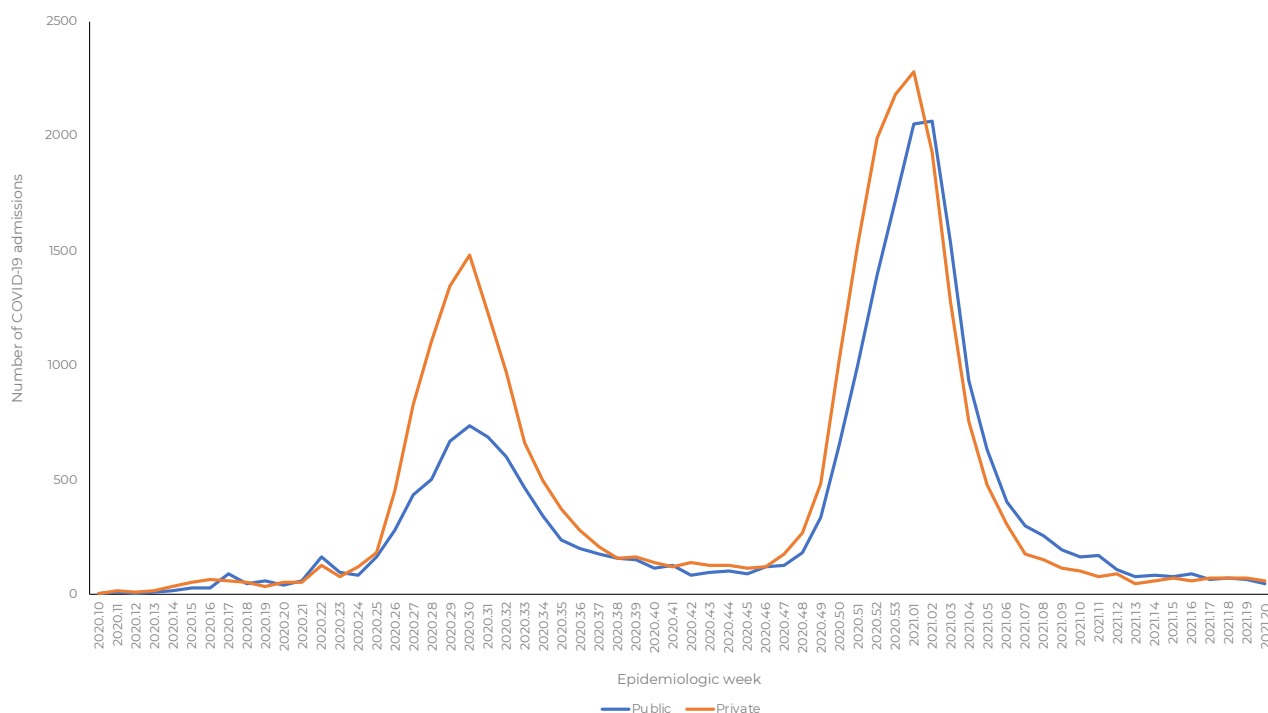
District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
City of Johannesburg Metro	35.64	49.14	37.88	5.57	5.57	0.00
City of Tshwane Metro	23.29	35.86	53.99	4.21	2.93	-30.51
Ekurhuleni Metro	14.71	24.07	63.59	2.50	3.50	40.00
Sedibeng	17.43	16.07	-7.79	3.43	3.14	-8.33
West Rand	7.71	14.36	86.11	1.57	1.71	9.09

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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 14). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have been low in both sectors.

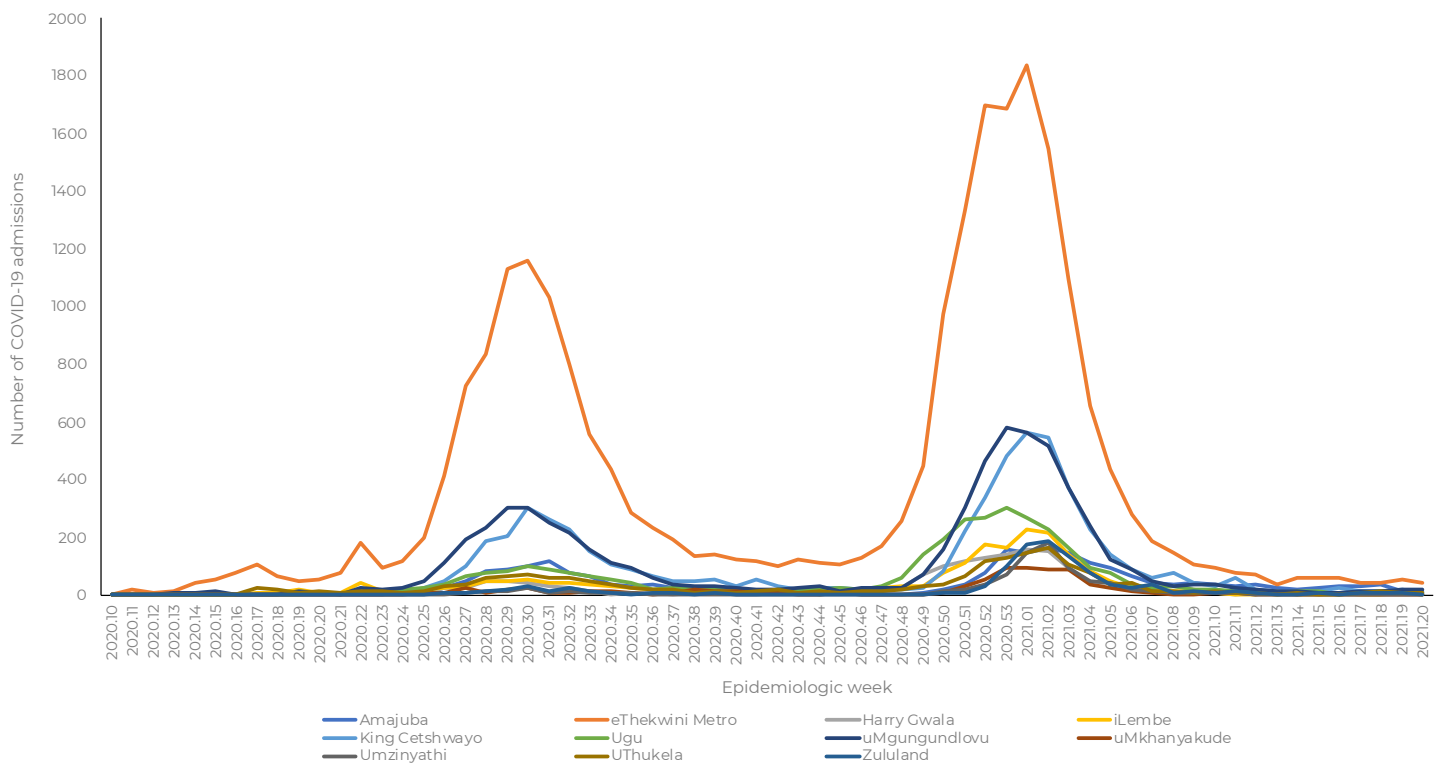


**Figure 14:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n= 49,347

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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 15). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have remained low in all districts.

