

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 32 2021

OVERVIEW OF REPORT

This report summarises national laboratory testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19, in South Africa. This report is based on data for specimens reported up to 14 August 2021 (Week 32 of 2021).

HIGHLIGHTS

- In the period 1 March 2020 through 14 August 2021, 15,526,881 (13,677,849 PCR and 1,849,032 antigen) tests for SARS-CoV-2 have been reported nationally.
- The number of tests reported in week 32 of 2021 (n=308,593) was similar to the weekly number of tests reported in the previous four weeks.
- The testing rate in week 32 was 518 per 100,000 persons; highest in the Western Cape (842 per 100,000 persons) and lowest in Limpopo (135 per 100,000 persons).
- In week 32 the percentage testing positive was 23.4%, which was 0.8% lower than the previous week.
- The percentage testing positive in week 32 was highest in the Northern Cape (33.8%) and Western Cape (31.9%) provinces. The percentage testing positive was between 20% and 30% in the Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces, and was less than 20% in Gauteng.
- In week 32, compared to the previous week, the percentage testing positive increased in the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal provinces. The percentage testing positive decreased in the Western Cape, North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo.
- The number of tests reported is likely underestimated as antigen tests are increasingly being used outside of laboratory settings and reporting may be delayed or results may not be reported.

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Methods

Testing for SARS-CoV-2 began on 28 January 2020 at the NICD and after the first case was confirmed on 5th March 2020, testing was expanded to a larger network of private and NHLS laboratories. Laboratory testing was conducted for people meeting the case definition for persons under investigation (PUI). This definition was updated several times over the reporting period but at different times included (i) symptomatic individuals seeking testing, (ii) hospitalised individuals for whom testing was done, (iii) individuals in high-risk occupations, (iv) individuals in outbreak settings, and (v) individuals identified through community screening and testing (CST) programmes which were implemented in April 2020 and was discontinued from the week beginning 17th May. CST was implemented differently in different provinces, and ranged from mass screening approaches (including asymptomatic individuals) to screening of individuals in contact with a confirmed case to targeted testing of clusters of cases. Respiratory specimens were submitted to testing laboratories. Testing was performed using reverse transcriptase real-time PCR, which detects SARS-CoV-2 viral genetic material. Laboratories used any one of several in-house and commercial PCR assays to test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA. Testing for SARS-CoV-2 using rapid antigen-based tests was implemented towards the end of October 2020. Results of reported rapid antigen-based tests are included in this report, however data are incomplete and efforts are ongoing to improve data completeness.

Test results were automatically fed into a data warehouse after result authorisation. We excluded specimens collected outside South Africa and duplicate entries of the same test for an individual. From week 48 of 2020 onwards, test data were reported from the Notifiable Medical Conditions Surveillance System (NMCCSS). Date of specimen receipt in the laboratory was used when date of specimen collection was missing. Proportion testing positive (PTP) was calculated as the number of positive tests/total number of tests and presented as percentage by multiplying with 100. We used 2020 mid-year population estimates from Statistics South Africa to calculate the testing rate, expressed as tests per 100,000 persons. Patient admission status for

public and private sector tests was determined based on the reported patient facility. Laboratory turnaround times were calculated as the mean number of days between specimen collection and reporting of the result. Categorical variables were compared using the chi-squared test, and continuous variables with the students t-test, with a P-value < 0.05 considered statistically significant.

Health district and sub-district (in the metros) level results were mapped based on geo-locatable public and private sector testing facilities. Estimates of overall prevalence were derived using regression techniques. Estimates were adjusted to produce district-specific positive test prevalences based on the national average age and sex profile of testing for that week. This adjustment allows more accurate comparison of the proportion testing positive across districts.

The report includes tests reported between 1 March 2020 (week 10 of 2020), the week when the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed, and 14 August 2021 (week 32 of 2021).

Testing volumes and proportion testing positive

From 1 March 2020 through 14 August 2021, 15,526,881 SARS-CoV-2 tests were reported; 13,677,849 PCR and 1,849,032 antigen tests. The highest weekly number of tests reported during the first wave occurred in week 28 of 2020 (beginning 5 July, n=307,916). In the second wave, the highest weekly number of tests were reported in week 1 of 2021 (beginning 3 January, n=501,139). In the third wave, the weekly number of tests started increasing in week 19 of 2021 (beginning 9 May), and increased weekly to a peak in week 26 of 2021 (beginning 27 June, n=480,738). The number of tests reported in week 32 was 308,593, similar to the previous four weeks. All tests for samples collected in the previous week may not yet be reflected. Reduced testing volumes were observed over weekends and public holidays (Figure 1).

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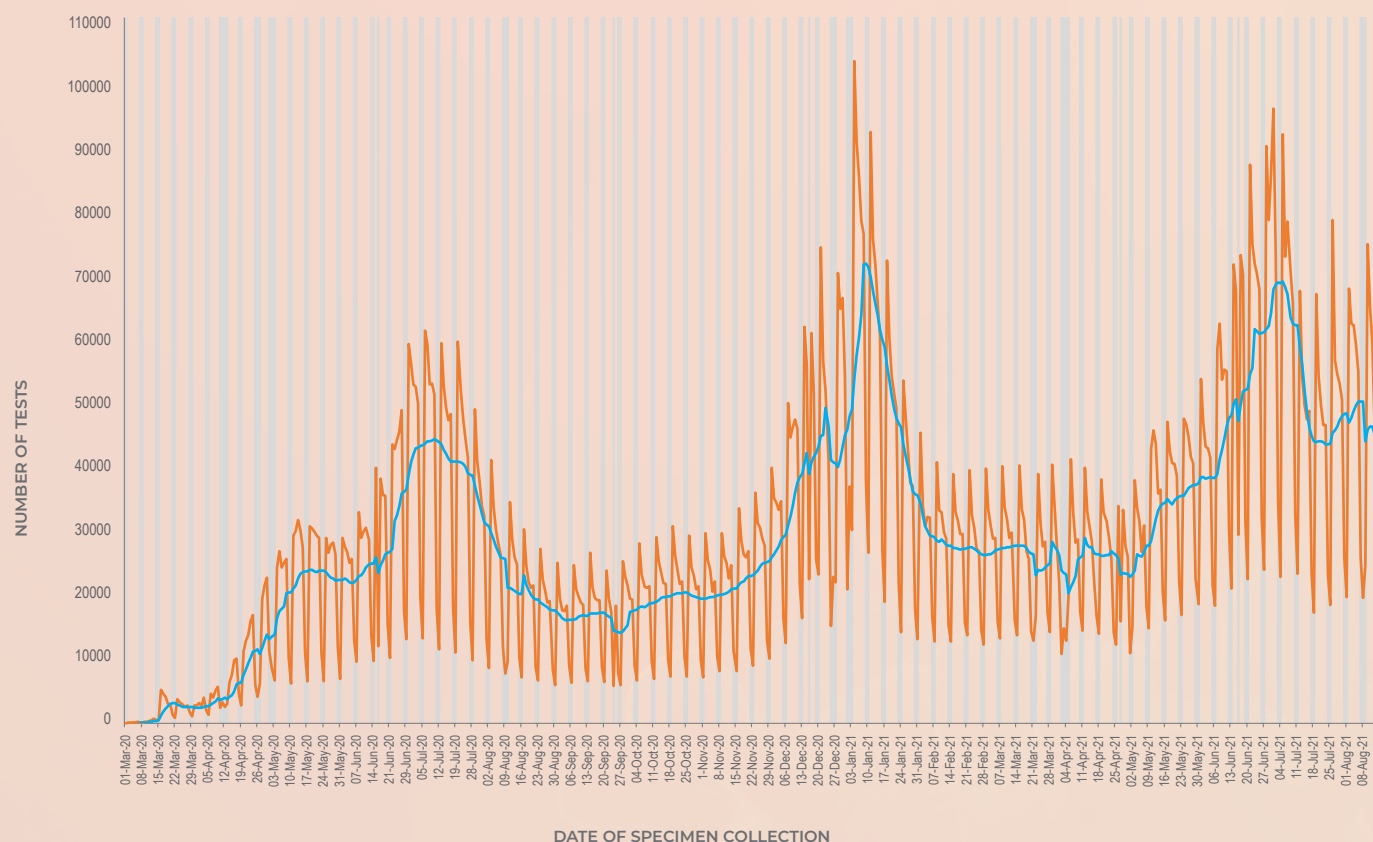


Figure 1. Number of SARS-CoV-2 tests reported by date of specimen collection, South Africa, 1 March 2020 – 14 August 2021. Blue line shows the 7-day moving average of the number of tests reported. Grey bars highlight weekend days and public holidays.

The overall percentage testing positive from week 10 of 2020 through week 32 of 2021 was 17.8% (Table 1). During the first wave of infections, the percentage testing positive peaked at 29.7% in week 29 of 2020, and subsequently decreased to 8.4% in week 44 of 2020. During the second wave of infections the percentage testing positive increased to a peak of 34.6% in week 53 of 2020, and subsequently decreased to 4.0% in week 14 of 2021. In the third wave of infections, the percentage testing positive peaked at 32.0% in week 27 of 2021 (beginning 4 July), and has subsequently decreased. The percentage testing positive in week 32 of 2021 was 23.4%, which was 0.8% lower than the previous week (24.2%, $P < 0.001$) (Figure 2).

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Table 1. Weekly number of SARS-CoV-2 tests and positive tests reported, South Africa, 1 March 2020 – 14 August 2021

Week number	Week beginning	No. of tests n (%)	No. of positive tests	Percentage testing positive (%)
10	01-Mar-20	456 (0.0)	13	2.9
11	08-Mar-20	2380 (0.0)	103	4.3
12	15-Mar-20	21567 (0.1)	897	4.2
13	22-Mar-20	17545 (0.1)	544	3.1
14	29-Mar-20	18251 (0.1)	521	2.9
15	05-Apr-20	26299 (0.2)	796	3.0
16	12-Apr-20	43754 (0.3)	1295	3.0
17	19-Apr-20	79179 (0.5)	2177	2.7
18	26-Apr-20	93818 (0.6)	3209	3.4
19	03-May-20	142713 (0.9)	6018	4.2
20	10-May-20	165378 (1.1)	8092	4.9
21	17-May-20	166544 (1.1)	11379	6.8
22	24-May-20	156139 (1.0)	12967	8.3
23	31-May-20	153571 (1.0)	15079	9.8
24	07-Jun-20	173905 (1.1)	22363	12.9
25	14-Jun-20	186091 (1.2)	32653	17.5
26	21-Jun-20	252100 (1.6)	55049	21.8
27	28-Jun-20	302751 (1.9)	75313	24.9
28	05-Jul-20	307916 (2.0)	86041	27.9
29	12-Jul-20	285603 (1.8)	84927	29.7
30	19-Jul-20	270900 (1.7)	78636	29.0
31	26-Jul-20	216397 (1.4)	58394	27.0
32	02-Aug-20	179576 (1.2)	40996	22.8
33	09-Aug-20	141106 (0.9)	26266	18.6
34	16-Aug-20	135014 (0.9)	21377	15.8
35	23-Aug-20	123333 (0.8)	16331	13.2
36	30-Aug-20	112763 (0.7)	12790	11.3
37	06-Sep-20	116998 (0.8)	11953	10.2
38	13-Sep-20	120716 (0.8)	12012	10.0
39	20-Sep-20	98822 (0.6)	10098	10.2
40	27-Sep-20	123062 (0.8)	11008	8.9
41	04-Oct-20	131045 (0.8)	11779	9.0
42	11-Oct-20	137980 (0.9)	12078	8.8
43	18-Oct-20	142173 (0.9)	12069	8.5
44	25-Oct-20	135853 (0.9)	11479	8.4
45	01-Nov-20	138844 (0.9)	12138	8.7
46	08-Nov-20	147009 (0.9)	14845	10.1
47	15-Nov-20	160649 (1.0)	18765	11.7
48	22-Nov-20	175695 (1.1)	22054	12.6
49	29-Nov-20	203152 (1.3)	30769	15.1
50	06-Dec-20	267929 (1.7)	53314	19.9
51	13-Dec-20	294471 (1.9)	68578	23.3
52	20-Dec-20	284614 (1.8)	81963	28.8
53	27-Dec-20	334402 (2.2)	115739	34.6
1	03-Jan-21	501139 (3.2)	151031	30.1
2	10-Jan-21	417929 (2.7)	104788	25.1

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3	17-Jan-21	327363 (2.1)	63253	19.3
4	24-Jan-21	249470 (1.6)	34636	13.9
5	31-Jan-21	203621 (1.3)	22357	11.0
6	07-Feb-21	193241 (1.2)	16465	8.5
7	14-Feb-21	190384 (1.2)	12169	6.4
8	21-Feb-21	184436 (1.2)	10378	5.6
9	28-Feb-21	189328 (1.2)	8685	4.6
10	07-Mar-21	193234 (1.2)	8323	4.3
11	14-Mar-21	185428 (1.2)	8140	4.4
12	21-Mar-21	172688 (1.1)	7343	4.3
13	28-Mar-21	163571 (1.1)	7059	4.3
14	04-Apr-21	180591 (1.2)	7281	4.0
15	11-Apr-21	184515 (1.2)	8838	4.8
16	18-Apr-21	184771 (1.2)	9458	5.1
17	25-Apr-21	159623 (1.0)	9177	5.7
18	02-May-21	193698 (1.2)	13433	6.9
19	09-May-21	239137 (1.5)	19869	8.3
20	16-May-21	247014 (1.6)	24117	9.8
21	23-May-21	260063 (1.7)	29583	11.4
22	30-May-21	267522 (1.7)	35843	13.4
23	06-Jun-21	332612 (2.1)	58678	17.6
24	13-Jun-21	363220 (2.3)	86381	23.8
25	20-Jun-21	425330 (2.7)	116367	27.4
26	27-Jun-21	480738 (3.1)	143422	29.8
27	04-Jul-21	433961 (2.8)	138866	32.0
28	11-Jul-21	313335 (2.0)	98830	31.5
29	18-Jul-21	303879 (2.0)	86186	28.4
30	25-Jul-21	336910 (2.2)	86129	25.6
31	01-Aug-21	351074 (2.3)	85129	24.2
32	08-Aug-21	308593 (2.0)	72272	23.4
Total		15,526,881 (100.0)	2,769,353	17.8

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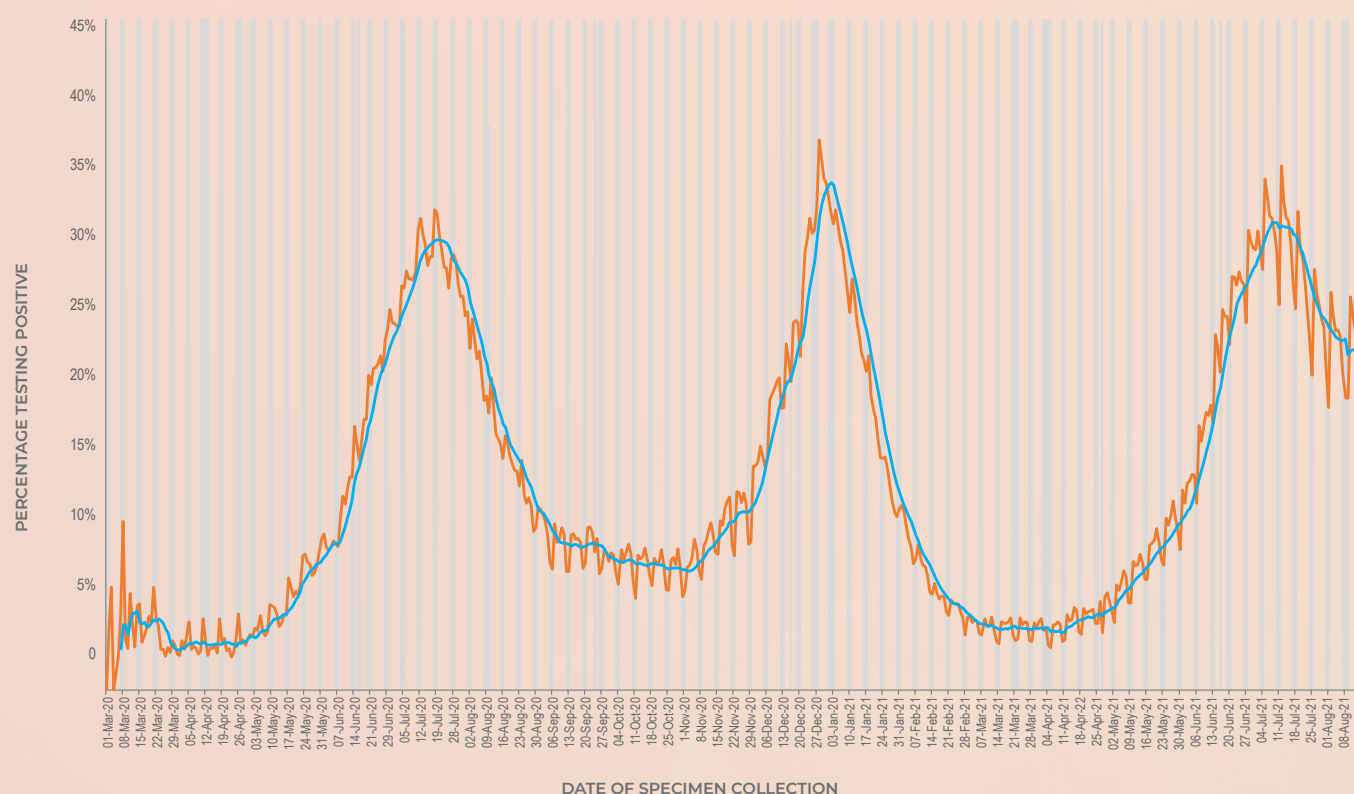


Figure 2. Percentage of tests positive for SARS-CoV-2 by date of specimen collection, South Africa, 1 March 2020 – 14 August 2021. Blue line shows the 7-day moving average of the percentage testing positive. Grey bars highlight weekend days and public holidays.

