

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 34 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 28 August 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 28 August 2021, 407,056 COVID-19 admissions and 87,266 in-hospital deaths were reported from 664 facilities (409 public-sector and 255 private-sector) in all nine provinces of South Africa.
- Increased admissions were observed in all provinces during the third wave, which peaked in week 27. Since then, decreases in admissions have been observed across all provinces except Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, while in the Free State and Northern Cape the numbers of COVID-19 admissions have begun to increase again.
- The weekly numbers of admissions in the third wave have surpassed the peak of admissions in the second wave in Gauteng and North West in both sectors, and in Free State, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape in the private sector.

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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.

We used 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. For comparisons of the last period and previous period, we used 14-day average admissions for both periods.

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 28 August 2021, a total of 664 facilities submitted data on hospitalised COVID-19 cases, 409 from public sector and 255 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 2020-28 August 2021.

Name of province	Public Sector	Private Sector
Eastern Cape	86	18
Free State	35	20
Gauteng	40	94
KwaZulu-Natal	70	46
Limpopo	41	7
Mpumalanga	31	9
North West	18	13
Northern Cape	29	6
Western Cape	59	42
South Africa	409	255

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RESULTS

Epidemiological and geographic trends in admissions

From 5 March 2020 to 28 August 2021, a total of 407,056 COVID-19 admissions were reported from 664 facilities in all nine provinces of South Africa. South Africa has entered the third wave. Since week 14 2021, numbers of COVID-19 admissions increased in both sectors until the peak in week 27, with admissions decreasing in both sectors for the past seven weeks (Figure 1). Decreases in the most recent week may reflect delays in data submission in the public sector, however private sector data submission is up to date.

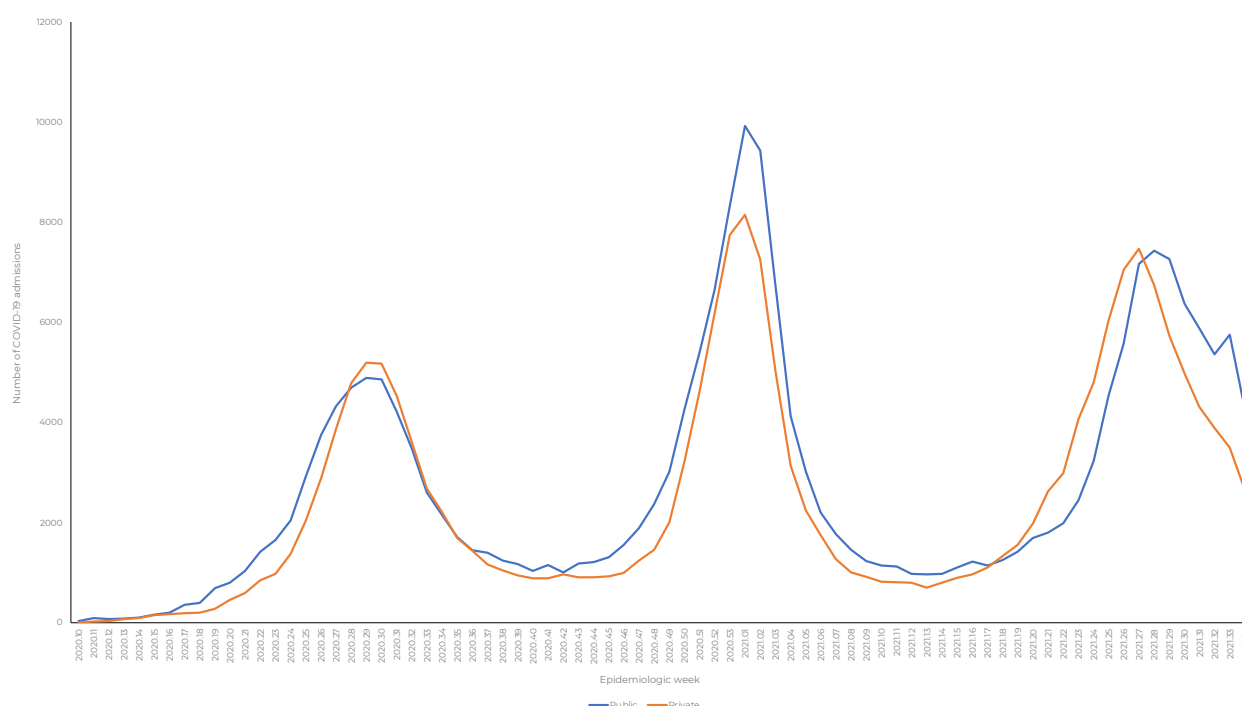


Figure 1. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020–28 August 2021, n=407,056

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The majority of admissions were recorded in four provinces, Gauteng 121,967 (30%), Western Cape 90,031 (22%), KwaZulu-Natal 63,880 (16%) and Eastern Cape 38,472 (9%) provinces. Weekly numbers of COVID-19 admissions have peaked in all provinces except Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal (Figures 2a and 2b) and increased admissions have been observed in Free State and Northern Cape in the past two weeks.

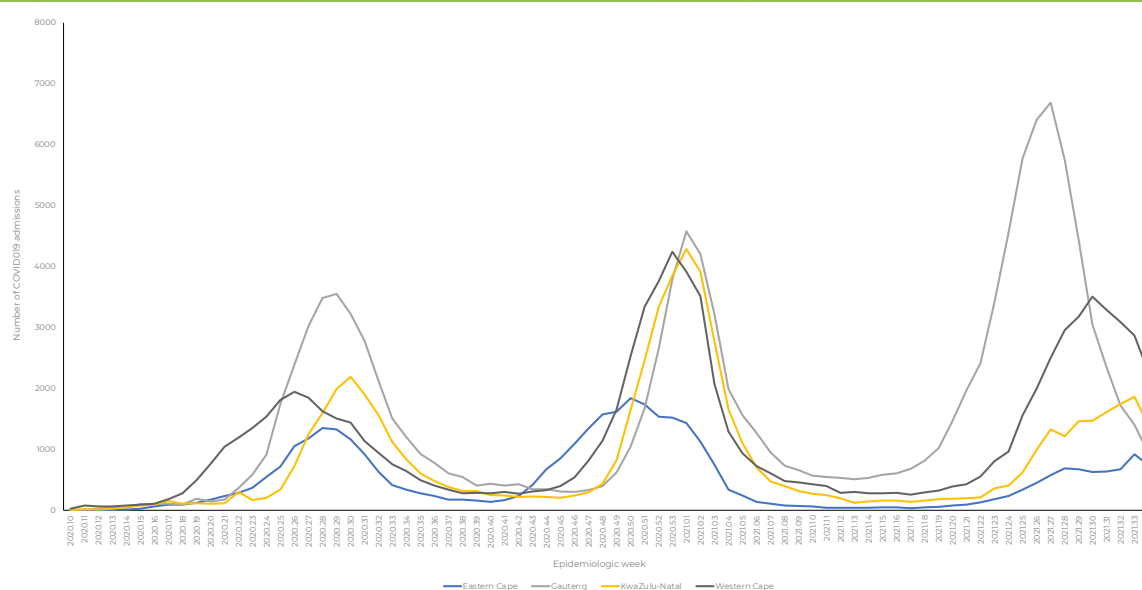


Figure 2a. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by provinces with highest admissions and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=407,056

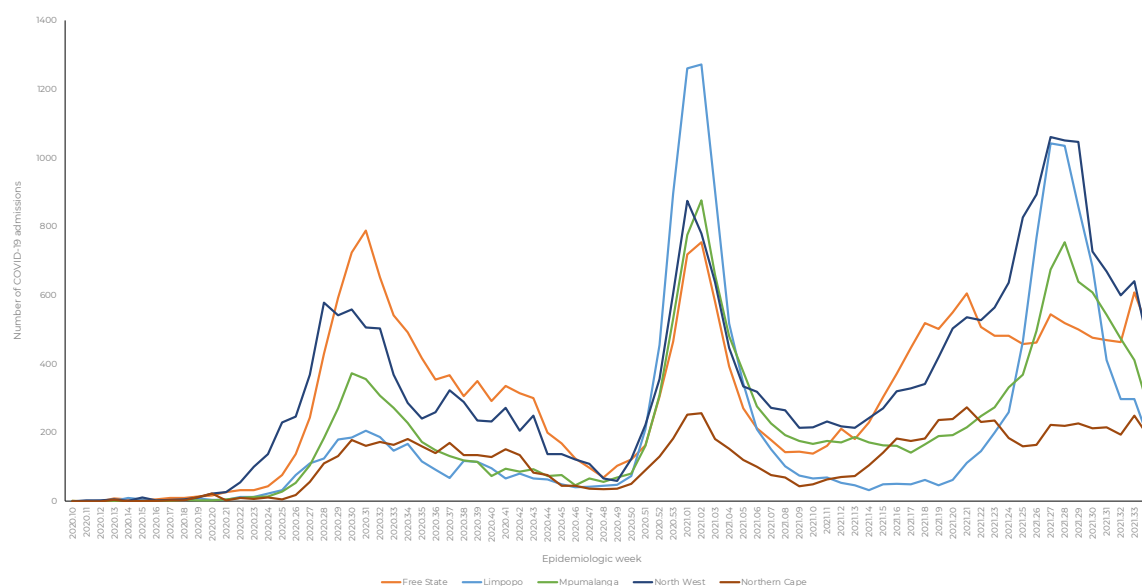


Figure 2b. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by provinces with lowest admissions and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=407,056

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EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN IN-HOSPITAL MORTALITY

The number of deaths increased in both sectors since week 15 until the peak in week 28 (Figure 3). Decreases in deaths in both sectors have been observed in the past six weeks.

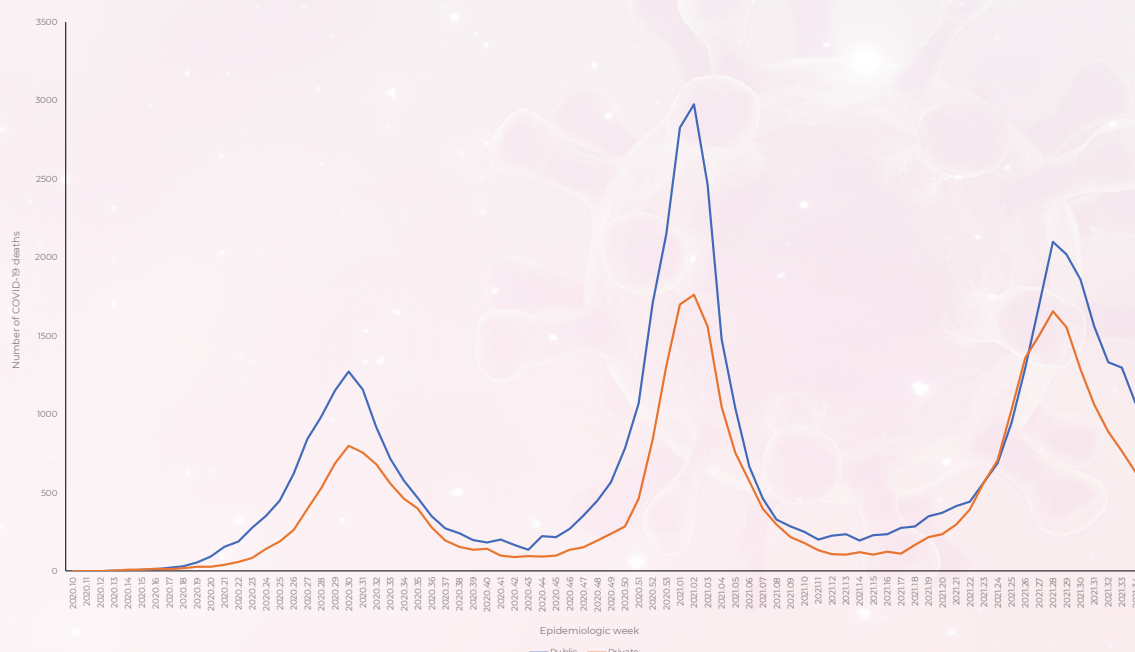


Figure 3. Number of in-hospital COVID-19 in-hospital deaths reported per week by health sector and epidemiologic week, South Africa, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=87,266

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Most deaths were reported in Gauteng 26,598 (30%), Western Cape 15,688 (18%), KwaZulu-Natal 14,031 (16%), and Eastern Cape 11,186 (13%). The numbers of COVID-19 deaths have decreased in most provinces over the past six weeks (Figures 4a and 4b).