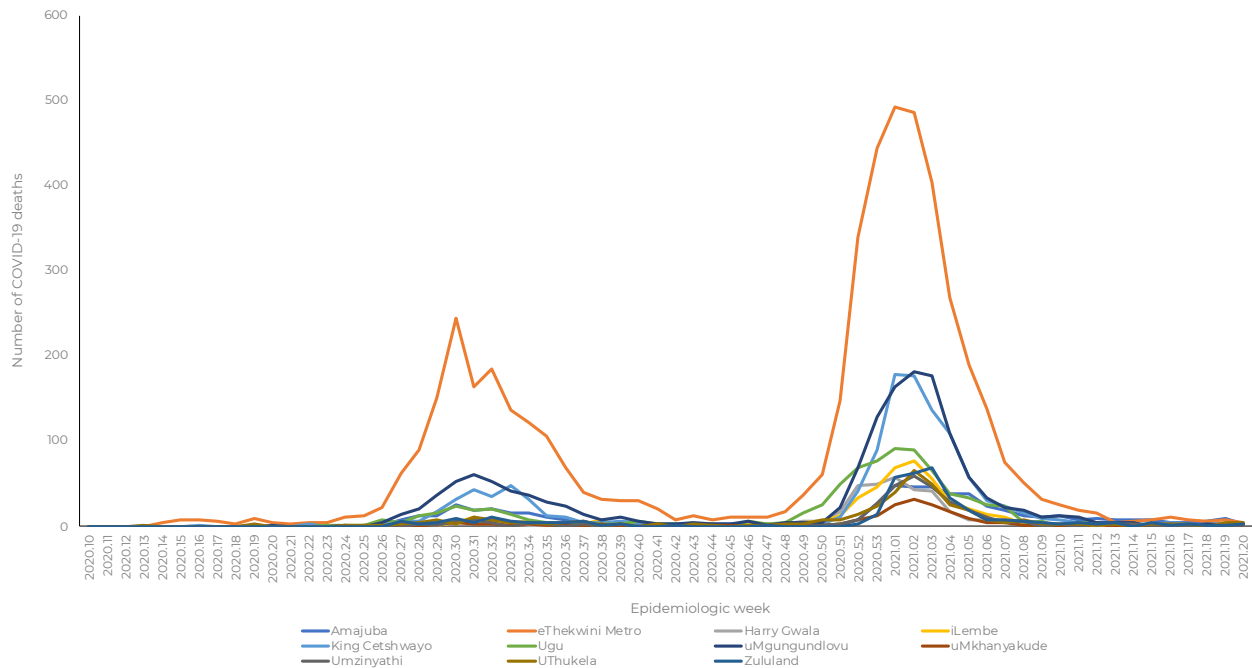


**Figure 15:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n= 49,347

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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 16). Since the end of the second wave, the numbers of COVID-19 deaths has remained low in all districts.



**Figure 16:** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n= 11,029

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There have been small increases in COVID-19 admission between previous 14 days average admissions and current 14 days average admissions in eThekweni Metro, iLembe and uMgungundlovu. The highest percentage change in admissions was in iLembe (Table 7).

**Table 7:** Percentage change in COVID-19 admissions, epidemiologic week 17 to week 18 of 2021, by district, Gauteng

District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
Amajuba	4.71	1.86	-60.61	0.71	0.86	20.00
eThekweni Metro	5.93	6.71	13.25	0.93	0.93	0.00
Harry Gwala	0.29	0.07	-75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
iLembe	0.29	0.64	125.00	0.07	0.07	0.00
King Cetshwayo	1.93	1.79	-7.41	0.29	0.07	-75.00
Ugu	1.50	0.79	-47.62	0.00	0.21	0.00
uMgungundlovu	2.00	2.93	46.43	0.14	0.36	150.00
uMkhanyakude	0.14	0.00	-100.00	0.07	0.00	-100.00
Umzinyathi	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.07	0.14	100.00
UThukela	1.43	1.14	-20.00	0.14	0.57	300.00
Zululand	0.71	0.71	0.00	0.21	0.29	33.33

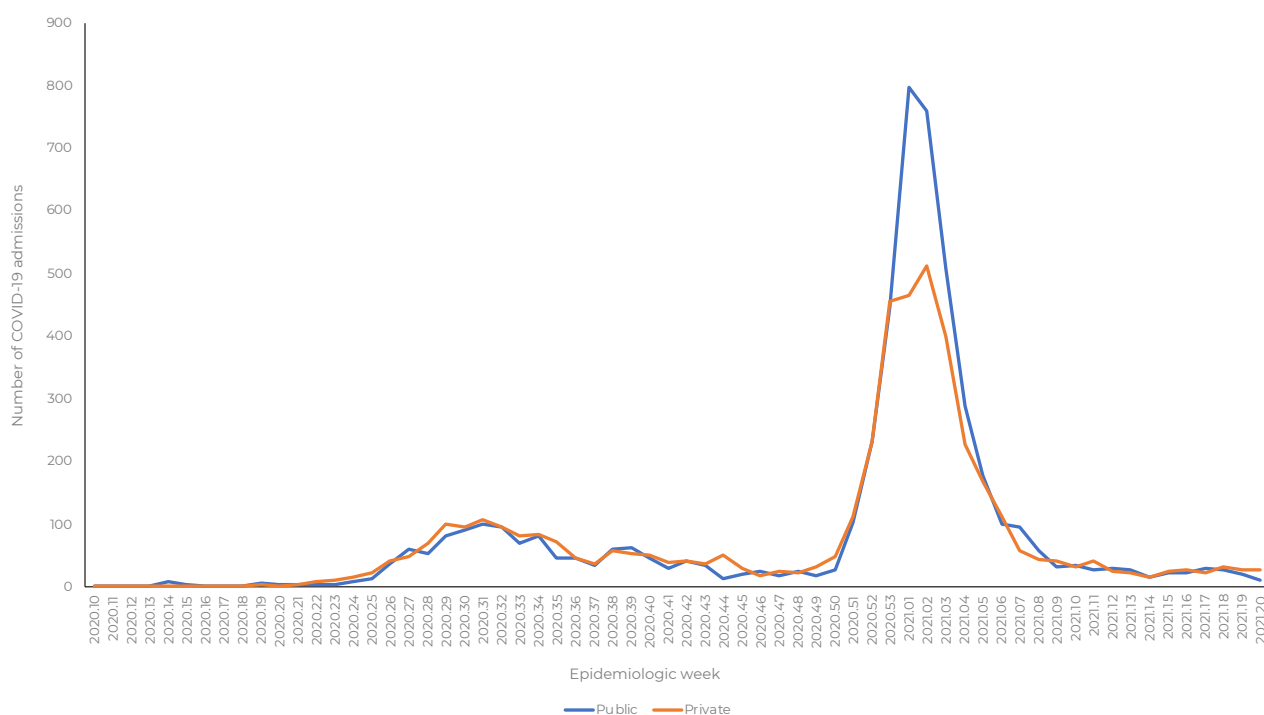


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## LIMPOPO

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.

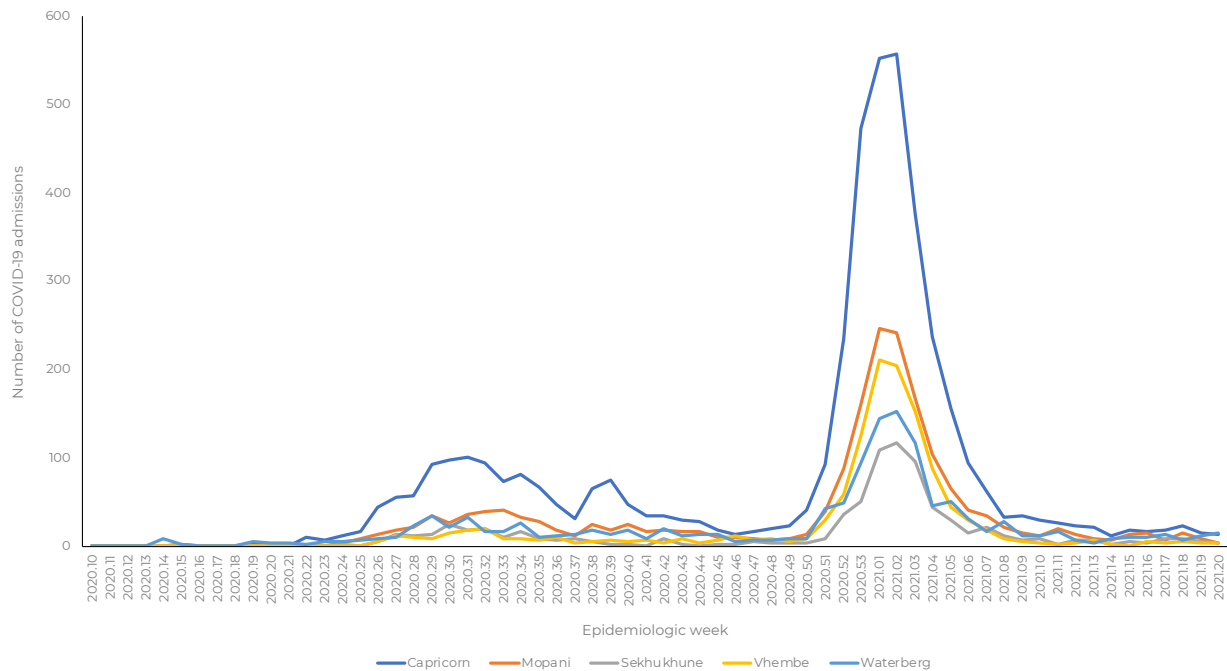


**Figure 17:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Limpopo, 5 March 2020–22 May 2021, n=9,651

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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.