Testing in private and public sectors

From 1 March 2020 through 14 August 2021 6,927,144 tests were reported in the public sector with 18.0% testing positive. Over this same period the private sector reported 8,599,737 tests with 17.7% testing positive (Table 2). Overall the public sector has reported 44.6% of tests and accounted for 44.9% of positive tests. In the first wave of infections the peak percentage testing positive was observed in week 30 of 2020 in the public sector (28.8%) and in week 29 of 2020 in the private sector (30.6%). In the second wave of infections the highest percentage testing positive was observed in week 53 of 2020 in both the public sector (34.9%) and private sector (34.4%). In the third wave of infections the peak percentage testing positive was observed in week 28 of 2021 (beginning 11 July) in the public sector (30.4%) and in week 27 of 2021 (beginning 4 July) in the private sector (33.6%).

From week 31 to week 32 of 2021 the percentage testing positive was unchanged in the public sector (24.9% in week 31 and week 32) and decreased by 1.6% in the private sector (23.5% in week 31 to 21.9% in week 32, $P < 0.001$). In week 32 the percentage testing positive in the public sector (24.9%) was 3.0% higher than in the private sector (21.9%, $P < 0.001$).

The mean turnaround time for PCR tests reported in week 32 of 2021 was 1.2 days; 1.9 days in the public sector and 0.6 days in the private sector (Figure 3). Turnaround times for public sector PCR tests were > 2 days in the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State, Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces in week 32 (Figure 4). Increases in turnaround times were observed in Limpopo, Free State, Northern Cape and Mpumalanga provinces in the past week. Nineteen of the 28 (67.9%) NHLS laboratories performing PCR testing for SARS-CoV-2 had turnaround times ≤ 2 days in week 32 (Figure 5).

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Table 2. Weekly number of tests and positive tests reported by healthcare sector South Africa 1 March 2020 – 14 August 2021

Week number	Week beginning	Public sector		Private sector		Public sector proportion of		Ratio of PTP ^a
		Tests	Cases n (%)	Tests	Positive tests n (%)	Tests (%)	Positive tests (%)	
10	01-Mar-20	294	10 (3.4)	162	3 (1.9)	64.5	76.9	1.837
11	08-Mar-20	401	27 (6.7)	1979	76 (3.8)	16.8	26.2	1.753
12	15-Mar-20	1442	81 (5.6)	20125	816 (4.1)	6.7	9.0	1.385
13	22-Mar-20	3478	149 (4.3)	14067	395 (2.8)	19.8	27.4	1.526
14	29-Mar-20	5868	194 (3.3)	12383	327 (2.6)	32.2	37.2	1.252
15	05-Apr-20	11735	417 (3.6)	14564	379 (2.6)	44.6	52.4	1.366
16	12-Apr-20	24167	672 (2.8)	19587	623 (3.2)	55.2	51.9	0.874
17	19-Apr-20	55110	1595 (2.9)	24069	582 (2.4)	69.6	73.3	1.197
18	26-Apr-20	67469	2453 (3.6)	26349	756 (2.9)	71.9	76.4	1.267
19	03-May-20	94338	4507 (4.8)	48375	1511 (3.1)	66.1	74.9	1.530
20	10-May-20	108001	5443 (5.0)	57377	2649 (4.6)	65.3	67.3	1.092
21	17-May-20	98648	7031 (7.1)	67896	4348 (6.4)	59.2	61.8	1.113
22	24-May-20	77597	6411 (8.3)	78542	6556 (8.3)	49.7	49.4	0.990
23	31-May-20	63945	6626 (10.4)	89626	8453 (9.4)	41.6	43.9	1.099
24	07-Jun-20	64655	8039 (12.4)	109250	14324 (13.1)	37.2	35.9	0.948
25	14-Jun-20	61149	11982 (19.6)	124942	20671 (16.5)	32.9	36.7	1.184
26	21-Jun-20	90455	20425 (22.6)	161645	34624 (21.4)	35.9	37.1	1.054
27	28-Jun-20	106374	27245 (25.6)	196377	48068 (24.5)	35.1	36.2	1.046
28	05-Jul-20	117727	32239 (27.4)	190189	53802 (28.3)	38.2	37.5	0.968
29	12-Jul-20	110664	31383 (28.4)	174939	53544 (30.6)	38.7	37.0	0.927
30	19-Jul-20	105218	30319 (28.8)	165682	48317 (29.2)	38.8	38.6	0.988
31	26-Jul-20	81248	22782 (28.0)	135149	35612 (26.4)	37.5	39.0	1.064
32	02-Aug-20	70566	16996 (24.1)	109010	24000 (22.0)	39.3	41.5	1.094
33	09-Aug-20	58661	11172 (19.0)	82445	15094 (18.3)	41.6	42.5	1.040
34	16-Aug-20	56138	9621 (17.1)	78876	11756 (14.9)	41.6	45.0	1.150
35	23-Aug-20	50319	7790 (15.5)	73014	8541 (11.7)	40.8	47.7	1.323
36	30-Aug-20	45422	6096 (13.4)	67341	6694 (9.9)	40.3	47.7	1.350
37	06-Sep-20	51055	6421 (12.6)	65943	5532 (8.4)	43.6	53.7	1.499
38	13-Sep-20	53707	6547 (12.2)	67009	5465 (8.2)	44.5	54.5	1.495
39	20-Sep-20	44842	5530 (12.3)	53980	4568 (8.5)	45.4	54.8	1.457
40	27-Sep-20	48629	5568 (11.4)	74433	5440 (7.3)	39.5	50.6	1.567
41	04-Oct-20	50435	5690 (11.3)	80610	6089 (7.6)	38.5	48.3	1.494
42	11-Oct-20	53452	5702 (10.7)	84528	6376 (7.5)	38.7	47.2	1.414
43	18-Oct-20	56123	6045 (10.8)	86050	6024 (7.0)	39.5	50.1	1.539
44	25-Oct-20	51287	5721 (11.2)	84566	5758 (6.8)	37.8	49.8	1.638
45	01-Nov-20	52999	6061 (11.4)	85845	6077 (7.1)	38.2	49.9	1.615
46	08-Nov-20	58914	8097 (13.7)	88095	6748 (7.7)	40.1	54.5	1.794
47	15-Nov-20	67582	10584 (15.7)	93067	8181 (8.8)	42.1	56.4	1.782
48	22-Nov-20	74574	12200 (16.4)	101121	9854 (9.7)	42.4	55.3	1.679
49	29-Nov-20	81270	15730 (19.4)	121882	15039 (12.3)	40.0	51.1	1.569
50	06-Dec-20	107911	24716 (22.9)	160018	28598 (17.9)	40.3	46.4	1.282
51	13-Dec-20	117212	29815 (25.4)	177259	38763 (21.9)	39.8	43.5	1.163
52	20-Dec-20	109913	34128 (31.1)	174701	47835 (27.4)	38.6	41.6	1.134
53	27-Dec-20	151637	52934 (34.9)	182765	62805 (34.4)	45.3	45.7	1.016
1	03-Jan-21	237014	71064 (30.0)	264125	79967 (30.3)	47.3	47.1	0.990
2	10-Jan-21	204022	52958 (26.0)	213907	51830 (24.2)	48.8	50.5	1.071
3	17-Jan-21	165671	34459 (20.8)	161692	28794 (17.8)	50.6	54.5	1.168
4	24-Jan-21	123262	18999 (15.4)	126208	15637 (12.4)	49.4	54.9	1.244
5	31-Jan-21	99786	12065 (12.1)	103835	10292 (9.9)	49.0	54.0	1.220
6	07-Feb-21	91324	8509 (9.3)	101917	7956 (7.8)	47.3	51.7	1.194
7	14-Feb-21	86222	6670 (7.7)	104162	5499 (5.3)	45.3	54.8	1.465
8	21-Feb-21	82508	5795 (7.0)	101928	4583 (4.5)	44.7	55.8	1.562
9	28-Feb-21	87877	4678 (5.3)	101451	4007 (3.9)	46.4	53.9	1.348
10	07-Mar-21	92750	4580 (4.9)	100484	3743 (3.7)	48.0	55.0	1.326
11	14-Mar-21	89888	4438 (4.9)	95540	3702 (3.9)	48.5	54.5	1.274
12	21-Mar-21	77082	3459 (4.5)	95606	3884 (4.1)	44.6	47.1	1.105
13	28-Mar-21	70913	3455 (4.9)	92658	3604 (3.9)	43.4	48.9	1.253

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14	04-Apr-21	79373	3355 (4.2)	101218	3926 (3.9)	44.0	46.1	1.090
15	11-Apr-21	85820	4360 (5.1)	98695	4478 (4.5)	46.5	49.3	1.120
16	18-Apr-21	80524	4709 (5.8)	104247	4749 (4.6)	43.6	49.8	1.284
17	25-Apr-21	70225	4124 (5.9)	89398	5053 (5.7)	44.0	44.9	1.039
18	02-May-21	81059	5464 (6.7)	112639	7969 (7.1)	41.8	40.7	0.953
19	09-May-21	91406	7323 (8.0)	147731	12546 (8.5)	38.2	36.9	0.943
20	16-May-21	100035	9094 (9.1)	146979	15023 (10.2)	40.5	37.7	0.889
21	23-May-21	120228	11712 (9.7)	139835	17871 (12.8)	46.2	39.6	0.762
22	30-May-21	110633	11755 (10.6)	156889	24088 (15.4)	41.4	32.8	0.692
23	06-Jun-21	145824	19609 (13.4)	186788	39069 (20.9)	43.8	33.4	0.643
24	13-Jun-21	150974	29074 (19.3)	212246	57307 (27.0)	41.6	33.7	0.713
25	20-Jun-21	175721	41912 (23.9)	249609	74455 (29.8)	41.3	36.0	0.800
26	27-Jun-21	230552	62188 (27.0)	250186	81234 (32.5)	48.0	43.4	0.831
27	04-Jul-21	207878	62926 (30.3)	226083	75940 (33.6)	47.9	45.3	0.901
28	11-Jul-21	153105	46540 (30.4)	160230	52290 (32.6)	48.9	47.1	0.931
29	18-Jul-21	152384	43816 (28.8)	151495	42370 (28.0)	50.1	50.8	1.028
30	25-Jul-21	182058	46888 (25.8)	154852	39241 (25.3)	54.0	54.4	1.016
31	01-Aug-21	185057	46171 (24.9)	166017	38958 (23.5)	52.7	54.2	1.063
32	08-Aug-21	153338	38257 (24.9)	155255	34015 (21.9)	49.7	52.9	1.139
Total		6,927,144	1,243,600 (18.0)	8,599,737	1,525,753 (17.7)	44.6	44.9	1.012

^aRatio of percentage testing positive (PTP) in the public sector to the private sector calculated as (no. of cases/total tests in public sector)/ (no. of cases/total tests in private sector)

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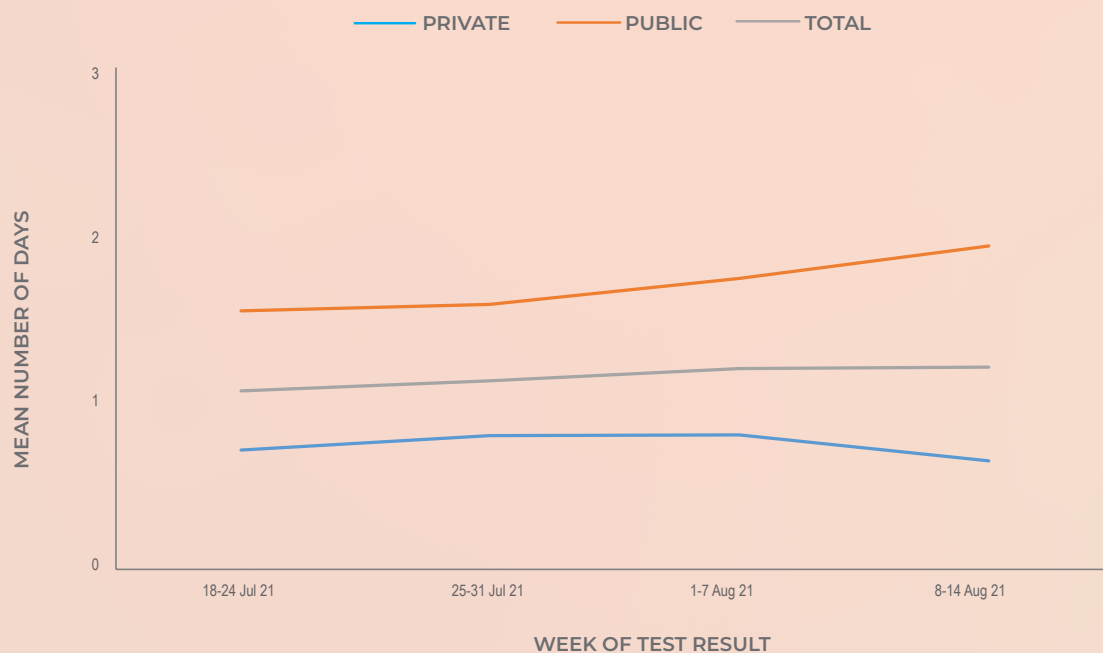


Figure 3. Mean number of days between date of specimen collection and date of test result for PCR tests by week of test result, South Africa, 18 July – 14 August 2021

