

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 35 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 4 September 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 4 September 2021, 414,157 COVID-19 admissions and 88,960 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. The third wave resurgence first emerged in Free State and Northern Cape, which after peaking then experienced another increase in admissions in the past five weeks. Gauteng, North West, Limpopo and Mpumalanga next experienced resurgence and all peaked around week 27 and have shown sustained post-peak decreases in admissions. A later resurgence occurred in Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape, and these provinces have all had decreased admissions over the past two to five weeks.
- 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 4 September 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 2020-4 September 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 4 September 2021, a total of 414,157 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 eight 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.

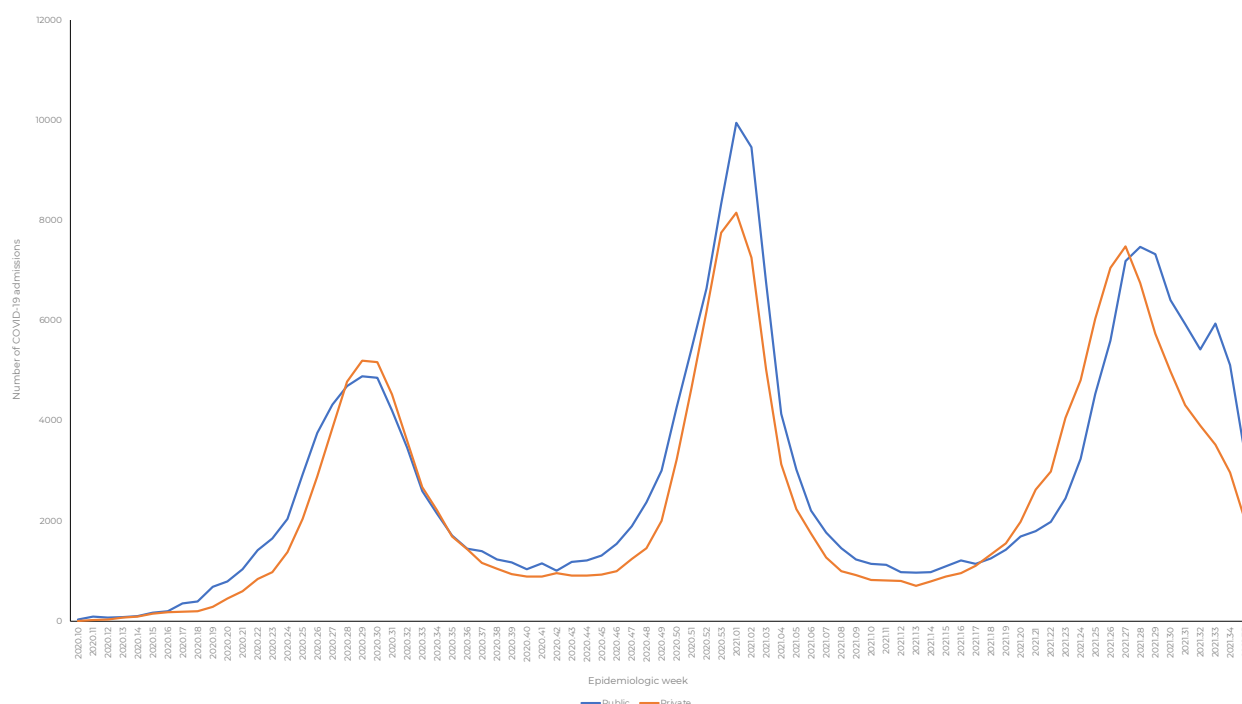


Figure 1. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020–4 September 2021, n=414,157

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The majority of admissions were recorded in four provinces, Gauteng 122,902 (30%), Western Cape 92,352 (22%), KwaZulu-Natal 65,288 (16%) and Eastern Cape 39,295 (9%) provinces. Weekly numbers of COVID-19 admissions have peaked with sustained post-peak decreases in all provinces except Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal (Figures 2a and 2b). A decrease in admissions have been observed in all provinces in the past two weeks.

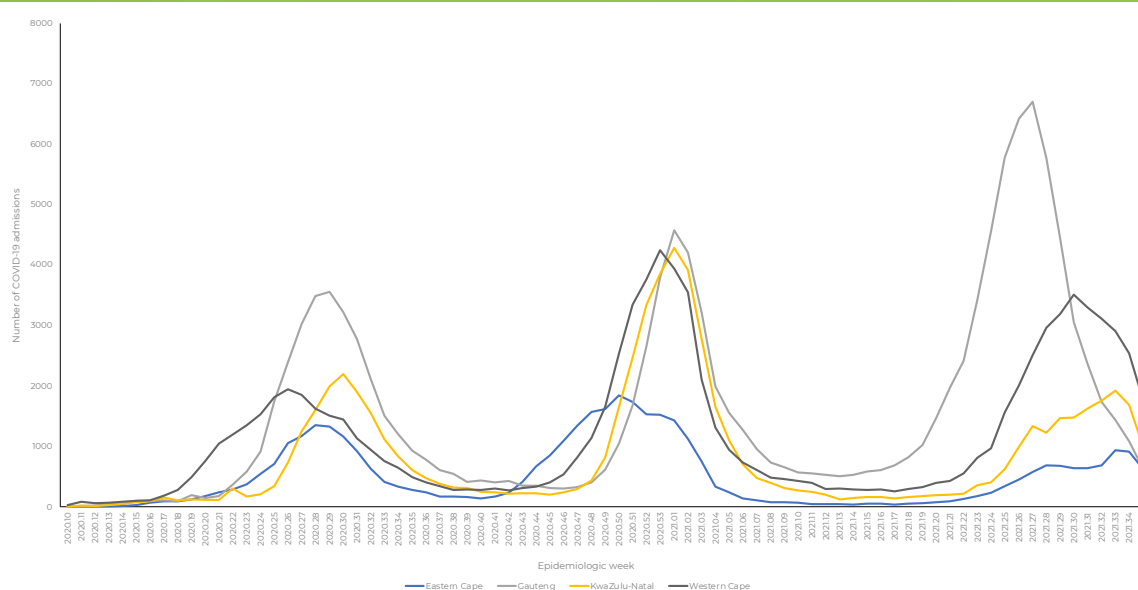


Figure 2a. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by provinces with highest admissions and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=414,157

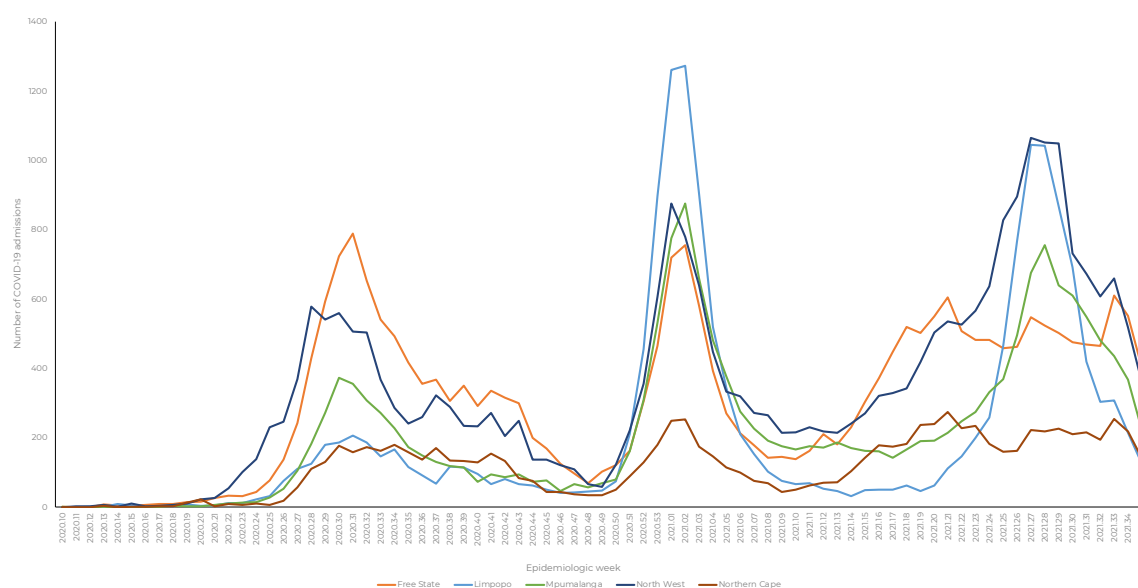


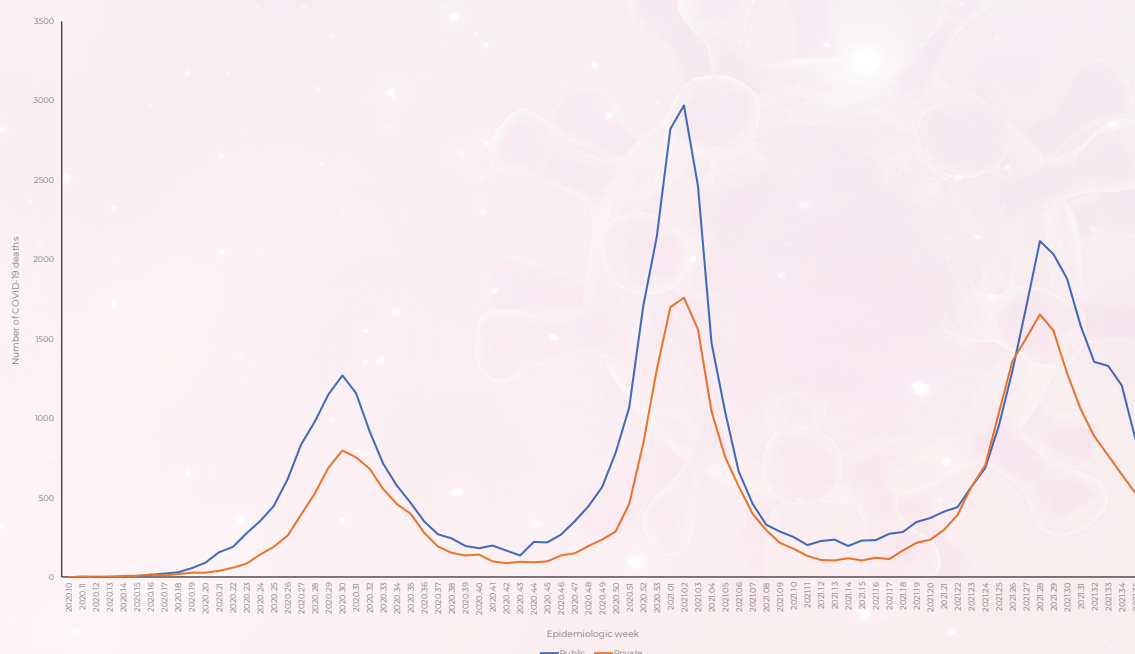
Figure 2b. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by provinces with lowest admissions and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=414,157

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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 seven weeks.



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Most deaths were reported in Gauteng 26,868 (30%), Western Cape 16,128 (18%), KwaZulu-Natal 14,421 (16%), and Eastern Cape 11,392 (13%). The numbers of COVID-19 deaths have decreased in most provinces over the past seven weeks (Figures 4a and 4b).

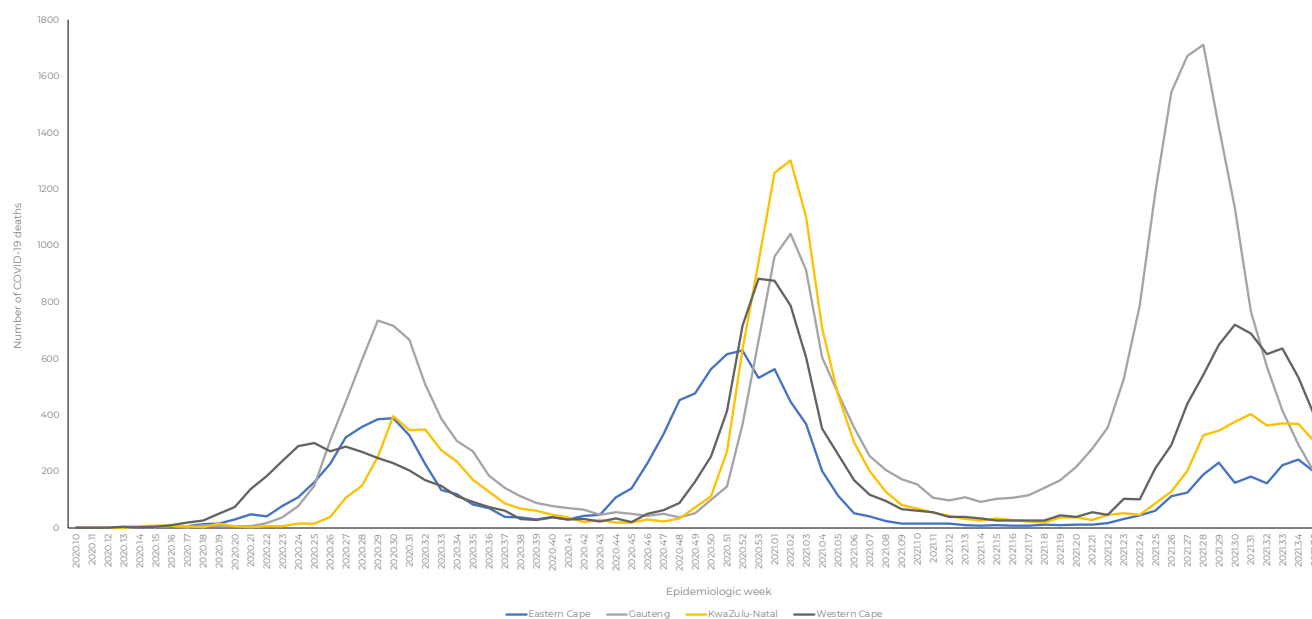


Figure 4a. Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by province with highest deaths and epidemiologic week of death, South Africa, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=88,960