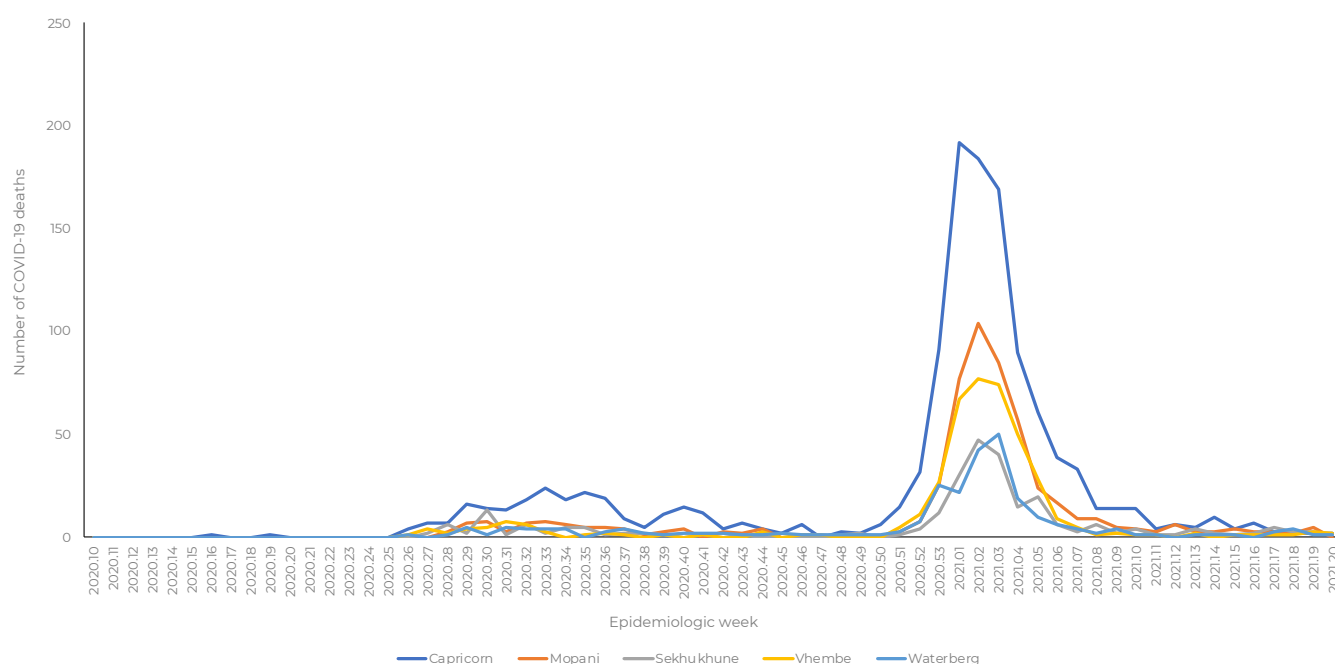


**Figure 18:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Limpopo, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=9,651

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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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 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 2020-22 May 2021, n=2,713

There has been a small increase in COVID-19 admission between previous 14 days average admissions and current 14 days average admissions in Waterberg. The highest percentage change in admissions was in Waterberg (Table 8).

**Table 8:** Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Limpopo, 24 April-22 May 2021

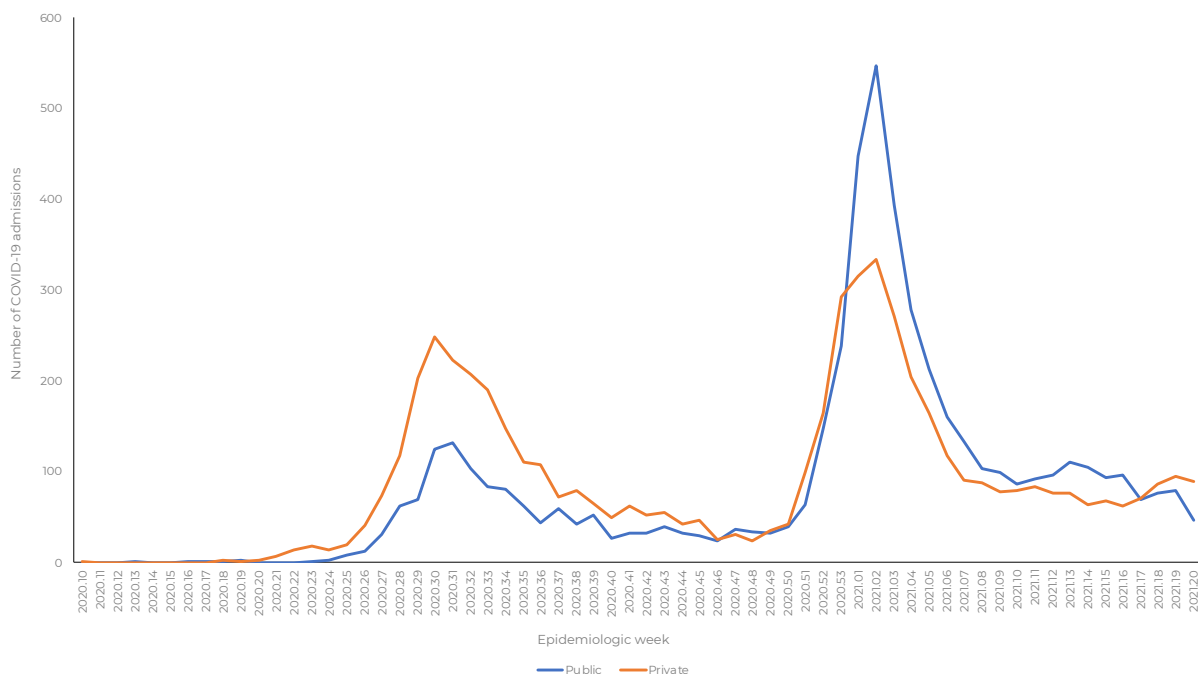
District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
Capricorn	2.93	2.00	-31.71	0.36	0.29	-20.00
Mopani	1.50	0.86	-42.86	0.36	0.36	0.00
Sekhukhune	1.21	0.57	-52.94	0.57	0.29	-50.00
Vhembe	0.57	0.57	0.00	0.14	0.36	150.00
Waterberg	1.50	1.93	28.57	0.50	0.14	-71.43

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WEEK 20 2021

## 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 20). An increase in admission in the private sector has been observed in the past three weeks.