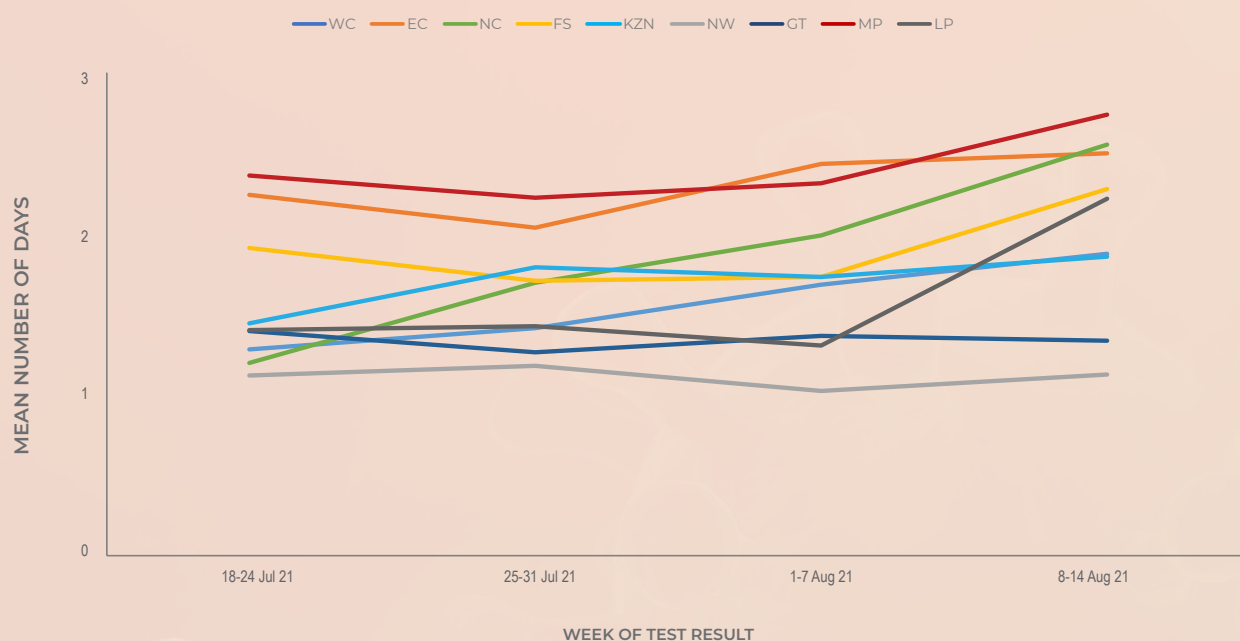


Figure 4. Mean number of days between date of specimen collection and date of test result for PCR tests by week of test result and province/public sector South Africa 18 July – 14 August 2021. WC Western Cape; EC Eastern Cape; FS Free State; KZN KwaZulu-Natal; GT Gauteng; NC Northern Cape; NW North West; MP Mpumalanga; LP Limpopo

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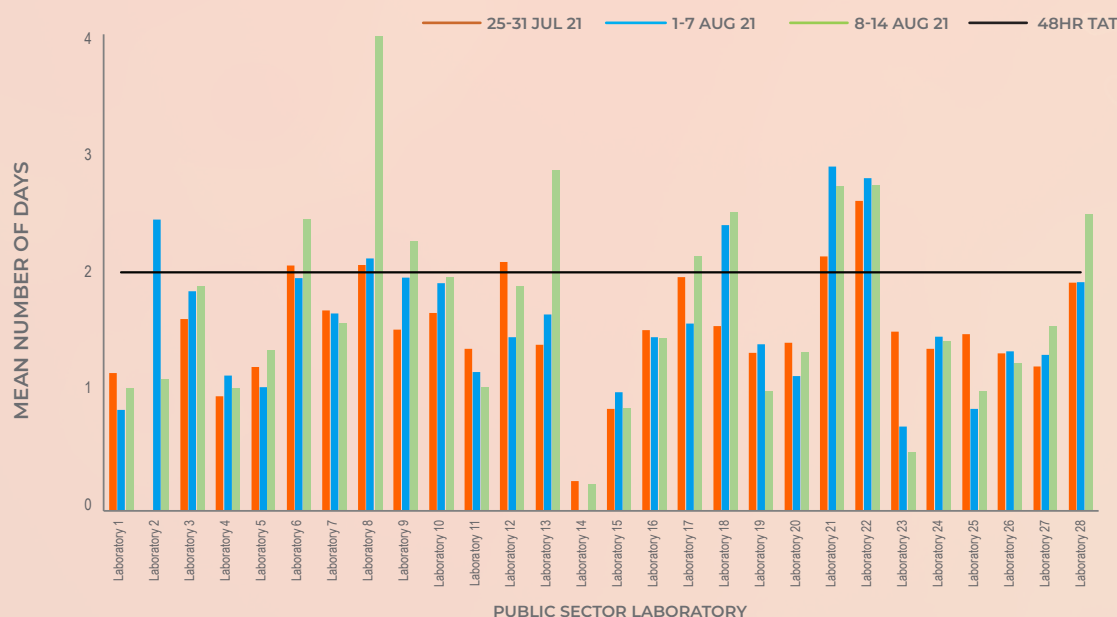


Figure 5. Mean number of days between date of specimen collection and date of test result for PCR tests by public sector laboratory 25 July - 14 August 2021. The horizontal black line indicates 48-hour turnaround time (TAT).

Testing by province

KwaZulu-Natal reported the largest proportion of tests (25.2%) followed by Gauteng (24.6%) and Western Cape (19.1%) in week 32 of 2021 (Table 3). The overall testing rate decreased from 589 per 100,000 persons in week 31 to 518 per 100,000 in week 32. The testing rate ranged from 842 per 100,000 persons in the Western Cape to 135 per 100,000 persons in Limpopo (Figure 6). In week 32 testing rates decreased in the Western Cape, Northern Cape, Gauteng, North West and Mpumalanga provinces.

The percentage testing positive in week 32 was highest in the Northern Cape (33.8%) and Western

Cape (31.9%) provinces. The percentage testing positive was between 20% and 30% in the Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces, and was less than 20% in Gauteng (Figure 7 and Table 3). Compared to the previous week the percentage testing positive in week 32 increased ($P \leq 0.001$) in the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal provinces. The percentage testing positive decreased ($P < 0.001$) in the Western Cape, North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo. The percentage testing positive was higher than the national average not weighted for population size in the Western Cape, Northern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, North West and Mpumalanga provinces (Figure 7).

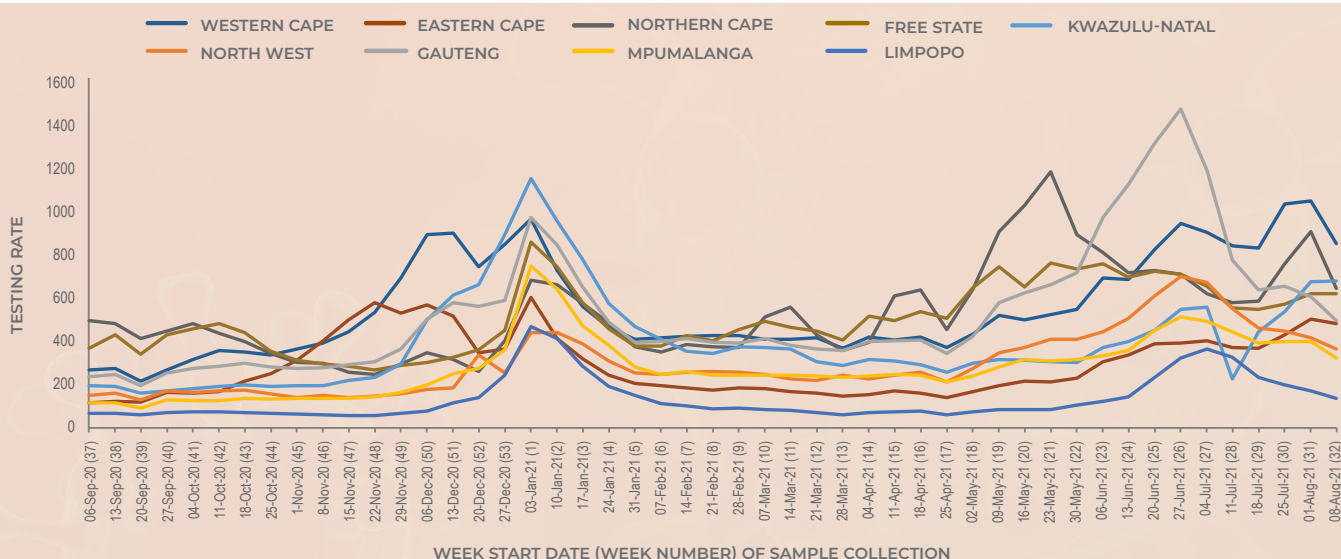


Figure 6. Testing rate per 100,000 persons by province and week of specimen collection, South Africa, 6 September 2020 - 14 August 2021

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Table 3. Weekly number of tests and positive tests reported by province South Africa 25 July - 14 August 2021

Province	Population ^a	25-31 Jul 2021		1-7 Aug 2021		8-14 Aug 2021		Tests per 100,000 persons	Change in percentage positive ^b
		No. of tests	No. positive tests (%)	No. of tests	No. positive tests (%)	No. of tests	No. positive tests (%)		
Western Cape	7005741	71860	23177 (32.3)	72708	24172 (33.2)	59020	18842 (31.9)	842	-1.3%
Eastern Cape	6734001	28574	5980 (20.9)	33466	7205 (21.5)	32105	7247 (22.6)	477	1.0%
Northern Cape	1292786	9703	2915 (30.0)	11586	3400 (29.3)	8248	2784 (33.8)	638	4.4%
Free State	2928903	16608	3467 (20.9)	17991	4215 (23.4)	18002	4498 (25.0)	615	1.6%
KwaZulu-Natal	11531628	61327	13081 (21.3)	77129	17229 (22.3)	77654	18381 (23.7)	673	1.3%
North West	4108816	18228	4883 (26.8)	16873	4282 (25.4)	14785	3470 (23.5)	360	-1.9%
Gauteng	15488137	100568	22618 (22.5)	93043	16201 (17.4)	75945	11011 (14.5)	490	-2.9%
Mpumalanga	4679786	18476	6124 (33.1)	18439	5707 (31.0)	14916	4231 (28.4)	319	-2.6%
Limpopo	5852553	11556	3883 (33.6)	9809	2713 (27.7)	7907	1808 (22.9)	135	-4.8%
Unknown		10	1 (10.0)	30	5 (16.7)	11	0 (0.0)		
Total	59622350	336910	86129 (25.6)	351074	85129 (24.2)	308593	72272 (23.4)	518	-0.8%

^a 2020 Mid-year population Statistics SA

^b Current week compared to previous week

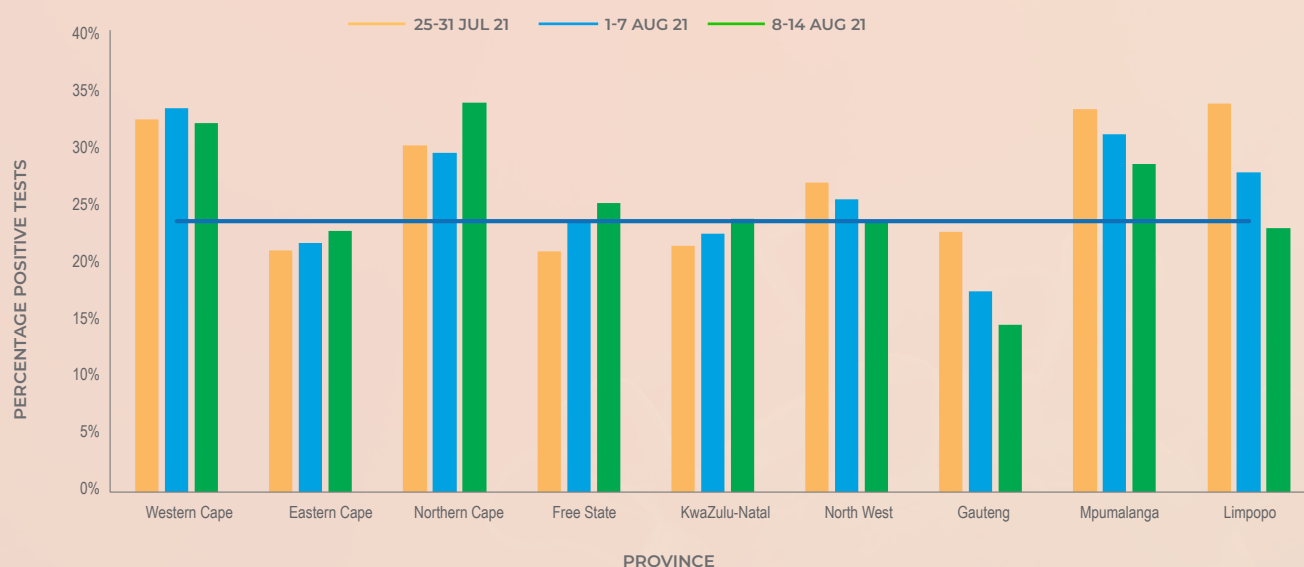


Figure 7. Weekly percentage testing positive by province, South Africa, 25 July – 14 August 2021. The horizontal blue line shows the national mean for week 32, beginning 8 August 2021

Testing in the public sector

In the public sector the percentage testing positive was unchanged in the past week (24.9% in weeks 31 and 32) (Table 4). The percentage testing positive in week 32 was highest in the Western Cape (37.8%) and

Northern Cape (35.0%) provinces. The percentage testing positive in the public sector was higher than the national average not weighted for population size in the Western Cape, Northern Cape, North West and Mpumalanga provinces (Figure 8).

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Table 4. Weekly number of tests and positive tests reported in the public sector by province South Africa 25 July - 14 August 2021

Province	25-31 Jul 2021		1-7 Aug 2021		8-14 Aug 2021	
	No. of tests	No. positive tests (%)	No. of tests	No. positive tests (%)	No. of tests	No. positive tests (%)
Western Cape	38415	13594 (35.4)	37210	13447 (36.1)	25757	9728 (37.8)
Eastern Cape	20421	4034 (19.8)	24654	5161 (20.9)	22776	4968 (21.8)
Northern Cape	6729	2038 (30.3)	7968	2297 (28.8)	4778	1670 (35.0)
Free State	9974	1889 (18.9)	10743	2414 (22.5)	10353	2492 (24.1)
KwaZulu-Natal	39487	7903 (20.0)	48500	10013 (20.6)	48606	11078 (22.8)
North West	10210	2608 (25.5)	9169	2405 (26.2)	7950	2110 (26.5)
Gauteng	42845	10533 (24.6)	34455	6718 (19.5)	23659	3868 (16.3)
Mpumalanga	9143	2687 (29.4)	8779	2663 (30.3)	6608	1679 (25.4)
Limpopo	4834	1602 (33.1)	3565	1050 (29.5)	2850	664 (23.3)
Unknown	0	0 (0.0)	14	3 (21.4)	1	0 (0.0)
Total	182058	46888 (25.8)	185057	46171 (24.9)	153338	38257 (24.9)

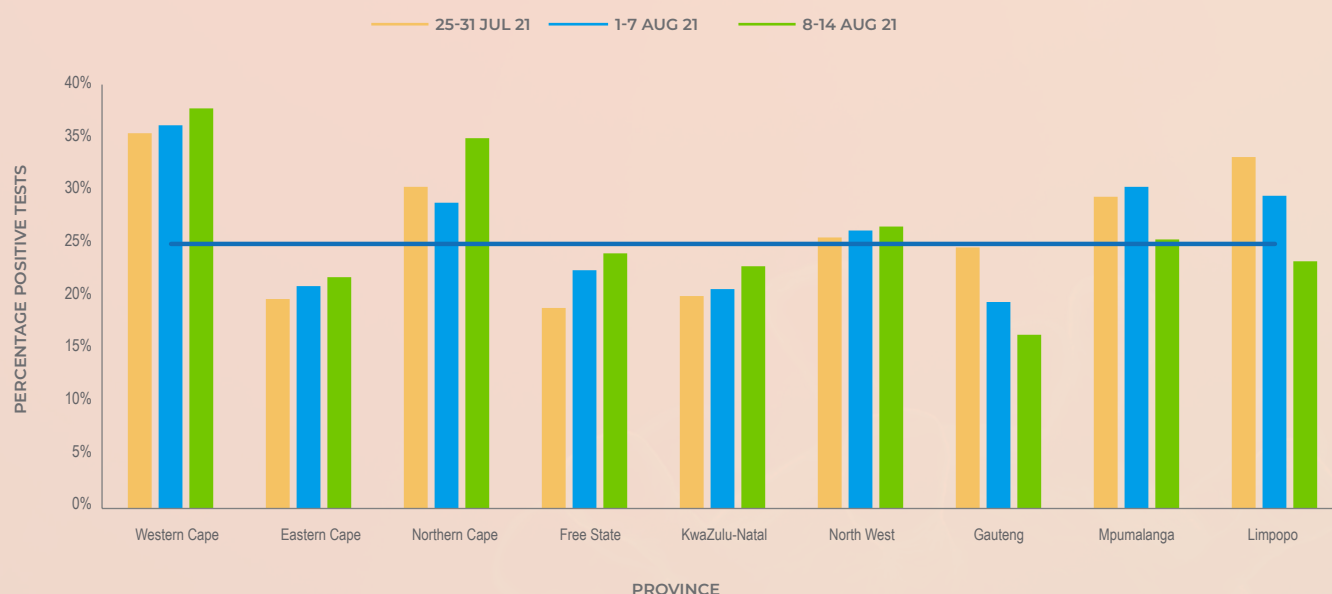


Figure 8. Weekly percentage testing positive in the public sector by province, South Africa, 25 July - 14 August 2021. The horizontal blue line shows the national mean for week 32 of 2021, beginning 8 August 2021.