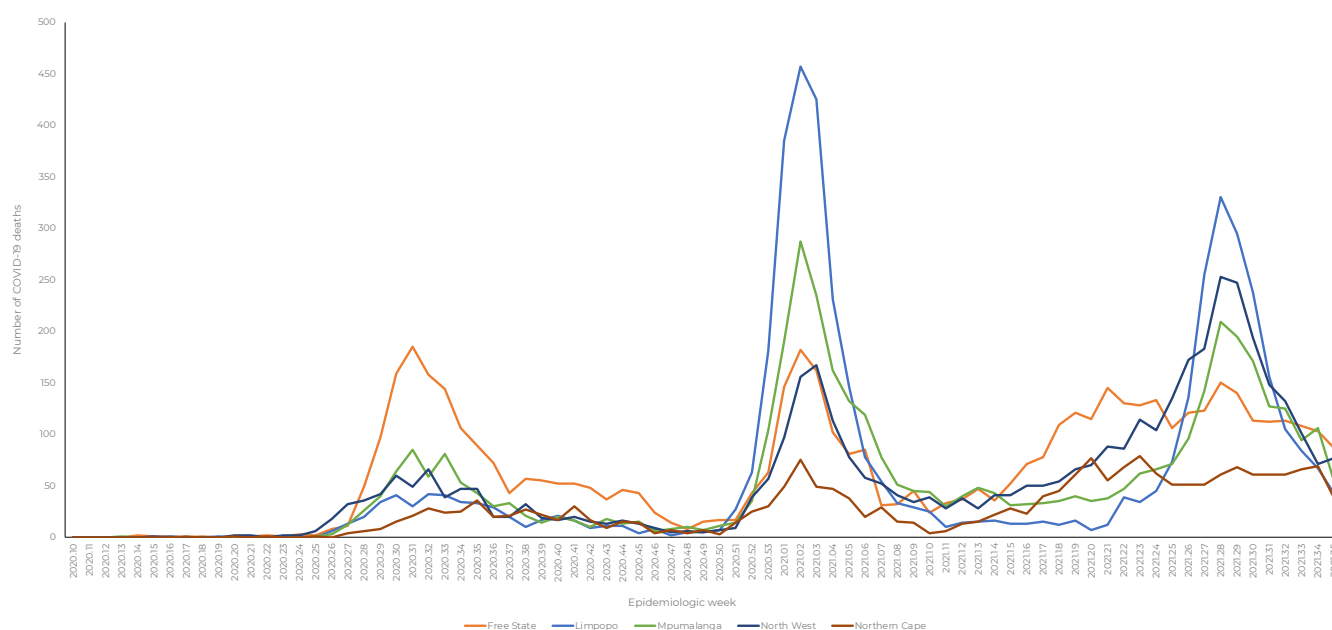


Figure 4b. Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by province with lowest deaths and epidemiologic week of death, South Africa, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=88,960

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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 2020-4 September 2021.

Province	Provincial Population mid 2020*	Cumulative admissions	Cumulative Admissions / 100,000	Cumulative deaths	Cumulative deaths / 100,000
Eastern Cape	6734001	39295	583.5	11392	169.2
Free State	2928903	24295	829.5	5127	175.0
Gauteng	15488137	122,902	793.5	26868	173.5
KwaZulu-Natal	11531628	65288	566.2	14419	125.0
Limpopo	5852553	16640	284.3	4648	79.4
Mpumalanga	4679786	17332	370.4	4167	89.0
North West	4108816	26,968	656.3	4179	101.7
Northern Cape	1292786	9,085	702.7	2030	157.0
Western Cape	7005741	92,352	1318.2	16127	230.2
South Africa	59622350	414,157	694.6	88,957	149.2

*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 (Table 3). There was no district across the country that reported increased change in incidence risk of admissions in the past week (Appendix 1).

Table 3. Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, South Africa, 7 August-4 September 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	115.57	109.86	-4.94	27.07	31.43	16.09
Free State	76.79	68.07	-11.35	15.79	13.57	-14.03
Gauteng	225.79	122.86	-45.59	70.50	35.14	-50.15
KwaZulu-Natal	262.36	190.93	-27.23	52.36	48.07	-8.19
Limpopo	43.64	24.29	-44.35	13.50	7.86	-41.80
Mpumalanga	65.43	42.00	-35.81	15.64	11.43	-26.94
North West	90.50	62.71	-30.70	16.64	10.57	-36.48
Northern Cape	32.07	25.64	-20.04	9.07	7.71	-14.96
Western Cape	429.36	307.71	-28.33	89.29	66.36	-25.68

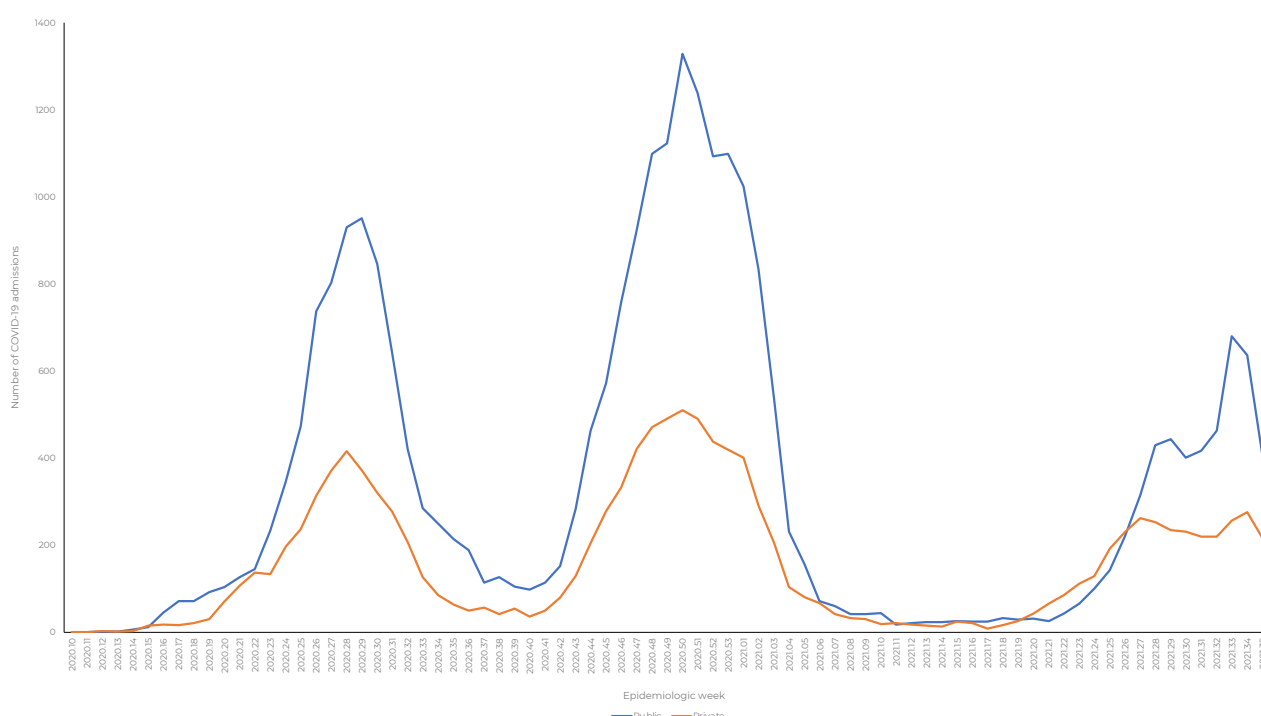
* Reporting of new admissions in the most recent week may be delayed

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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, however, decrease in admissions have been observed in both sectors in the past week (Figure 5).



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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.

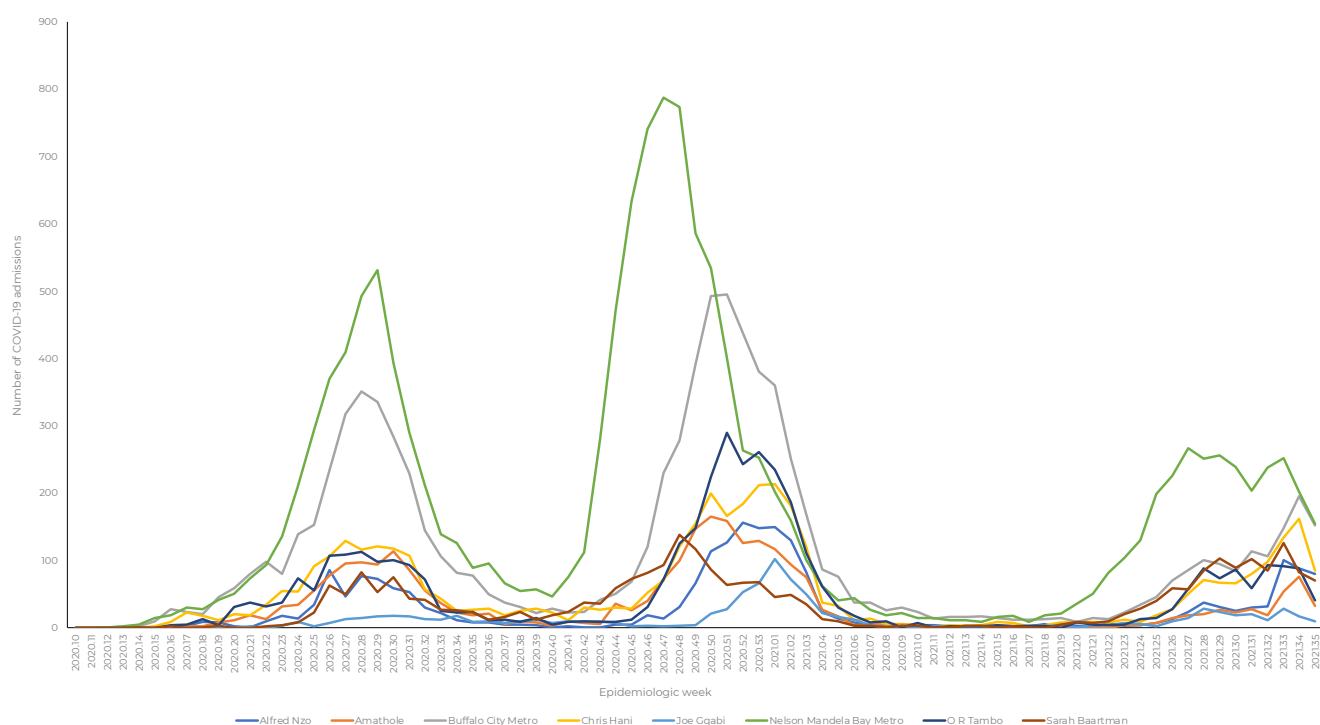


Figure 6. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Eastern Cape, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=39,295

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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.

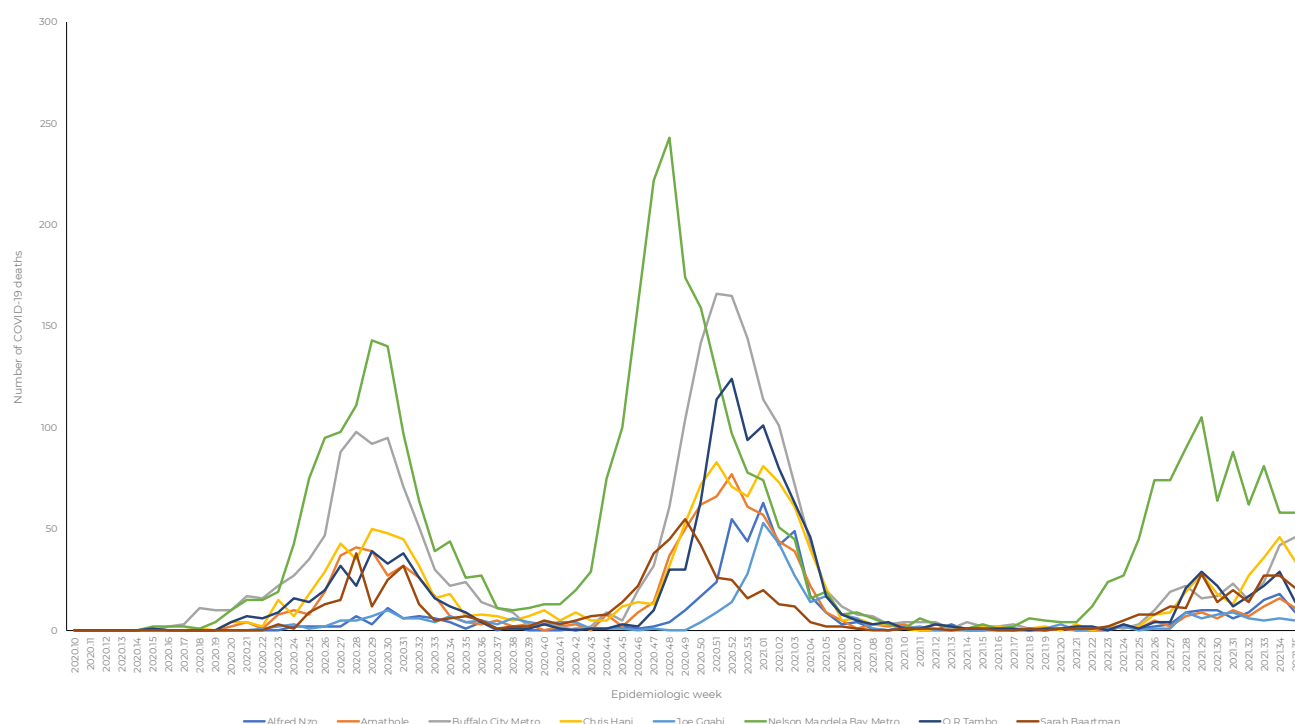


Figure 7. Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Eastern Cape, 5 March 2020–4 September 2021, n=11,392

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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 Alfred Nzo, Amathole, Buffalo City Metro and Chris Hani (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, 7 August-4 September 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	9.50	12.00	26.32	1.71	1.93	12.50
Amathole	5.21	7.79	49.32	1.36	1.93	42.11
Buffalo City Metro	18.14	24.86	37.01	2.79	6.29	125.64
Chris Hani	16.57	17.64	6.47	4.50	5.71	26.98
Joe Gqabi	2.86	1.93	-32.50	0.79	0.79	0.00
Nelson Mandela Bay	35.00	25.50	-27.14	10.21	8.29	-18.88
O R Tambo	13.21	9.21	-30.27	2.79	3.07	10.26
Sarah Baartman	15.07	10.93	-27.49	2.93	3.43	17.07

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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.