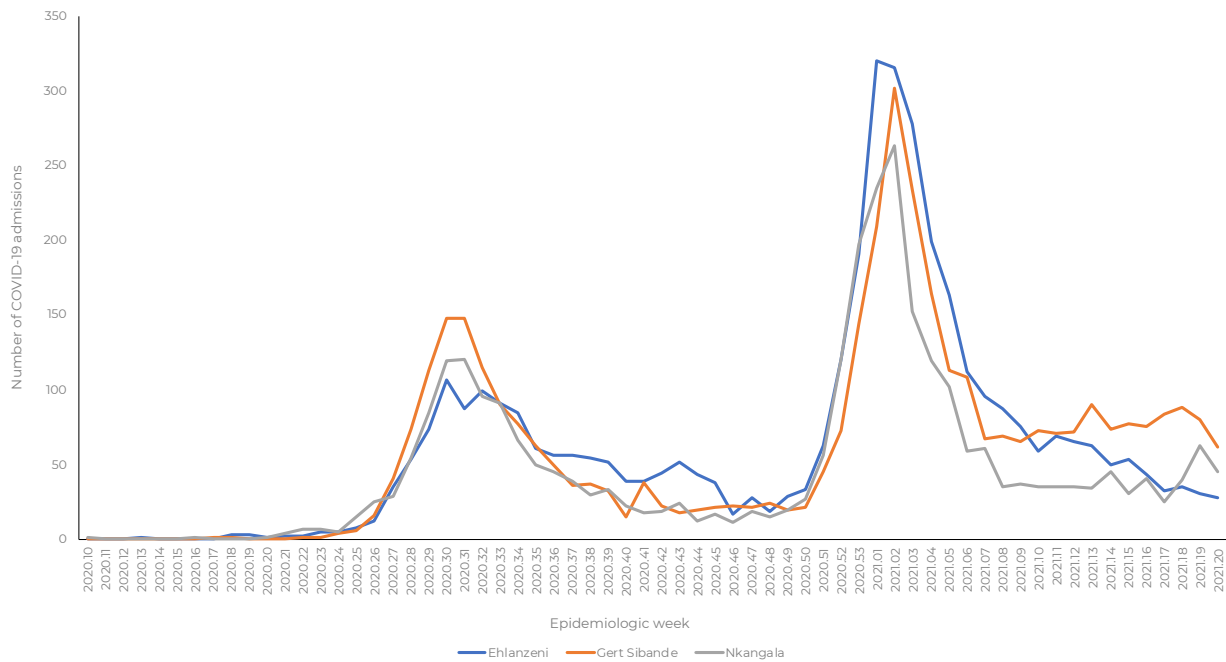


**Figure 20:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=10,607

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 20 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 (Figure 21). There have been increases in admissions in Nkangala and Gert Sibande districts.

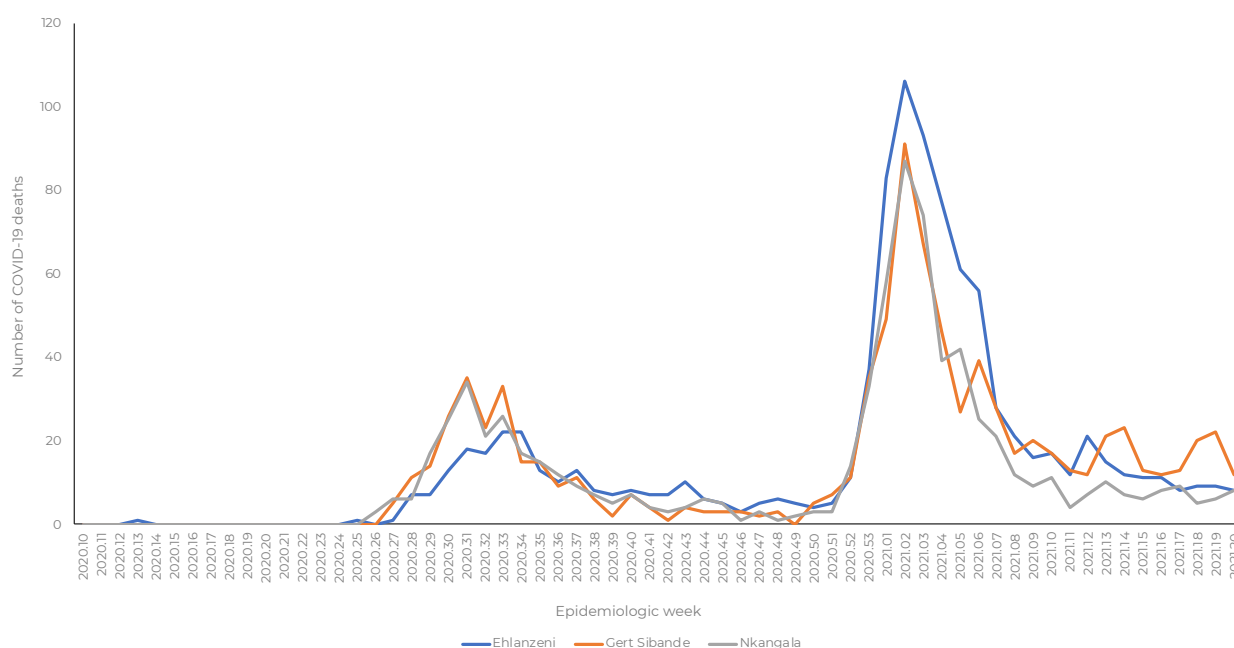


**Figure 21:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=10,607

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 20 2021

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 22). The numbers of COVID-19 deaths have increased in Gert Sibande.



**Figure 22:** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=2,548

There has been an increase in COVID-19 admission between previous 14 days average admissions and current 14 days average admissions in Nkangala. The highest percentage change in admissions was in Nkangala (Table 9).

**Table 9:** Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Mpumalanga, 24 April-22 May 2021

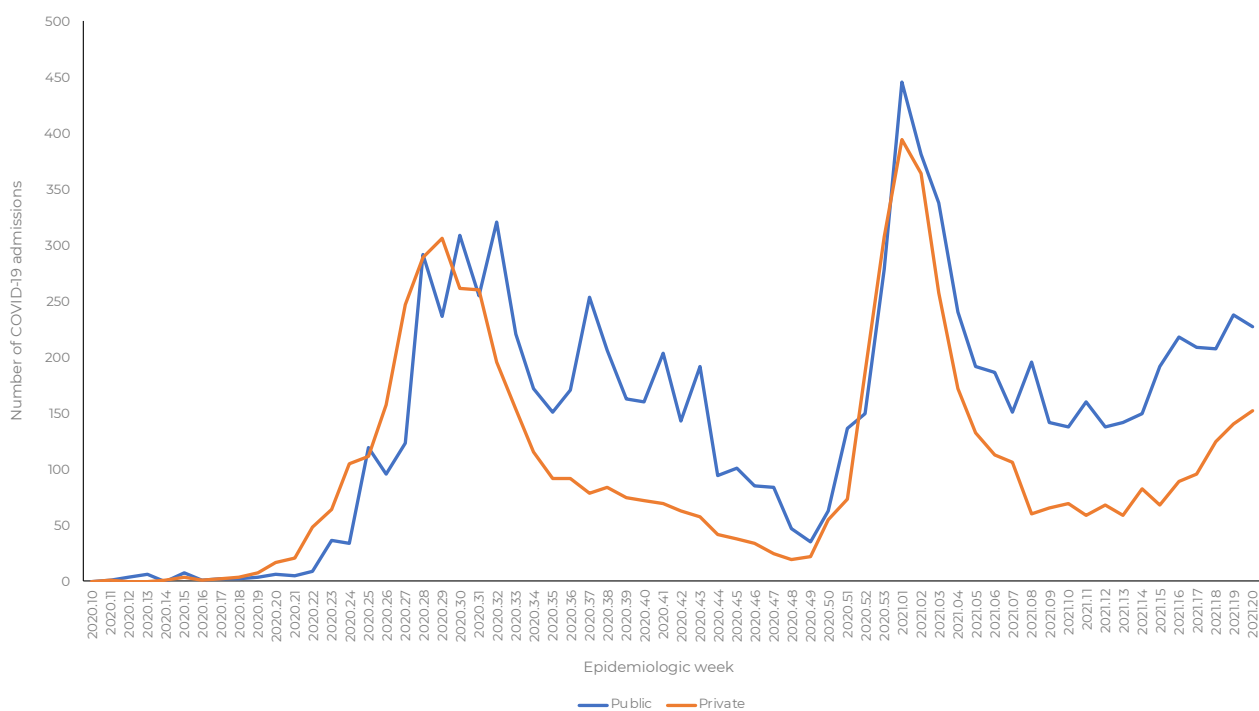
District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
Ehlanzeni	4.79	4.21	-11.94	1.21	1.21	0.00
Gert Sibande	12.29	10.14	-17.44	2.36	2.43	3.03
Nkangala	4.64	7.71	66.15	1.00	1.00	0.00

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 20 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 23). The numbers of COVID-19 admissions have increased in both sectors over the past nine weeks.