Facilities with high proportions testing positive

The data on testing at facility level for the public sector for week 32 includes only PCR test results due to the failure of some facilities to report on negative antigen test results which if included would result in an overestimate of the positive test proportion (PTP). All tests (PCR and antigen) conducted in the private

sector are included. Table 5.1 shows the 25 public sector clinics hospitals and testing laboratories (where specimens were not tied to a particular facility) that had 25 or more specimens tested by PCR and at least five positive results in the week of 8-14 August 2021. Fifteen of the 25 public facilities showing the highest PTP are in the Western Cape, with three in each of the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and North West.

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Table 5.1 Public sector healthcare facilities with a high proportion testing positive 8-14 August 2021

Facility Name	Province	Tests	PTP (95% CI)
Facility 1	North West	168	0.726 (0.659;0.794)
Facility 2	Western Cape	35	0.714 (0.565;0.864)
Facility 3	Western Cape	74	0.703 (0.599;0.807)
Facility 4	Northern Cape	94	0.702 (0.610;0.795)
Facility 5	KwaZulu-Natal	32	0.688 (0.527;0.848)
Facility 6	Western Cape	84	0.679 (0.579;0.778)
Facility 7	Western Cape	40	0.650 (0.502;0.798)
Facility 8	Western Cape	48	0.646 (0.511;0.781)
Facility 9	North West	45	0.644 (0.505;0.784)
Facility 10	Western Cape	101	0.644 (0.550;0.737)
Facility 11	Western Cape	74	0.635 (0.525;0.745)
Facility 12	Free State	43	0.628 (0.483;0.772)
Facility 13	Free State	48	0.625 (0.488;0.762)
Facility 14	Western Cape	29	0.621 (0.444;0.797)
Facility 15	KwaZulu-Natal	29	0.621 (0.444;0.797)
Facility 16	North West	97	0.608 (0.511;0.705)
Facility 17	Western Cape	56	0.607 (0.479;0.735)
Facility 18	Western Cape	66	0.606 (0.488;0.724)
Facility 19	Western Cape	86	0.605 (0.501;0.708)
Facility 20	Western Cape	87	0.598 (0.495;0.701)
Facility 21	Western Cape	69	0.594 (0.478;0.710)
Facility 22	Western Cape	51	0.588 (0.453;0.723)
Facility 23	KwaZulu-Natal	67	0.582 (0.464;0.700)
Facility 24	Western Cape	179	0.581 (0.509;0.653)
Facility 25	Free State	28	0.571 (0.388;0.755)

95% CI: 95% confidence interval; PTP: positive test proportion

Table 5.2 shows the 25 private sector clinics, hospitals and testing laboratories (where specimens were not tied to a particular facility) that had 25 or more specimens tested and at least five positive results in the week of 8-14 August 2021 with the highest proportion testing positive nationally. The private-sector facilities with the 25 highest proportions testing positive are spatially diffuse across the country, with eight in the Western Cape, five in Gauteng, four in Mpumalanga, three in the Northern Cape and two in each of the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal.

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Table 5.2 Private sector healthcare facilities with a high proportion testing positive 8-14 August 2021

Facility Name	Province	Tests	PTP (95% CI)
Facility 1	Northern Cape	51	0.627 (0.495;0.760)
Facility 2	Western Cape	47	0.511 (0.368;0.654)
Facility 3	KwaZulu-Natal	46	0.500 (0.356;0.644)
Facility 4	Western Cape	32	0.500 (0.327;0.673)
Facility 5	Mpumalanga	64	0.500 (0.378;0.623)
Facility 6	Northern Cape	224	0.496 (0.430;0.561)
Facility 7	Western Cape	218	0.477 (0.411;0.543)
Facility 8	Western Cape	115	0.470 (0.378;0.561)
Facility 9	KwaZulu-Natal	32	0.469 (0.296;0.642)
Facility 10	Gauteng	32	0.469 (0.296;0.642)
Facility 11	Mpumalanga	28	0.464 (0.280;0.649)
Facility 12	Western Cape	182	0.445 (0.373;0.517)
Facility 13	Western Cape	708	0.445 (0.408;0.482)
Facility 14	Mpumalanga	433	0.443 (0.397;0.490)
Facility 15	Free State	65	0.431 (0.310;0.551)
Facility 16	Gauteng	35	0.429 (0.265;0.593)
Facility 17	North West	45	0.422 (0.278;0.567)
Facility 18	Northern Cape	790	0.419 (0.385;0.453)
Facility 19	Gauteng	43	0.419 (0.271;0.566)
Facility 20	Free State	140	0.414 (0.333;0.496)
Facility 21	Western Cape	1234	0.412 (0.385;0.440)
Facility 22	Western Cape	124	0.411 (0.325;0.498)
Facility 23	Mpumalanga	304	0.411 (0.356;0.466)
Facility 24	Gauteng	90	0.400 (0.299;0.501)
Facility 25	Gauteng	30	0.400 (0.225;0.575)

95% CI: 95% confidence interval; PTP: positive test proportion

Health district-level results

The data from geolocatable public testing (almost every public sector facility in the country) and private testing (approximately 83% of private testing facilities) in the week from 8-14 August 2021 have been located within the spatial framework of the health districts and health sub-districts (in the metros). Districts with fewer than 20 tests reported during the week have been excluded from the analysis.

The results for the 25 municipalities and metropolitan health sub-districts showing the greatest proportions testing positive (PTP) are shown in the table below.

The districts showing high PTP are diffuse: twelve of the 25 districts are in the Western Cape, six in the Northern Cape, four in the North West, two in the Eastern Cape and one in Mpumalanga.

For the seventh consecutive week, all 25 districts with the highest PTP showed a PTP in the current week in excess of 30%. 24 districts exceeded 40% (21 last week). Six districts exceeded 50% (last week, one). PTP exceeded 30% in a further 53 districts (71 last week).

Significant increases were observed in five of the 25 districts with the highest PTP (Joe Morolong, Nama Khoi, and Khara Hais in the Northern Cape; Lekwa-Teemane in the North West, and Nxuba in the Eastern Cape).

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Table 6. Health sub-districts with the highest proportion testing positive based on public and private sector data for the week of 8-14 August 2021

Health district or sub-district	Province	PTP (95% CI)	Previous week
Cederberg	Western Cape	0.548 (0.491-0.606)	0.524 (0.473-0.575)
Ubuntu	Northern Cape	0.544 (0.408-0.680)	0.353 (0.261-0.445)
Lekwa-Teemane	North West	0.522 (0.384-0.659)	0.215 (0.090-0.339)
Langeberg	Western Cape	0.513 (0.465-0.561)	0.522 (0.481-0.562)
Hessequa	Western Cape	0.510 (0.465-0.556)	0.465 (0.424-0.505)
Tswaing	North West	0.506 (0.410-0.602)	0.442 (0.357-0.527)
Theewaterskloof	Western Cape	0.498 (0.459-0.538)	0.426 (0.392-0.460)
Nxuba	Eastern Cape	0.488 (0.355-0.620)	0.174 (0.071-0.278)
Matzikama	Western Cape	0.483 (0.444-0.522)	0.448 (0.415-0.482)
Bergrivier	Western Cape	0.480 (0.436-0.523)	0.415 (0.378-0.452)
Maquassi Hills	North West	0.465 (0.428-0.503)	0.468 (0.424-0.512)
Mier	Northern Cape	0.461 (0.349-0.573)	0.335 (0.276-0.394)
Kannaland	Western Cape	0.454 (0.340-0.569)	0.447 (0.375-0.520)
Beaufort West	Western Cape	0.437 (0.387-0.487)	0.384 (0.345-0.422)
Joe Morolong	Northern Cape	0.436 (0.326-0.546)	0.224 (0.151-0.297)
Renosterberg	Northern Cape	0.430 (0.336-0.525)	0.376 (0.304-0.449)
Swellendam	Western Cape	0.426 (0.362-0.490)	0.373 (0.321-0.424)
Ditsobotla	North West	0.419 (0.325-0.512)	0.281 (0.214-0.348)
Ikwezi	Eastern Cape	0.418 (0.328-0.508)	0.348 (0.286-0.411)
Prince Albert	Western Cape	0.417 (0.288-0.545)	0.338 (0.276-0.400)
Nama Khoi	Northern Cape	0.416 (0.379-0.453)	0.298 (0.275-0.322)
Khara Hais	Northern Cape	0.413 (0.387-0.438)	0.321 (0.300-0.342)
Drakenstein	Western Cape	0.406 (0.386-0.426)	0.441 (0.423-0.460)
Umjindi	Mpumalanga	0.402 (0.324-0.480)	0.437 (0.360-0.513)
Oudtshoorn	Western Cape	0.398 (0.366-0.430)	0.386 (0.358-0.413)

95% CI: 95% confidence interval; PTP: adjusted positive test proportion; Elements marked in **red** have current week proportions testing positive that are **higher** than, and CIs that do not overlap with, the previous week proportions and CIs. Elements marked in **blue** have current week proportions testing positive that are **lower** than, and CIs that do not overlap with, the previous week proportions and CIs.

The data for the current week for every district with a non-zero proportion testing positive or where the range of confidence interval is not more than 30% (15% either side of the point estimate) and where more than 20 tests were conducted in the present week is presented graphically below.

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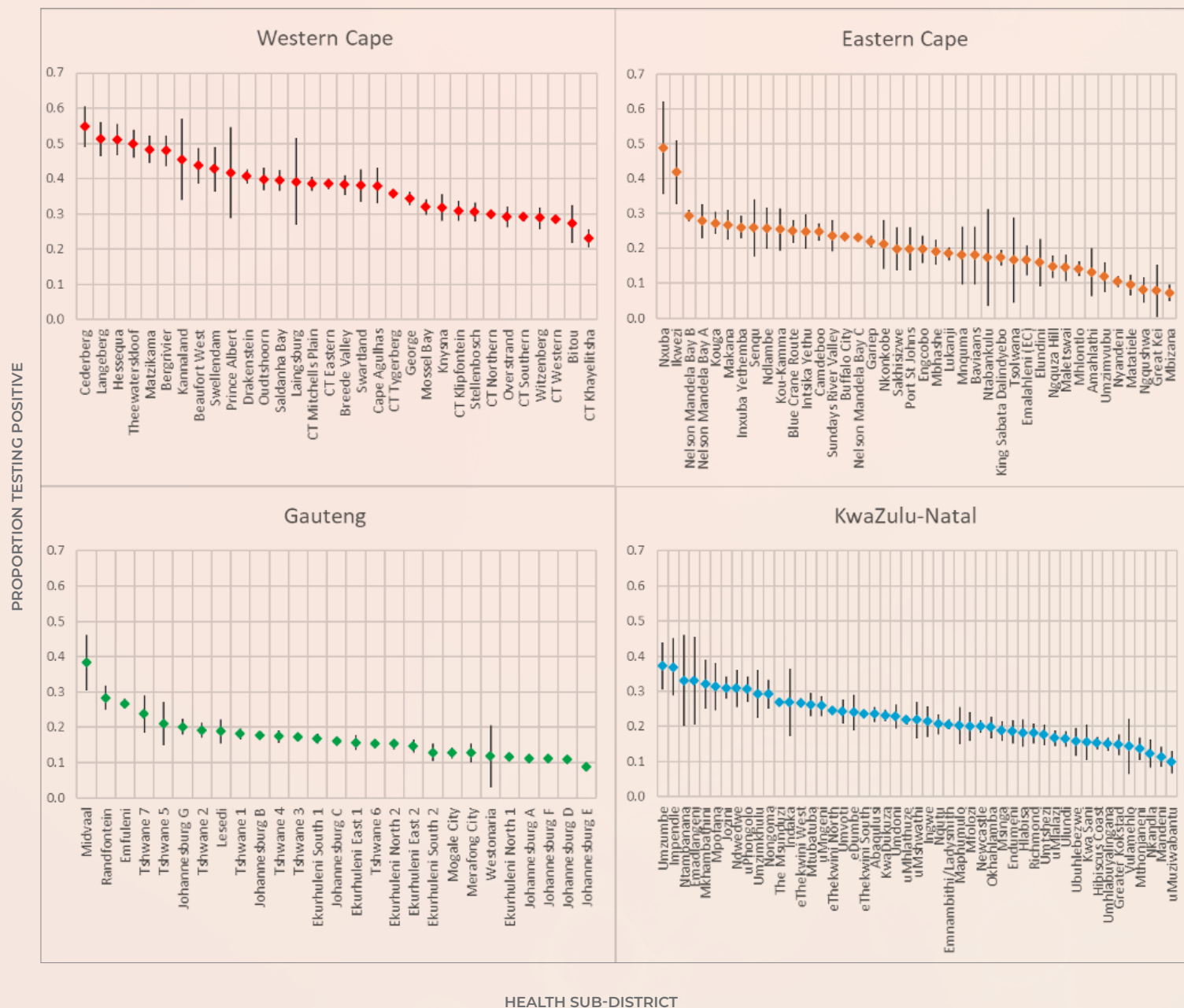


Figure 9.1 Proportions testing positive by health sub-district in the Western, Cape, Eastern Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces based on public and private sector data for the week of 8-14 August 2021.