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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.

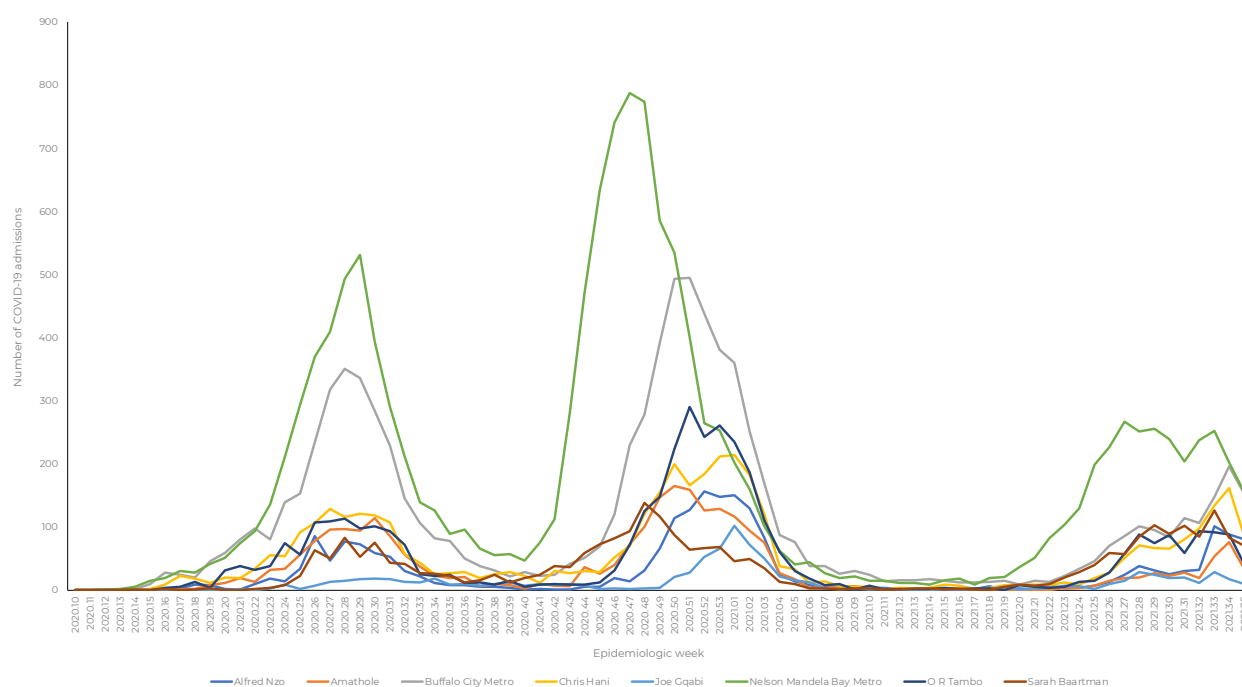


Figure 9: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Free State, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=24,295

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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 Thabo Mofutsanyane and Lejweleputswa in the past three 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.

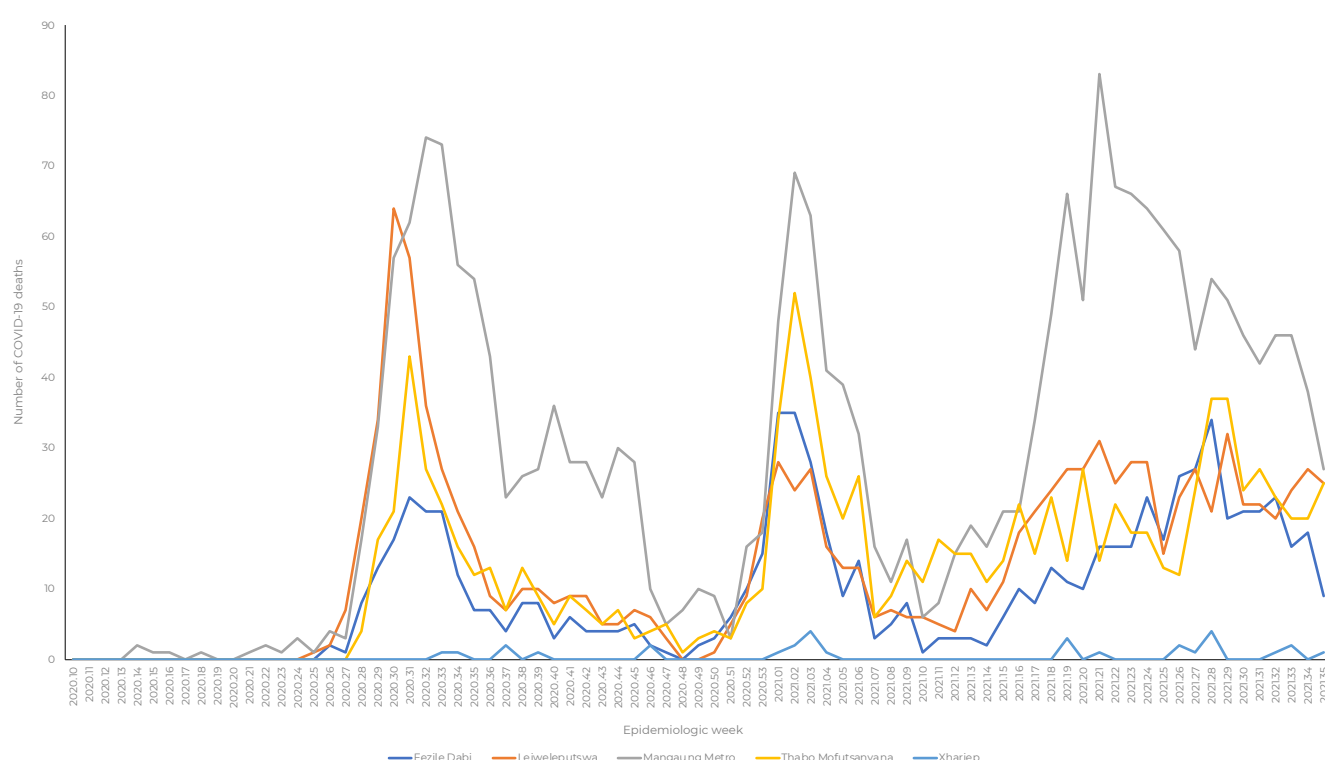


Figure 10: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Free State, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=5,127

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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 except Xhariep. 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, 7 August-4 September 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	11.00	7.14	-35.06	2.79	1.93	-30.77
Lejweleputswa	18.21	16.07	-11.76	3.14	3.71	18.18
Mangaung Metro	32.36	29.86	-7.73	6.57	4.64	-29.35
Thabo Mofutsanyana	13.86	12.64	-8.76	3.07	3.21	4.65
Xhariep	1.36	2.36	73.68	0.21	0.07	-66.67

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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.

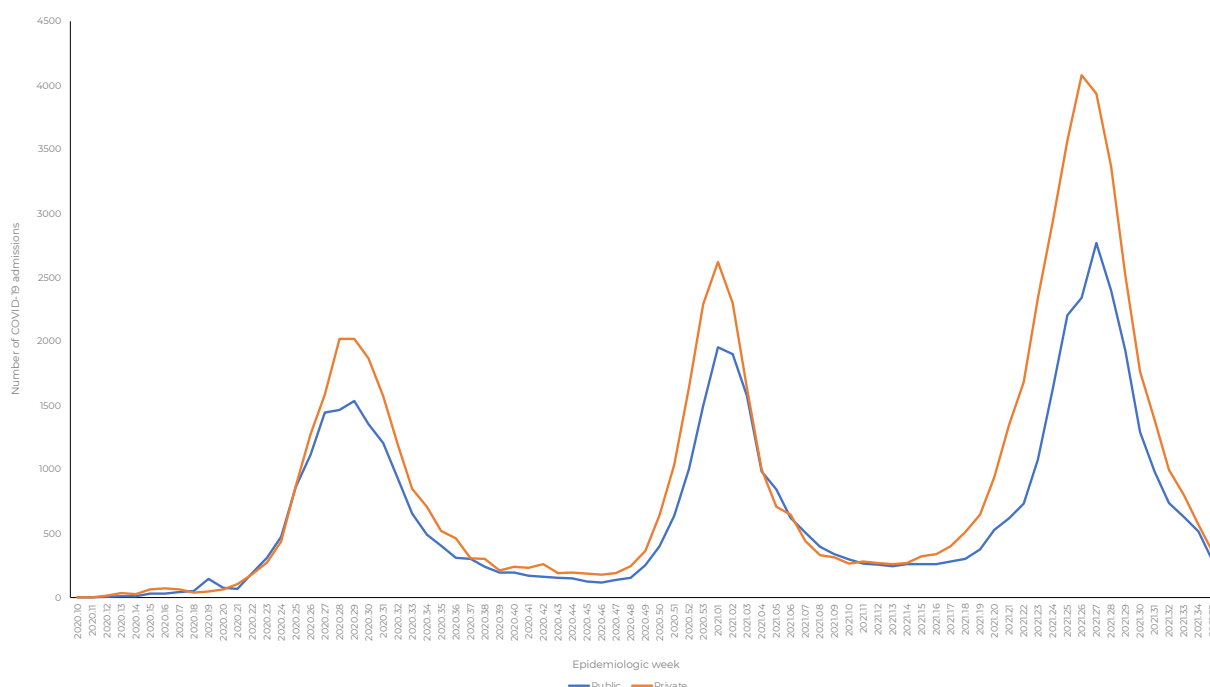


Figure 11: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=122,902

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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 eight 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.

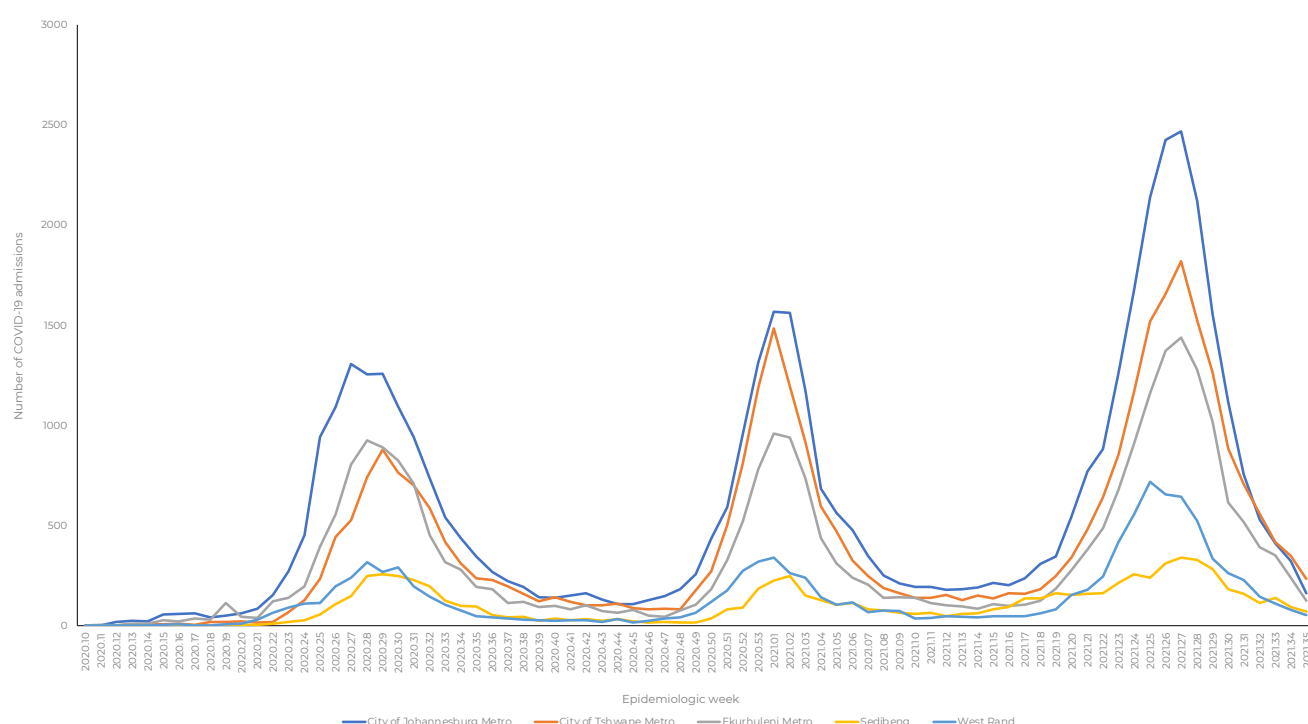


Figure 12: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=122,902

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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 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.