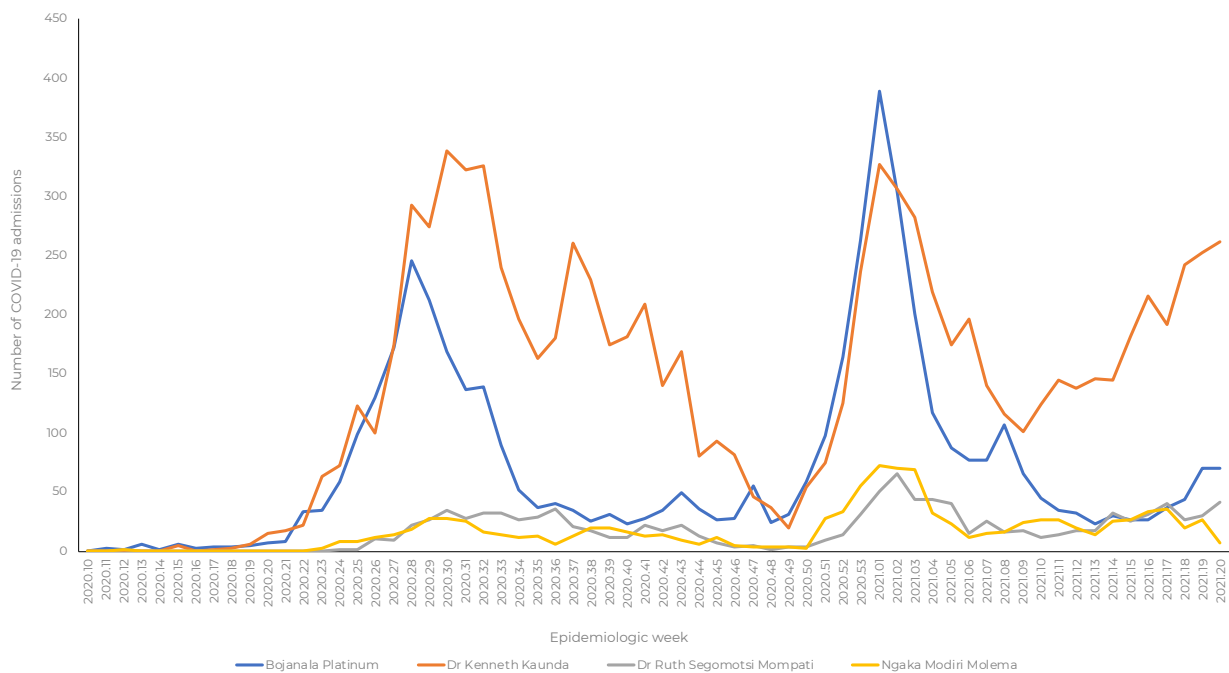


**Figure 23:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, North West, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=15,764

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 20 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 24). The numbers of COVID-19 admissions have increased in Dr Kenneth Kaunda district for nine weeks and has begun to increase in Bojanala Platinum and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti.



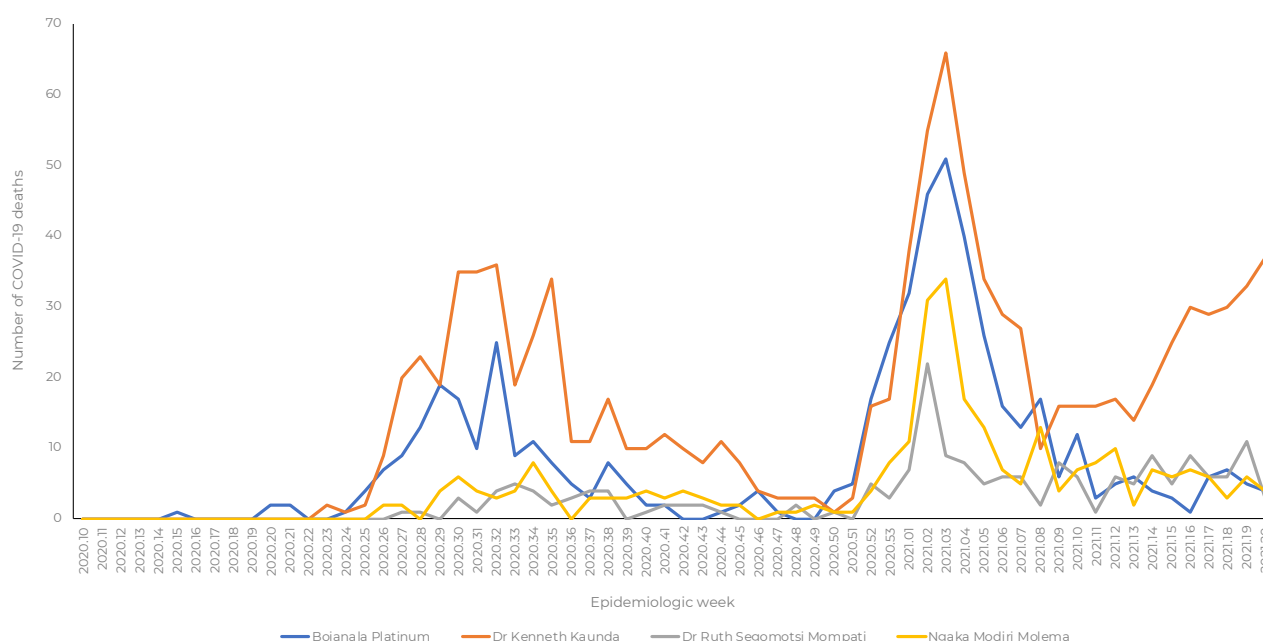
**Figure 24:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, North West, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=15,764



# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 20 2021

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 25). The numbers of COVID-19 deaths have increased in Dr Kenneth Kaunda district over the past six weeks.



**Figure 25:** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, North West, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=2,008

All districts showed an increase in COVID-19 admission between previous 14 days average admissions and current 14 days average admissions except Ngaka Modiri Molema. The highest percentage change in admissions was in Bojanala Platinum (Table 10).