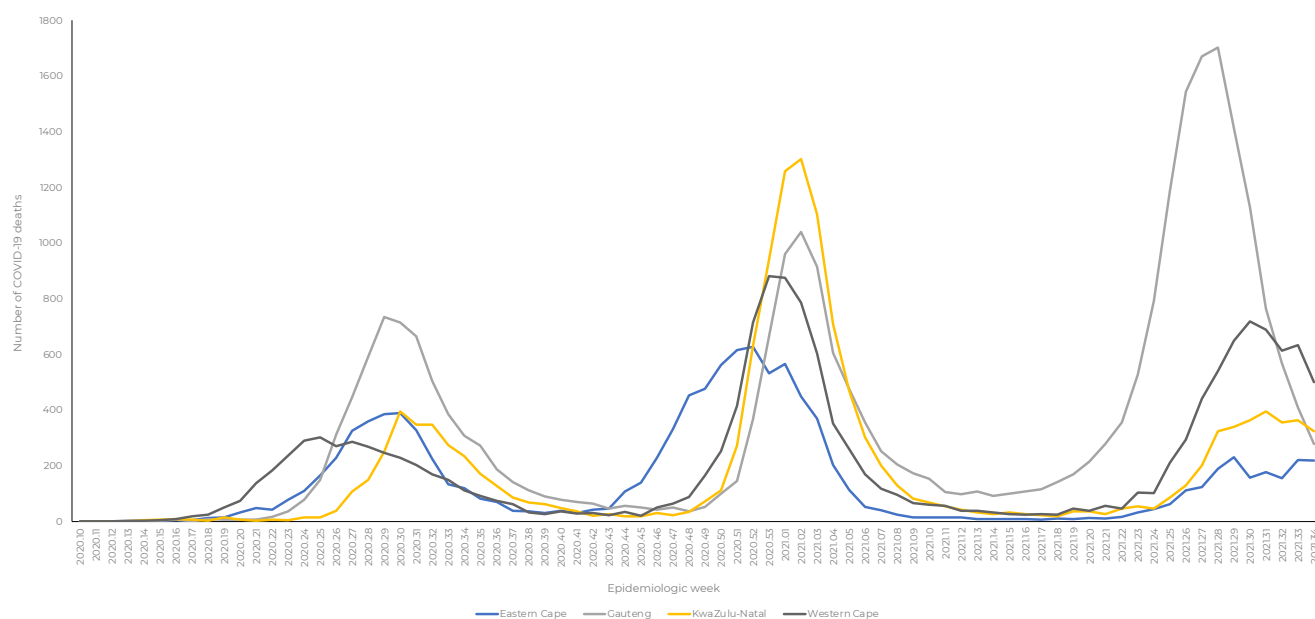


Figure 4a. Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by province with highest deaths and epidemiologic week of death, South Africa, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=87,266

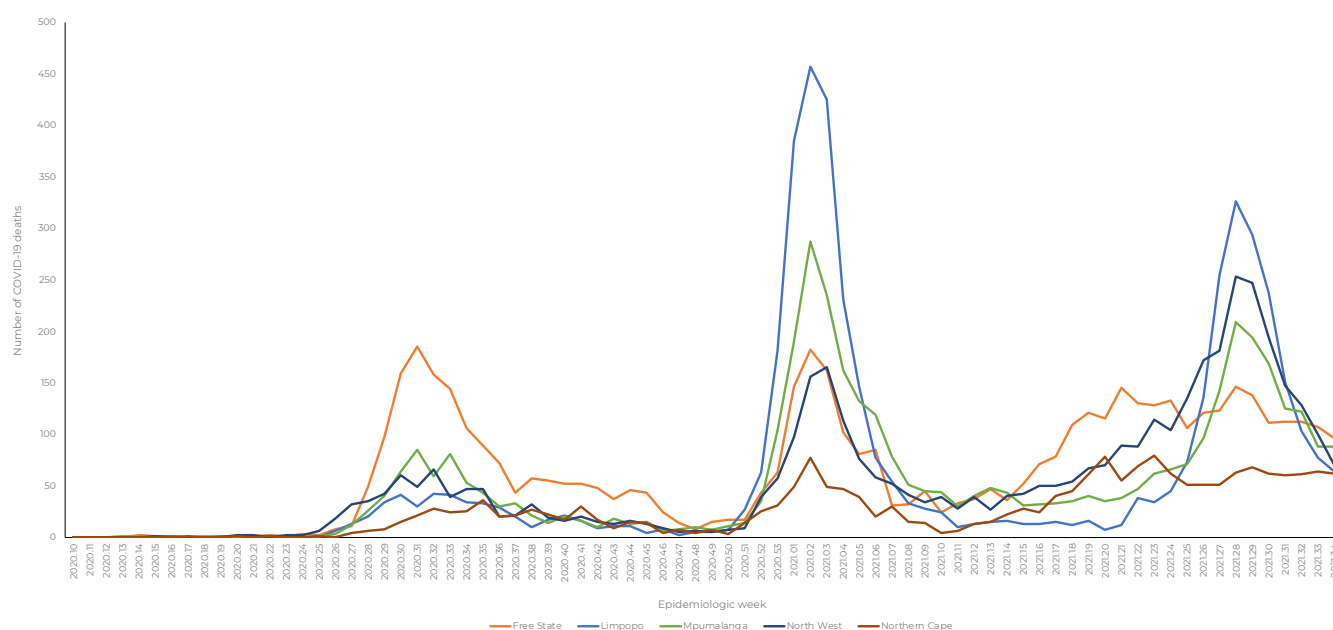


Figure 4b. Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by province with lowest deaths and epidemiologic week of death, South Africa, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=87,266

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The cumulative incidence risks of COVID-19 admissions and in-hospital deaths were highest in Western Cape, Free State and Gauteng 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 2020-28 August 2021.

Province	Provincial Population mid 2020*	Cumulative admissions	Cumulative Admissions / 100,000	Cumulative deaths	Cumulative deaths / 100,000
Eastern Cape	6734001	38472	571.3	11186	166.1
Free State	2928903	23828	813.5	5023	171.5
Gauteng	15488137	121,967	787.5	26598	171.7
KwaZulu-Natal	11531628	63880	554.0	14029	121.7
Limpopo	5852553	16423	280.6	4576	78.2
Mpumalanga	4679786	16974	362.7	4080	87.2
North West	4108816	26,508	645.1	4092	99.6
Northern Cape	1292786	8,973	694.1	1992	154.1
Western Cape	7005741	90,031	1285.1	15687	223.9
South Africa	59622350	407,056	682.7	87,263	146.4

*StatsSA mid-year population estimates 2020

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PROVINCIAL TRENDS

There was a decrease in the average daily COVID-19 admissions and deaths comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in all provinces except Eastern Cape, Free State and Northern Cape (Table 3). Decreases in the most recent week may in part reflect delays in data submission. There were only 3 of 52 (6%) districts across the country that reported increased change in incidence risk of admissions, Buffalo City Metro (Eastern Cape), Xhariep (Free State), and Frances Baard (Northern Cape) (Appendix 1).

Table 3. Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, South Africa, 31 July-28 August 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	92.86	117.79	26.85	23.71	31.36	32.23
Free State	66.57	79.07	18.78	16.00	14.50	-9.38
Gauteng	291.14	166.36	-42.86	95.14	49.07	-48.42
KwaZulu-Natal	239.36	231.57	-3.25	53.64	49.14	-8.39
Limpopo	50.50	34.36	-31.97	18.14	10.07	-44.49
Mpumalanga	72.50	48.79	-32.71	17.64	12.57	-28.74
North West	90.64	78.07	-13.87	19.64	12.14	-38.18
Northern Cape	29.29	31.21	6.59	8.64	9.00	4.13
Western Cape	455.07	365.29	-19.73	93.07	80.86	-13.12

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

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EASTERN CAPE

In all three 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. There has been increase in admissions in both sectors since week 20 (Figure 5).

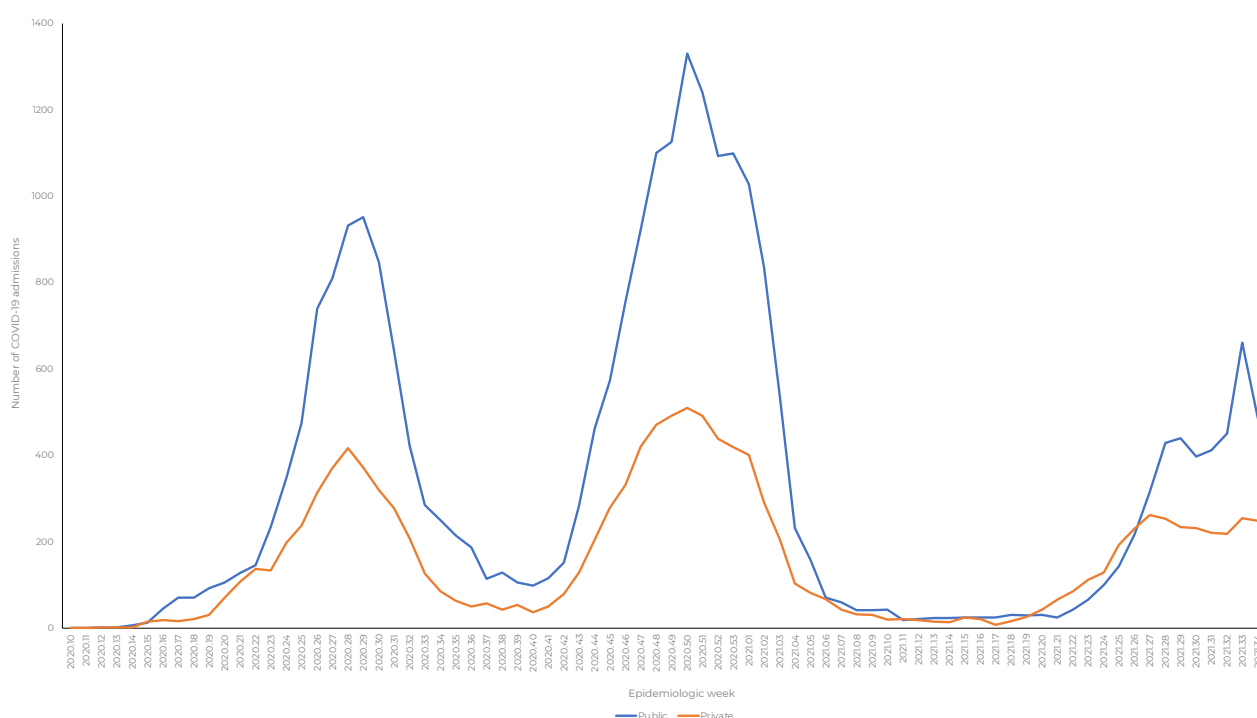


Figure 5: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Eastern Cape, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=38,472

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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 increases in admissions in most districts since week 19, with highest increase in Nelson Mandela Metro.

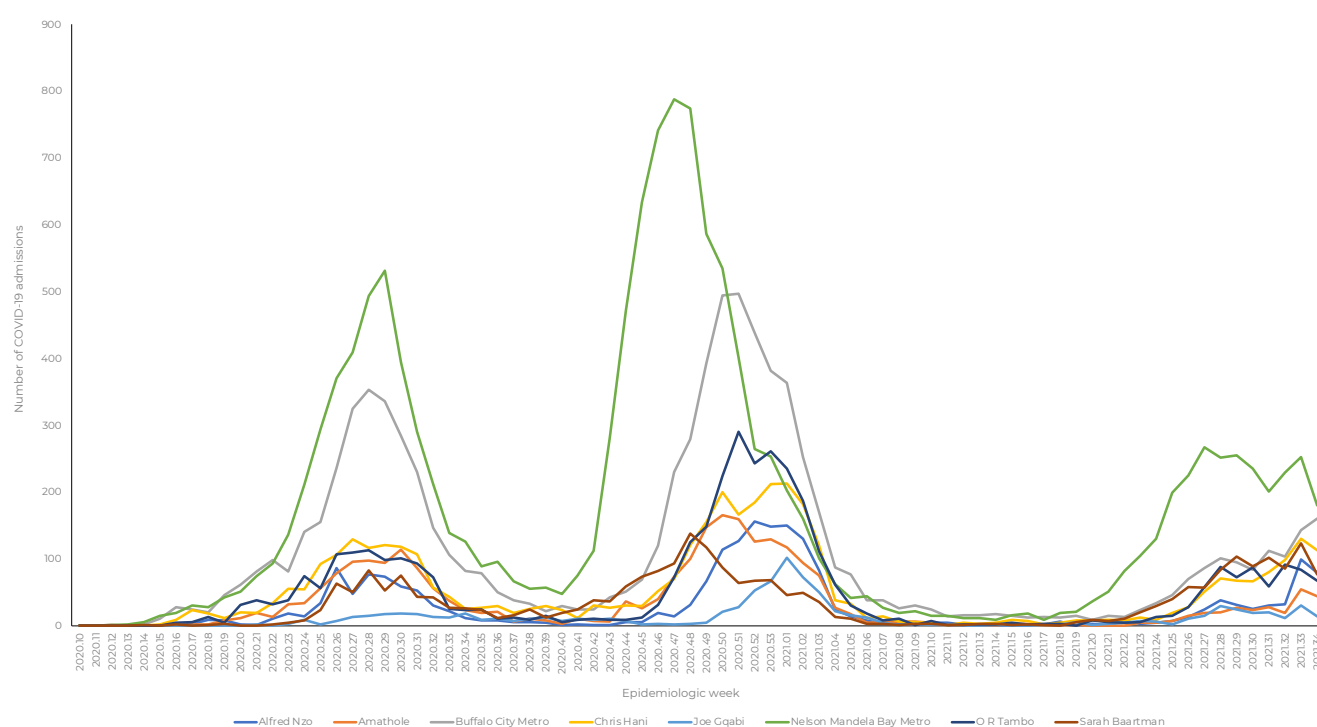


Figure 6. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Eastern Cape, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=38,472

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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). There have been increases in deaths in all districts since week 21.

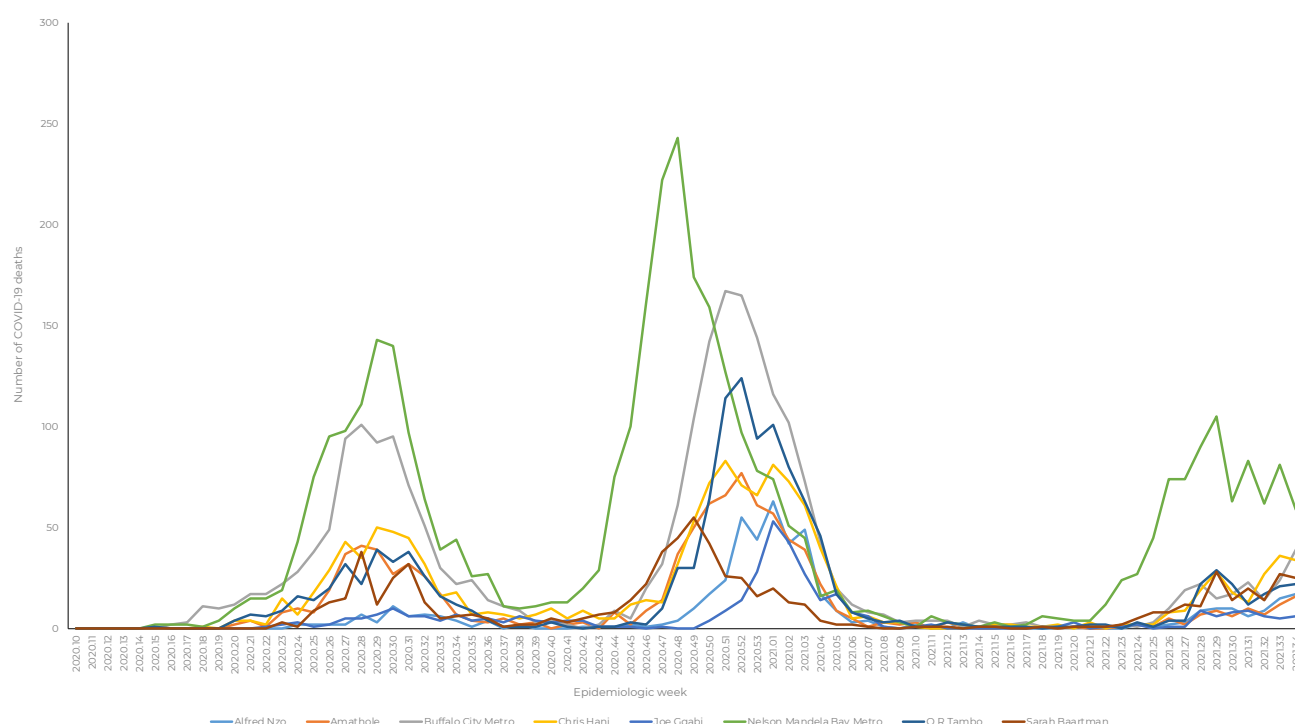


Figure 7. Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Eastern Cape, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=11,186

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There has been an increase in the average daily COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in all the districts (Table 4). The highest percentage change in admission was in Amathole.