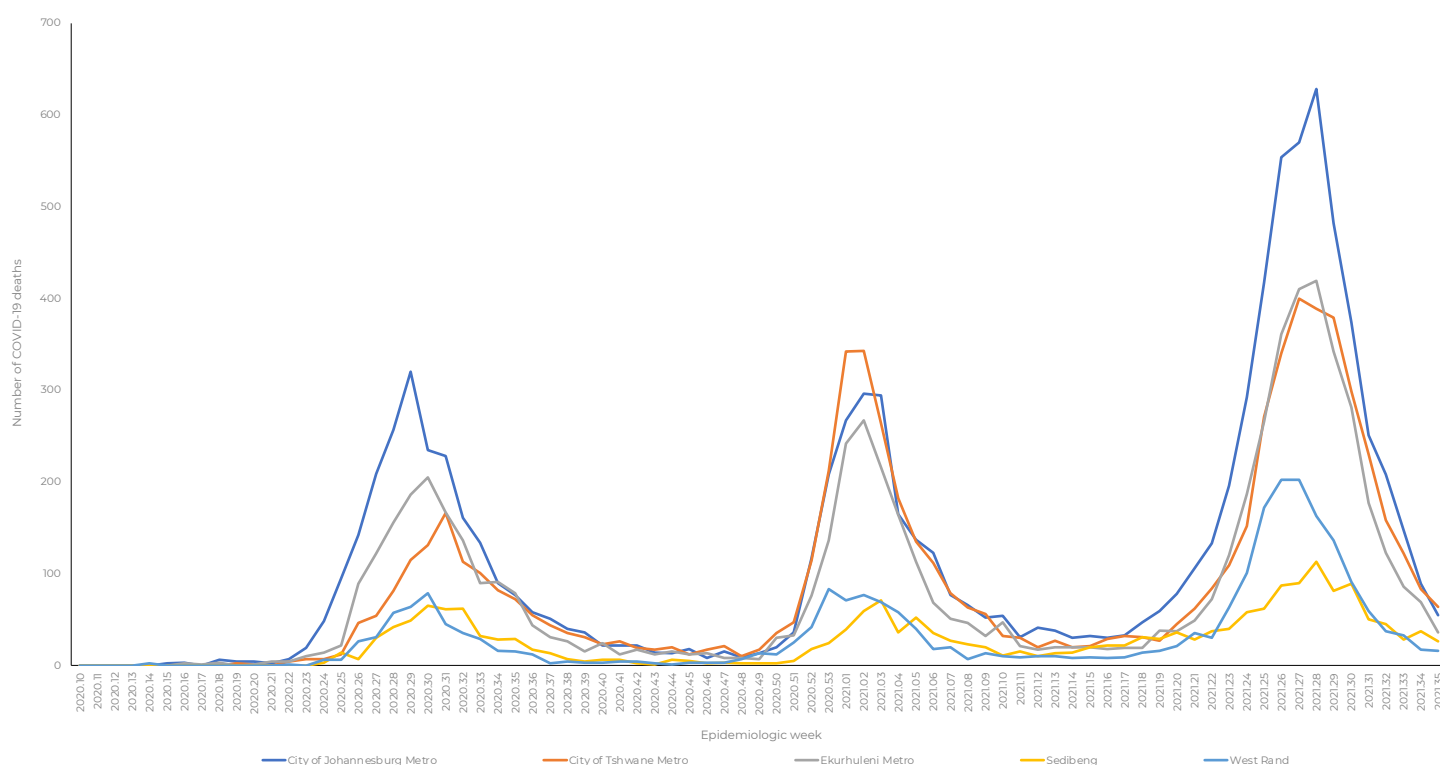


Figure 13: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=26,868

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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, 7 August-4 September 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	67.07	34.50	-48.56	25.36	10.29	-59.44
City of Tshwane Metro	69.50	41.50	-40.29	20.00	10.50	-47.50
Ekurhuleni Metro	52.93	25.86	-51.15	14.93	7.50	-49.76
Sedibeng	18.14	11.57	-36.22	5.21	4.50	-13.70
West Rand	18.14	9.43	-48.03	5.00	2.36	-52.86

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KWAZULU-NATAL

In the first and second waves there were higher numbers of admissions in the private sector but there have been equal numbers of admissions in both sectors in the third wave. 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.

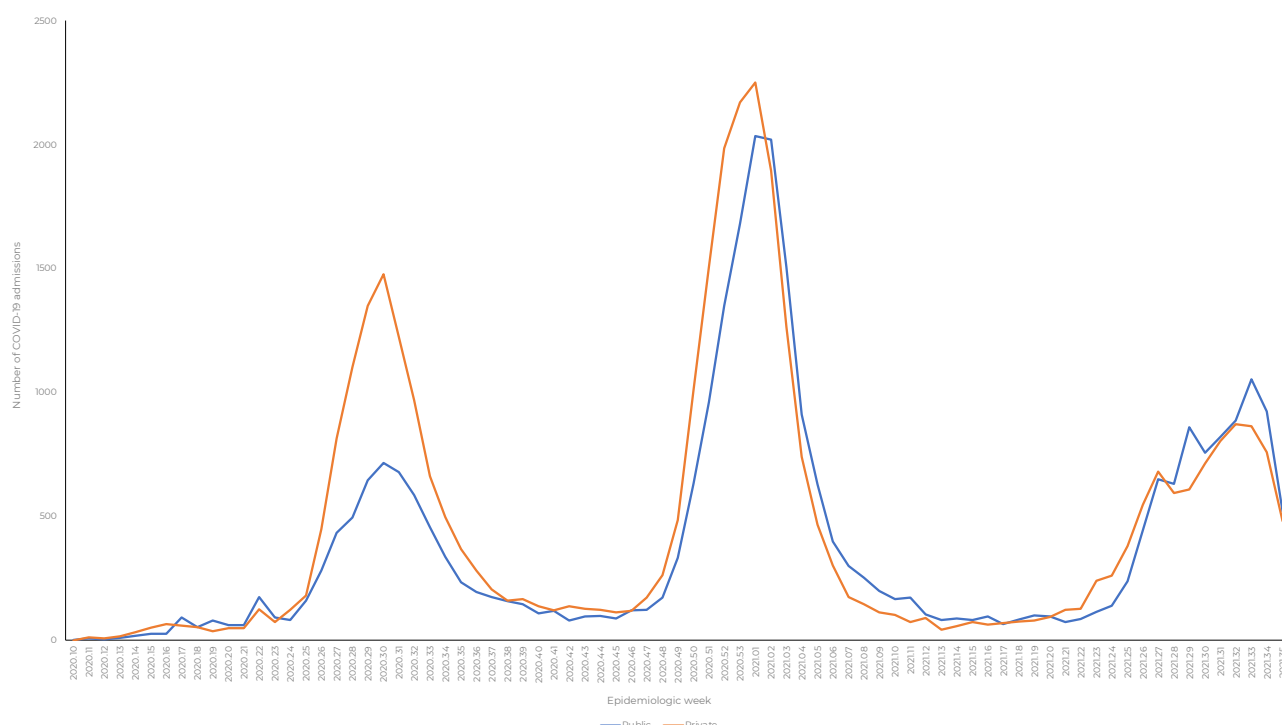


Figure 14: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=65,288

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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 eThekweni Metro. However, a decrease in the number of admissions has been observed in all districts in the past two weeks.

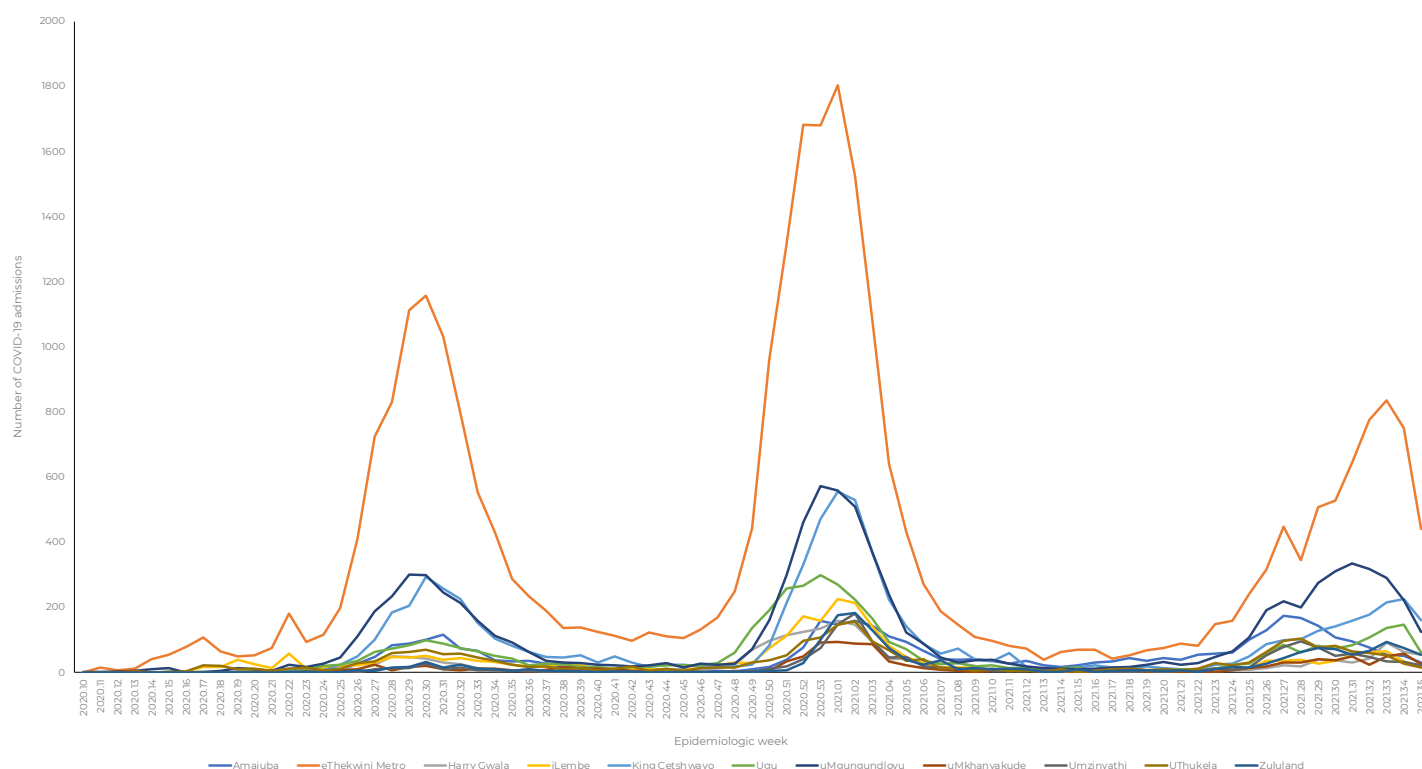


Figure 15: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020–4 September 2021, n=65,288

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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.

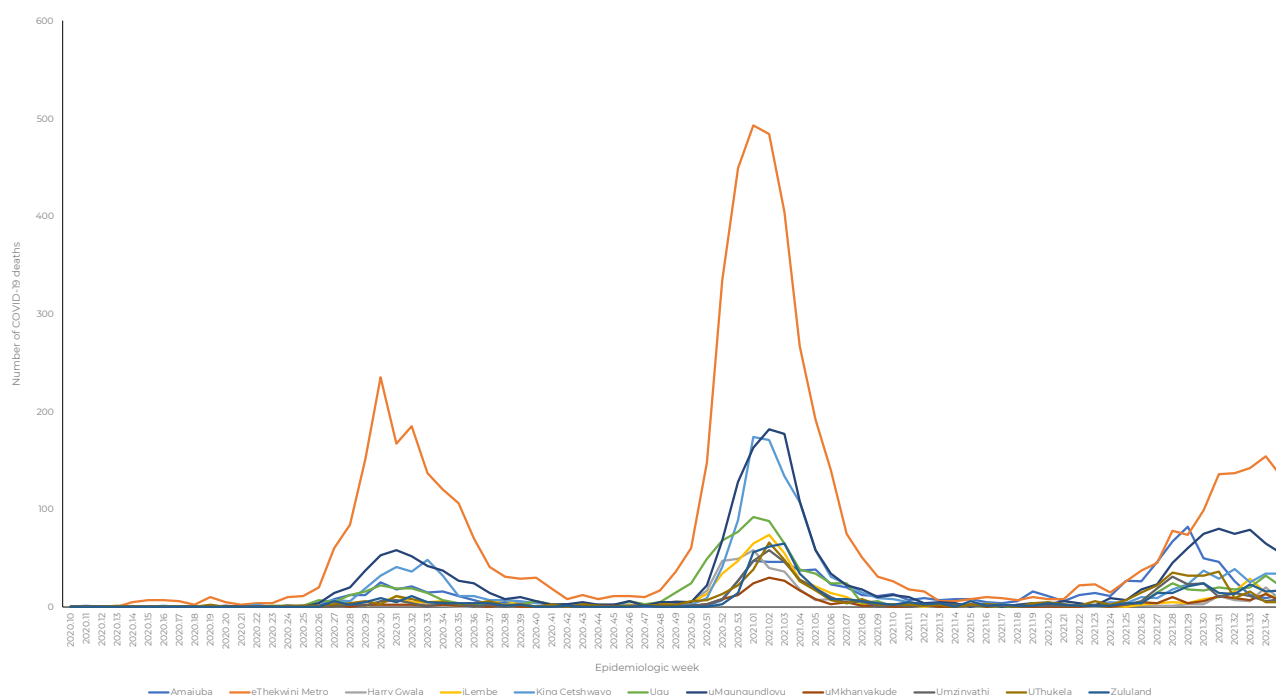


Figure 16: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=14,421

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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 except uMkhanyakude (Table 7).