**Table 10:** Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, North West, 24 April-22 May 2021

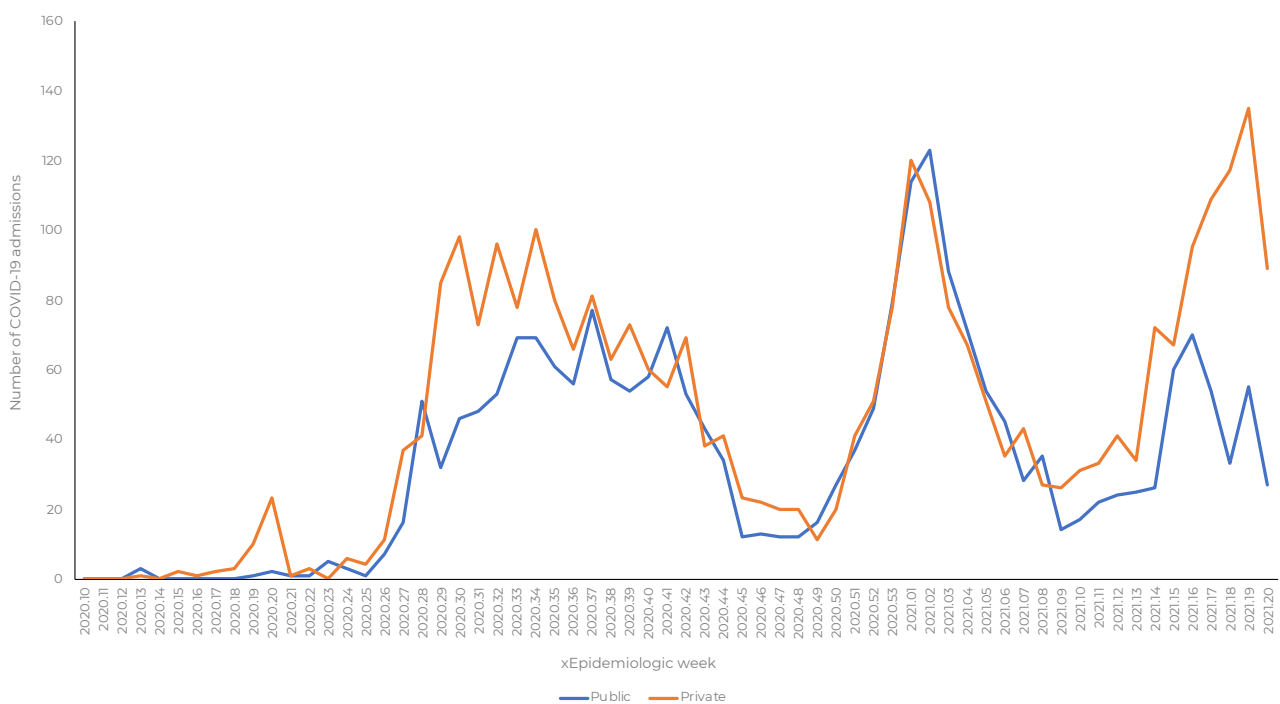
District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
Bojanala Platinum	5.79	10.00	72.84	0.93	0.64	-30.77
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	31.00	36.64	18.20	4.21	5.00	18.64
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	4.79	5.07	5.97	0.86	1.00	16.67
Ngaka Modiri Molema	4.00	2.36	-41.07	0.64	0.71	11.11

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 20 2021

## NORTHERN CAPE

In both waves there were roughly equal numbers of admissions in both sectors. 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). The numbers of COVID-19 admissions have increased in both sectors over the past nine weeks.

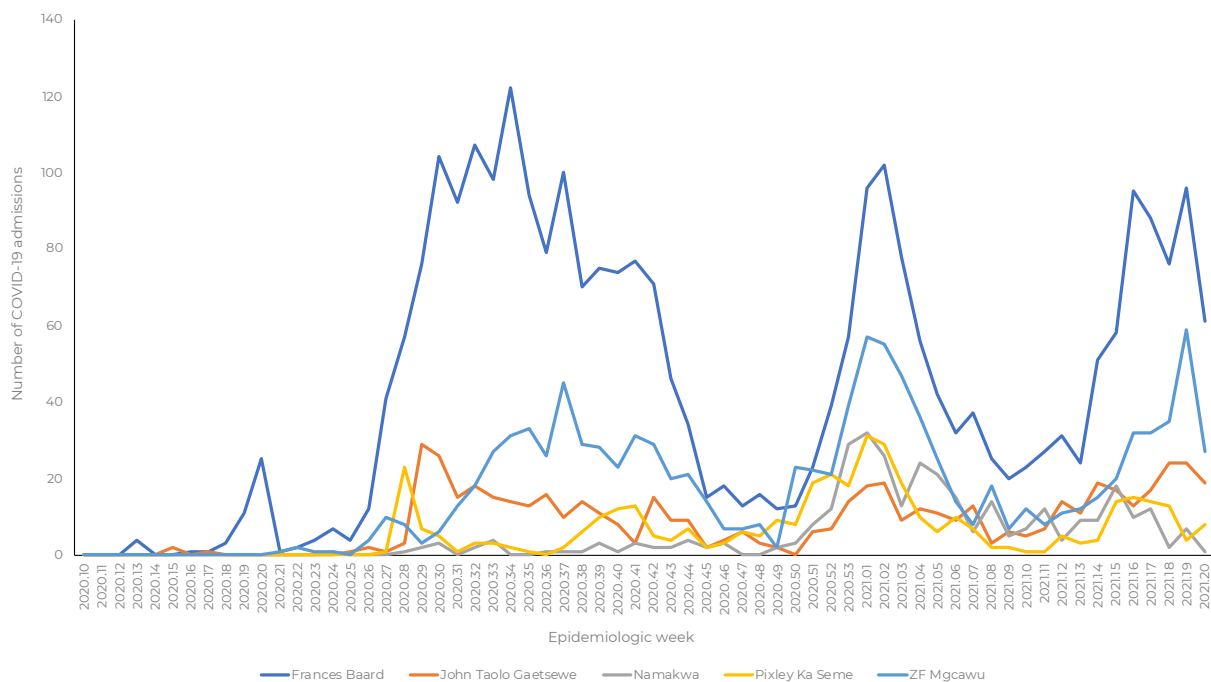


**Figure 26:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=5,179

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 20 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 27). In the past seven weeks the number of admissions have increased particularly in Frances Baard and ZF Mgcawu districts.

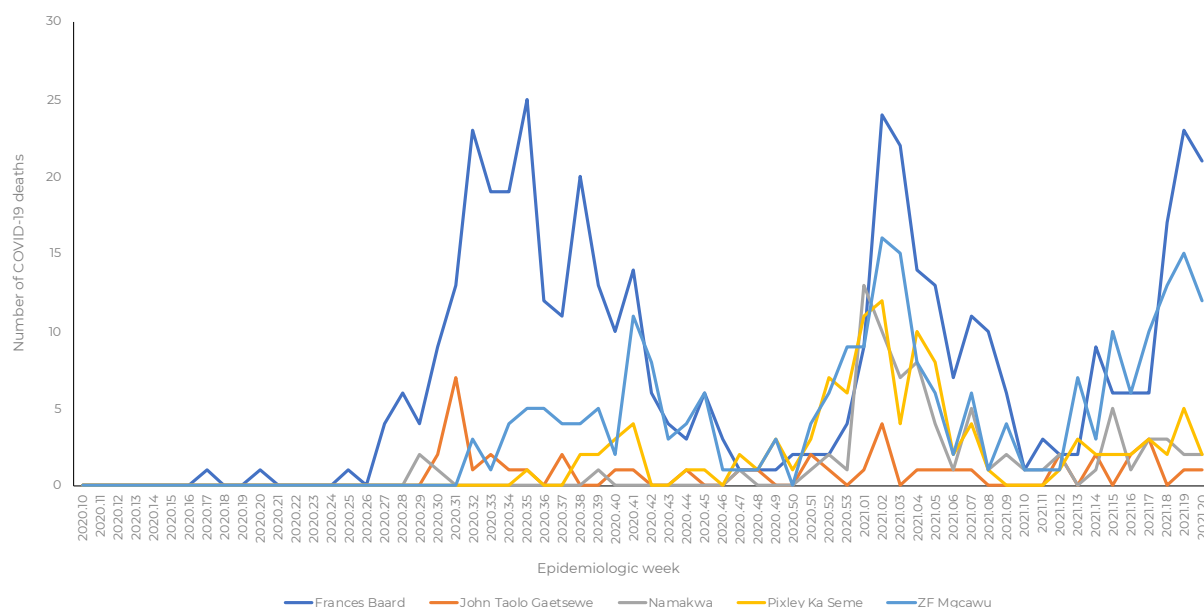


**Figure 27:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n=5,179

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 20 2021

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 28). The numbers of COVID-19 deaths have increased in Frances Baard and ZF Mgcawu districts.



**Figure 28:** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020–22 May 2021, n=924

There has been an increase in COVID-19 admission between previous 14 days average admissions and current 14 days average admissions in John Taolo Gaetsewe. The highest percentage change in new admissions was in John Taolo Gaetsewe district (Table 11).