Table 4: Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Eastern Cape, 31 July-28 August 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	4.43	12.71	187.10	1.07	2.29	113.33
Amathole	3.36	7.00	108.51	1.21	2.00	64.71
Buffalo City Metro	15.36	21.64	40.93	2.64	4.50	70.27
Chris Hani	12.71	17.36	36.52	2.86	5.00	75.00
Joe Gqabi	2.21	3.14	41.94	1.07	0.79	-26.67
Nelson Mandela Bay	30.71	30.86	0.47	10.36	10.00	-3.45
O R Tambo	10.71	10.79	0.67	2.07	3.07	48.28
Sarah Baartman	13.36	14.29	6.95	2.43	3.71	52.94

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FREE STATE

In all three waves there were roughly equal numbers of admissions in both sectors (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 increased in both sectors since week 9, peaking in week 22, but have not shown sustained post-peak decreases. Weekly admissions at the peak of third wave have exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in the private sector.

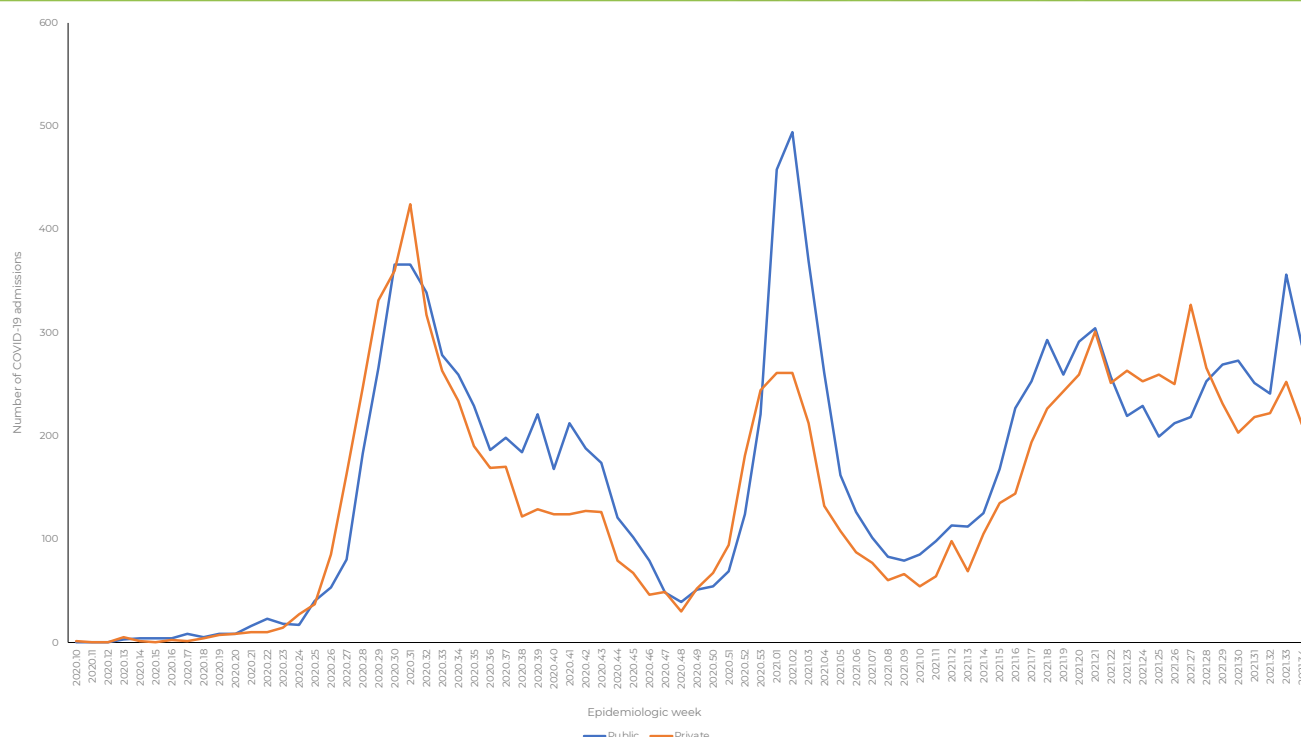


Figure 8: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Free State, 5 March 2020–28 August 2021, n=23,828

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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 increased in all districts, with highest increase in Mangaung Metro, with a peak in week 22, but have not shown sustained post-peak decreases in most districts. Weekly admissions at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in Mangaung Metro.

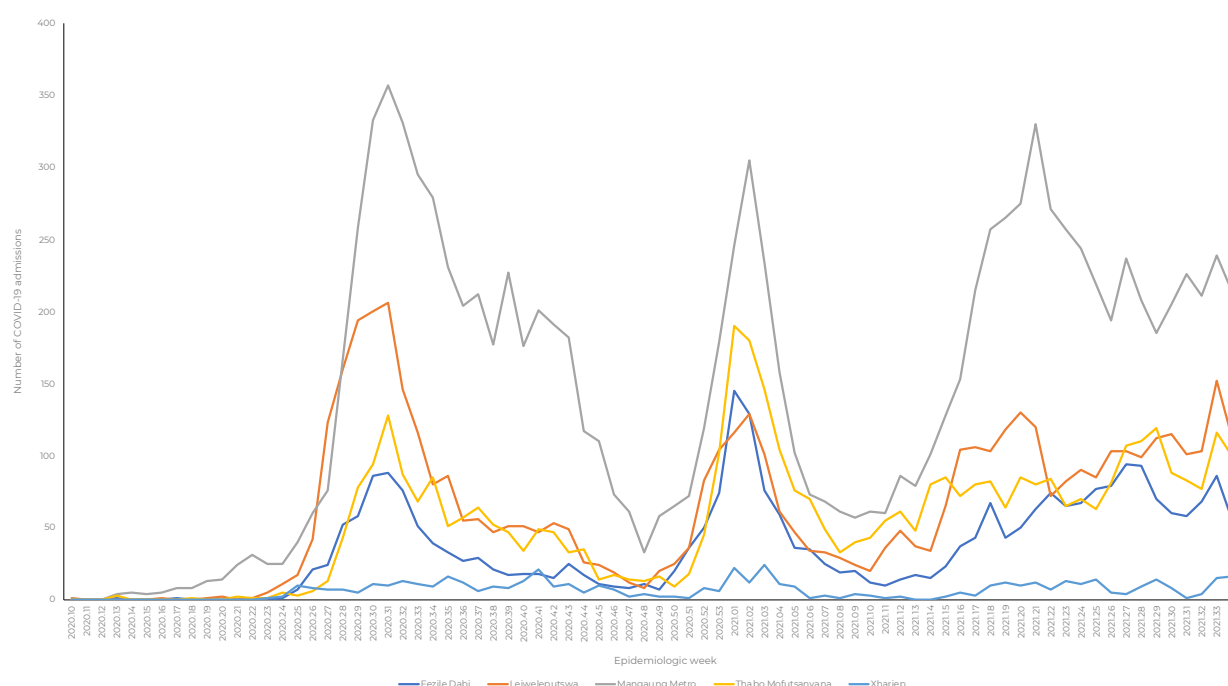


Figure 9: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Free State, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=23,828

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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 all districts, but have shown sustained decreases for the past nine weeks in most districts. However, there were increased deaths in Mangaung Metro, Thabo Mofutsanyane and Lejweleputswa in the past five weeks. Weekly deaths at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in Mangaung Metro and Lejweleputswa.

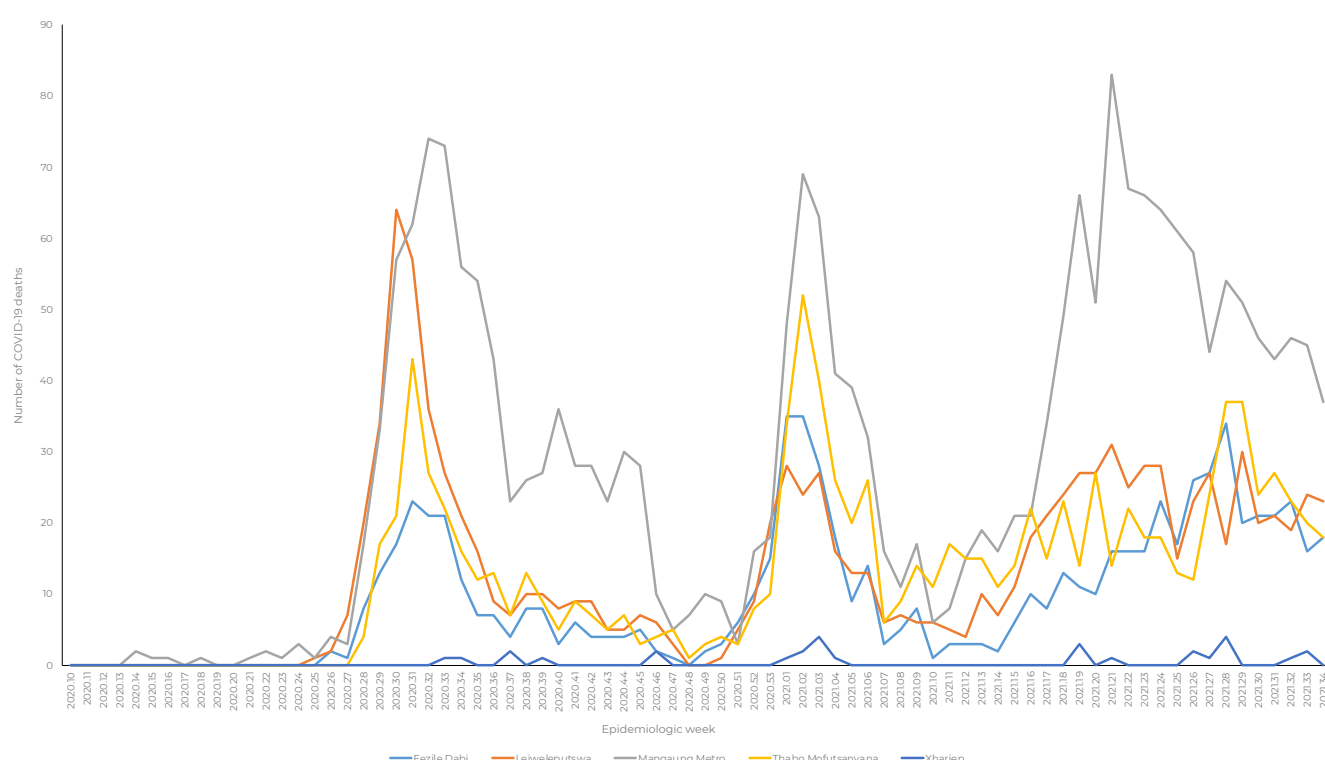


Figure 10: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Free State, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=5,023

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There has been an increase in average daily COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in all the districts. The highest percentage change in admission 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, 31 July-28 August 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	9.00	10.14	12.70	3.14	2.43	-22.73
Lejweleputswa	14.57	18.93	29.90	2.86	3.36	17.50
Mangaung Metro	31.21	32.36	3.66	6.36	5.86	-7.87
Thabo Mofutsanyana	11.43	15.43	35.00	3.57	2.71	-24.00
Xhariep	0.36	2.21	520.00	0.07	0.14	100.00

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GAUTENG

In all three 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 third wave peak in week 26, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of admissions in both sectors. Weekly admissions at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in both sectors.

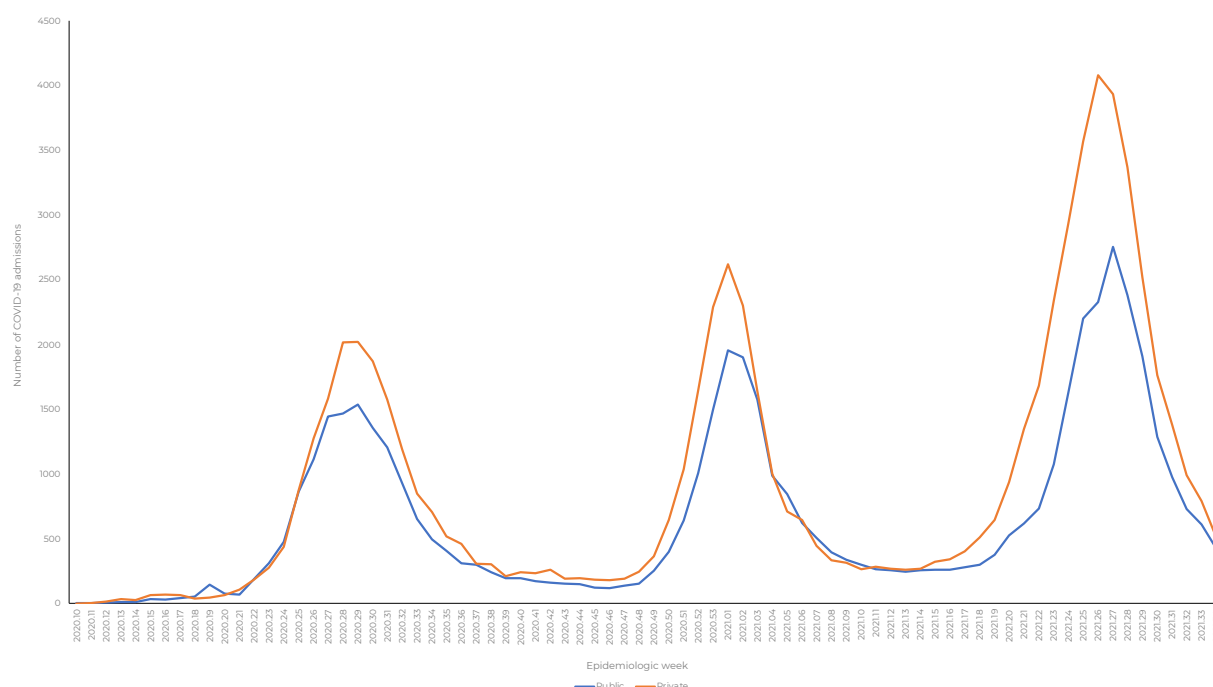


Figure 11: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=121,967

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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, Ekurhuleni Metro and West Rand (Figure 12). Since the third wave peak, a decrease in admissions has been observed in all districts over the past seven weeks. Weekly admissions at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in all districts.