Table 7: Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, KwaZulu-Natal, 7 August-4 September 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	9.36	5.79	-38.17	2.71	1.50	-44.74
eThekweni Metro	115.00	85.00	-26.09	19.93	20.57	3.23
Harry Gwala	9.57	8.36	-12.69	0.93	1.93	107.69
iLembe	9.14	3.43	-62.50	3.21	1.43	-55.56
King Cetshwayo	28.07	27.00	-3.82	4.57	4.86	6.25
Ugu	17.43	14.79	-15.16	2.71	3.79	39.47
uMgungundlovu	43.50	24.64	-43.35	11.00	8.57	-22.08
uMkhanyakude	5.14	5.93	15.28	1.14	1.36	18.75
Umzinyathi	5.71	3.86	-32.50	1.79	1.00	-44.00
UThukela	8.07	2.93	-63.72	1.79	0.71	-60.00
Zululand	11.36	9.21	-18.87	2.57	2.36	-8.33

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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 seven weeks.

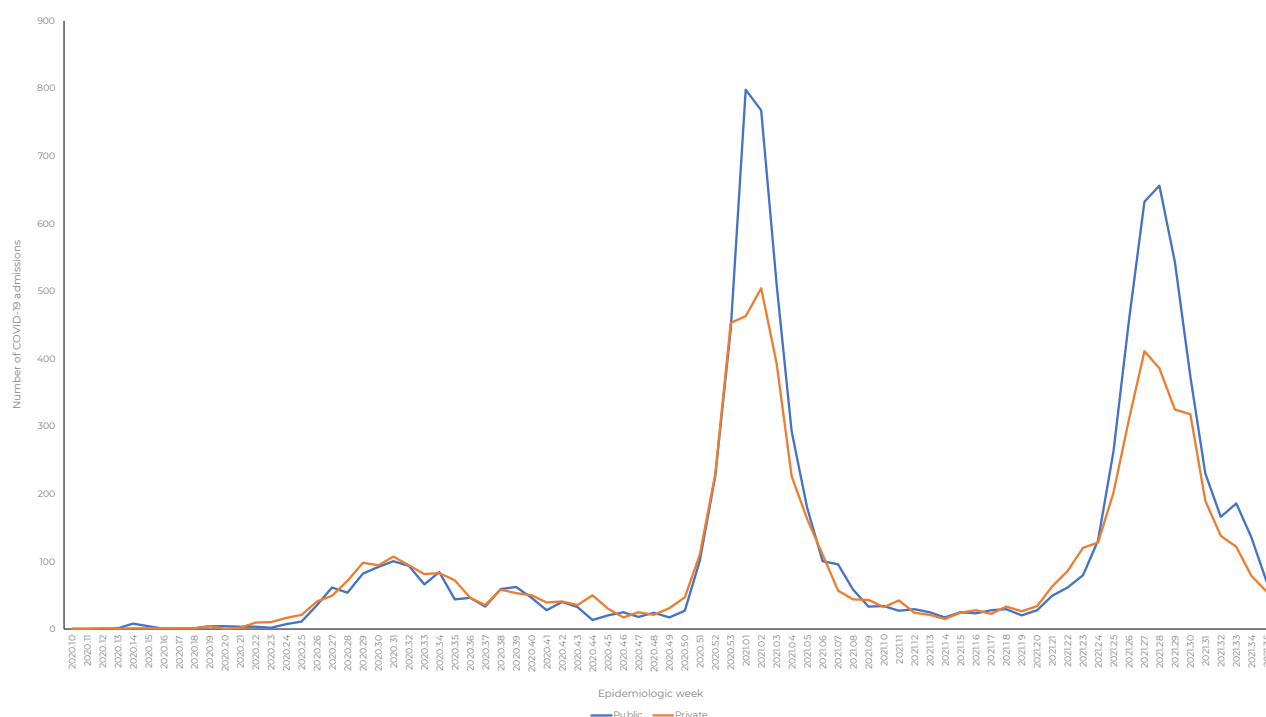


Figure 17: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Limpopo, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=16,640

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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 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 Sekhukhune and Waterberg.

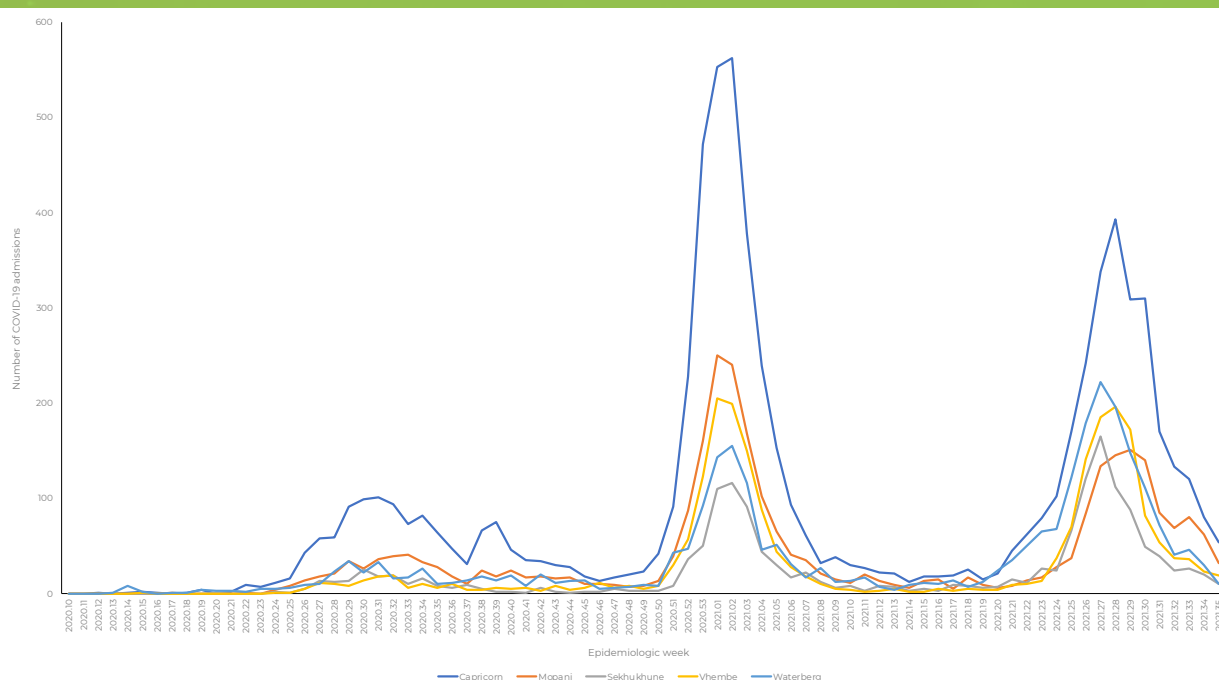


Figure 18: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Limpopo, 5 March 2020–4 September 2021, n=16,640

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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 seven weeks.

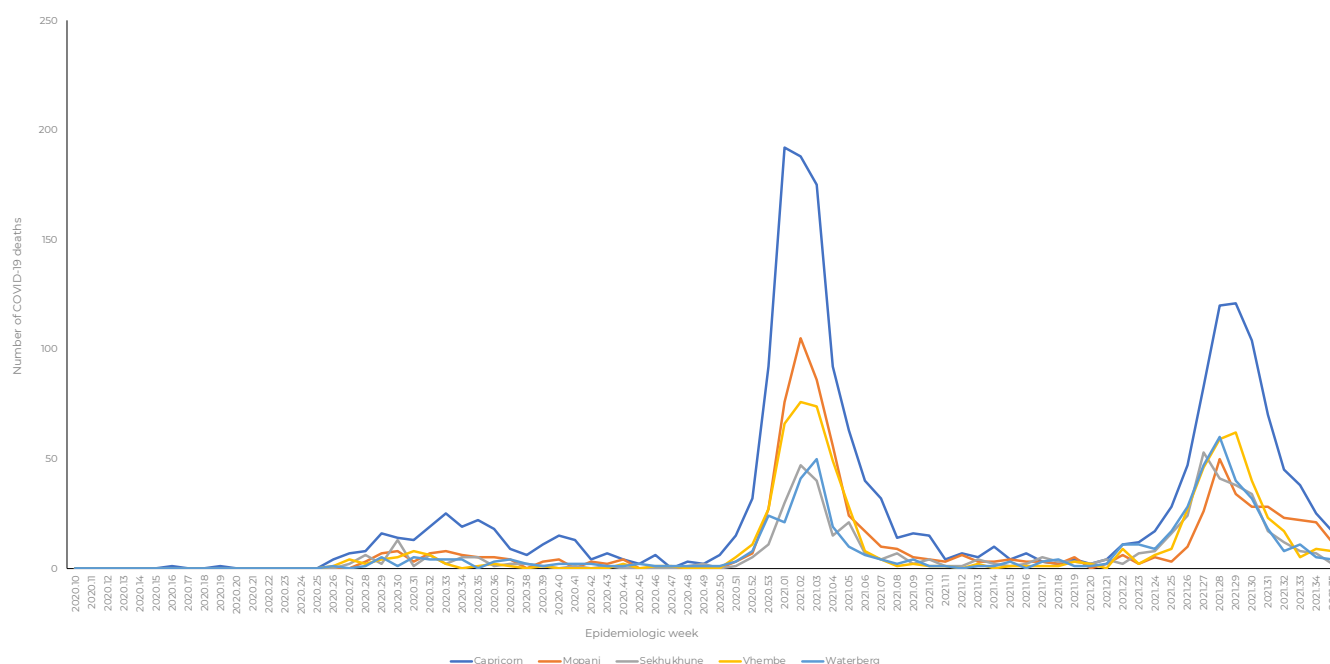


Figure 19: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Limpopo, 5 March 2020–4 September 2021, n=4,648

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, 7 August–4 September 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	18.00	9.57	-46.83	5.93	3.00	-49.40
Mopani	10.64	6.71	-36.91	3.21	2.36	-26.67
Sekhukhune	3.57	2.14	-40.00	1.43	0.64	-55.00
Vhembe	5.21	3.00	-42.47	1.57	1.21	-22.73
Waterberg	6.21	2.86	-54.02	1.36	0.64	-52.63

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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 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 the private sector.

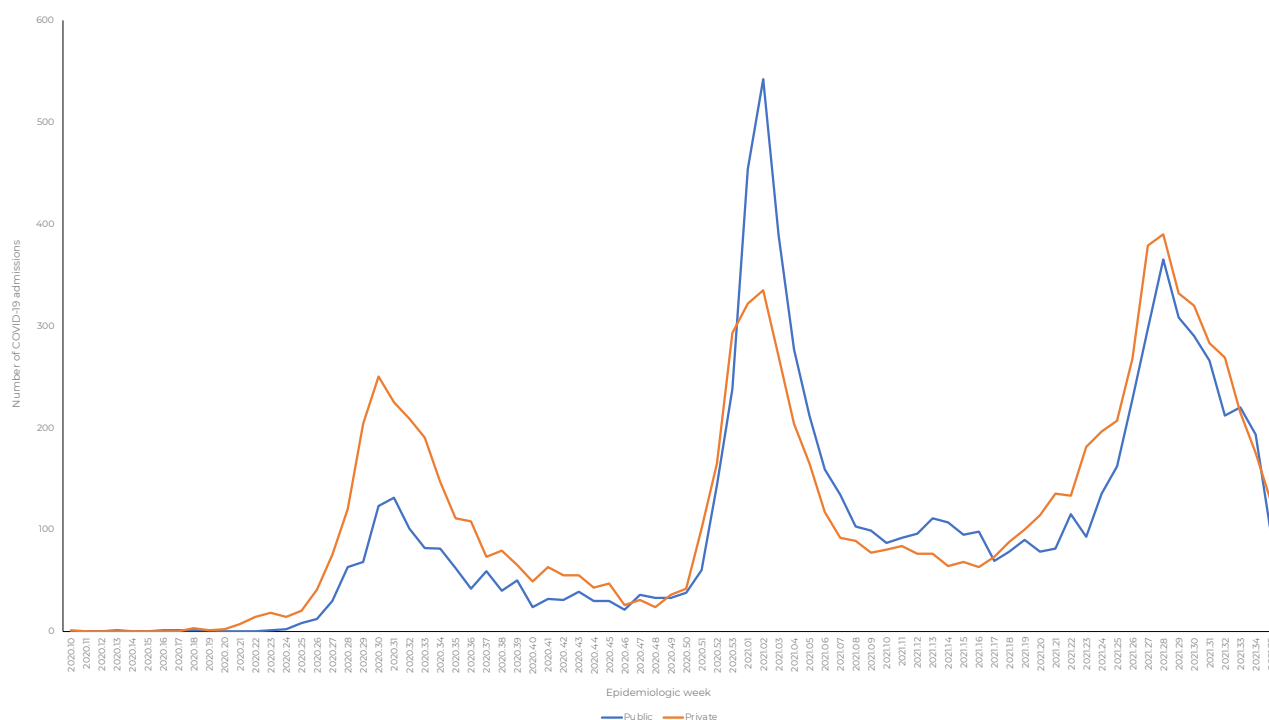


Figure 20: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=17,332

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 35 2021

Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in all districts (Figure 21). Since the third wave peak, a decrease in the number of admissions has been observed in all districts over the past seven weeks.