**Table 11:** Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Northern Cape, 24 April–22 May 2021

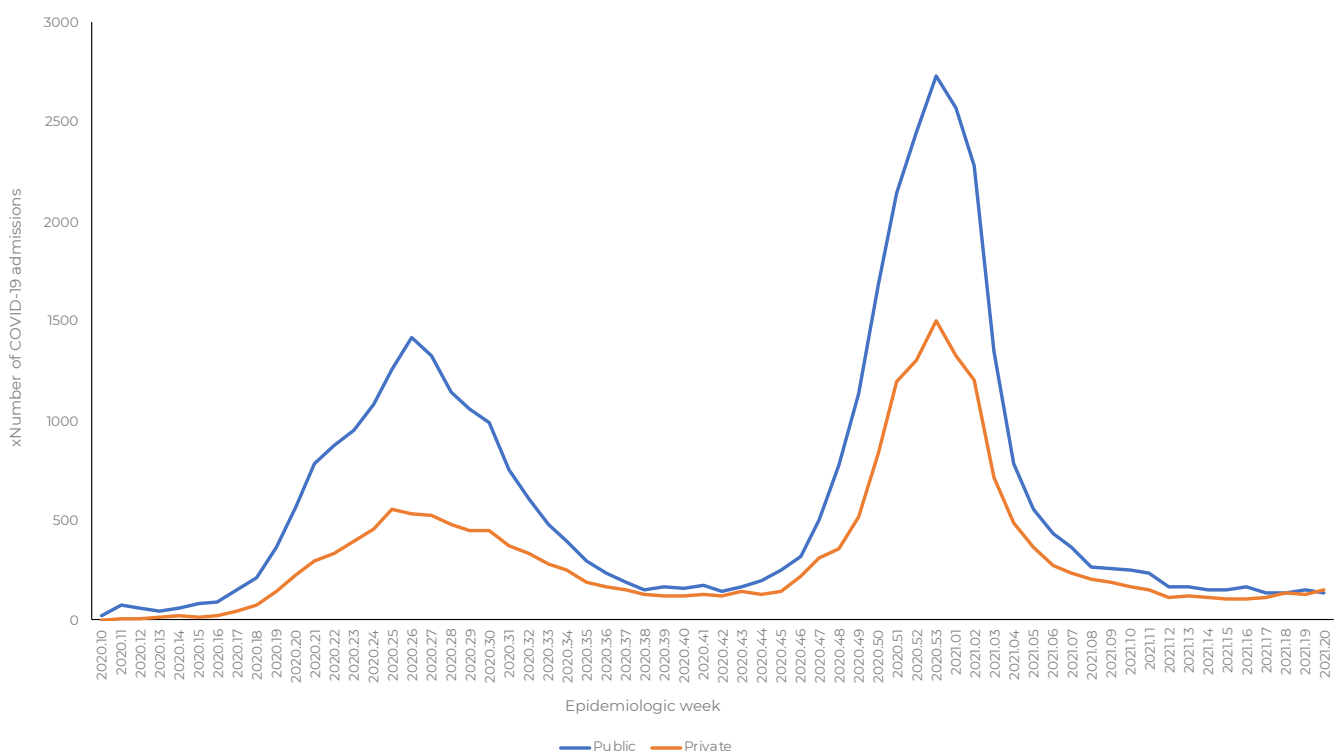
District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
Frances Baard	11.71	11.21	-4.27	1.64	3.14	91.30
John Taolo Gaetsewe	2.93	3.07	4.88	0.21	0.14	-33.33
Namakwa	1.00	0.57	-42.86	0.43	0.29	-33.33
Pixley Ka Seme	1.93	0.86	-55.56	0.36	0.50	40.00
ZF Mgcawu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 20 2021

## 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 29). Since the end of the second wave the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have remained low in both sectors. There has been a small increase in admission in the private sector in the past two weeks.

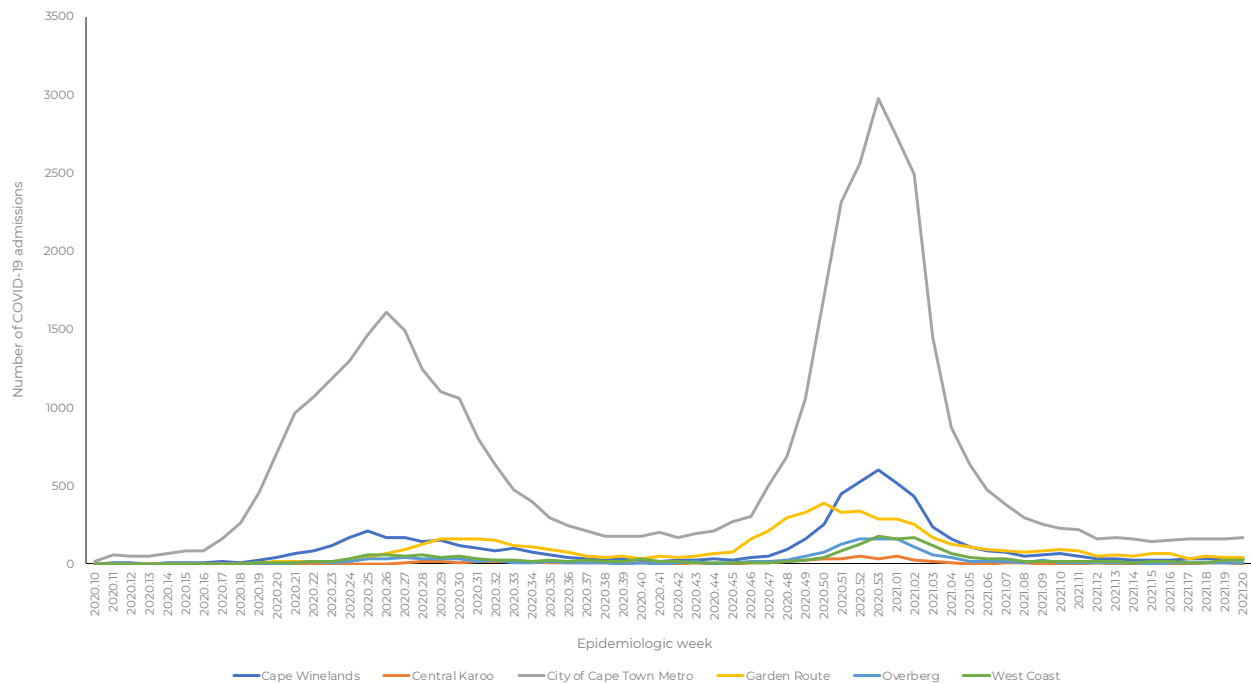


**Figure 29:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Western Cape, 5 March 2020–22 May 2021, n= 59,777

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 20 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 (Figure 30). There have been small increases in admissions in a few districts in the past two weeks.