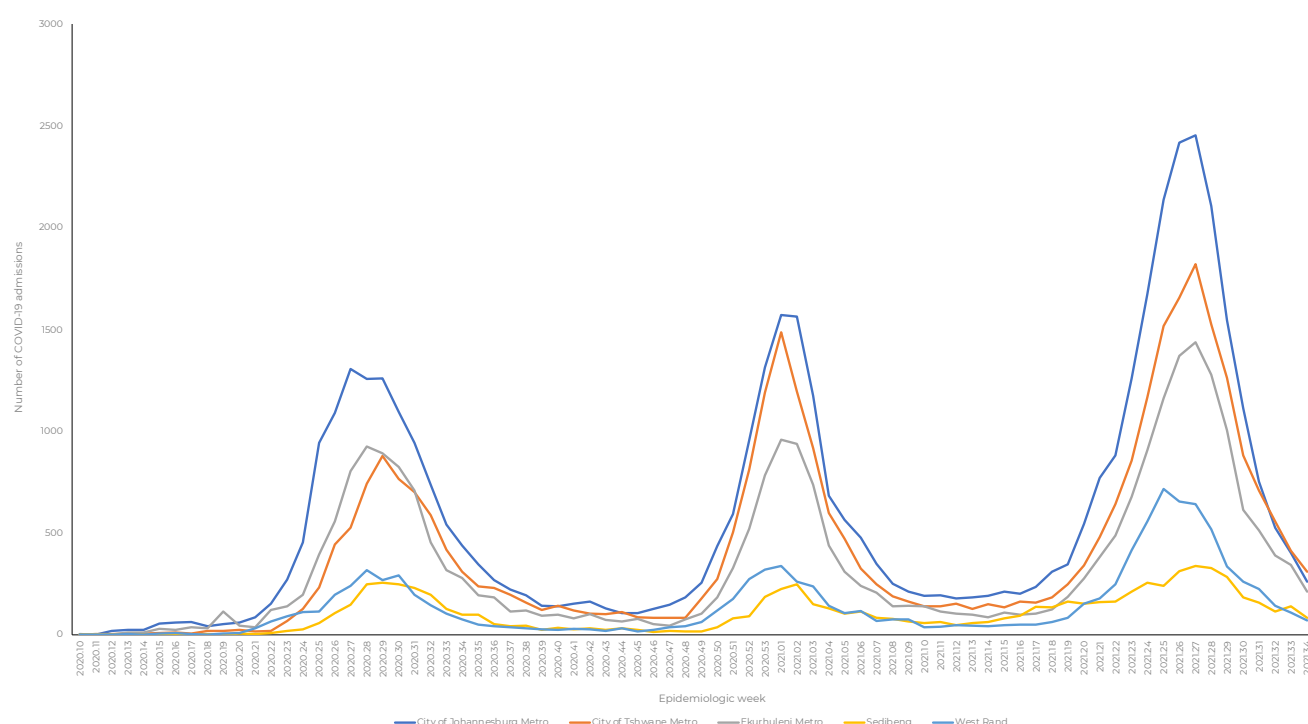


Figure 12: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=121,967

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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). Since the third wave peak, a decrease in the number of deaths has been observed in all districts over the past six weeks. Weekly admissions at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in all districts.

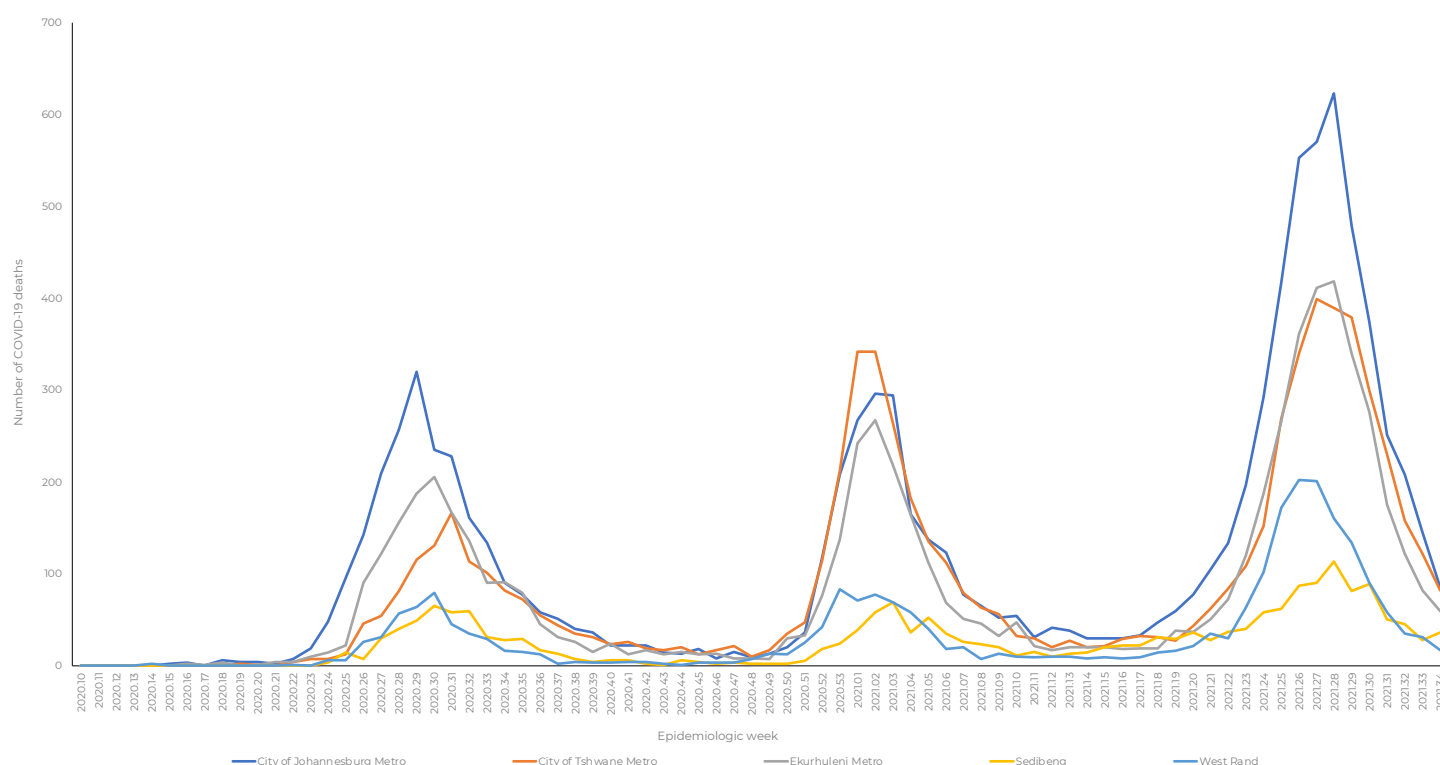


Figure 13: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=26,598

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There has been a decrease in average daily COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in all districts (Table 6).

Table 6: Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Gauteng, 31 July-28 August 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	91.00	47.21	-48.12	32.79	16.43	-49.89
City of Tshwane Metro	90.21	51.43	-42.99	27.71	14.57	-47.42
Ekurhuleni Metro	64.29	39.50	-38.56	21.21	10.07	-52.53
Sedibeng	19.43	15.71	-19.12	6.79	4.57	-32.63
West Rand	26.21	12.50	-52.32	6.64	3.43	-48.39

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KWAZULU-NATAL

In both first and second 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). There has been an increase in admissions in both sectors since week 22, however a decrease in the number of admissions has been observed in both sectors over the past two weeks.

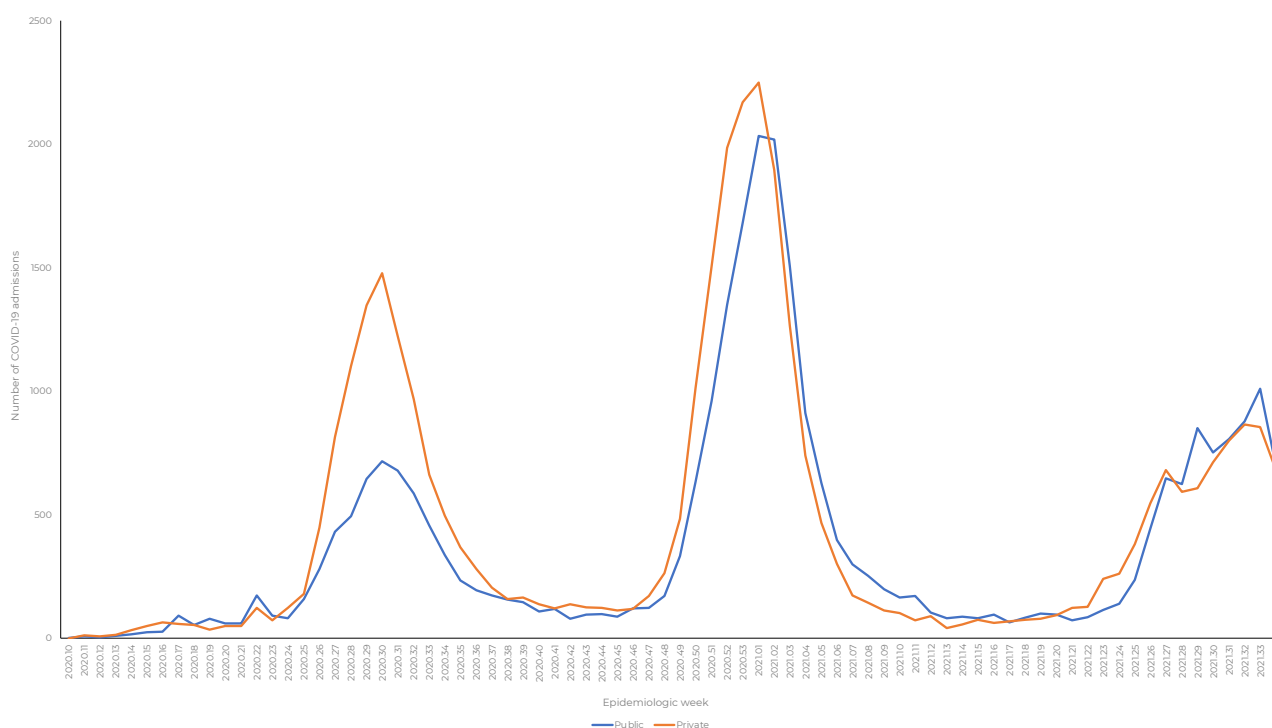


Figure 14: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=63,880

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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). There has been an increase in admissions in a few districts, particularly in eThekwin Metro. However, a decrease in the number of admissions has been observed in all districts in the past two weeks.

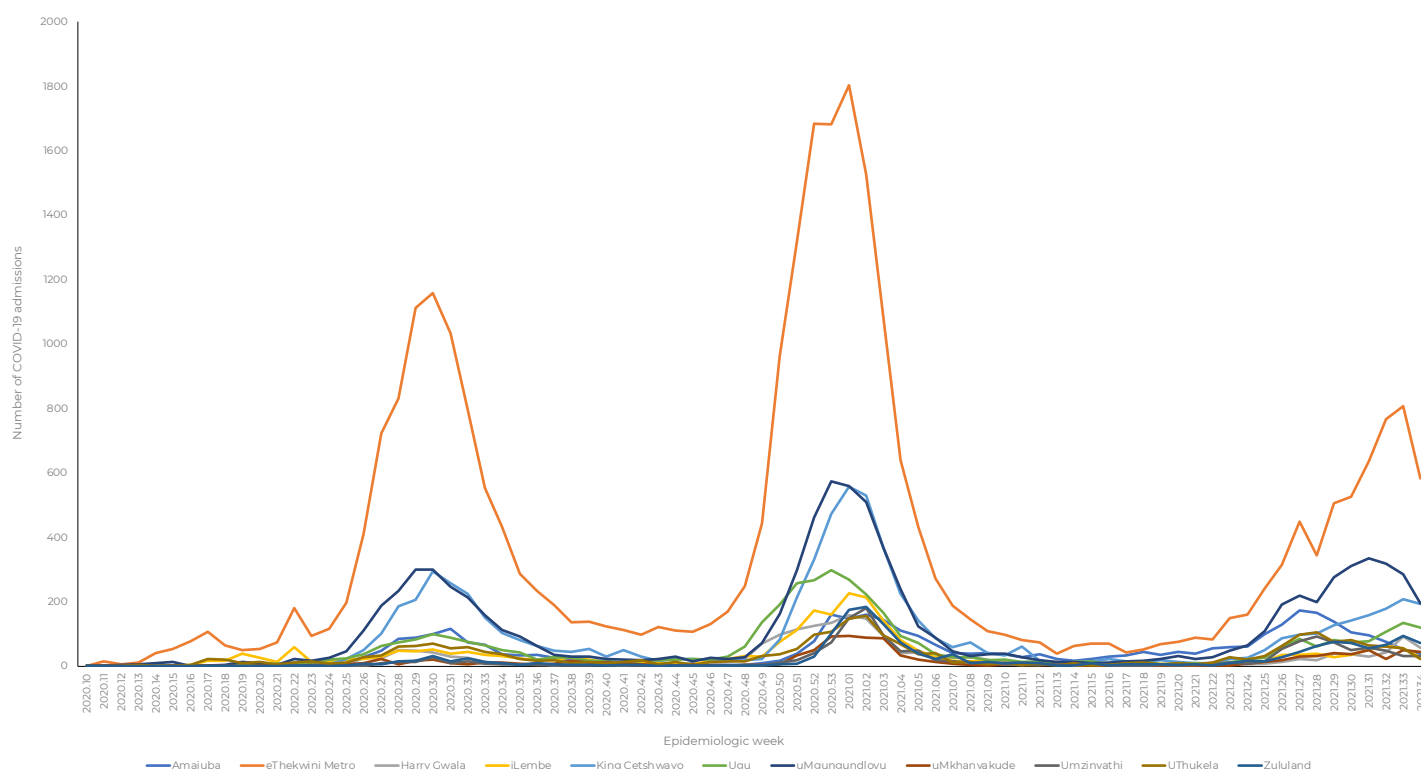


Figure 15: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=63,880

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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, there have been small increases in COVID-19 deaths in most districts, however the weekly numbers of deaths have decreased in most districts over the past two weeks.