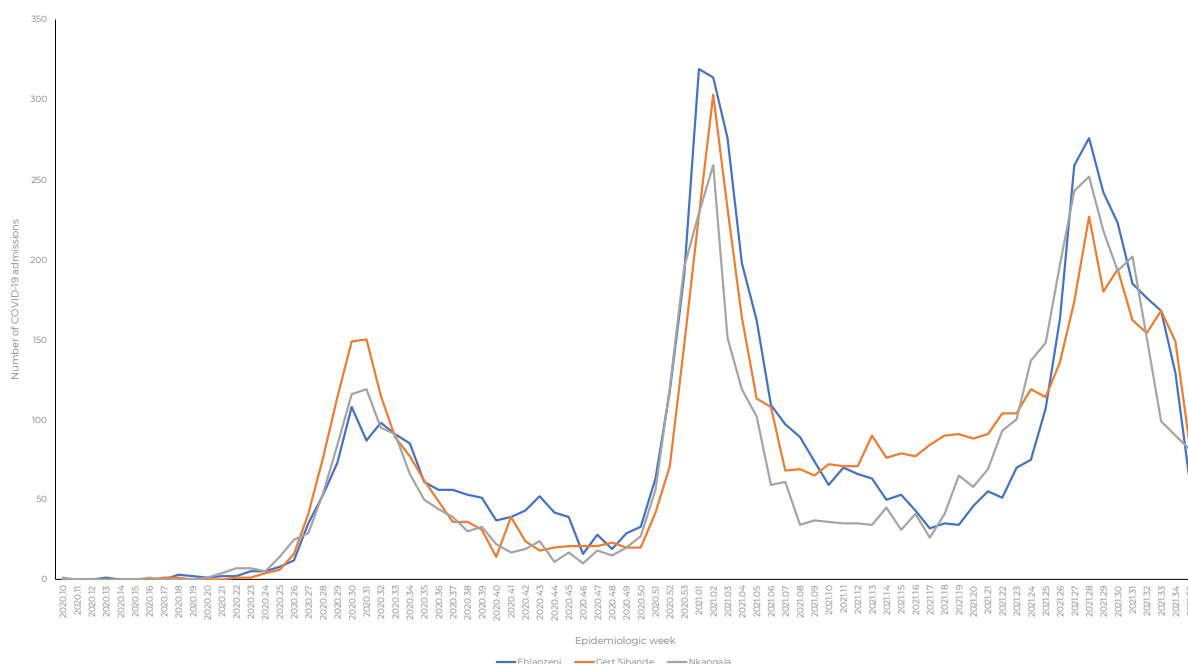


Figure 21: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=17,332

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 35 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 seven weeks.

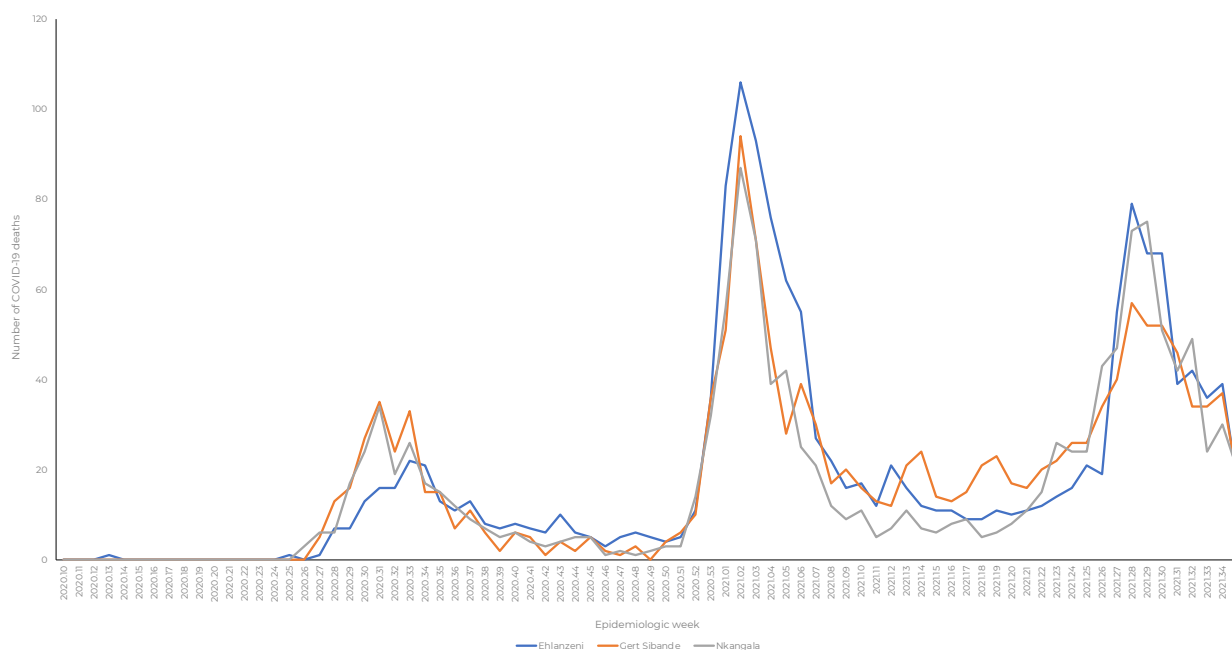


Figure 22: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=4,167

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, 7 August-4 September 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	24.57	13.36	-45.64	5.57	3.93	-29.49
Gert Sibande	23.00	16.43	-28.57	4.86	3.93	-19.12
Nkangala	17.86	12.21	-31.60	5.21	3.57	-31.51

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 35 2021

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.

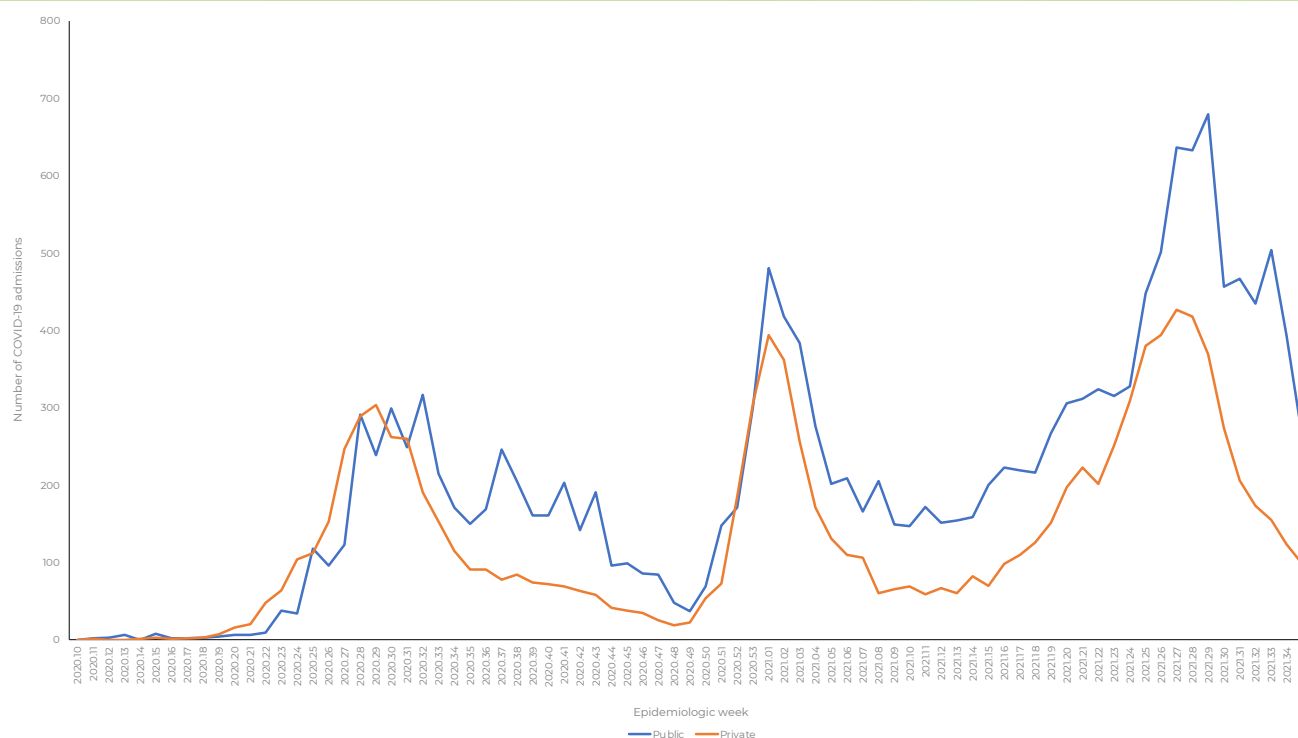


Figure 23: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, North West, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=26,968

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 35 2021

Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in all districts except Dr Kenneth Kaunda (Figure 24). Since the third wave peak in week 27, a decrease in the number of admissions has been observed in all districts over the past six 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.

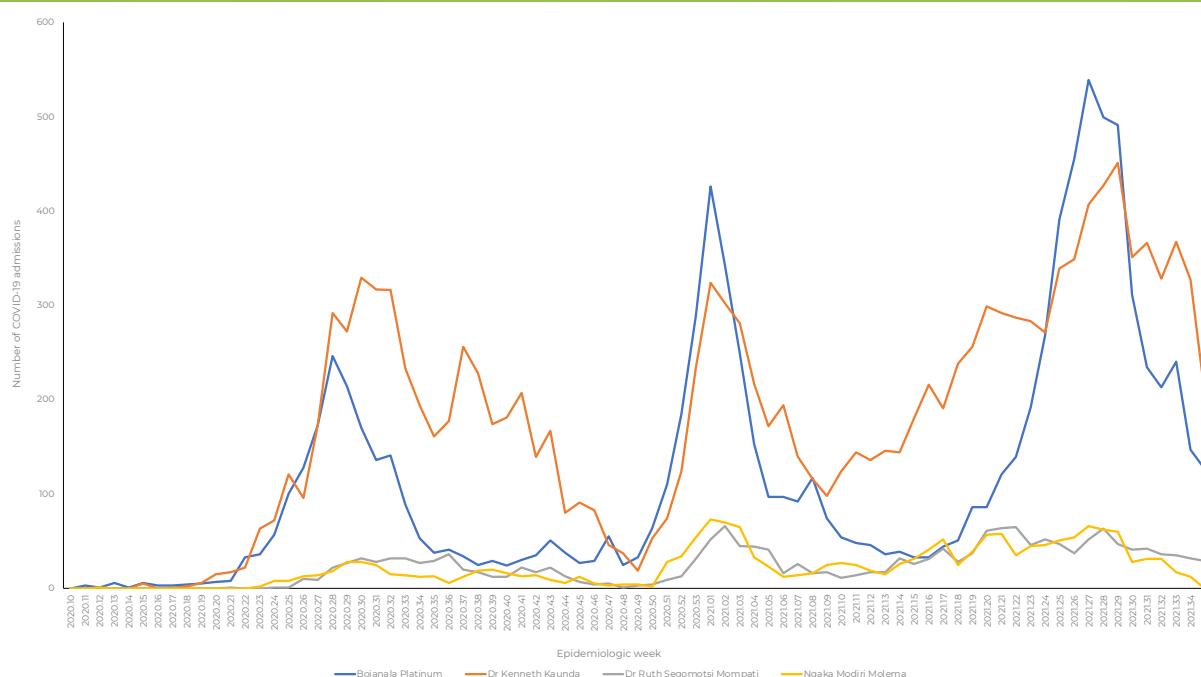


Figure 24: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, North West, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=26,968

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 35 2021

Weekly deaths at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the first wave in all districts (Figure 25). Since the third wave peak, a decrease in the number of deaths has been observed in all districts over the past seven 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.