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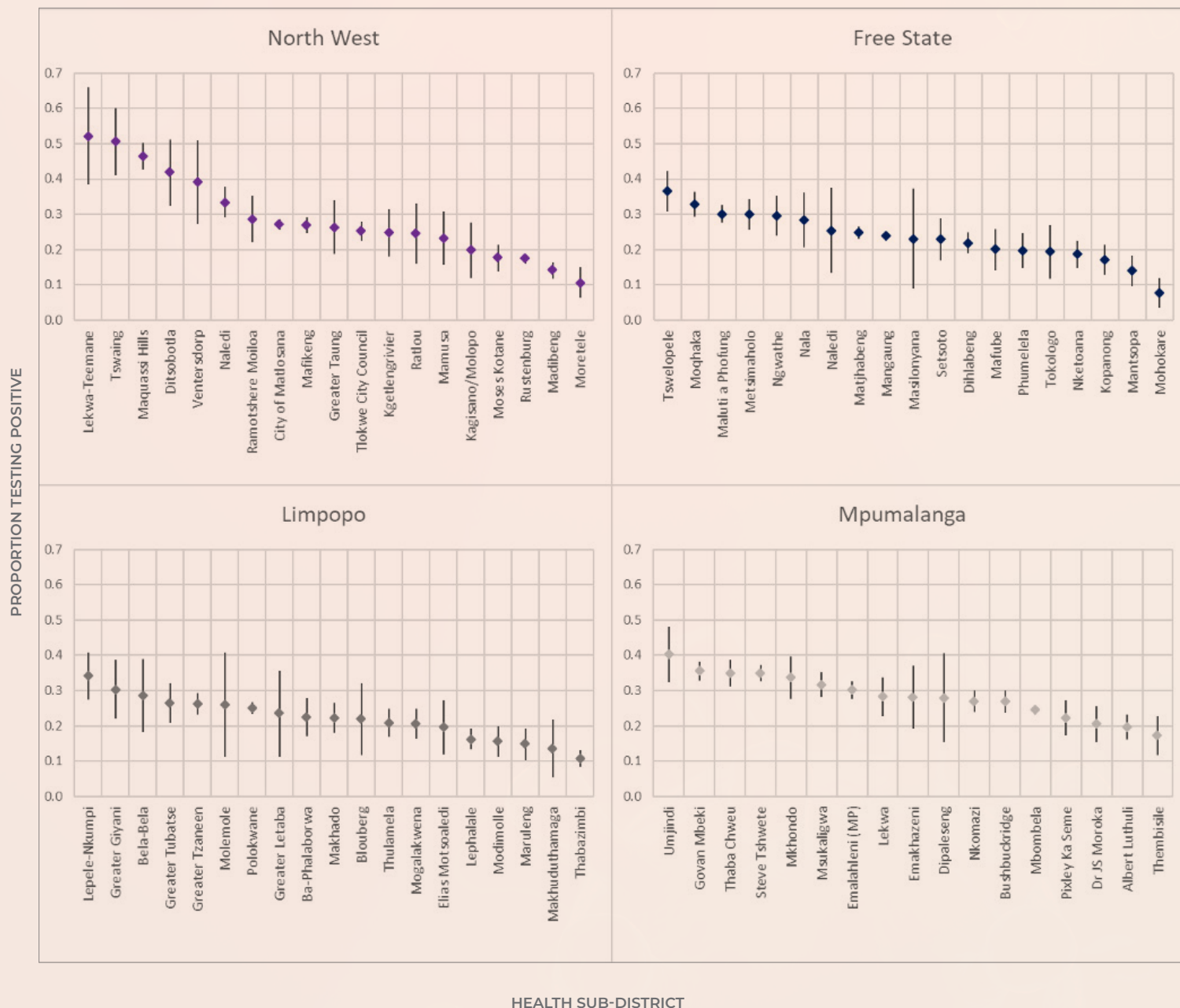


Figure 9.2 Proportions testing positive by health sub-district in the North West, Free State, Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces based on public and private sector data for the week of 8-14 August 2021.

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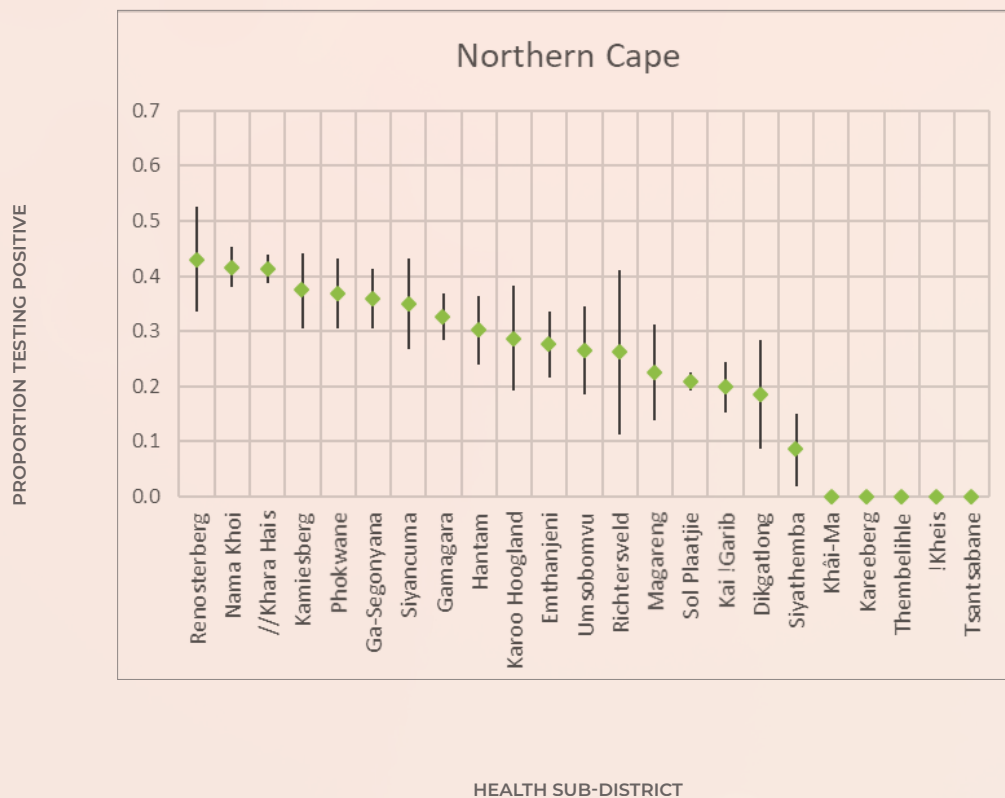


Figure 9.3 Proportions testing positive by health sub-districts in the Northern Cape Province based on public and private sector data for the week of 8-14 August 2021.

The spatial pattern of adjusted proportions testing positive including both public and private sector data by health district and sub-district are shown for South Africa (Figure 10) Western Cape (Figure 11) Eastern Cape (Figure 12) Northern Cape (Figure 13) Free State (Figure 14) KwaZulu-Natal (Figure 15) North West (Figure 16) Gauteng (Figure 17) Mpumalanga (Figure 18) and Limpopo (Figure 19).

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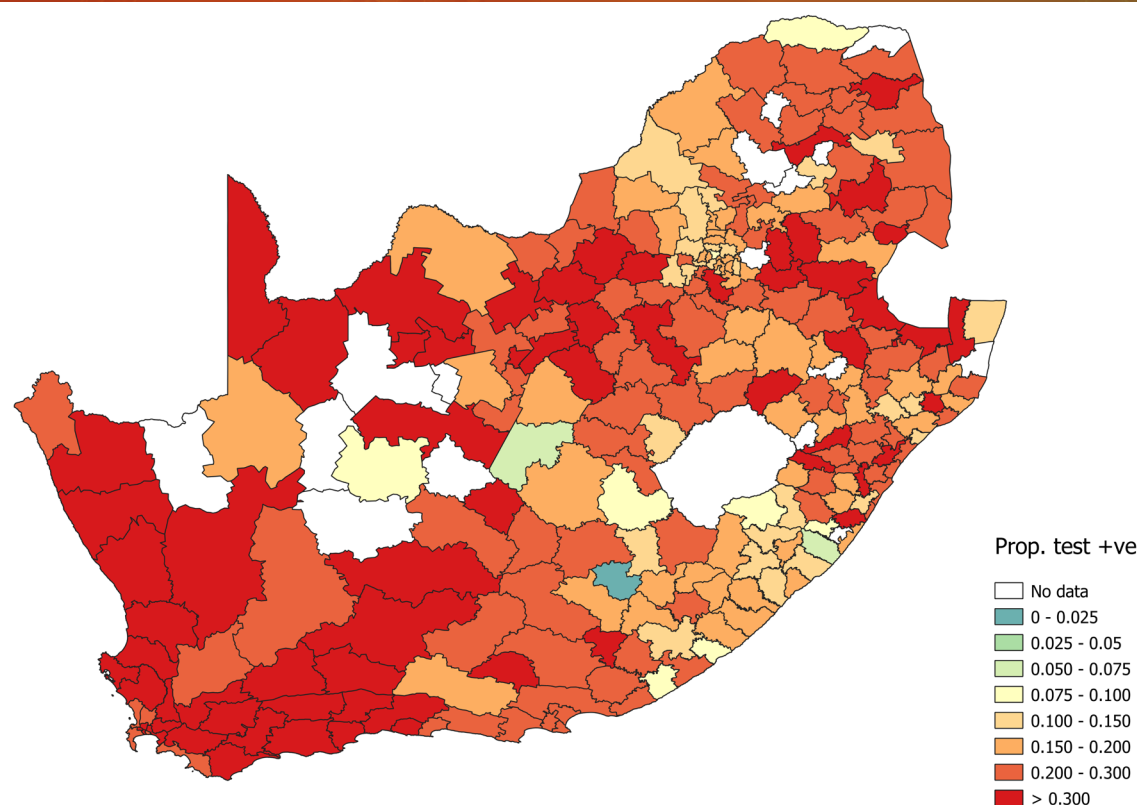


Figure 10. Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in South Africa for the week of 8-14 August 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

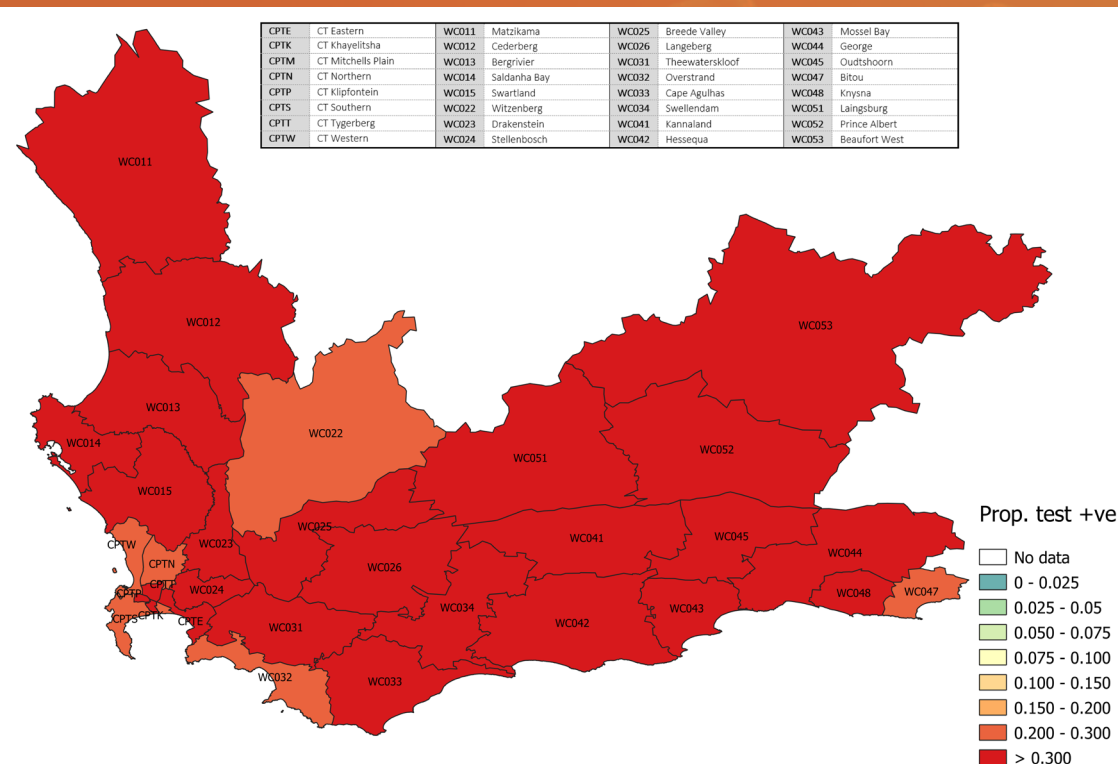


Figure 11. Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in the Western Cape Province for the week of 8-14 August 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

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BUF	Buffalo City	EC122	Mnquma	EC135	Intsika Yethu	EC155	Nyandeni
EC101	Camdeboo	EC123	Great Kei	EC136	Emalahleni	EC156	Mhlontlo
EC102	Blue Crane Route	EC124	Amahlathi	EC137	Engcobo	EC157	King Sabata Dalindyebo
EC103	Ikwezi	EC126	Ngqushwa	EC138	Sakhisizwe	EC441	Matatiele
EC104	Makana	EC127	Nkonkobe	EC141	Elundini	EC442	Umzimvubu
EC105	Ndlambe	EC128	Nxuba	EC142	Senqu	EC443	Mbizana
EC106	Sundays River Valley	EC131	Inxuba Yethemba	EC143	Maletswal	EC444	Ntabankulu
EC107	Baviaans	EC132	Tsolwana	EC144	Gariep	NMAA	Nelson Mandela Bay A
EC108	Kouga	EC133	Inkwenkwa	EC153	Nqunxa Hill	NMAB	Nelson Mandela Bay B
EC109	Kou-Kamma	EC134	Lukani	EC154	Port St Johns	NMAC	Nelson Mandela Bay C
EC121	Mthashe						

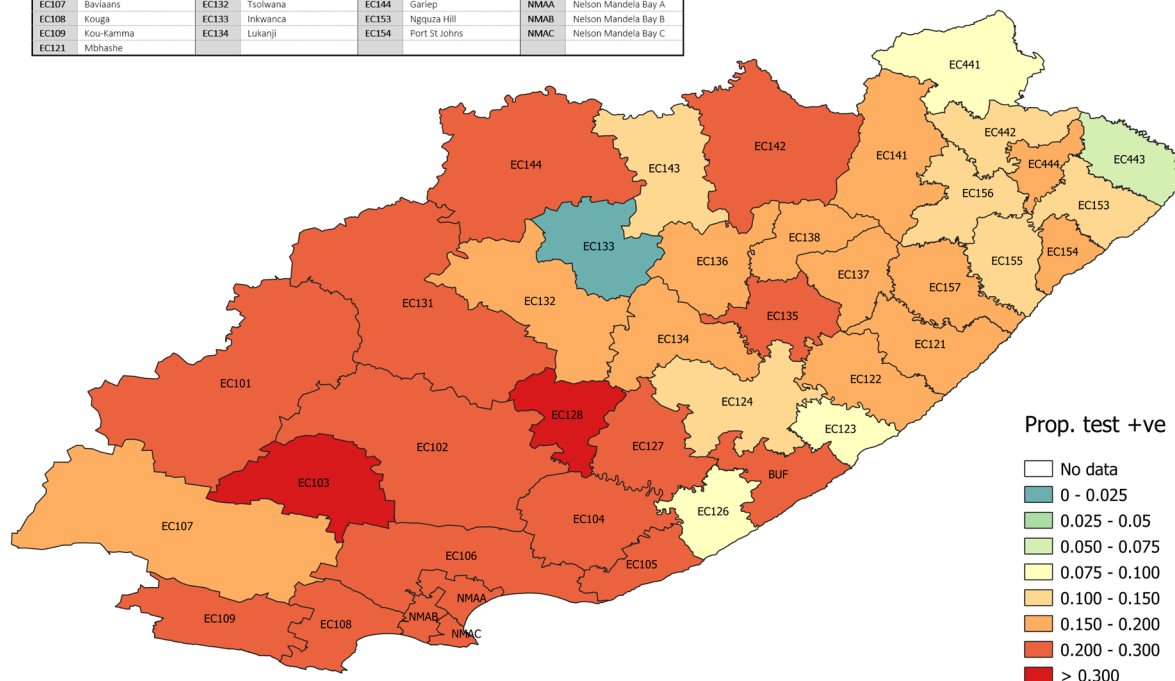


Figure 12. Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in the Eastern Cape Province for the week of 8-14 August 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