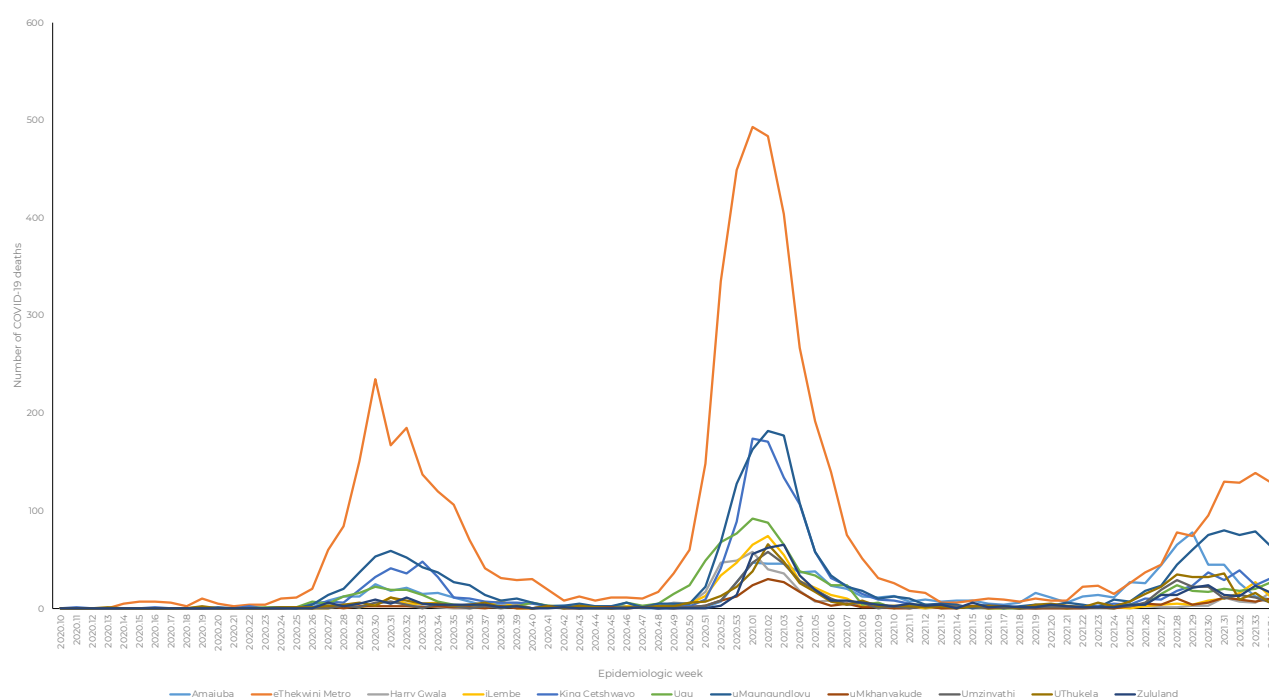


Figure 16: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=14,031

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There has been an increase in average daily COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in Harry Gwala, King Cetshwayo, Ugu, uMkhanyakude and Zululand. The highest percentage change in admissions was in Harry Gwala (Table 7).

Table 7: Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, KwaZulu-Natal, 31 July-28 August 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
Amajuba	12.29	6.50	-47.09	5.07	1.50	-70.42
eThekweni Metro	100.07	99.29	-0.79	18.50	19.14	3.47
Harry Gwala	5.14	10.57	105.56	1.29	1.64	27.78
iLembe	8.14	6.00	-26.32	1.86	2.71	46.15
King Cetshwayo	24.00	28.21	17.56	4.86	3.93	-19.12
Ugu	13.07	18.21	39.34	2.71	3.36	23.68
uMgungundlovu	46.50	34.21	-26.42	11.07	10.14	-8.39
uMkhanyakude	5.14	6.64	29.17	1.43	1.21	-15.00
Umzinyathi	7.43	4.50	-39.42	1.71	1.21	-29.17
UThukela	8.93	5.64	-36.80	3.21	1.50	-53.33
Zululand	8.64	11.79	36.36	1.93	2.79	44.44

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LIMPOPO

In the first wave there were roughly equal numbers of admissions in both sectors, but in the second and third 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 17). Since the third wave peak in week 28, a decrease in the number of admissions has been observed in both sectors over the past six weeks.

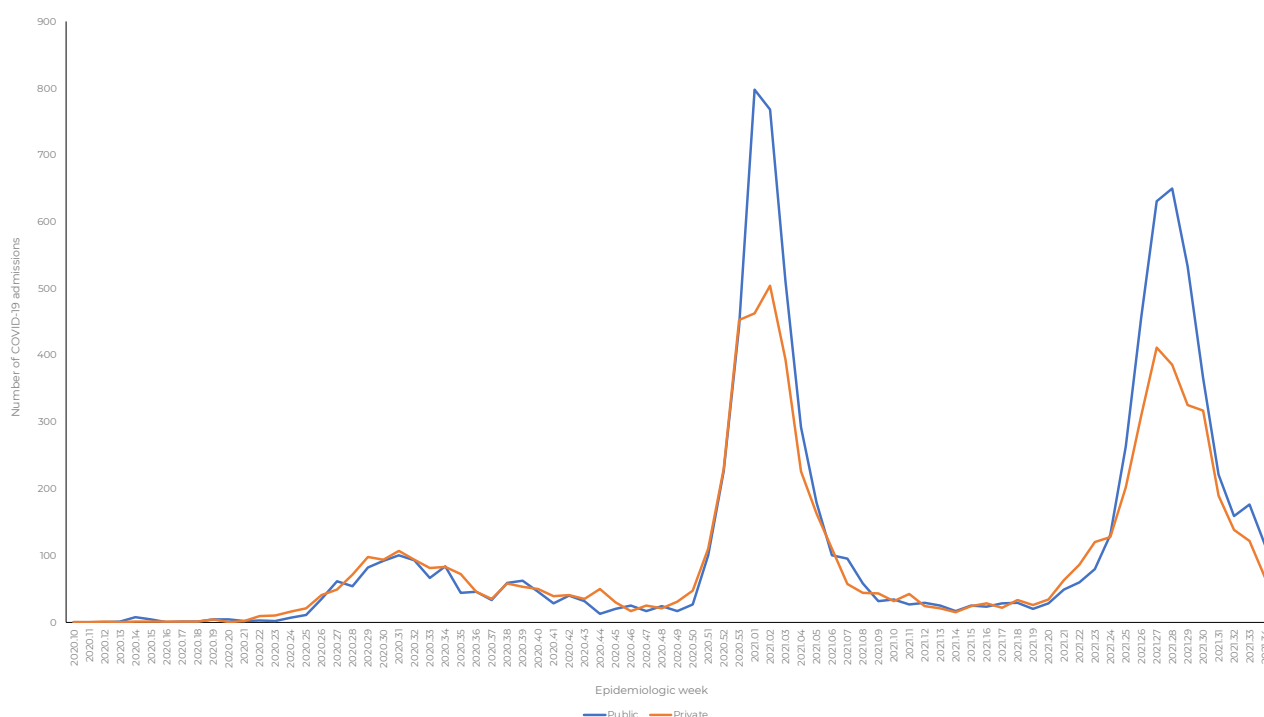


Figure 17: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Limpopo, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=16,423

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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 third wave peak, a decrease in the number of admissions has been observed in all districts over the past six weeks. Weekly admissions at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in Sekhukhune and Waterberg.

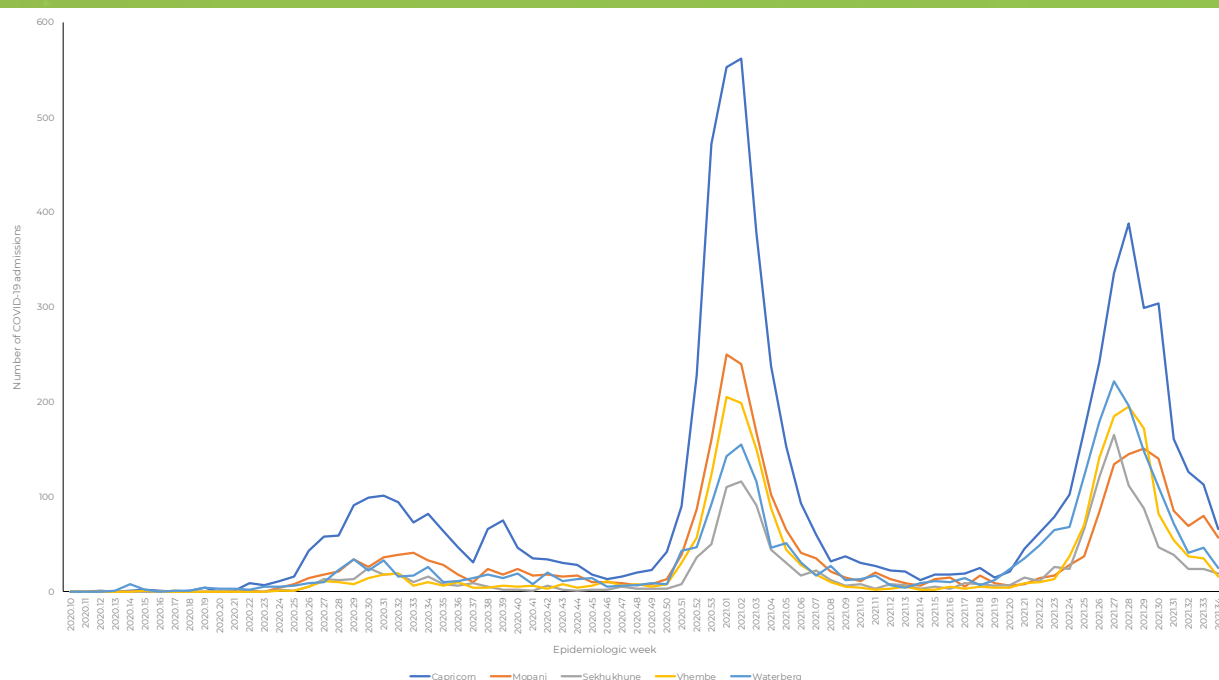


Figure 18: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Limpopo, 5 March 2020–28 August 2021, n=16,423

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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 third wave peak, a decrease in the number of deaths has been observed in all districts over the past six weeks.

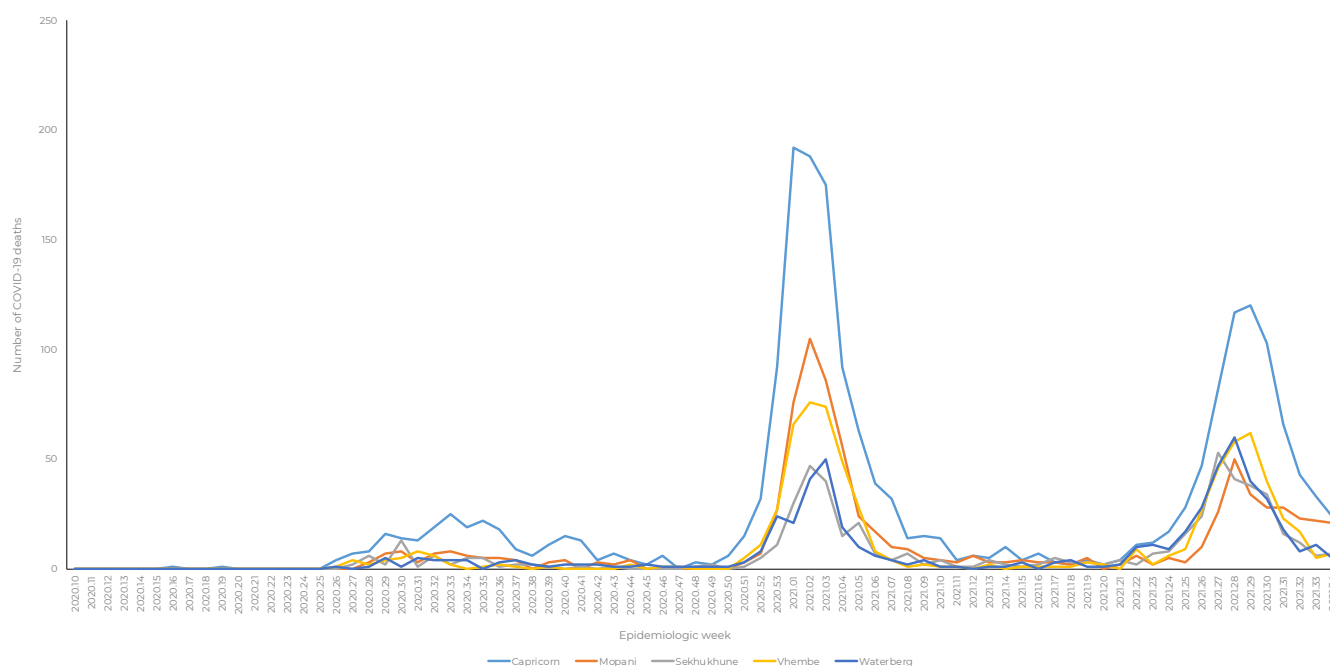


Figure 19: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Limpopo, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=4,576

There has been a decrease in average daily COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in all districts (Table 8).

Table 8: Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Limpopo, 31 July-28 August 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	20.43	12.79	-37.41	7.79	4.07	-47.71
Mopani	11.00	9.79	-11.04	3.64	3.07	-15.69
Sekhukhune	4.50	3.07	-31.75	2.00	0.93	-53.57
Vhembe	6.50	3.64	-43.96	2.86	0.86	-70.00
Waterberg	8.07	5.07	-37.17	1.86	1.14	-38.46

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MPUMALANGA

In the first and third waves 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). Since the third wave peak in week 28, a decrease in the number of admissions has been observed in both sectors over the past six weeks. Weekly admissions at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in the private sector.

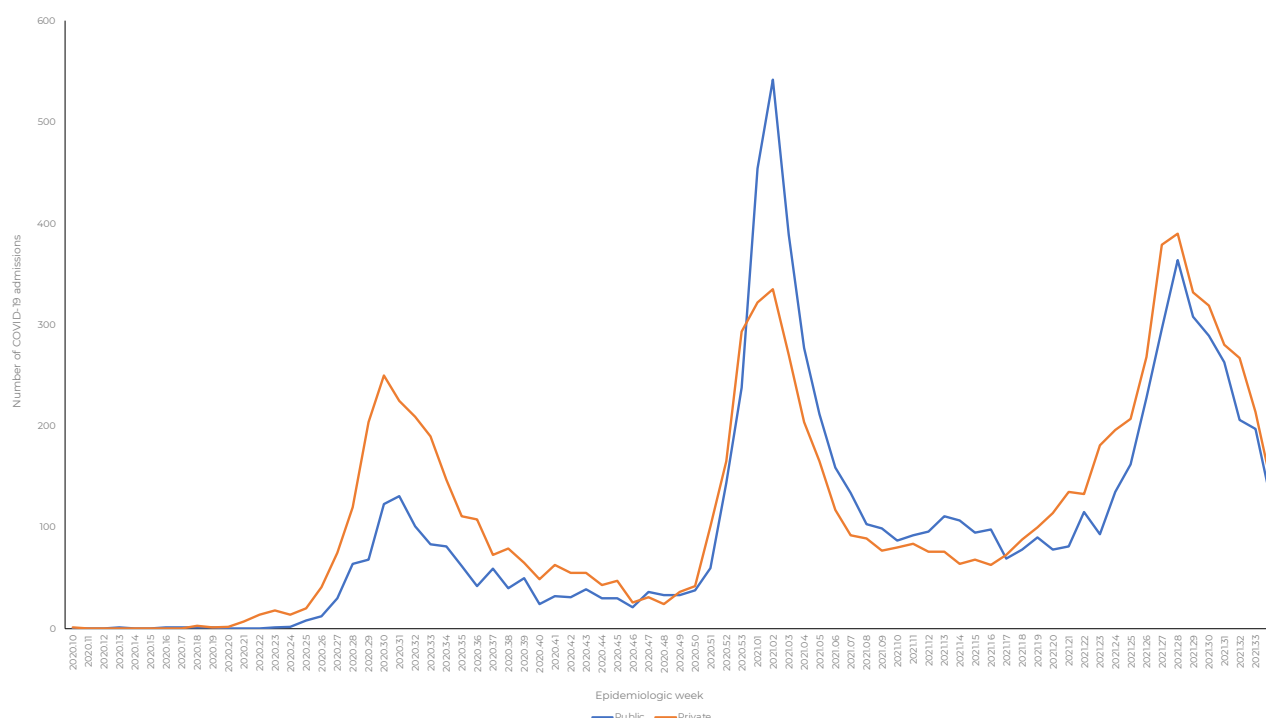


Figure 20: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=16,974

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 21). Since the third wave peak, a decrease in the number of admissions has been observed in all districts over the past six weeks.

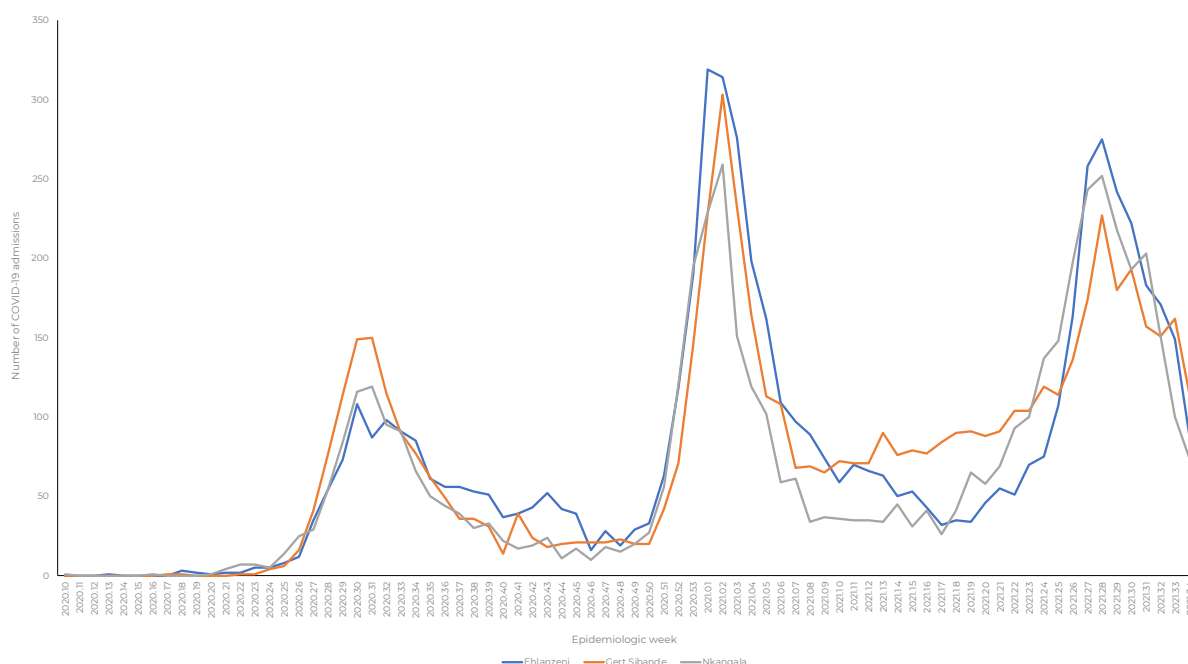


Figure 21: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=16,974

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 34 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 22). Since the third wave peak, a decrease in the number of deaths has been observed in all districts over the past six weeks.

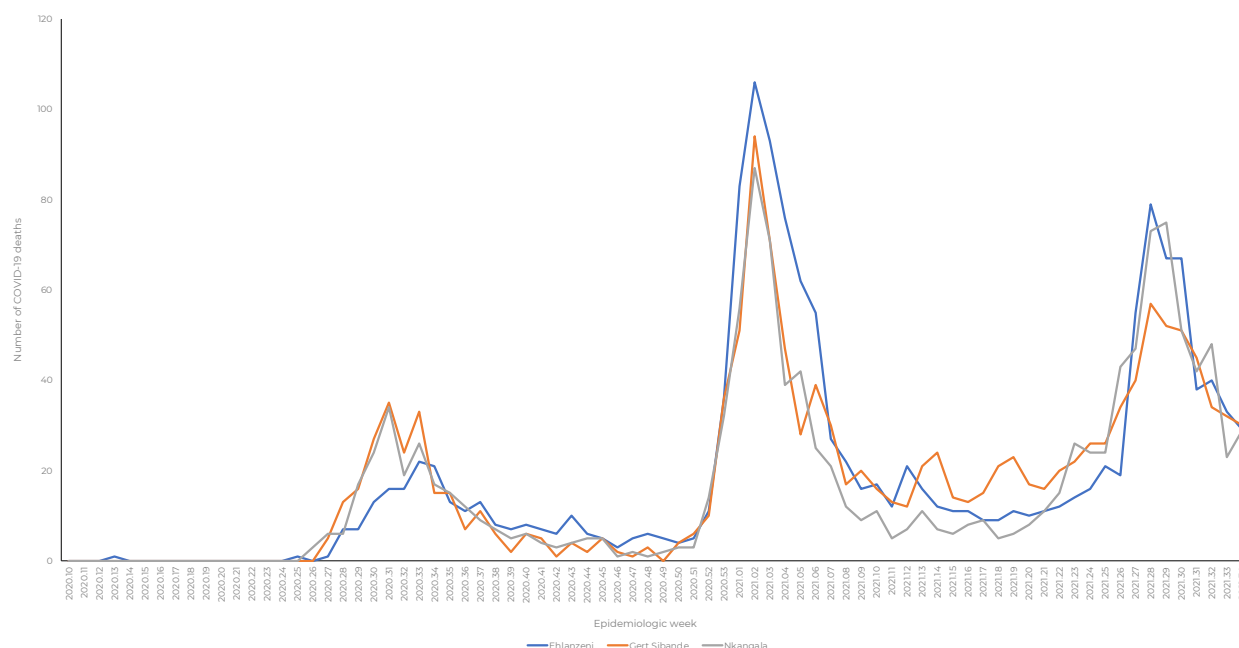


Figure 22: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=4,080

There has been a decrease in average daily COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in all districts (Table 9).

Table 9: Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Mpumalanga, 24 July-21 August 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	25.21	16.79	-33.43	5.57	4.43	-20.51
Gert Sibande	22.00	19.64	-10.71	5.64	4.43	-21.52
Nkangala	25.29	12.36	-51.13	6.43	3.71	-42.22

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NORTH WEST

In all three 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). Since the third wave peak in week 29, a decrease in the number of admissions has been observed in both sectors over the past five weeks, however the numbers of admissions still remain high in the public sector. Weekly admissions at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in both sectors.

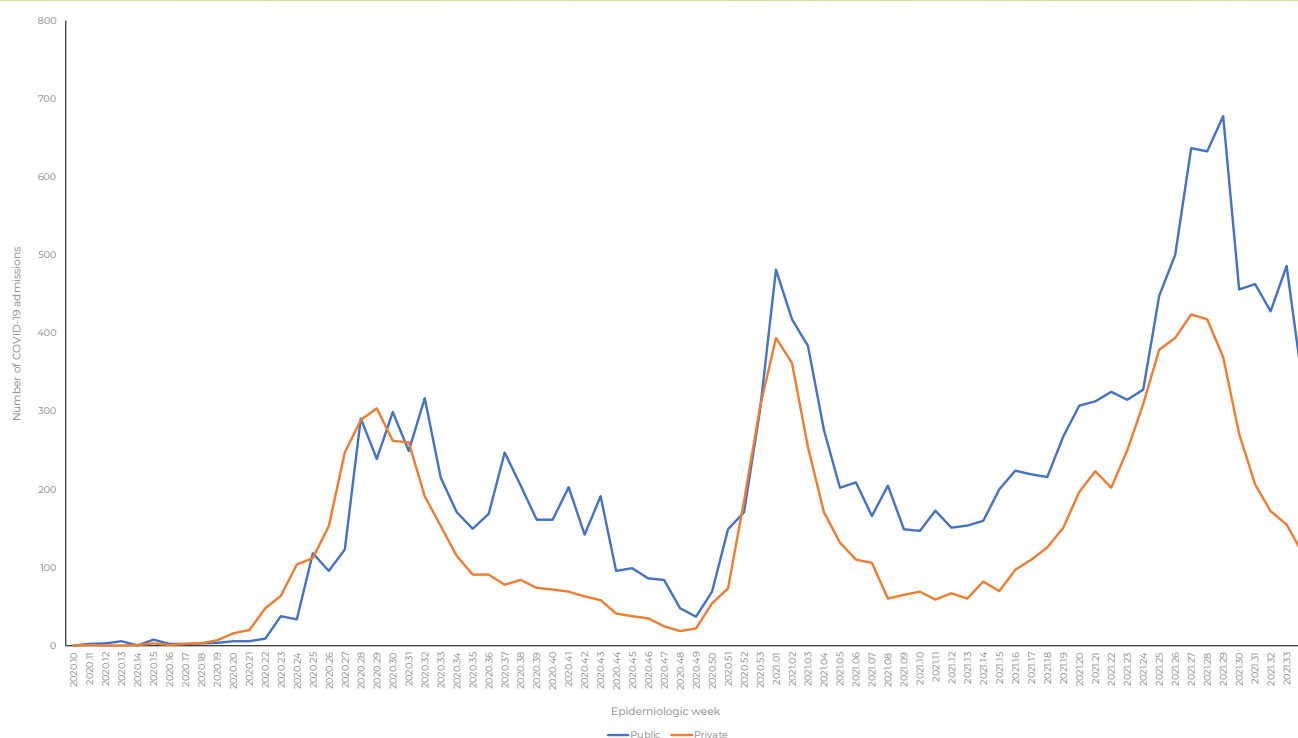
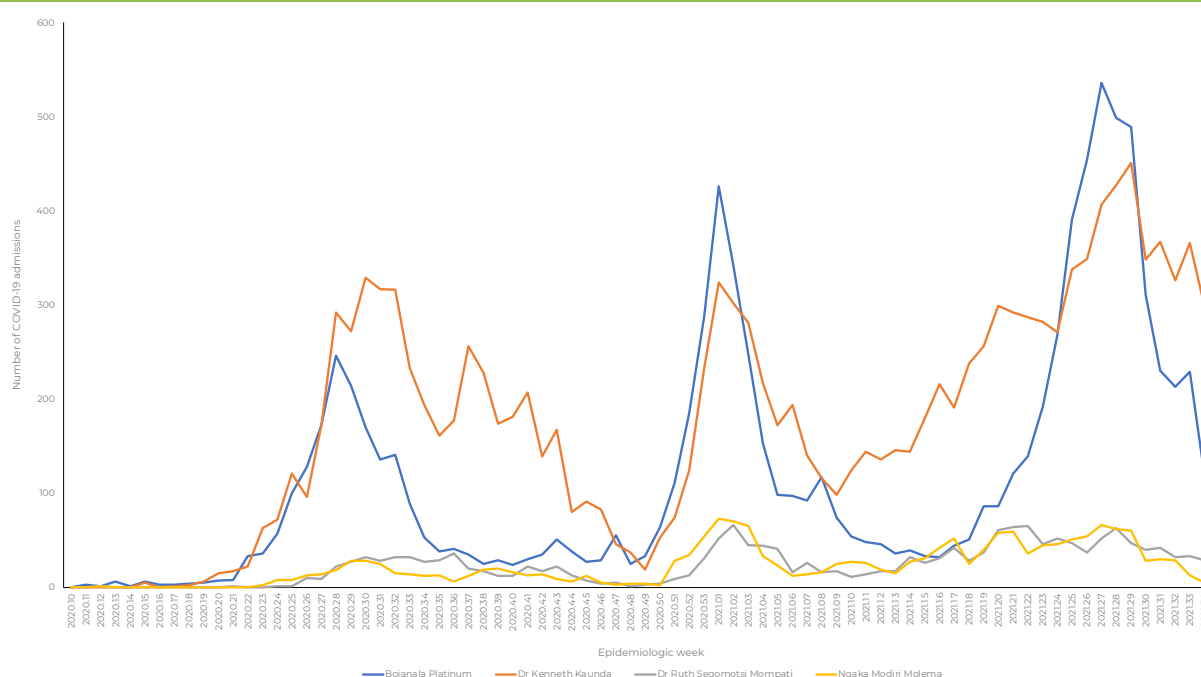


Figure 23: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, North West, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=26,508

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 except Dr Kenneth Kaunda (Figure 24). Since the third wave peak in week 27, a decrease in the number of admissions has been observed in all districts over the past five weeks. However, the weekly numbers of admissions remain high in Dr Kenneth Kaunda district. Weekly admissions at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in Bojanala Platinum and Dr Kenneth Kaunda.