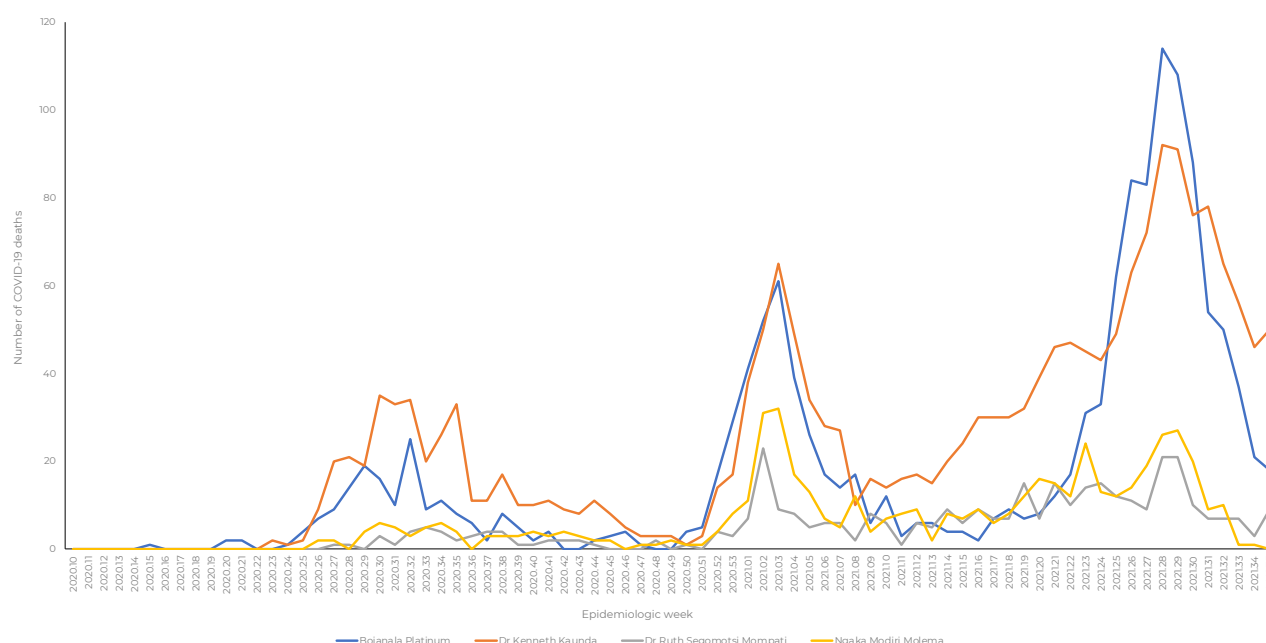


Figure 25: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, North West, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=4,179

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, 7 August-4 September 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	32.36	19.50	-39.74	6.21	2.79	-55.17
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	49.64	38.00	-23.45	8.64	6.86	-20.66
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	5.07	4.36	-14.08	1.00	0.86	-14.29
Ngaka Modiri Molema	3.43	0.86	-75.00	0.79	0.07	-90.91

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 35 2021

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 increased in both sectors since week 9 peaking in week 29. A second increase in admissions was observed in both sectors but higher in the public sector, 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 both sectors.

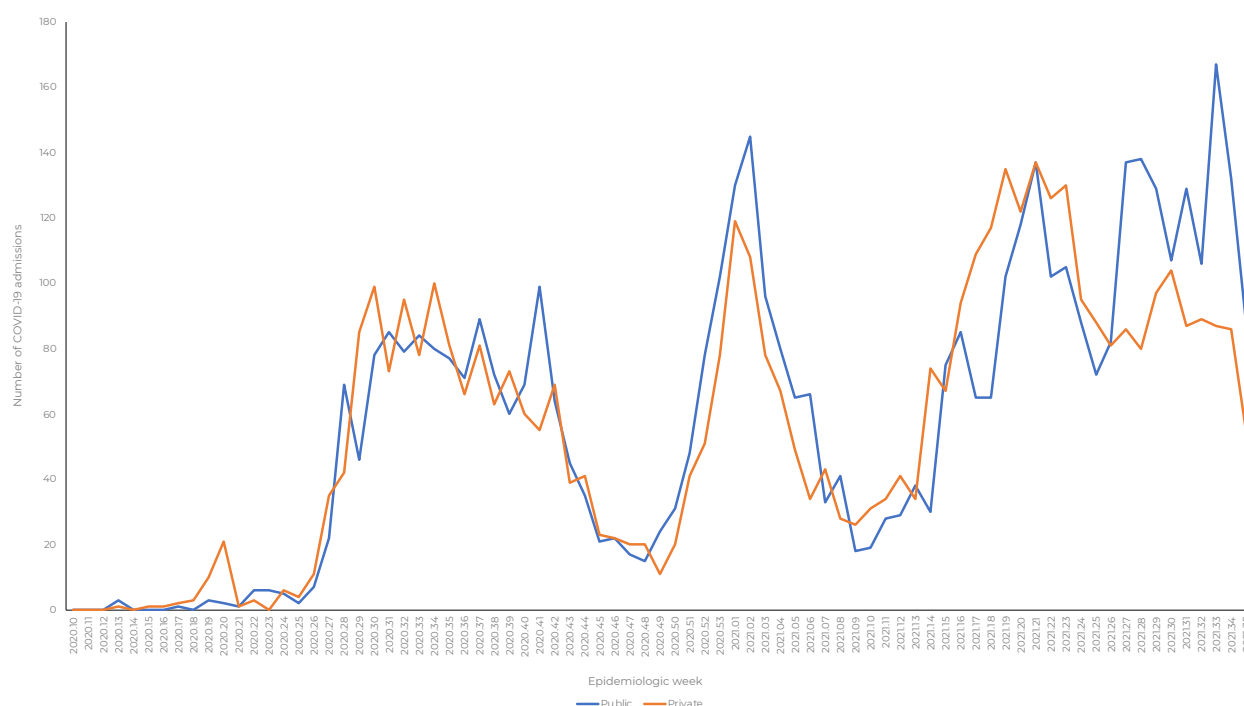


Figure 26: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=9,085

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 35 2021

Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly number of admissions during the peak of the first wave in Pixley Ka Seme, Namakwa and ZF Mgcawu districts (Figure 27). Since the third wave peak, the numbers of admissions initially decreased, however some increases in admissions have been observed in the past five weeks in all 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.

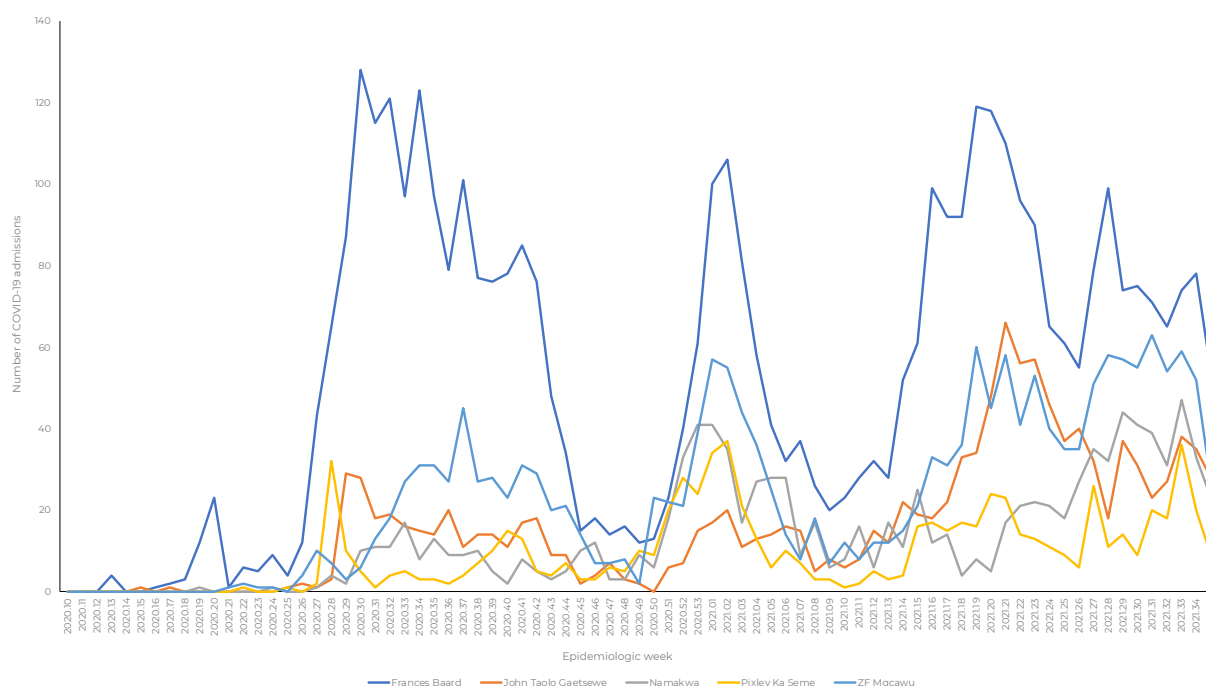


Figure 27: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=9,085

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 35 2021

Weekly deaths at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the first wave in Pixley ka Seme, Namakwa and ZF Mgcawu districts (Figure 28). 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.

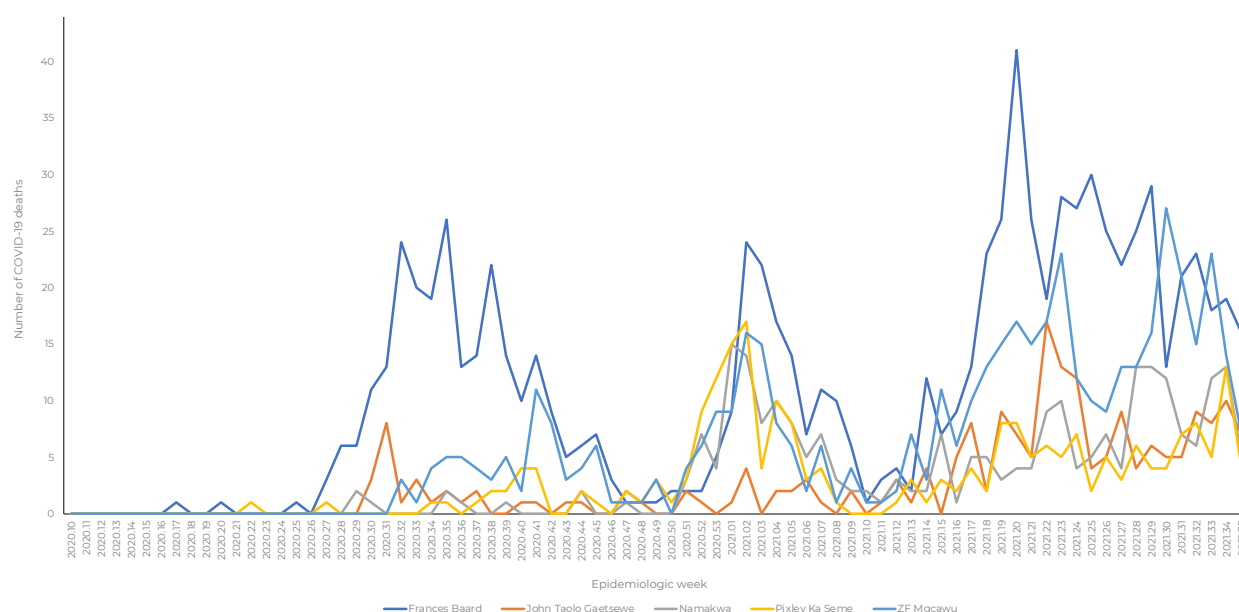


Figure 28: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=2,030

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 11).

Table 11: Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Northern Cape, 7 August-4 September 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	9.93	9.43	-5.04	2.93	2.50	-14.63
John Taolo Gaetsewe	4.64	4.50	-3.08	1.21	1.21	0.00
Namakwa	5.57	4.00	-28.21	1.29	1.29	0.00
Pixley Ka Seme	3.86	2.07	-46.30	0.93	1.21	30.77
ZF Mgcawu	8.07	5.64	-30.09	2.71	1.50	-44.74

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 35 2021

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 five weeks, however the weekly number of admissions remains high in the public sector.