NC061	Richtersveld	NC074	Kareeberg	NC085	Tsantsabane
NC062	Nama Khoi	NC075	Renosterberg	NC086	Kgatelopele
NC064	Kamiesberg	NC076	Thembelithle	NC091	Sol Plaatje
NC065	Hardam	NC077	Siyathemba	NC092	Digatong
NC066	Karoo Hoogland	NC078	Siyacuma	NC093	Magareng
NC067	Khali-Ma	NC081	Mier	NC094	Phokwane
NC071	Ufuntu	NC082	Kal Karib	NC451	Joe Morolong
NC072	Umsobomvu	NC083	//Kharu Hais	NC452	Ga-Segonyana
NC073	Ernstshagen	NC084	Kheis	NC453	Gamagara

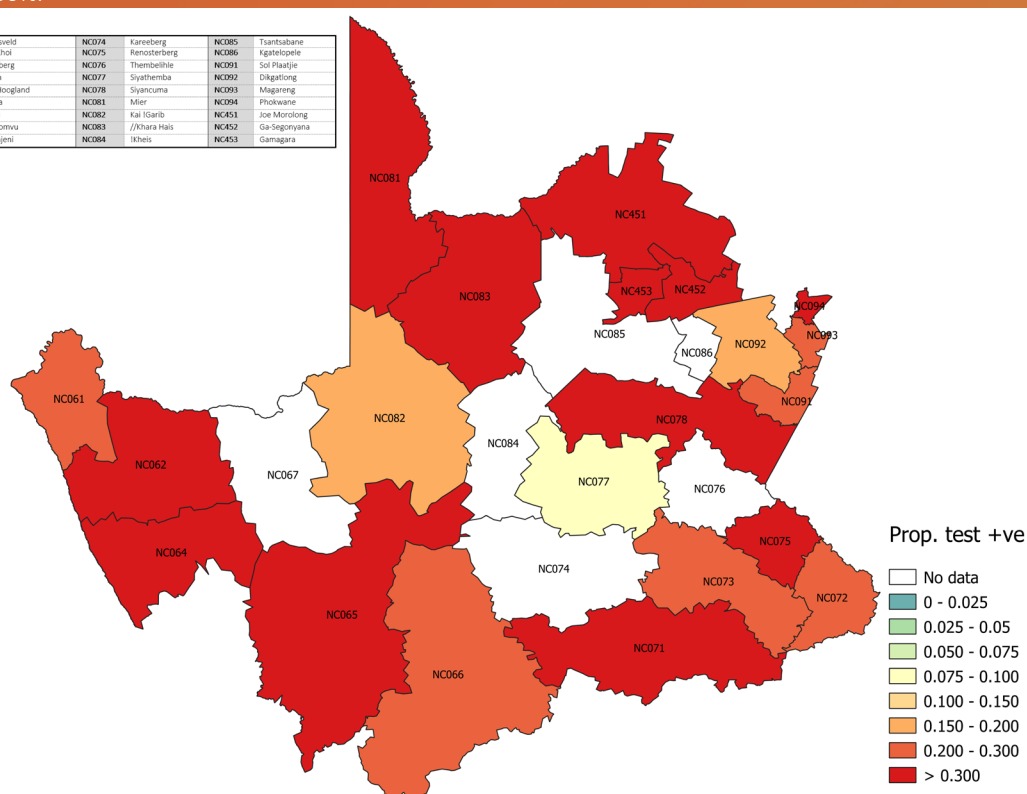


Figure 13. Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in Northern Cape Province for the week of 8-14 August 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

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MAN	Mangaung	FS181	Masibong	FS191	Setso	FS196	Mantsoa
FS161	Letsemeng	FS182	Tokologo	FS192	Dihlabeng	FS201	Mojaka
FS162	Kopanong	FS183	Tswelopele	FS193	Nketoana	FS203	Ngatthe
FS163	Mohokare	FS184	Matjhabeng	FS194	Maluti a Phofung	FS204	Metsimaholo
FS164	Naledi	FS185	Nala	FS195	Phumelela	FS205	Mafube

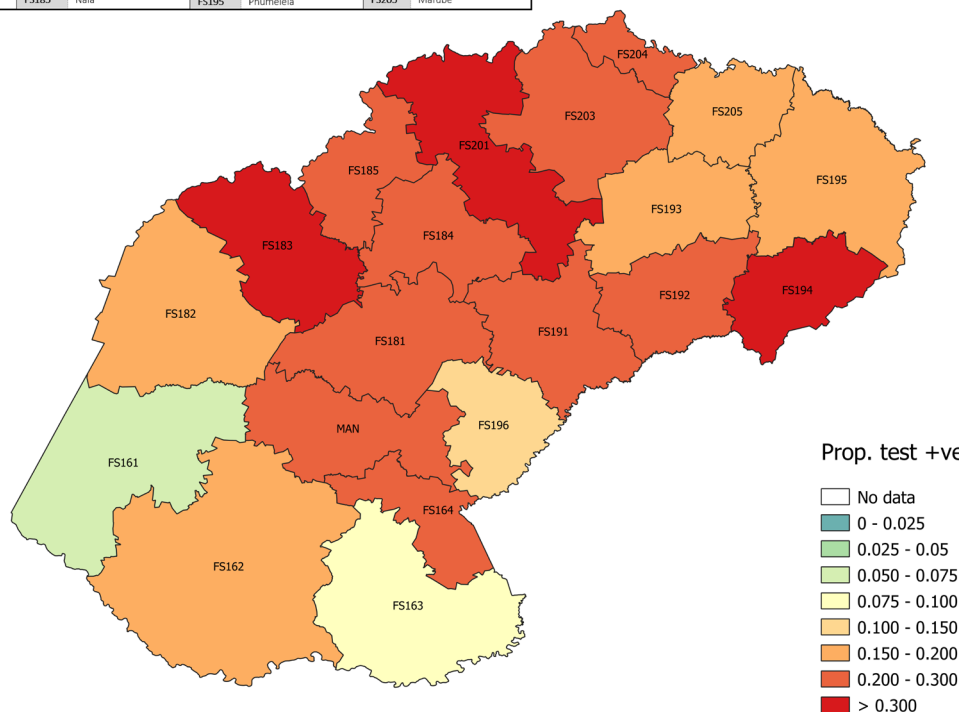


Figure 14. Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in Free State Province for the week of 8-14 August 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

ETHN	eThekweni North	KZN233	Indaka	KZN273	The Big 5 False Bay
ETHS	eThekweni South	KZN234	Umtsheni	KZN274	Hiabisa
ETHW	eThekweni West	KZN235	Okhahlamba	KZN275	Mtubatuba
KZN211	Vulamehlo	KZN236	Imbabazane	KZN281	Mfolozi
KZN212	Umdoni	KZN241	Endumeni	KZN282	uMhlathuze
KZN213	Umdumbe	KZN242	Nqutu	KZN283	Ntambanana
KZN214	uMkhawabantu	KZN244	Mzinga	KZN284	uMlalazi
KZN215	Ezingolweni	KZN245	Umvoti	KZN285	Mthongweni
KZN216	Hibiscus Coast	KZN252	Newcastle	KZN286	Nkandla
KZN221	uMshwathi	KZN253	Emadlangeni	KZN291	Mandeni
KZN222	uMngeni	KZN254	Dannhauser	KZN292	KwaDukuza
KZN223	Mpofana	KZN261	eDumbe	KZN293	Ndwedwe
KZN224	Impendle	KZN262	uPhongolo	KZN294	Maphumulo
KZN225	The Mound	KZN263	Abaqulusi	KZN431	Ingwe
KZN226	Mkhambathini	KZN266	Nongoma	KZN432	Kwa Sani
KZN227	Richmond	KZN271	Umlabuyalingana	KZN433	Greater Kokstad
KZN232	Ennambithi/Ladysmith	KZN272	Jozini	KZN434	Uthukela
				KZN435	Umtsheni

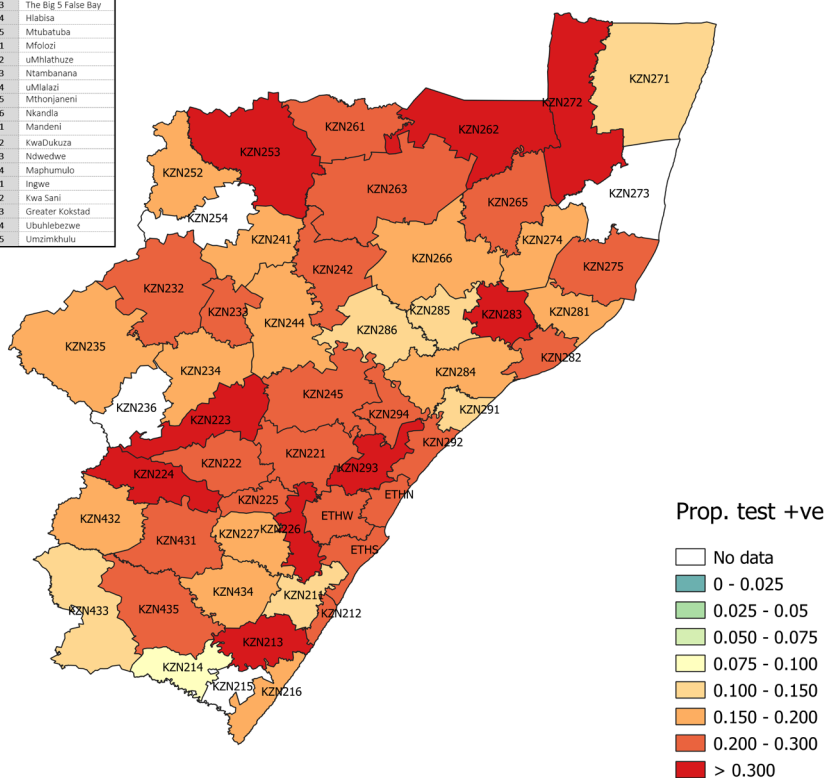


Figure 15. Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in KwaZulu-Natal Province for the week of 8-14 August 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

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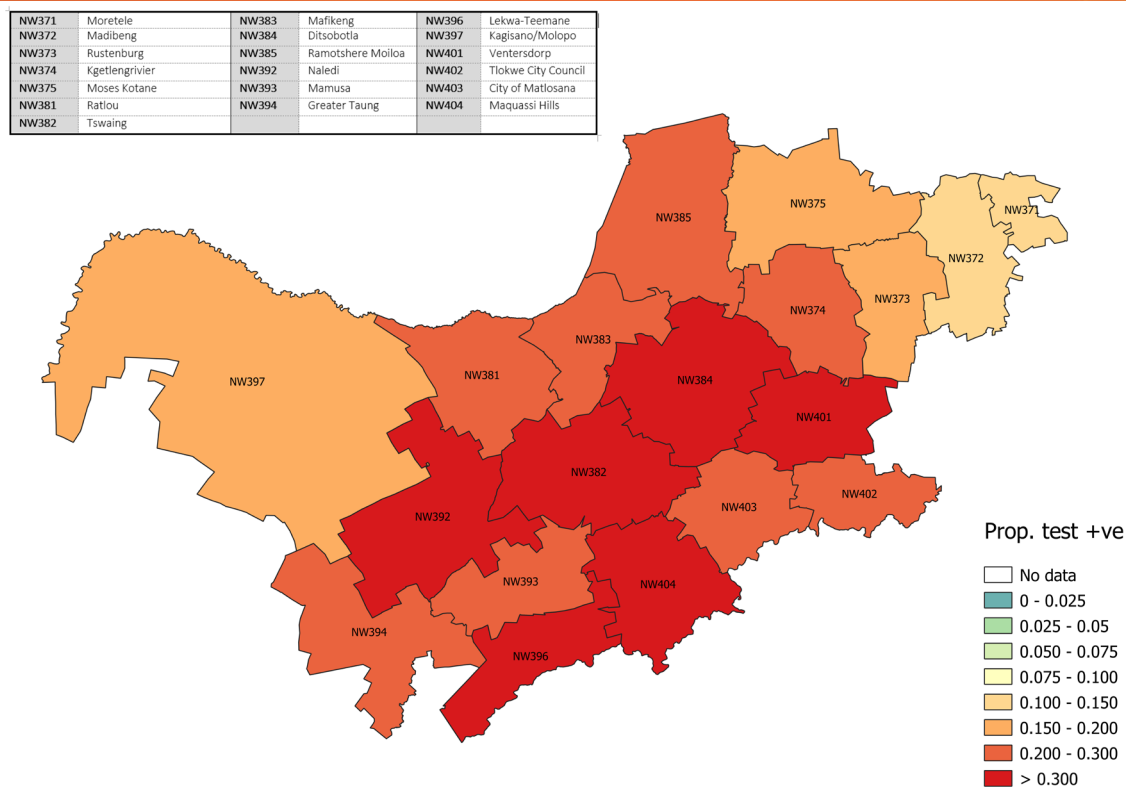


Figure 16. Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in North West Province for the week of 8-14 August 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

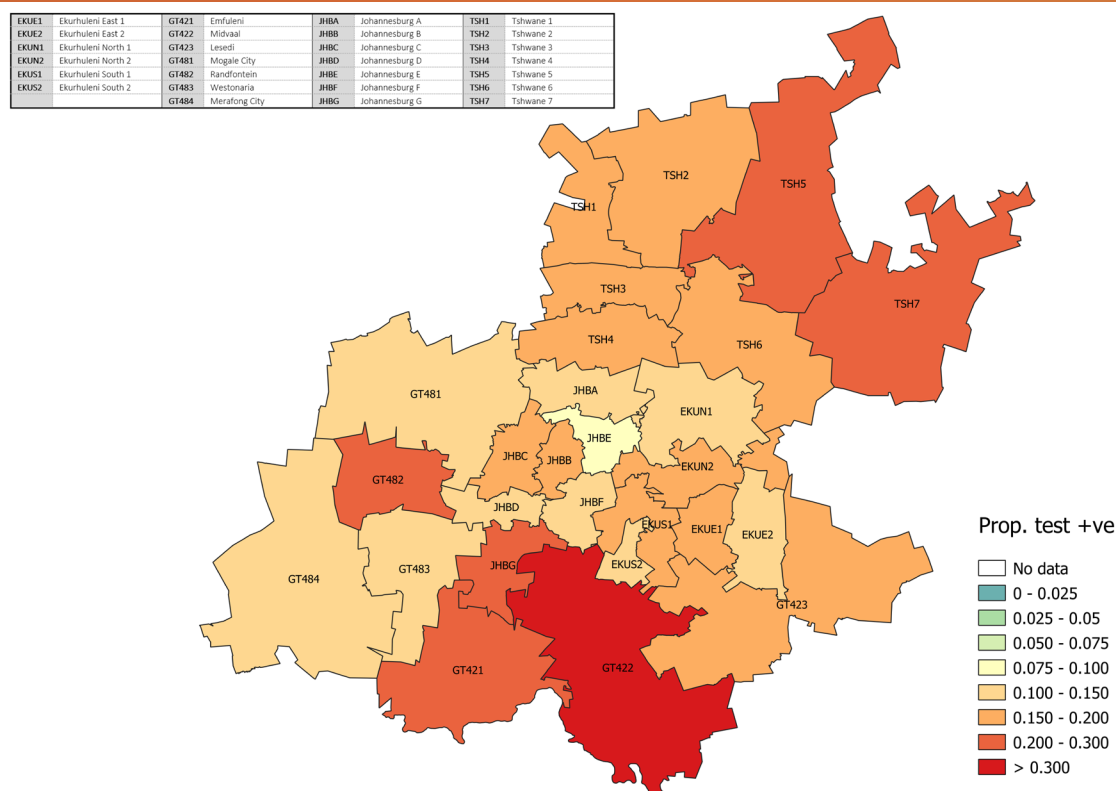


Figure 17. Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in Gauteng Province for the week of 8-14 August 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA