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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 25). Since the third wave peak, a decrease in the number of deaths has been observed in all districts over the past six weeks. Weekly deaths at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in Bojanala Platinum and Dr Kenneth Kaunda.

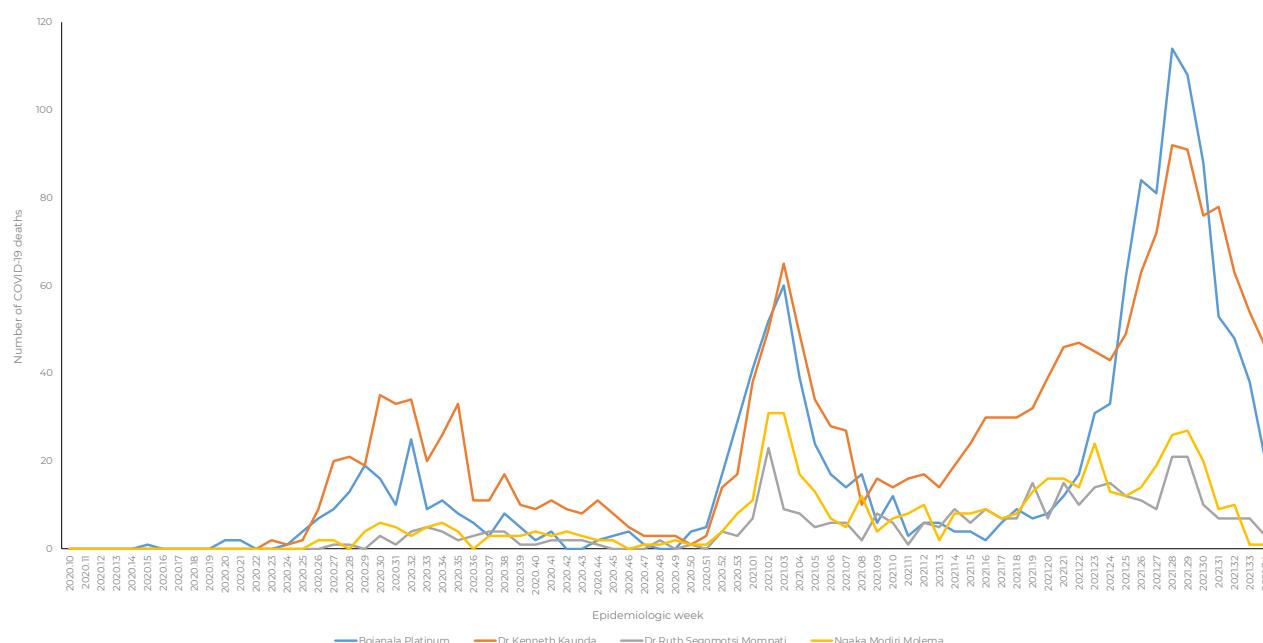


Figure 25: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, North West, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=4,092

There has been a decrease in average daily COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in all districts (Table 10).

Table 10: Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, North West, 31 July-28 August 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	31.64	24.93	-21.22	7.21	4.14	-42.57
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	49.50	47.43	-4.18	10.07	7.14	-29.08
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	5.29	4.43	-16.22	1.00	0.71	-28.57
Ngaka Modiri Molema	4.21	1.29	-69.49	1.36	0.14	-89.47

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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NORTHERN CAPE

In all three 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 since week 9 peaking in week 29. A second increase in admissions was observed in both sectors over the past seven weeks. Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in the private sector.

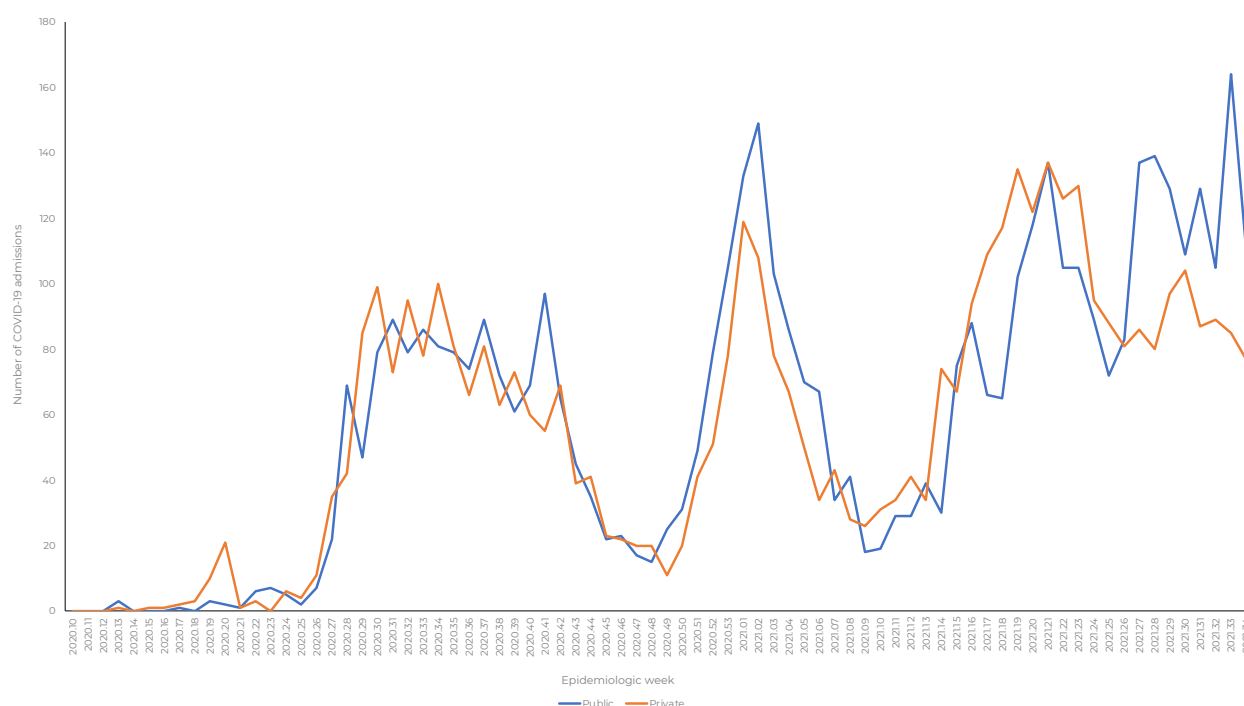


Figure 26: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=8,973

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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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). Since the third wave peak, the numbers of admissions have decreased in all districts, however some increases in admissions have been observed in the past three weeks in Frances Baard, Pixley Ka Seme and John Taolo Gaetsewe districts. Weekly admissions at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in Frances Baard, ZF Mgcawu and John Taolo Gaetsewe districts.

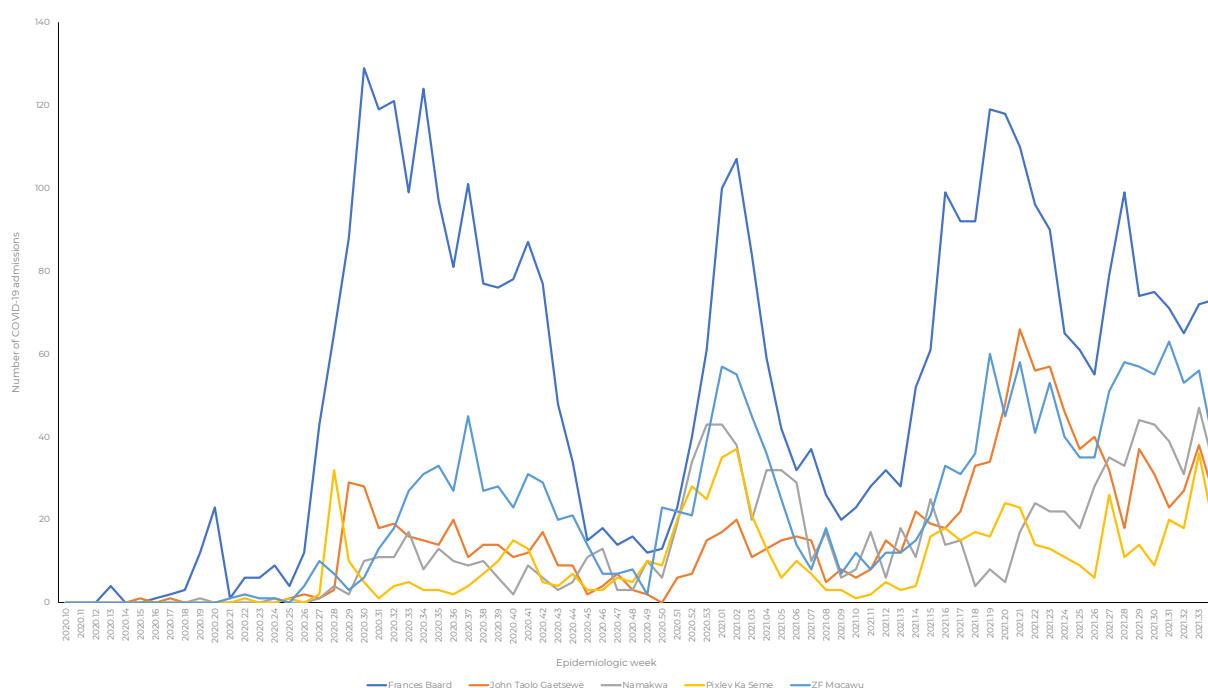


Figure 27: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=8,973

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 Pixley ka Seme, Namakwa and ZF Mgcawu districts (Figure 28). Since the third wave peak, the numbers of COVID-19 deaths have increased in all districts, however an increase in the number of deaths has been observed in some districts over the past six weeks. Weekly deaths at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the second wave in Frances Baard, John Taolo Gaetsewe and ZF Mgcawu district.

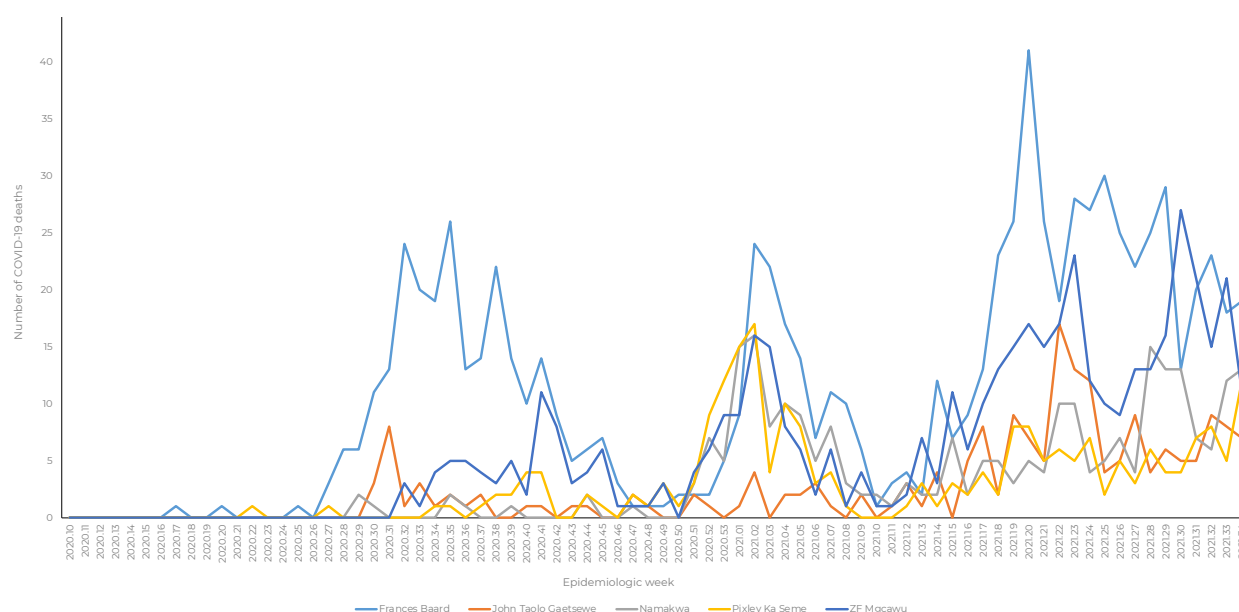


Figure 28: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=1,992

There has been an increase in average daily COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in all districts except ZF Mgcawu. The highest percentage change in admissions was in Pixley Ka Seme (Table 11).

Table 11: Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Northern Cape, 31 July-28 August 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	9.71	10.36	6.62	3.07	2.64	-13.95
John Taolo Gaetsewe	3.57	4.57	28.00	1.00	1.07	7.14
Namakwa	5.00	5.71	14.29	0.93	1.79	92.31
Pixley Ka Seme	2.71	3.86	42.11	1.07	1.21	13.33
ZF Mgcawu	8.29	6.71	-18.97	2.57	2.29	-11.11

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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WESTERN CAPE

In all three 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 third wave peak in week 30, a decrease in the number of admissions has been observed in both sectors in the past four weeks, however the weekly number of admissions remains high in the public sector.

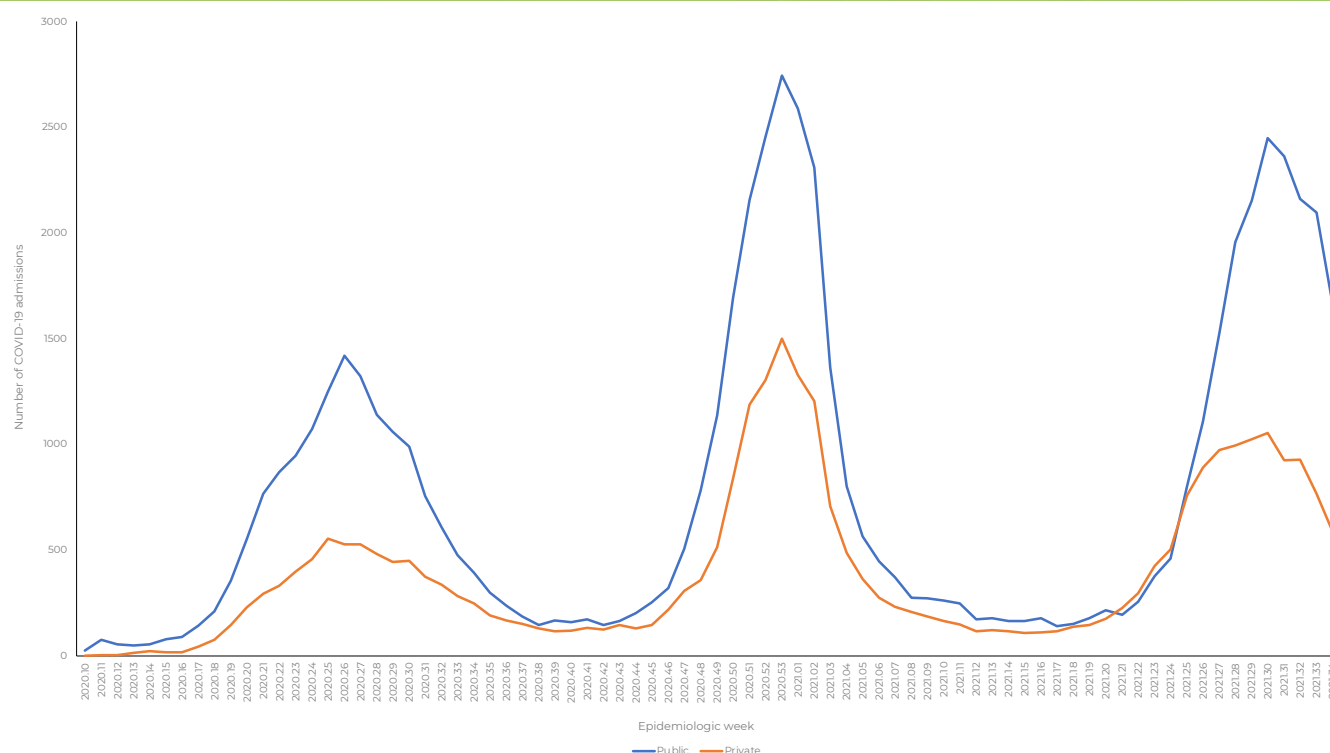


Figure 29: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Western Cape, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=90,031

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 34 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). Since the third wave peak, a decrease in the number of admissions has been observed in all districts in the past four weeks. Weekly number of admissions in the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in Garden Route.

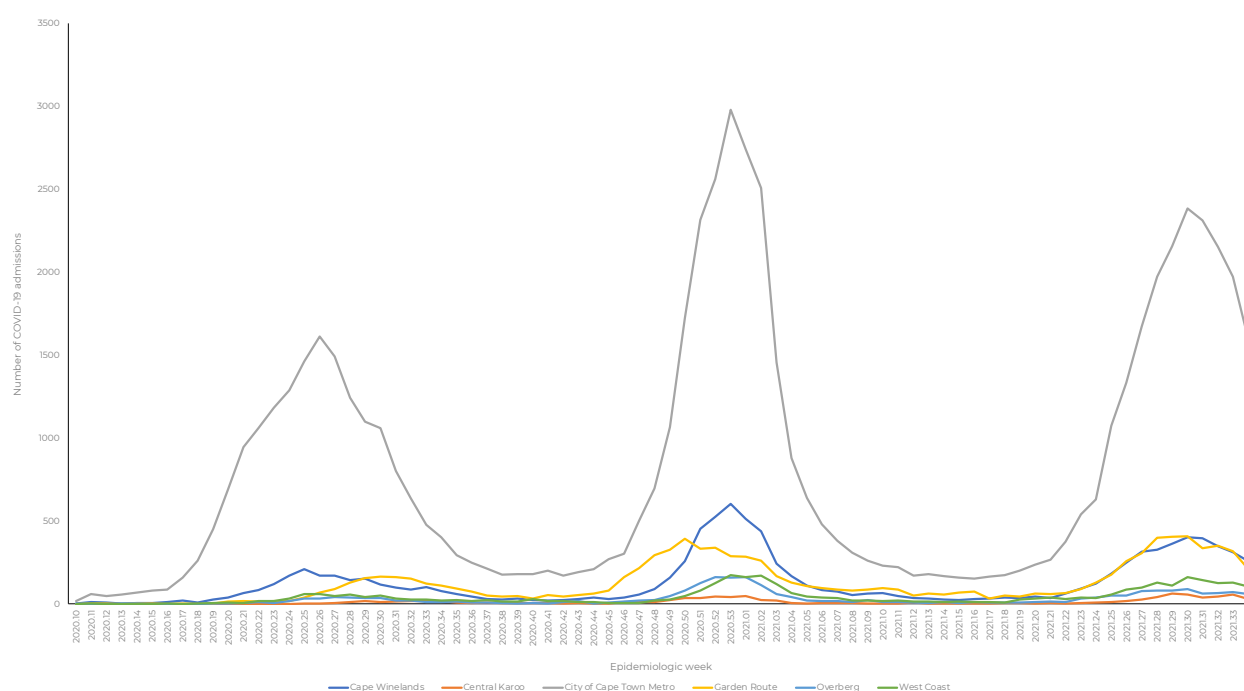


Figure 30: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Western Cape, 5 March 2020-28 August 2021, n=90,031

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 31). Since the third wave peak, there have been decreases in deaths in all districts in the past four weeks. Weekly number of deaths in the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the second wave in Garden Route and West Coast.

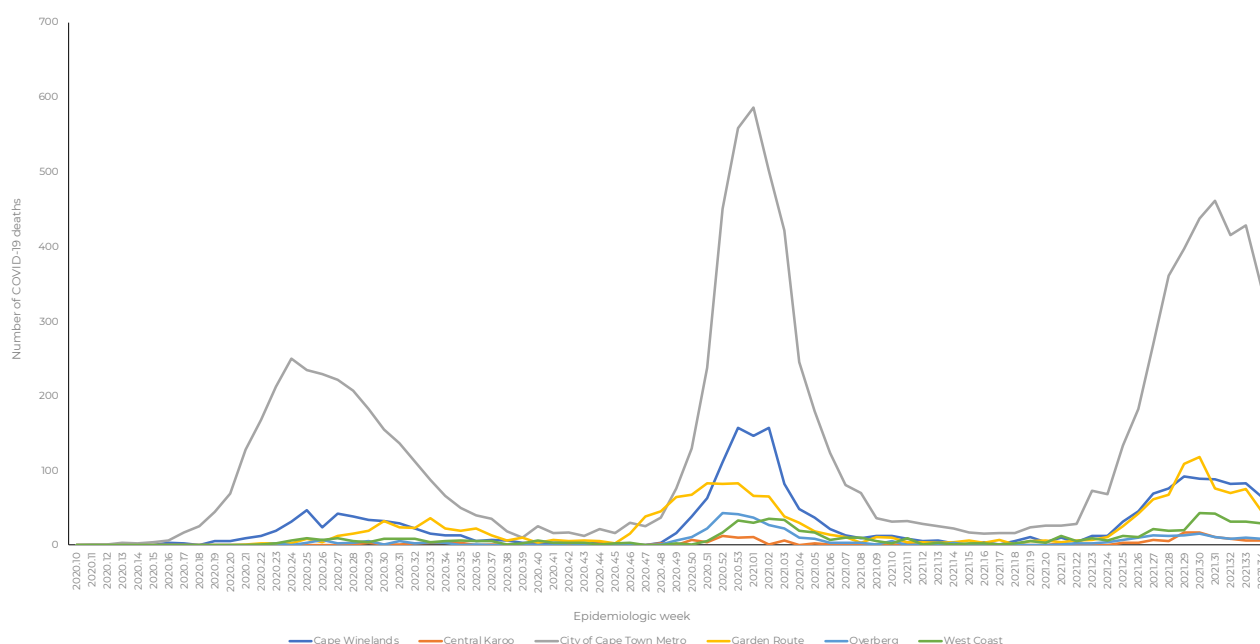


Figure 31: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Western Cape, 5 March 2020–28 August 2021, n=15,688

There has been an increase in average daily COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in Central Karoo and Overberg (Table 12). The highest percentage change in admissions was in Overberg.

Table 12: Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Western Cape, 31 July–28 August 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	53.14	40.71	-23.39	12.14	10.57	-12.94
Central Karoo	5.93	6.07	2.41	1.36	0.86	-36.84
City of Cape Town Metro	318.93	254.50	-20.20	62.57	55.29	-11.64
Garden Route	48.86	37.79	-22.66	10.43	8.57	-17.81
Overberg	9.14	9.43	3.13	1.36	1.29	-5.26
West Coast	19.07	16.79	-11.99	5.21	4.29	-17.81

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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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.

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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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 incidence change in hospital admissions over 14 days, by district, South Africa, 14 August-28 August 2021.

Province	District	Total admissions	Incidence (per 100k)	New admissions	New admissions incidence (per 100k)	% average change (14 days)
Eastern Cape	Alfred Nzo	2135	256.53	94	11.29	-13.76
	Amathole	2583	323.20	44	5.51	-18.52
	Buffalo City Metro	8474	1058.09	170	21.23	14.09
	Chris Hani	4038	554.94	115	15.80	-13.53
	Joe Gqabi	910	263.79	16	4.64	-51.52
	Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	13821	1139.35	193	15.91	-24.90
	O R Tambo	3933	256.69	67	4.37	-23.86
	Sarah Baartman	2639	545.45	77	15.91	-39.37
Free State	Fezile Dabi	2845	557.71	64	12.55	-32.63
	Lejweleputswa	5002	765.30	120	18.36	-29.41
	Mangaung Metro	11302	1297.71	230	26.41	-13.53
	Thabo Mofutsanyana	4228	552.81	110	14.38	-9.84
	Xhariep	516	398.63	19	14.68	26.67
Gauteng	City of Johannesburg Metro	44841	764.35	281	4.79	-36.43
	City of Tshwane Metro	32052	859.51	339	9.09	-29.52
	Ekurhuleni Metro	26519	665.93	225	5.65	-40.00
	Sedibeng	7863	822.90	96	10.05	-36.00
	West Rand	10772	1128.27	84	8.80	-27.59
KwaZulu-Natal	Amajuba	3639	637.83	44	7.71	-25.42
	eThekweni Metro	29074	730.28	608	15.27	-28.13
	Harry Gwala	1928	375.08	58	11.28	-37.63
	iLembe	2594	373.48	28	4.03	-51.72
	King Cetshwayo	6986	719.71	195	20.09	-8.45
	Ugu	4146	517.13	124	15.47	-13.89
	uMgungundlovu	8866	771.33	201	17.49	-31.86

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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Province	District	Total admissions	Incidence (per 100k)	New admissions	New admissions incidence (per 100k)	% average change (14 days)
	uMkhanyakude	1132	164.80	44	6.41	-18.52
	Umzinyathi	1457	256.71	31	5.46	-3.13
	UThukela	2442	341.91	23	3.22	-61.67
	Zululand	1687	191.53	72	8.17	-28.71
Limpopo	Capricorn	6963	532.36	68	5.20	-44.26
	Mopani	2932	247.45	67	5.65	-22.99
	Sekhukhune	1585	133.16	19	1.60	-24.00
	Vhembe	2259	158.28	16	1.12	-57.89
	Waterberg	2706	364.58	28	3.77	-44.00
Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni	5999	328.04	89	4.87	-45.40
	Gert Sibande	5840	470.15	144	11.59	-25.77
	Nkangala	5166	321.09	78	4.85	-25.71
North West	Bojanala Platinum	9182	476.21	122	6.33	-47.86
	Dr Kenneth Kaunda	13837	1734.58	339	42.50	-14.61
	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti	1791	378.58	31	6.55	-6.06
	Ngaka Modiri Molema	1737	190.91	5	0.55	-61.54
Northern Cape	Frances Baard	4185	1008.65	82	19.76	3.80
	John Taolo Gaetsewe	1210	445.71	29	10.68	-35.56
	Namakwa	1086	939.34	36	31.14	-37.93
	Pixley Ka Seme	729	345.69	19	9.01	-51.28
	ZF Mgcawu	1802	643.80	48	17.15	-17.24
Western Cape	Cape Winelands	10290	1093.21	385	40.90	-17.03
	Central Karoo	994	1323.34	42	55.92	-37.31
	City of Cape Town Metro	65044	1412.47	2596	56.37	-18.85
	Garden Route	9941	1593.98	263	42.17	-40.23
	Overberg	2457	819.25	76	25.34	-17.39
	West Coast	3412	740.43	140	30.38	-20.90

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 2020-28 August 2021.

Age (years)	ADMISSIONS				DEATHS			
	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
0-4	3188	3832	23	7043	119	124	2	245
5-9	883	1097	7	1987	17	19	0	36
10-14	1439	1391	3	2833	45	40	0	85
15-19	4304	2296	3	6603	103	99	0	202
20-24	6812	3393	7	10212	240	188	1	429
25-29	11427	5174	11	16612	559	350	0	909
30-34	15224	8839	6	24069	971	780	0	1751
35-39	16776	12336	22	29134	1455	1329	3	2787
40-44	15996	14360	14	30370	1833	1905	1	3739
45-49	18525	18127	12	36664	2718	2823	1	5542
50-54	21972	20342	11	42325	3773	3909	2	7684
55-59	24521	22183	20	46724	5411	5431	9	10851
60-64	21557	19721	18	41296	5849	6035	5	11889
65-69	18329	16429	20	34778	6035	5644	6	11685
70-74	15209	13482	22	28713	5277	5183	8	10468
75-79	11270	9284	9	20563	4133	3853	3	7989
80-84	8486	5803	10	14299	3352	2581	4	5937
85-89	4394	2739	5	7138	1797	1321	1	3119
90-94	1904	914	1	2819	882	481	0	1363
>=95	574	307	2	883	265	125	0	390
Unknown	992	956	43	1991	66	100	0	166
Total	223782	183005	269	407056	44900	42320	46	87266