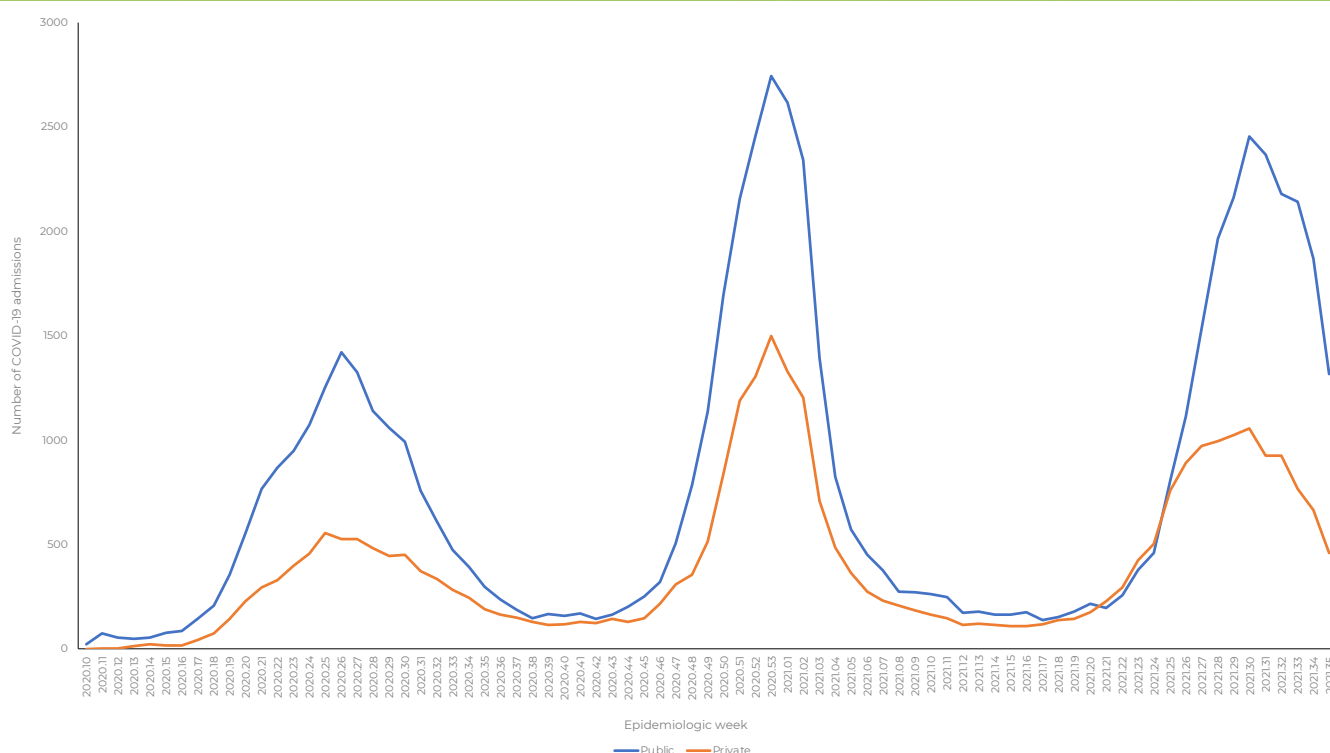


Figure 29: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Western Cape, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=92,352

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 35 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 five 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.

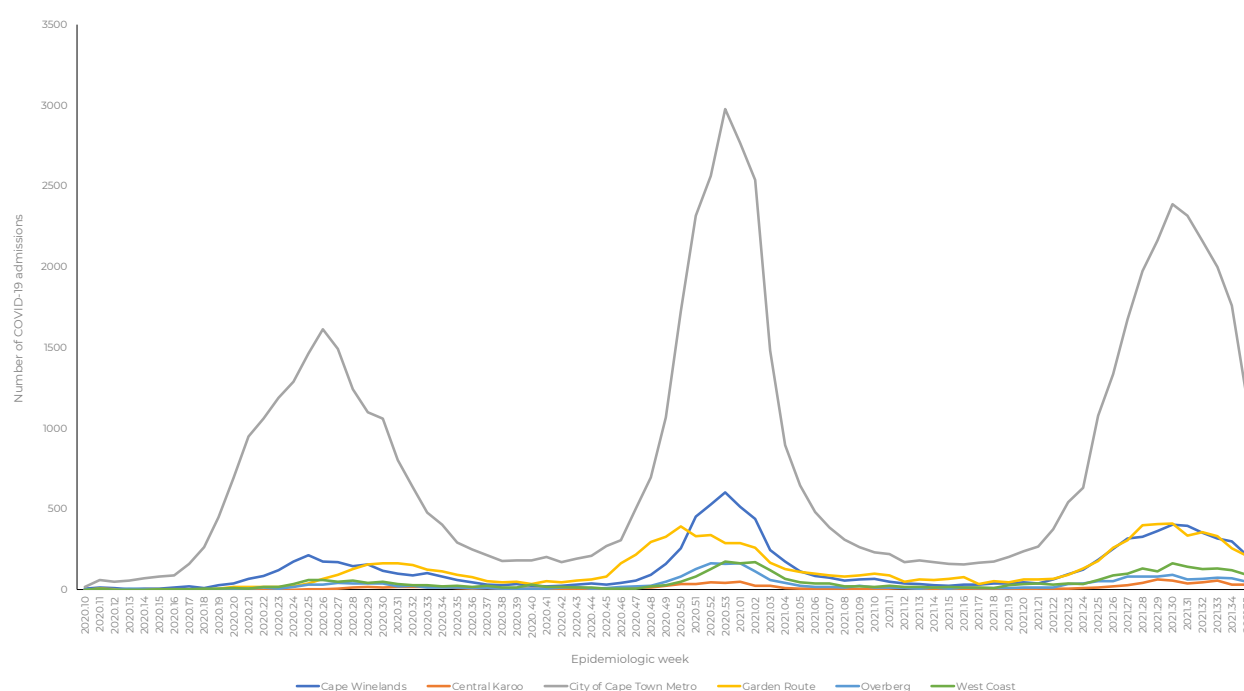


Figure 30: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Western Cape, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=92,352

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 35 2021

Weekly deaths at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the first wave in all districts (Figure 31). Since the third wave peak, there has been a decrease in deaths in all districts in the past five 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.

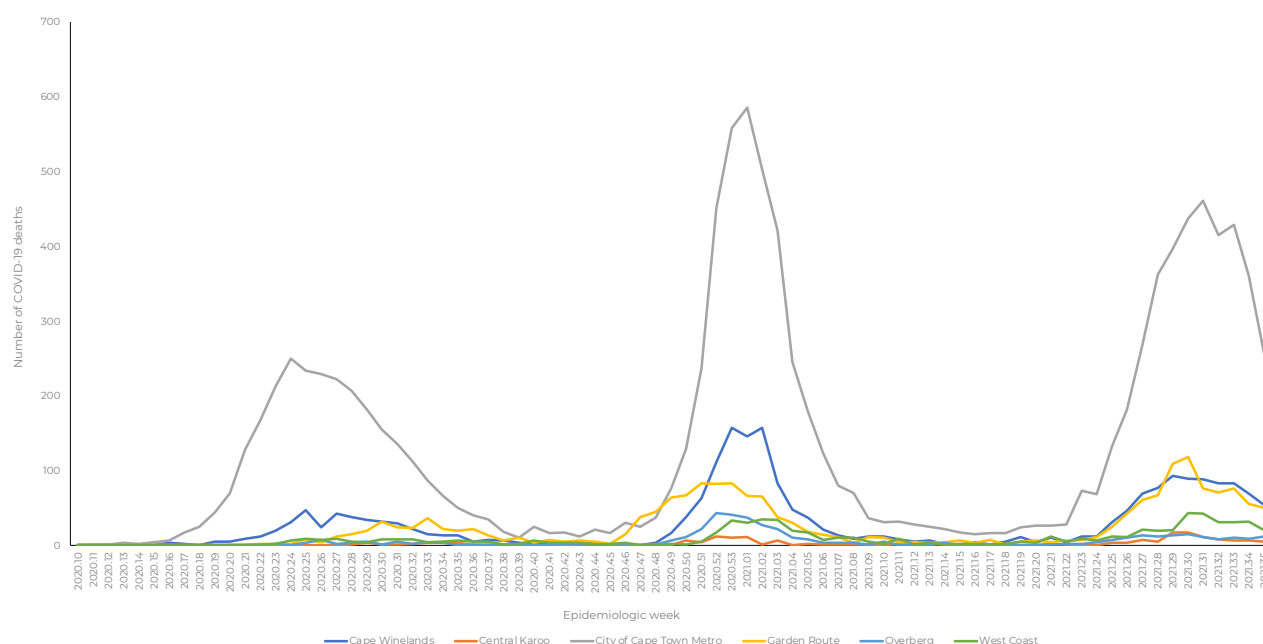


Figure 31: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Western Cape, 5 March 2020-4 September 2021, n=16,128

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 12).

Table 12: Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Western Cape, 7 August-4 September 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	47.64	36.71	-22.94	11.86	8.79	-25.90
Central Karoo	7.21	4.43	-38.61	1.00	0.79	-21.43
City of Cape Town Metro	297.07	209.93	-29.33	60.29	44.07	-26.90
Garden Route	48.86	33.07	-32.31	10.43	7.50	-28.08
Overberg	10.07	8.29	-17.73	1.29	1.50	16.67
West Coast	18.50	15.29	-17.37	4.43	3.71	-16.13

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 35 2021

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

WEEK 35 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All public and private sector hospitals submitting data to DATCOV

Private hospital groups submitting data to DATCOV:

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

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 35 2021

APPENDIX

Table 13: Percentage incidence change in hospital admissions over 14 days, by district, South Africa, 21 August-4 September 2021.

Province	District	Total admissions	Incidence (per 100k)	New admissions	New admissions incidence (per 100k)	% average change (14 days)
Eastern Cape	Alfred Nzo	2239	269.03	96	11.54	-9.43
	Amathole	2648	331.33	33	4.13	-56.58
	Buffalo City Metro	8635	1078.20	154	19.23	-25.96
	Chris Hani	4178	574.18	90	12.37	-45.78
	Joe Gqabi	922	267.27	10	2.90	-47.37
	Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	14014	1155.26	158	13.02	-26.85
	O R Tambo	4002	261.20	44	2.87	-50.00
	Sarah Baartman	2724	563.02	72	14.88	-13.25
Free State	Fezile Dabi	2890	566.53	40	7.84	-45.21
	Lejweleputswa	5119	783.20	108	16.52	-19.40
	Mangaung Metro	11512	1321.82	198	22.73	-22.05
	Thabo Mofutsanyana	4305	562.88	61	7.98	-53.08
	Xhariep	533	411.76	15	11.59	-28.57
Gauteng	City of Johannesburg Metro	45141	769.46	183	3.12	-47.86
	City of Tshwane Metro	32341	867.26	260	6.97	-35.48
	Ekurhuleni Metro	26700	670.48	137	3.44	-47.91
	Sedibeng	7941	831.06	73	7.64	-33.64
	West Rand	10848	1136.23	61	6.39	-37.76
KwaZulu-Natal	Amajuba	3700	648.53	34	5.96	-42.37
	eThekweni Metro	29736	746.91	468	11.76	-40.98
	Harry Gwala	1987	386.56	55	10.70	-16.67
	iLembe	2624	377.80	14	2.02	-58.82
	King Cetshwayo	7187	740.41	164	16.90	-28.38
	Ugu	4250	530.11	65	8.11	-57.79
	uMgungundlovu	9024	785.08	129	11.22	-44.87

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 35 2021

Province	District	Total admissions	Incidence (per 100k)	New admissions	New admissions incidence (per 100k)	% average change (14 days)
	uMkhanyakude	1171	170.47	25	3.64	-56.90
	Umzinyathi	1482	261.11	22	3.88	-31.25
	UThukela	2455	343.73	14	1.96	-48.15
	Zululand	1741	197.66	56	6.36	-28.21
Limpopo	Capricorn	7083	541.53	55	4.21	-32.93
	Mopani	2969	250.58	32	2.70	-56.16
	Sekhukhune	1601	134.51	11	0.92	-45.00
	Vhembe	2286	160.17	20	1.40	-13.04
	Waterberg	2723	366.87	12	1.62	-65.71
Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni	6131	335.26	60	3.28	-56.52
	Gert Sibande	5974	480.94	89	7.16	-53.40
	Nkangala	5260	326.93	86	5.35	-11.34
North West	Bojanala Platinum	9373	486.11	127	6.59	-16.45
	Dr Kenneth Kaunda	14092	1766.54	225	28.21	-40.94
	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti	1830	386.83	30	6.34	-11.76
	Ngaka Modiri Molema	1744	191.68	0	0.00	-100.00
Northern Cape	Frances Baard	4230	1019.50	58	13.98	-35.56
	John Taolo Gaetsewe	1258	463.39	34	12.52	-15.00
	Namakwa	1066	922.04	24	20.76	-41.46
	Pixley Ka Seme	737	349.48	9	4.27	-57.14
	ZF Mgcawu	1841	657.73	29	10.36	-53.23
Western Cape	Cape Winelands	10589	1124.98	351	37.29	-24.52
	Central Karoo	1035	1377.92	41	54.58	-12.77
	City of Cape Town Metro	66486	1443.78	1995	43.32	-33.48
	Garden Route	10196	1634.87	276	44.26	-20.00
	Overberg	2525	841.92	69	23.01	-25.81
	West Coast	3540	768.21	121	26.26	-25.31

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 2020-4 September 2021.

Age (years)	ADMISSIONS				DEATHS			
	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
0-4	3257	3942	24	7223	121	126	2	249
5-9	909	1127	7	2043	17	19	0	36
10-14	1489	1442	2	2933	46	42	0	88
15-19	4426	2386	3	6815	105	104	0	209
20-24	6996	3485	6	10487	250	190	1	441
25-29	11648	5294	12	16954	571	365	0	936
30-34	15546	9008	8	24562	986	797	0	1783
35-39	17065	12582	20	29667	1485	1364	3	2852
40-44	16296	14581	14	30891	1883	1928	1	3812
45-49	18783	18424	12	37219	2780	2894	1	5675
50-54	22285	20627	11	42923	3855	3989	2	7846
55-59	24908	22529	19	47456	5532	5532	8	11072
60-64	21850	19994	20	41864	5949	6128	6	12083
65-69	18625	16640	18	35283	6141	5730	6	11877
70-74	15482	13672	22	29176	5367	5256	8	10631
75-79	11467	9425	9	20901	4216	3932	3	8151
80-84	8634	5899	9	14542	3415	2628	3	6046
85-89	4492	2785	5	7282	1850	1347	1	3198
90-94	1945	936	1	2882	907	496	0	1403
>=95	586	313	2	901	274	127	0	401
Unknown	1068	1038	47	2153	69	102	0	171
Total	227757	186129	271	414157	45819	43096	45	88960