WEEK 32 2021

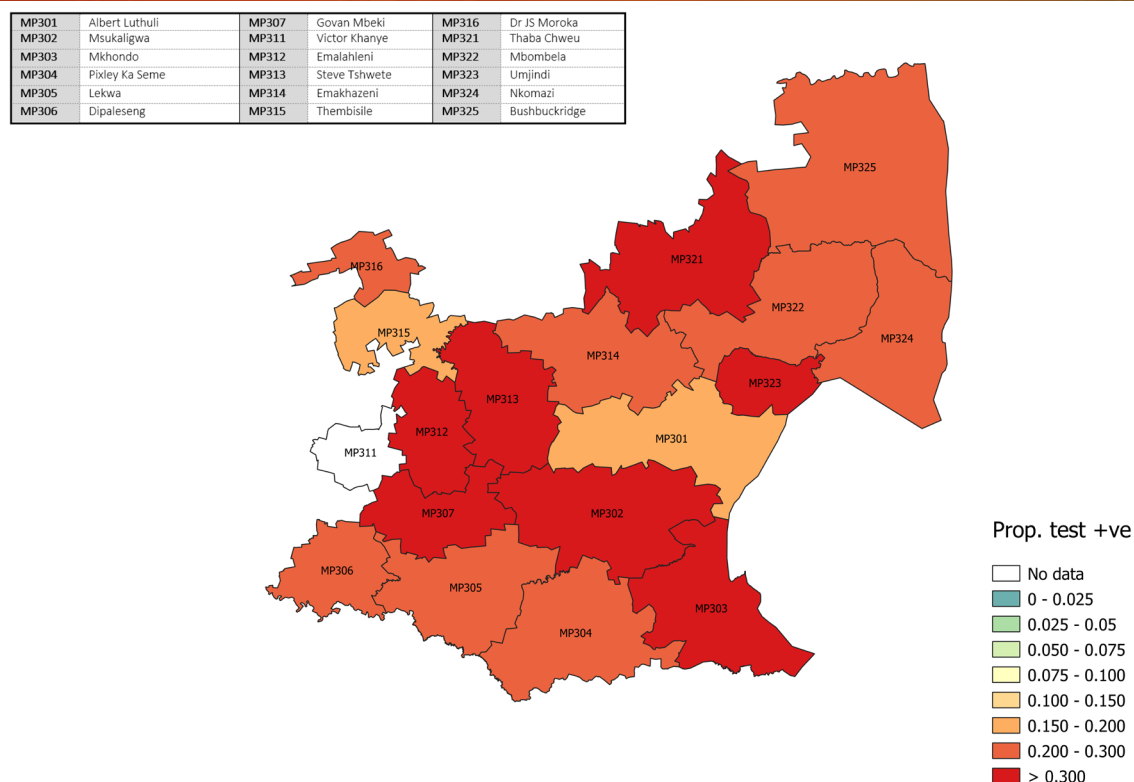


Figure 18. Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in Mpumalanga Province for the week of 8-14 August 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

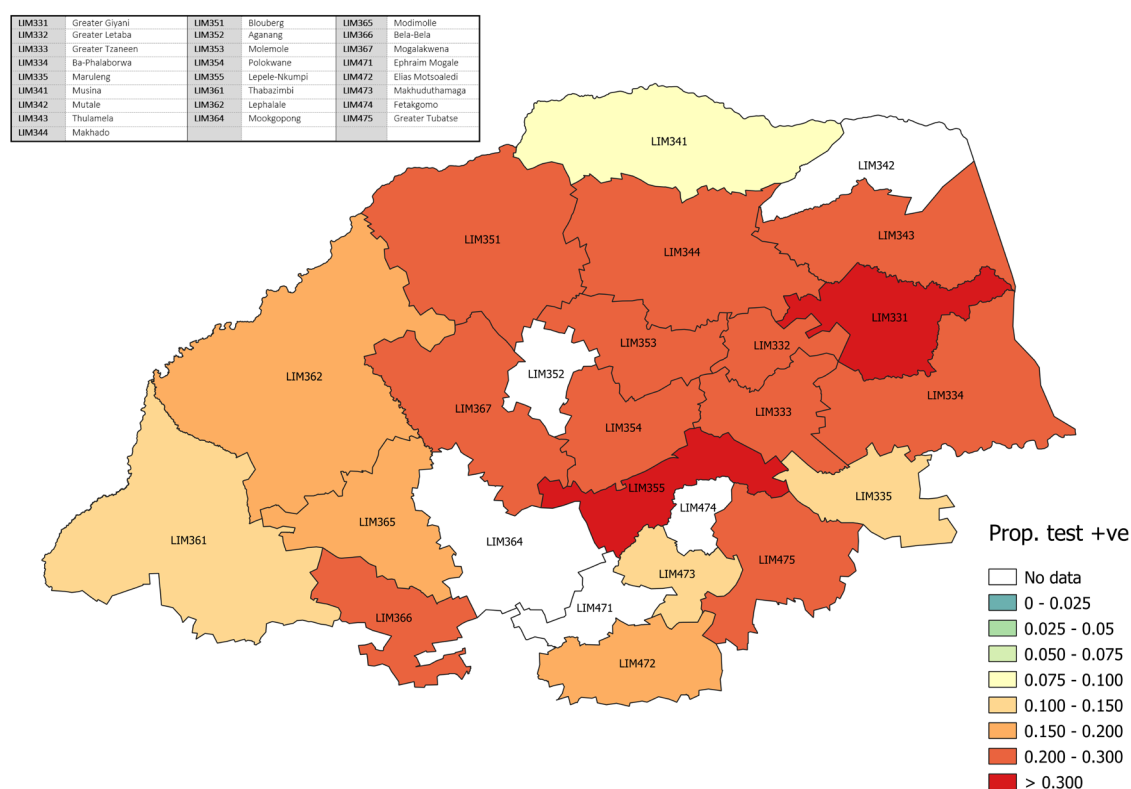


Figure 19. Proportion testing positive by health sub-district in Limpopo Province for the week of 8-14 August 2021. Areas shaded white represent districts in which either (i) no tests were reported (ii) all tests were negative or (iii) the confidence interval exceeded 30%.

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

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Testing by patient admission status

In week 32 of 2021 36.7% of reported tests were for hospitalised patients; 44.7% in the public sector and 27.8% in the private sector (Figure 20). The percentage testing positive in week 32 was higher among outpatients (25.9%) compared to inpatients (19.9%)

and decreased slightly from the previous week in both groups (Figure 21). In week 32 the mean laboratory turnaround time for PCR tests in the public sector was higher among outpatients (2.3 days) compared to inpatients (1.5 days) (Figure 22).

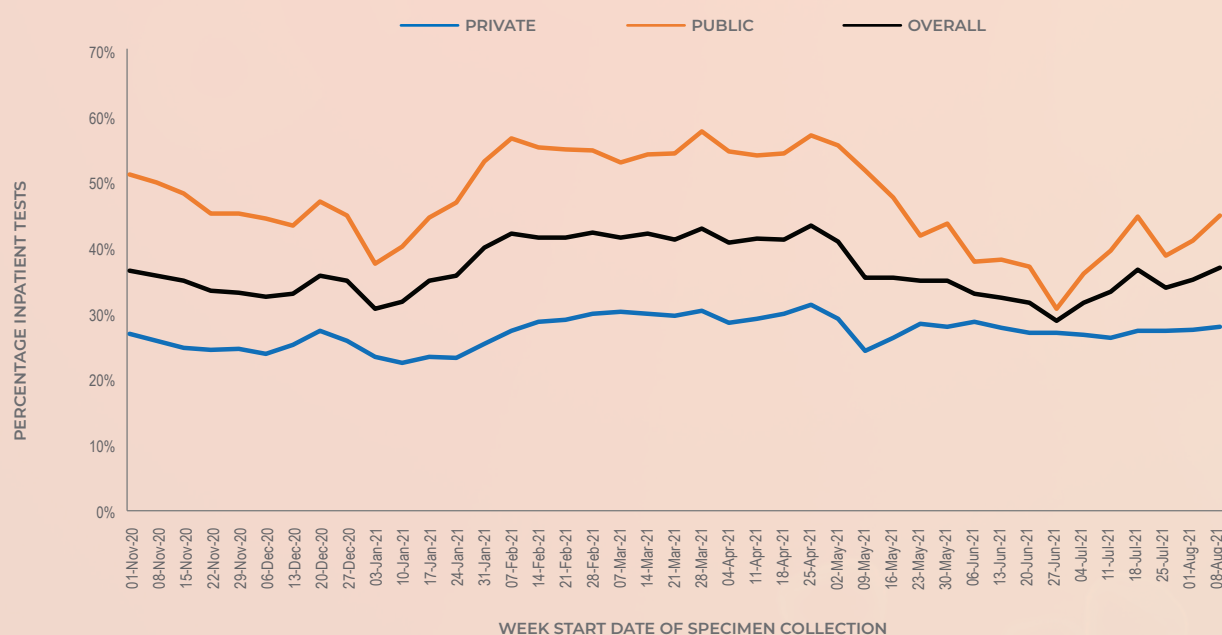


Figure 20. Percentage of inpatient tests reported by health sector, 1 November 2020 – 14 August 2021

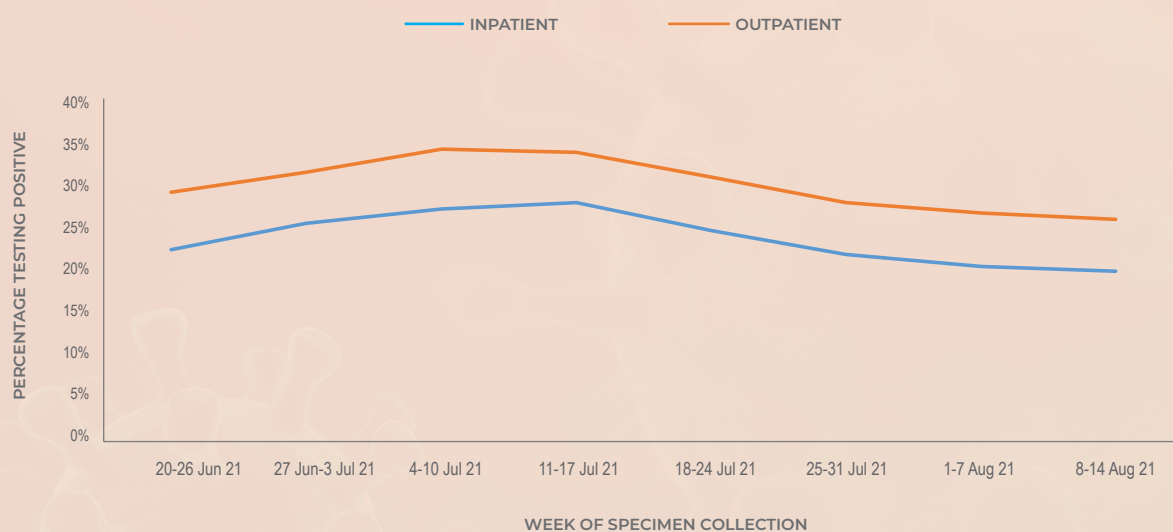


Figure 21. Percentage testing positive by patient admission status, 20 June – 14 August 2021

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 32 2021

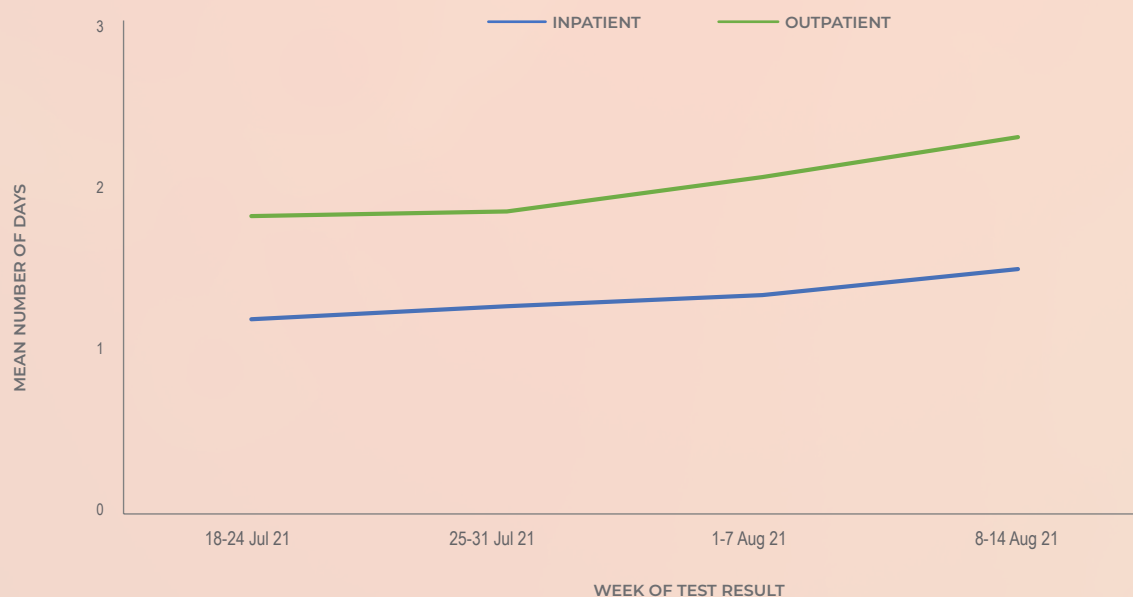


Figure 22. Mean number of days between date of specimen collection and date of test result for PCR tests in the public sector by patient admission status, 18 July – 14 August 2021

Testing by age and sex

The median age of individuals tested in week 32 of 2021 was 35 years (interquartile range (IQR) 23-49) and was similar among males (36 years; IQR 23-50) and females (35 years; IQR 23-49). The majority of reported tests (55.2%) were in individuals in the 20-49 years' age group, with an additional peak in individuals aged 15-19 years (Figure 23). In week 32 the testing rate was higher among females (532 per 100,000 persons) than males

(477 per 100,000 persons) (Figure 24). Testing rates in week 32 were highest in the ≥80 years age group (853 per 100,000 persons). The percentage testing positive was highest in individuals aged 15-19 years (27.9%) and 10-14 years (27.0%). In males, the percentage testing positive was highest in individuals aged 15-19 years (28.7%). In females the highest percentage testing positive was observed in individuals aged 55-59 years (27.6%) and 50-54 years (27.5%).