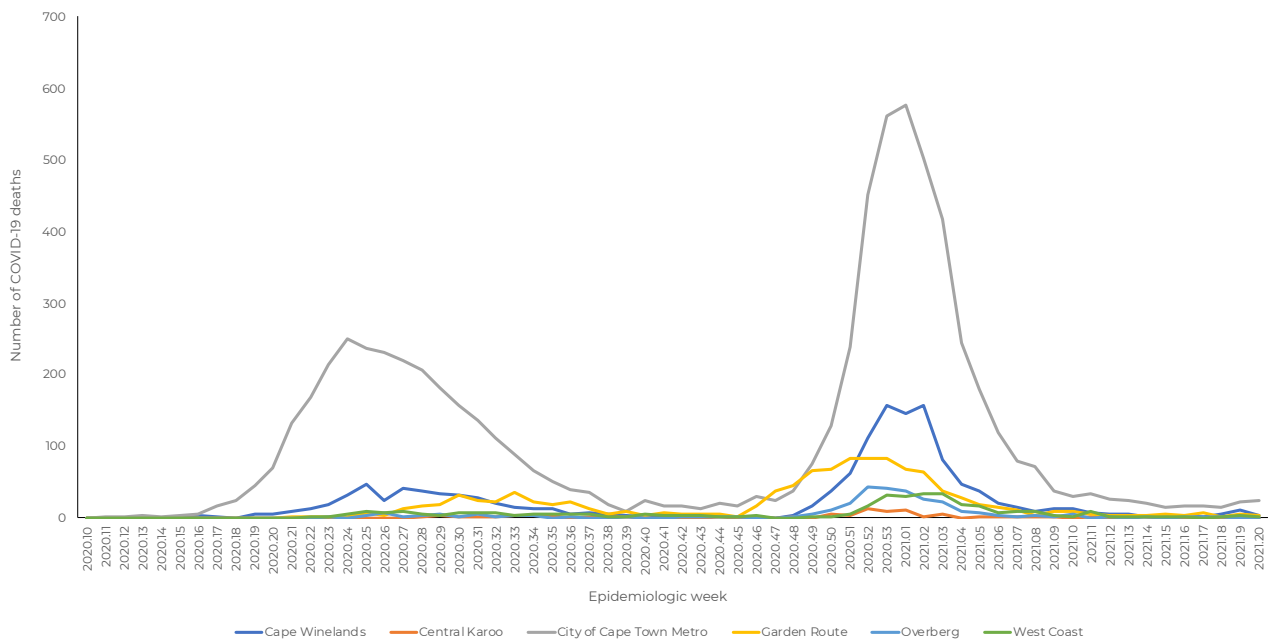


**Figure 30:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Western Cape, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021, n= 59,777

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 20 2021

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 31). There have been small increases in deaths in a few districts in the past two weeks.



**Figure 31:** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Western Cape, 5 March 2020–22 May 2021, n=10,078

All districts showed small increases in COVID-19 admissions between the previous 14 days average admissions and the current 14 days average admissions except Central Karoo and Overberg. The highest percentage change in admissions was in West Coast (Table 12).

**Table 12:** Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Western Cape, 24 April–22 May 2021

District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
Cape Winelands	4.71	5.07	7.58	0.43	1.07	150.00
Central Karoo	0.71	0.57	-20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
City of Cape Town Metro	22.79	23.64	3.76	2.14	3.36	56.67
Garden Route	6.00	6.36	5.95	0.57	0.64	12.50
Overberg	1.21	1.14	-5.88	0.14	0.00	-100.00
West Coast	1.57	3.29	109.09	0.14	0.36	150.00

## 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 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

WEEK 20 2021

## APPENDIX

**Table 13:** Percentage average change in hospital admissions over 14 days, by district, South Africa, 2 January 2020-22 May 2021

Province	District	Total admissions	Incidence (per 100k)	New admissions	New admissions incidence (per 100k)	% average change (14 days)
Eastern Cape	Alfred Nzo	1800	216.28	3	0.36	100.00
	Amathole	2365	295.92	0	0.00	100.00
	Buffalo City Metro	7410	925.24	6	0.75	-53.85
	Chris Hani	3328	457.36	3	0.41	-62.50
	Joe Gqabi	716	207.56	0	0.00	-100.00
	Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	11190	922.46	29	2.39	45.00
	O R Tambo	3268	213.29	7	0.46	100.00
	Sarah Baartman	1755	362.74	7	1.45	16.67
Free State	Fezile Dabi	1826	357.95	33	6.47	-28.26
	Lejweleputswa	3598	550.49	117	17.90	-13.33
	Mangaung Metro	8032	922.24	212	24.34	-15.87
	Thabo Mofutsanyana	2981	389.77	76	9.94	8.57
	Xhariep	378	292.02	9	6.95	-18.18
Gauteng	City of Johannesburg Metro	26527	452.17	400	6.82	26.98
	City of Tshwane Metro	18362	492.40	290	7.78	16.94
	Ekurhuleni Metro	15812	397.06	190	4.77	11.11
	Sedibeng	4808	503.18	105	10.99	-27.59
	West Rand	5682	595.14	123	12.88	50.00
KwaZulu-Natal	Amajuba	2313	405.42	15	2.63	7.14
	eThekweni Metro	23516	590.68	46	1.16	-17.86
	Harry Gwala	1564	304.26	0	0.00	-100.00
	iLembe	2121	305.38	1	0.14	-87.50
	King Cetshwayo	5663	583.41	9	0.93	-43.75
	Ugu	3306	412.36	6	0.75	0.00
	uMgungundlovu	6287	546.96	21	1.83	0.00

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 20 2021

Province	District	Total admissions	Incidence (per 100k)	New admissions	New admissions incidence (per 100k)	% average change (14 days)
	uMkhanyakude	799	116.32	0	0.00	100.00
	Umzinyathi	868	152.93	0	0.00	-100.00
	UThukela	1827	255.80	9	1.26	28.57
	Zululand	1085	123.18	4	0.45	-33.33
Limpopo	Capricorn	4453	340.46	13	0.99	-27.78
	Mopani	1862	157.15	3	0.25	-66.67
	Sekhukhune	801	67.29	3	0.25	-40.00
	Vhembe	1221	85.55	4	0.28	-20.00
	Waterberg	1323	178.25	21	2.83	23.53
Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni	3884	212.39	31	1.70	-11.43
	Gert Sibande	3757	302.46	85	6.84	-15.00
	Nkangala	2994	186.09	49	3.05	-24.62
North West	Bojanala Platinum	4567	236.86	74	3.84	0.00
	Dr Kenneth Kaunda	9087	1139.13	293	36.73	5.40
	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti	1110	234.63	43	9.09	22.86
	Ngaka Modiri Molema	1054	115.84	7	0.77	-73.08
Northern Cape	Frances Baard	2828	681.59	69	16.63	-33.65
	John Taolo Gaetsewe	566	208.49	27	9.95	-12.90
	Namakwa	338	292.35	3	2.59	-62.50
	Pixley Ka Seme	394	186.83	8	3.79	100.00
	ZF Mgcawu	1088	388.71	32	11.43	-48.39
Western Cape	Cape Winelands	6597	700.87	41	4.36	7.89
	Central Karoo	559	744.21	2	2.66	-80.00
	City of Cape Town Metro	42843	930.36	221	4.80	-11.95
	Garden Route	6226	998.30	67	10.74	21.82
	Overberg	1623	541.17	9	3.00	12.50
	West Coast	2065	448.12	27	5.86	-22.86

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 20 2021

## APPENDIX

**Table 14:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions and in-hospital deaths by age and gender, South Africa, 5 March 2020-22 May 2021

Age (years)	ADMISSIONS				DEATHS			
	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
0-4	1831	2228	10	4069	72	66	2	140
5-9	513	626	4	1143	9	13	0	22
10-14	858	828	0	1686	26	22	0	48
15-19	2663	1414	3	4080	74	70	0	144
20-24	4571	2283	5	6859	172	129	0	301
25-29	7660	3467	9	11136	385	233	2	620
30-34	10514	6069	4	16587	687	509	0	1196
35-39	11622	8291	16	19929	935	828	4	1767
40-44	11190	9687	5	20882	1192	1212	1	2405
45-49	12850	11879	13	24742	1769	1812	4	3585
50-54	15076	13364	2	28442	2428	2451	1	4880
55-59	16605	14269	7	30881	3516	3293	1	6810
60-64	14916	13332	16	28264	4034	4043	4	8081
65-69	12364	10793	10	23167	4050	3718	3	7771
70-74	9914	8674	11	18599	3426	3259	4	6689
75-79	7051	5663	6	12720	2557	2309	1	4867
80-84	5143	3569	5	8717	2009	1505	3	3517
85-89	2647	1656	2	4305	1060	777	0	1837
90-94	1182	557	1	1740	555	280	0	835
>=95	400	220	0	620	174	82	0	256
Unknown	781	638	38	1457	49	56	0	105
<b>Total</b>	<b>150351</b>	<b>119507</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>270025</b>	<b>29179</b>	<b>26667</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>55876</b>