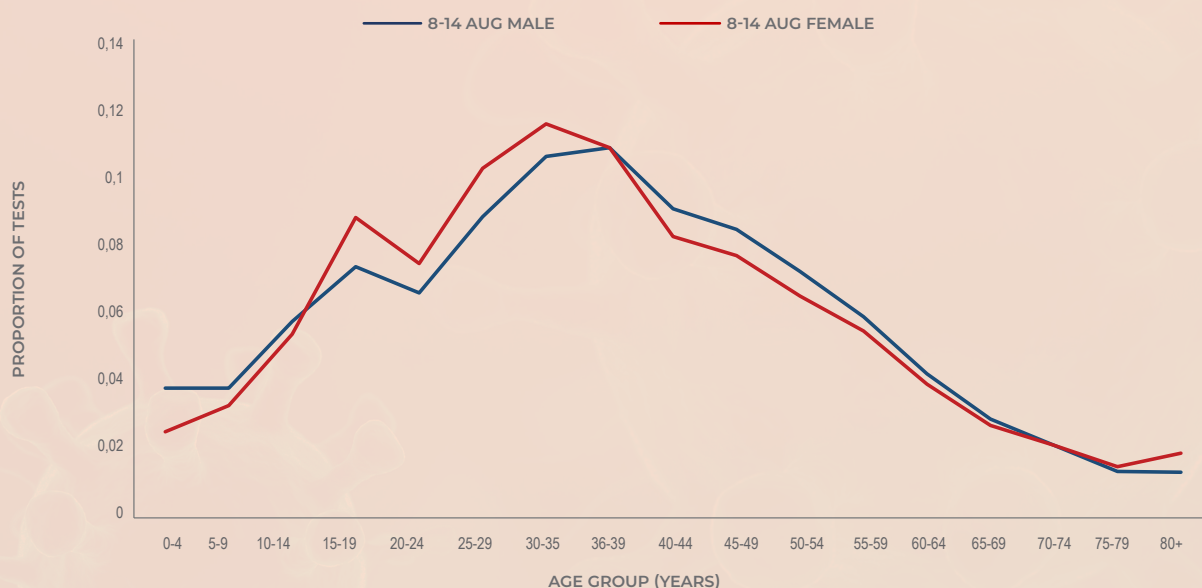


Figure 23. Proportion of tests by age group and sex South Africa, week 32, 8-14 August 2021

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 32 2021

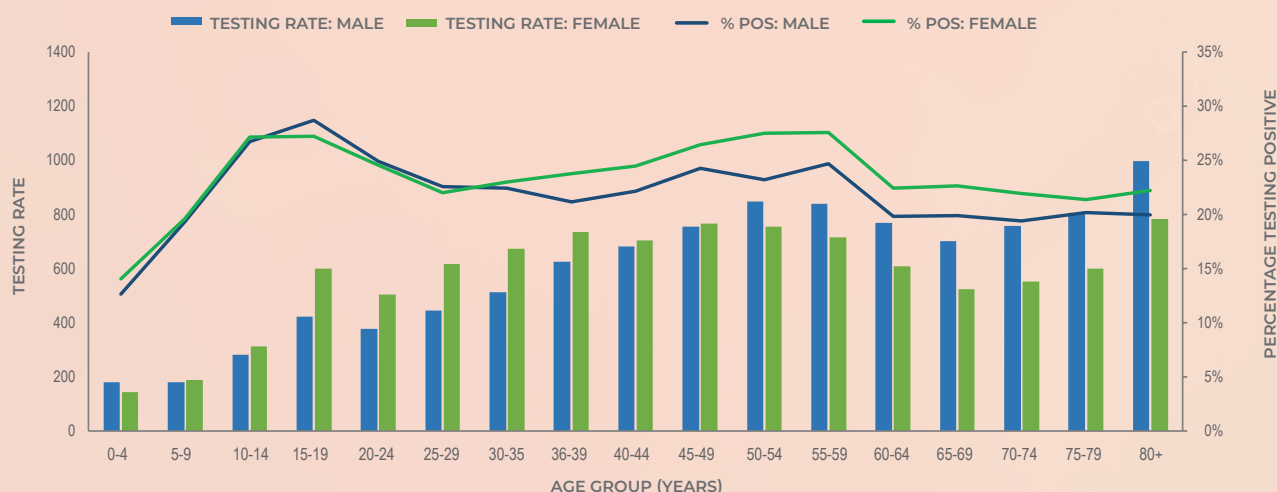


Figure 24. Testing rates per 100,000 persons and percentage testing positive by age group and sex, South Africa, week 32, 8-14 August 2021

Testing by test type

Up to the end of week 32 of 2021 11.9% (1,849,032/ 15,526,881) of all reported tests were antigen tests. In week 32 19.6% (60,438/ 308,593) of reported tests were antigen tests (Figure 25). Overall 81.9% of antigen tests have been performed in the public sector, and in week 32 the public sector accounted for 81.2% of antigen tests. Since antigen testing began in November 2020 the majority of antigen tests have been reported from KwaZulu-Natal (33.8%) and Gauteng (19.8%) provinces. In the past few weeks KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and Western Cape have performed the highest weekly number of antigen tests although the number of antigen

tests reported from the Western Cape and Gauteng have decreased in the past two weeks, and an increase observed in the Eastern Cape. The percentage testing positive in week 32 was higher for PCR (24.8%) tests compared to antigen (17.6%) tests (Figure 26). The mean turnaround time for antigen tests reported in week 32 was 5.4 days in the public sector and remained low (0.1 days) in the private sector (Figure 27). The number of antigen tests reported is likely underestimated as antigen tests are increasingly being used outside of laboratory settings and results may not be reported or reporting may be delayed. In addition, if only positive antigen tests were reported this would have resulted in an overestimation of percentage testing positive.

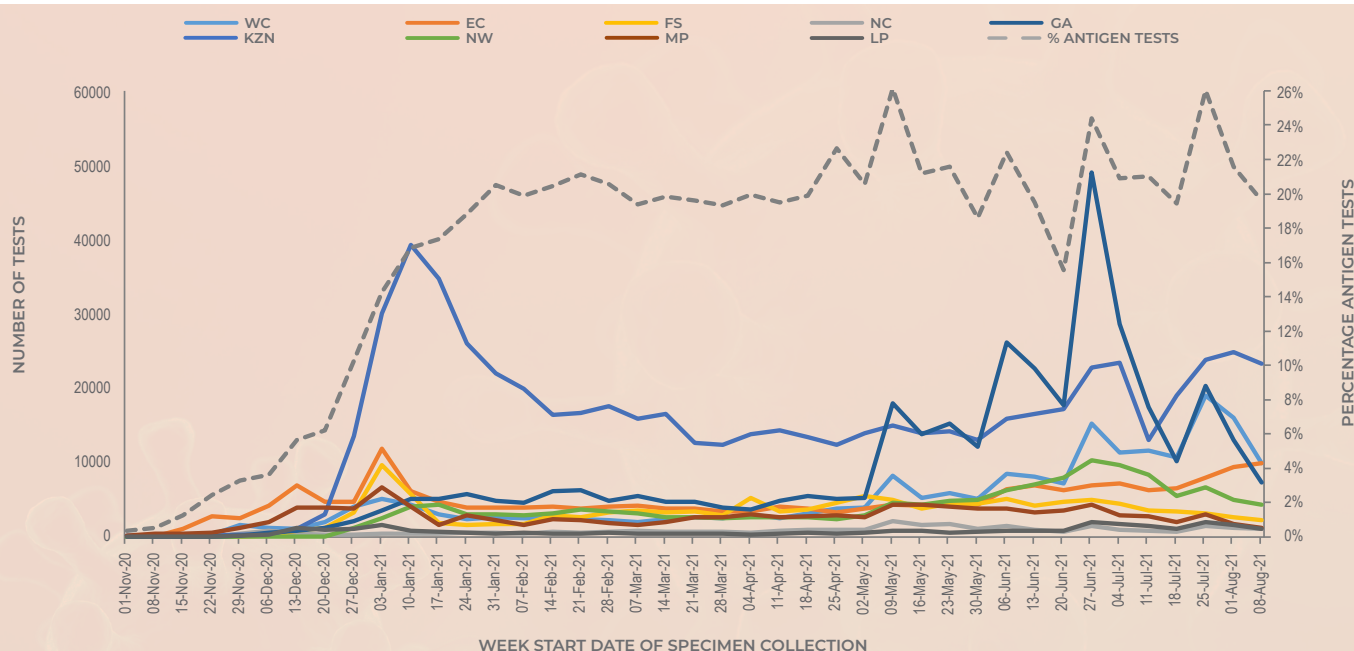


Figure 25. Number of antigen tests by province and overall percentage antigen tests South Africa 1 November 2020 – 14 August 2021. WC Western Cape; EC Eastern Cape; FS Free State; KZN KwaZulu-Natal; GA Gauteng; NC Northern Cape; NW North West; MP Mpumalanga; LP Limpopo

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 32 2021

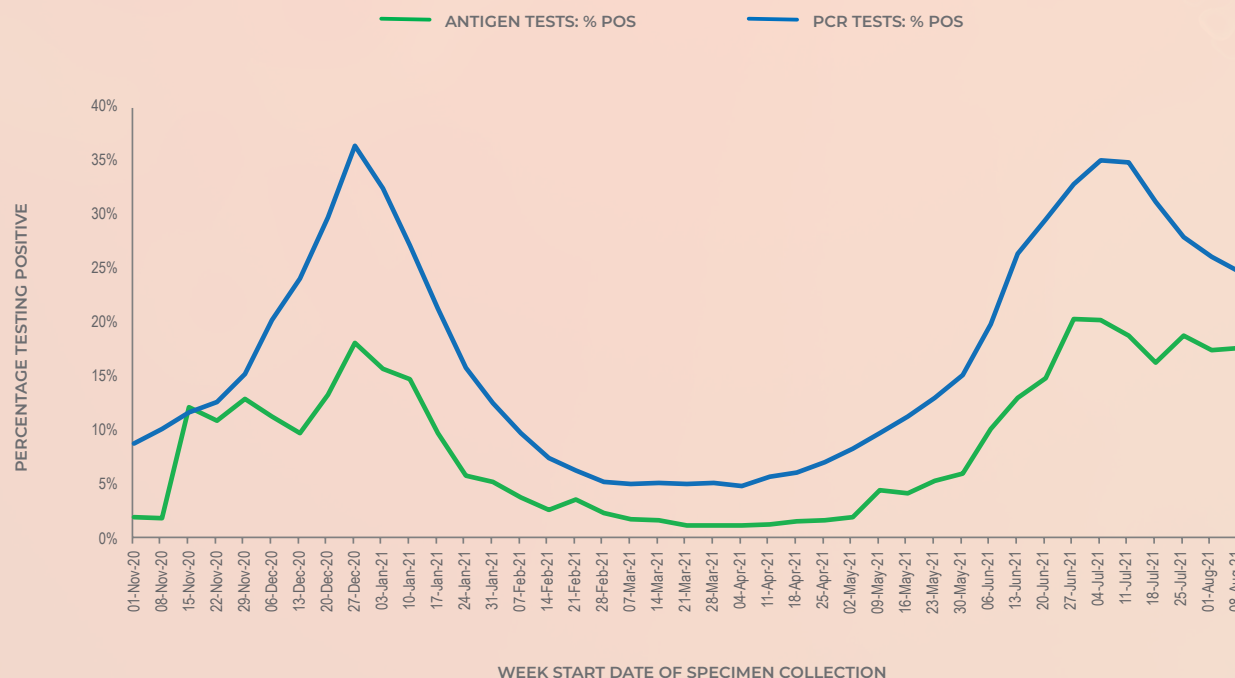


Figure 26. Percentage of laboratory tests positive for SARS-CoV-2 by test type and date of specimen collection, South Africa, 1 November 2020 – 14 August 2021

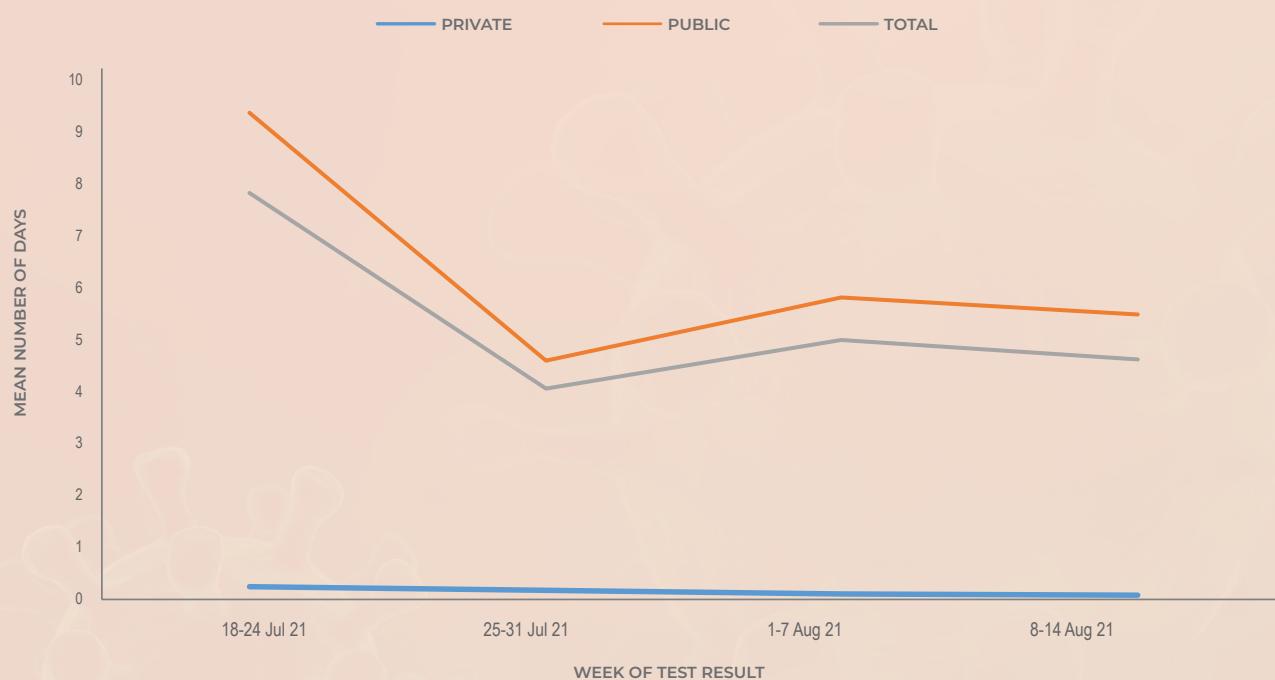


Figure 27. Mean number of days between date of specimen collection and date of test result for antigen tests by week of test result, South Africa, 18 July – 14 August 2021

COVID-19 TESTING SUMMARY

SOUTH AFRICA | WEEK 32 2021

Limitations

- A backlog in testing of samples by laboratories affects the reported number of tests. As a result, numbers tested during this period may change in subsequent reports.
- If higher-priority specimens were tested preferentially this would likely result in an inflated proportion testing positive.
- Different and changing testing strategies (targeted vs. mass testing and PCR vs. antigen-based tests) used by different provinces makes percentage testing positive and number of reported tests difficult to interpret and compare.
- Health district and sub-district level were mapped based on the testing facility and not place of residence.
- Patient admission status was categorised based on the reported patient facility and may not reflect whether the patient was actually admitted to hospital.
- Antigen tests may be underestimated as they are used in a number of different settings and results may not be reported.

CONCLUSIONS

The number of tests reported in week 32 (n=308,593) was similar to the number of tests reported in the previous four weeks. KwaZulu-Natal (25.2%), Gauteng (24.6%) and Western Cape (19.1%) provinces reported the largest number of tests in week 32. The overall testing rate in week 32 was 518 per 100,000 persons; highest in the Western Cape (842 per 100,000 persons) and lowest in Limpopo (135 per 100,000 persons). Testing rates decreased in the Western Cape, Northern Cape, Gauteng, North West and Mpumalanga provinces in the past week. Antigen tests accounted for 19.6% (60,438/ 308,593) of all tests reported in week 32 however, the number of antigen tests is likely underestimated due to under-reporting and delayed reporting of antigen tests. The overall mean laboratory turnaround time for PCR tests was 1.2 days in week 32; 1.9 days in the public sector and 0.6 days in the private sector.

The percentage testing positive in week 32 was 23.4%, which was 0.8% lower than the previous week. The percentage testing positive in week 32 was highest in the Northern Cape (33.8%) and Western Cape (31.9%) provinces. The percentage testing positive was between 20% and 30% in the Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces, and was less than 20% in Gauteng. Compared to the previous week the percentage testing positive in week 32 increased in the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal provinces. The percentage testing positive decreased in the Western Cape, North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo.