COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
Division of the National Health Laboratory Service

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 18 September 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 18 September 2021, 424,509 COVID-19 admissions and 91,476 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, peaking in week 21, then a second increase in admissions occurred in weeks 26-33. Gauteng, North West, Limpopo and Mpumalanga next experienced resurgence and all peaked around week 27-29. A later resurgence occurred in Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape, and these provinces peaked in weeks 31 -33. All provinces have shown sustained post-peak decreases in admissions.
- 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.

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 18 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 2020-18 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**

RESULTS

Epidemiological and geographic trends in admissions

From 5 March 2020 to 18 September 2021, a total of 424,509 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 nine 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.

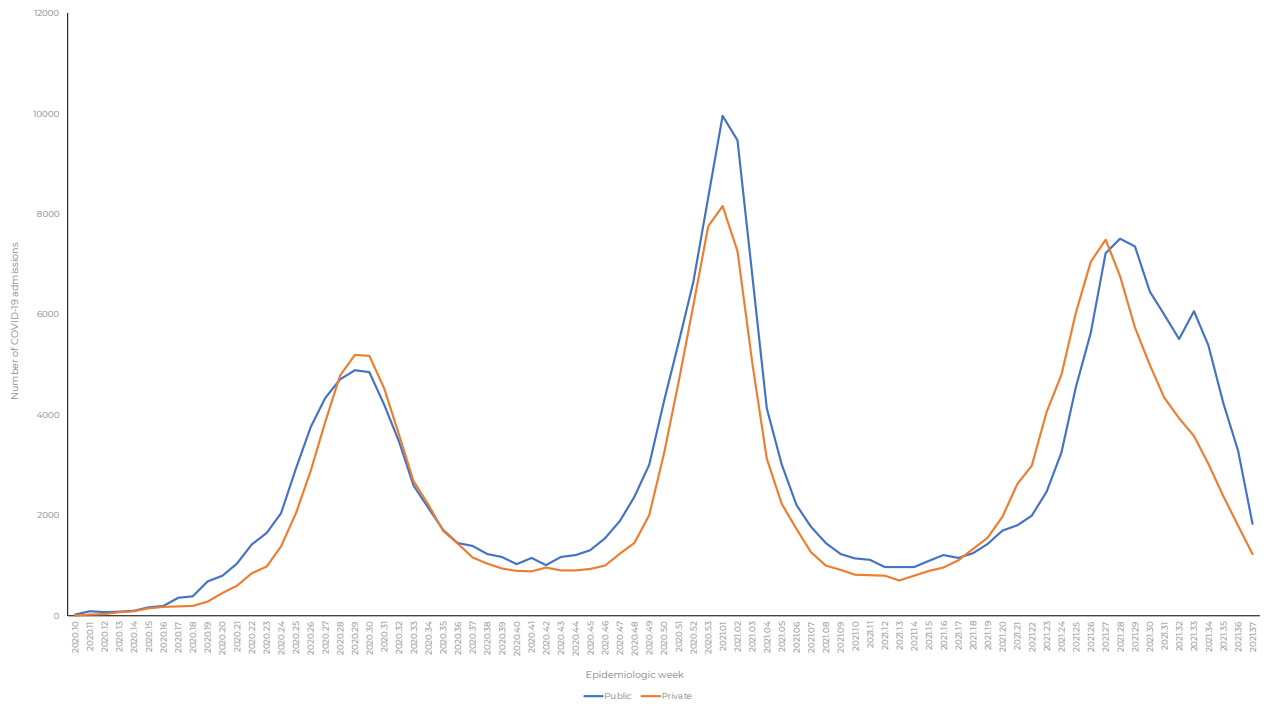

Figure 1. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=424,509

The majority of admissions were recorded in four provinces, Gauteng 124,288 (29%), Western Cape 95,151 (22%), KwaZulu-Natal 67,453 (16%) and Eastern Cape 40,619 (10%) provinces. Weekly numbers of COVID-19 admissions have peaked with sustained post-peak decreases in all provinces (Figures 2a and 2b).

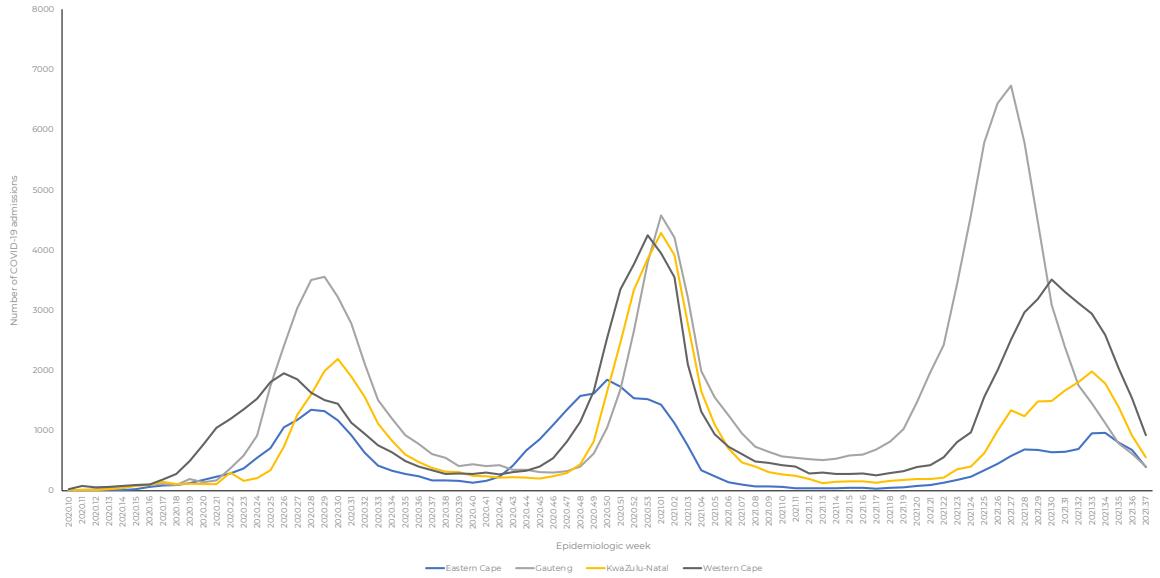

Figure 2a. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by provinces with highest admissions and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=424,509

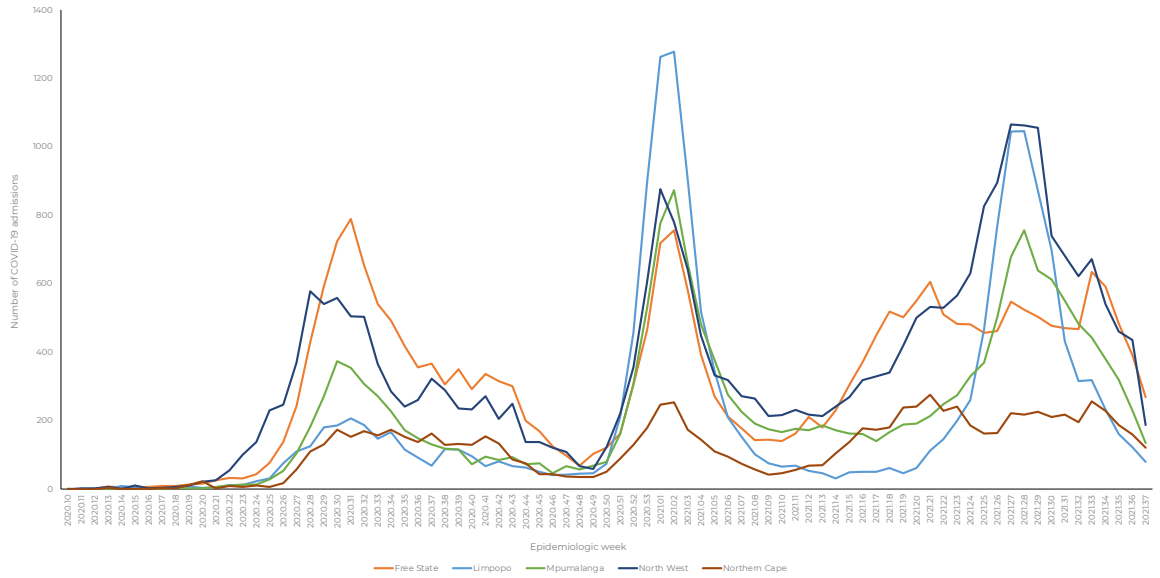

Figure 2b. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by provinces with lowest admissions and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=424,509

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 nine weeks.

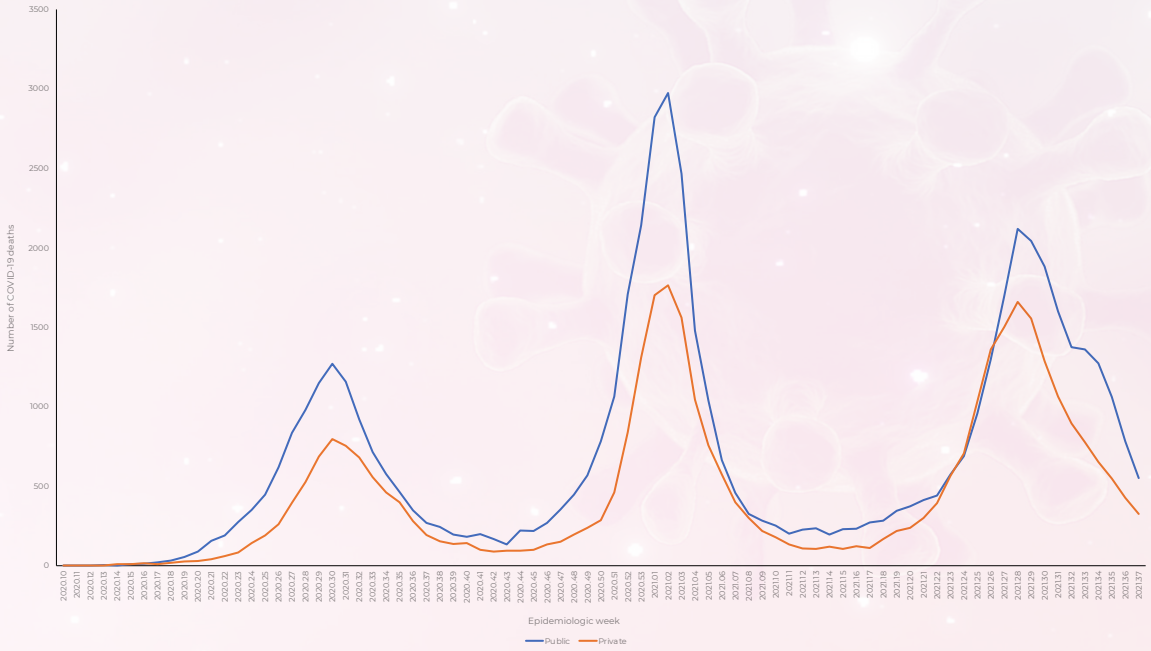

Figure 3. Number of in-hospital COVID-19 in-hospital deaths reported per week by health sector and epidemiologic week, South Africa, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=91,476

Most deaths were reported in Gauteng 27,183 (30%), Western Cape 16,705 (18%), KwaZulu-Natal 15,011 (16%), and Eastern Cape 11,809 (13%). The numbers of COVID-19 deaths have decreased in all provinces over the past seven weeks (Figures 4a and 4b).

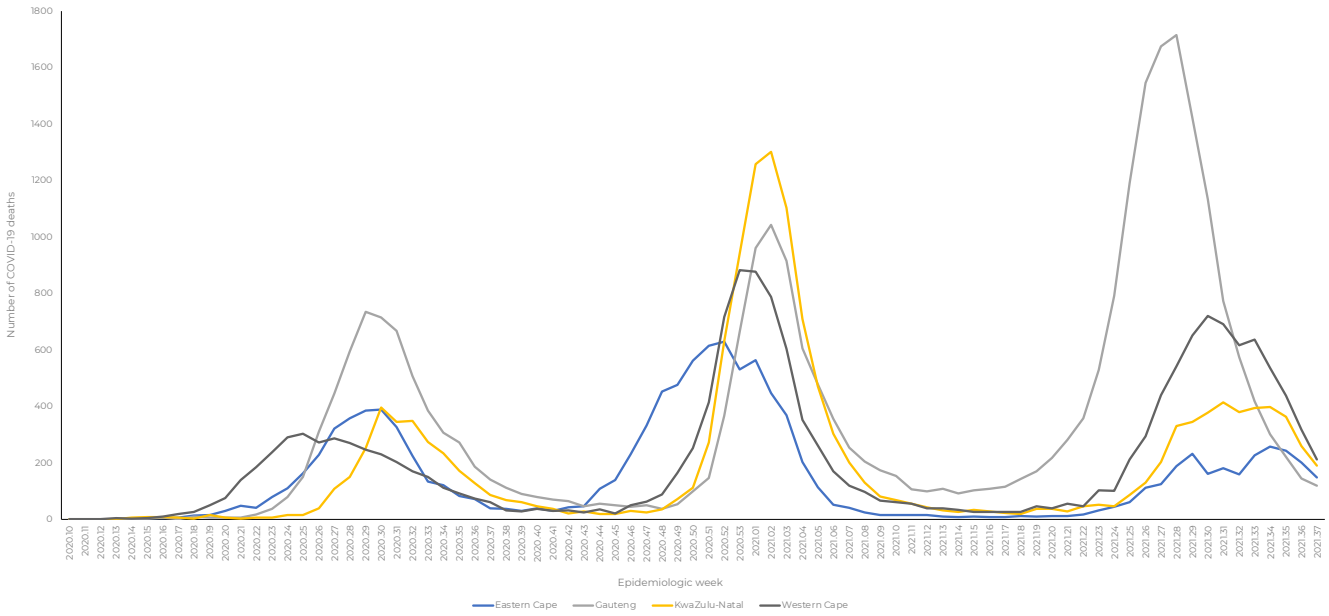

Figure 4a. Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by province with highest deaths and epidemiologic week of death, South Africa, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=91,476

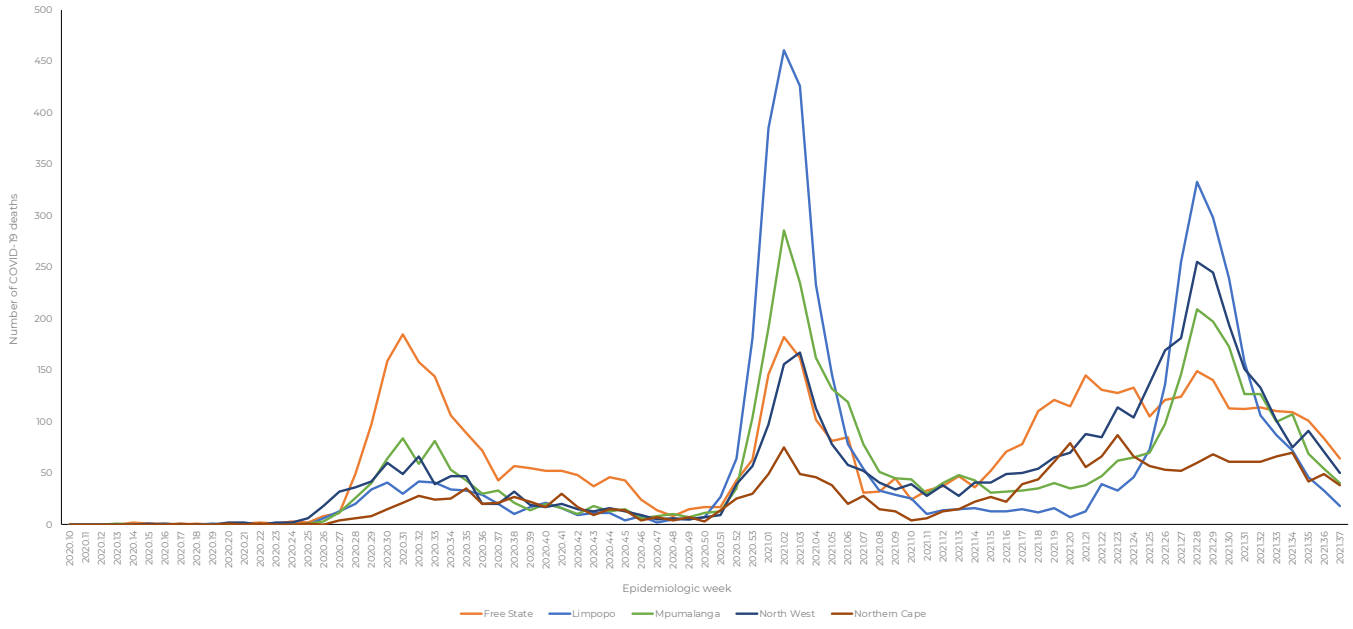

Figure 4b. Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by province with lowest deaths and epidemiologic week of death, South Africa, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=91,476

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 2020-18 September 2021.

Province	Provincial Population mid 2020*	Cumulative admissions	Cumulative Admissions / 100,000	Cumulative deaths	Cumulative deaths / 100,000
Eastern Cape	6734001	40619	603.2	11809	175.4
Free State	2928903	25118	857.6	5299	180.9
Gauteng	15488137	124 288	802.5	27183	175.5
KwaZulu-Natal	11531628	67453	584.9	15009	130.2
Limpopo	5852553	16954	289.7	4729	80.8
Mpumalanga	4679786	17806	380.5	4290	91.7
North West	4108816	27 767	675.8	4316	105.0
Northern Cape	1292786	9 353	723.5	2134	165.1
Western Cape	7005741	95 151	1358.2	16704	238.4
South Africa	**59622350**	**424 509**	**712.0**	**91 473**	**153.4**

*StatsSA mid-year population estimates 2020

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 were only 4 of 52 (8%) districts across the country that reported increased change in incidence risk of admissions, Xhariep (Free State), UThukela (Kwazulu-Natal), Namakwa (Northern Cape) and Central Karoo (Western Cape) (Appendix 1).

Table 3. Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, South Africa, 21 August-18 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	125.71	76.21	-39.38	35.71	24.86	-30.40
Free State	76.86	47.14	-38.66	15.00	10.57	-29.52
Gauteng	135.86	72.00	-47.00	37.21	18.86	-49.33
KwaZulu-Natal	225.43	104.29	-53.74	54.36	31.93	-41.26
Limpopo	28.14	14.43	-48.73	8.43	3.64	-56.78
Mpumalanga	49.86	26.00	-47.85	12.50	6.71	-46.29
North West	71.50	44.57	-37.66	11.86	8.64	-27.11
Northern Cape	29.79	20.07	-32.61	8.00	6.21	-22.32
Western Cape	329.57	174.86	-46.94	69.50	37.79	-45.63

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

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. Since the third wave peak in week 33, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of admissions in both sectors. (Figure 5).

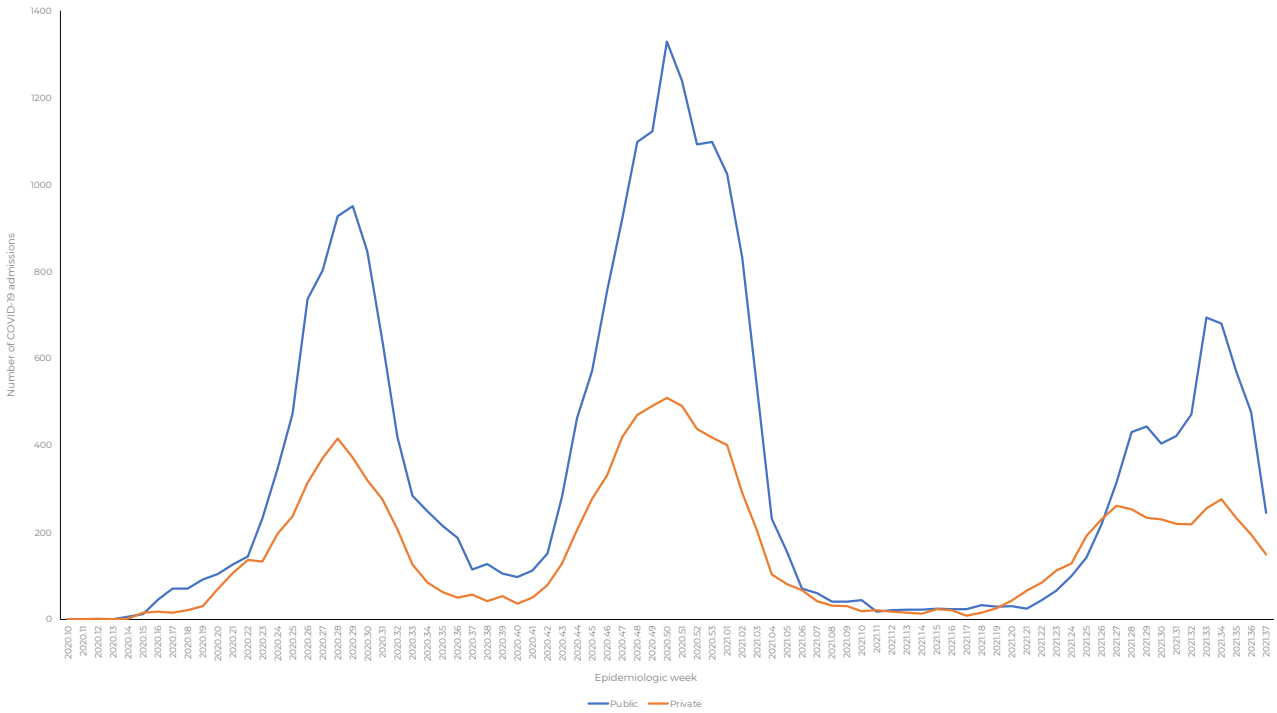

Figure 5: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Eastern Cape, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=40,619

The weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in all districts (Figure 6). Since the third wave peak, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of admissions in all districts.

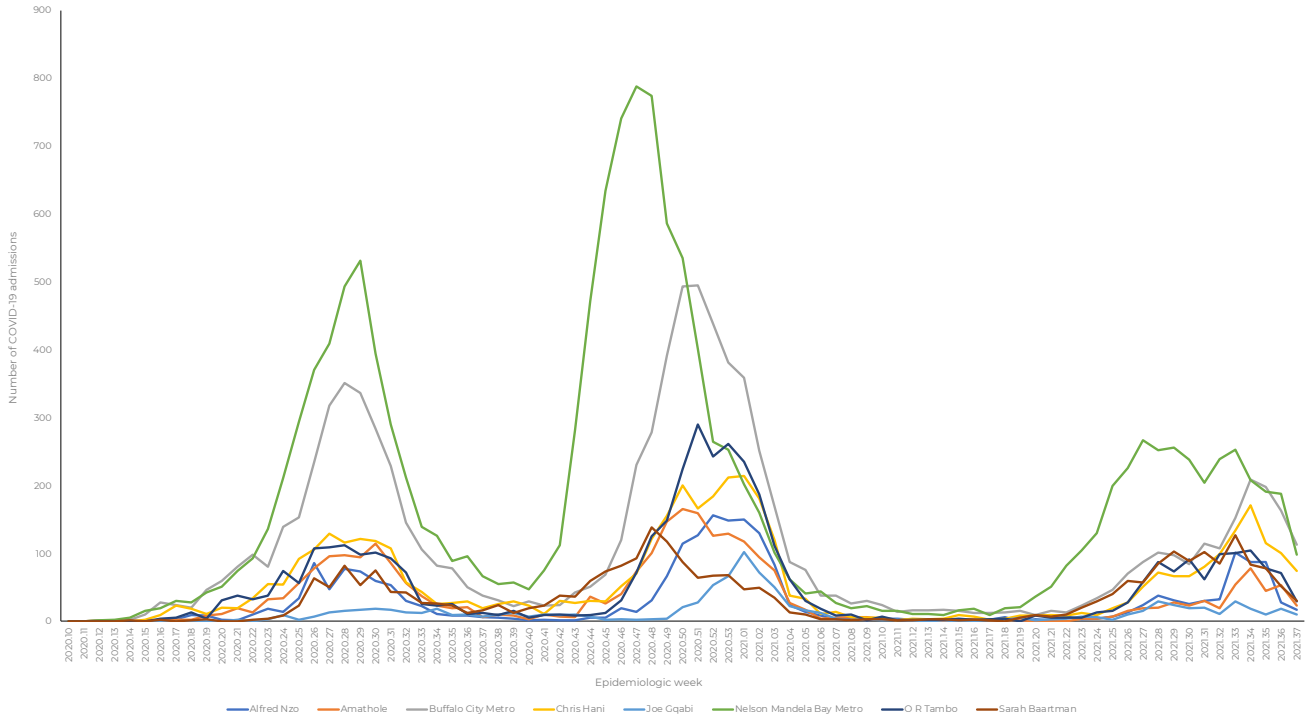

Figure 6. Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Eastern Cape, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=40,619

The weekly deaths at the peak of the second wave exceeded the numbers of deaths at the peak of the first wave in all districts (Figure 7). Since the third wave peak in week 26, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of deaths in all districts.

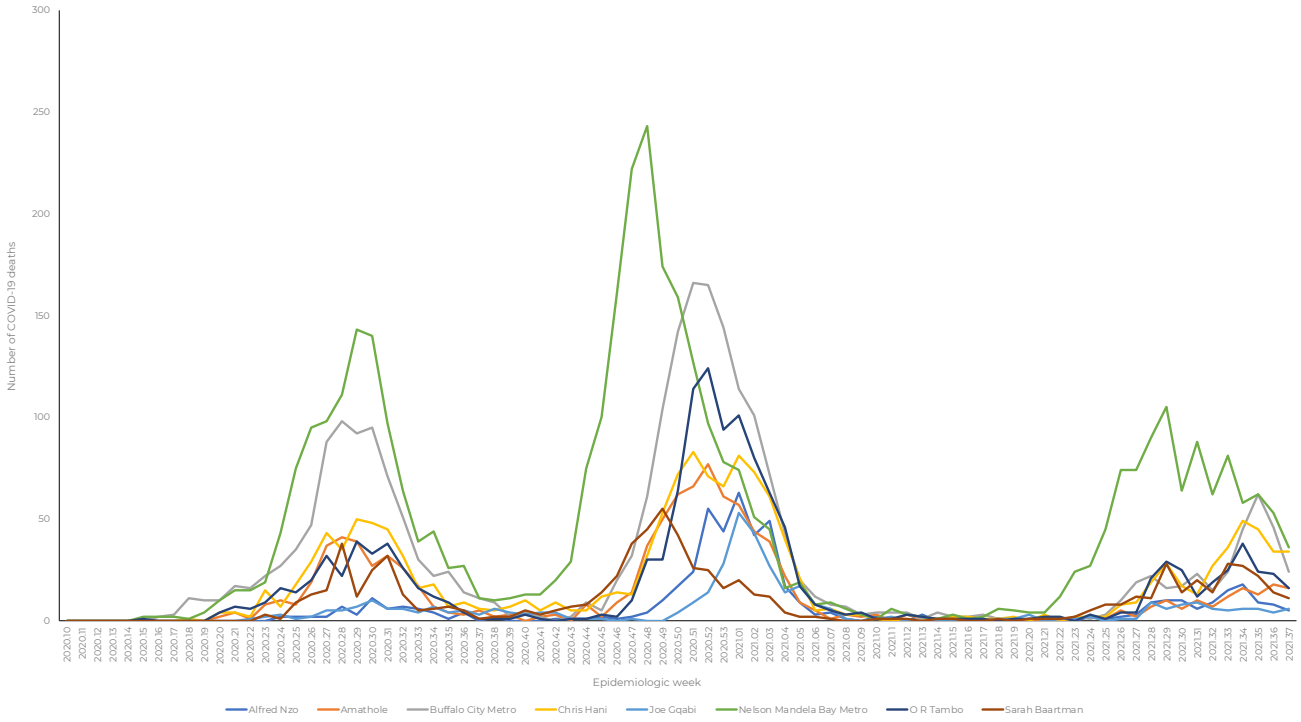

Figure 7. Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Eastern Cape, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=11,809

There has been a decrease in the average daily COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in all districts (Table 4).

Table 4: Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Eastern Cape, 21 August-18 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	12.43	3.21	-74.14	1.93	0.93	-51.85
Amathole	8.79	5.43	-38.21	2.07	2.43	17.24
Buffalo City Metro	29.07	19.71	-32.19	7.64	5.00	-34.58
Chris Hani	20.43	12.43	-39.16	6.71	4.86	-27.66
Joe Gqabi	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.86	0.71	-16.67
Nelson Mandela Bay	28.50	20.43	-28.32	8.57	6.36	-25.83
O R Tambo	13.00	7.14	-45.05	4.43	2.79	-37.10
Sarah Baartman	11.50	5.86	-49.07	3.50	1.79	-48.98

FREE STATE

In all first and third waves there were roughly equal numbers of admissions in both sectors, while in the second wave there were higher numbers of admissions in the public sector (Figure 8). Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in the public sector. Since the third wave peak in week 21, there was a decreased in admissions then a second increase from week 25. Admissions have decreased in both sectors for the past four weeks. 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.

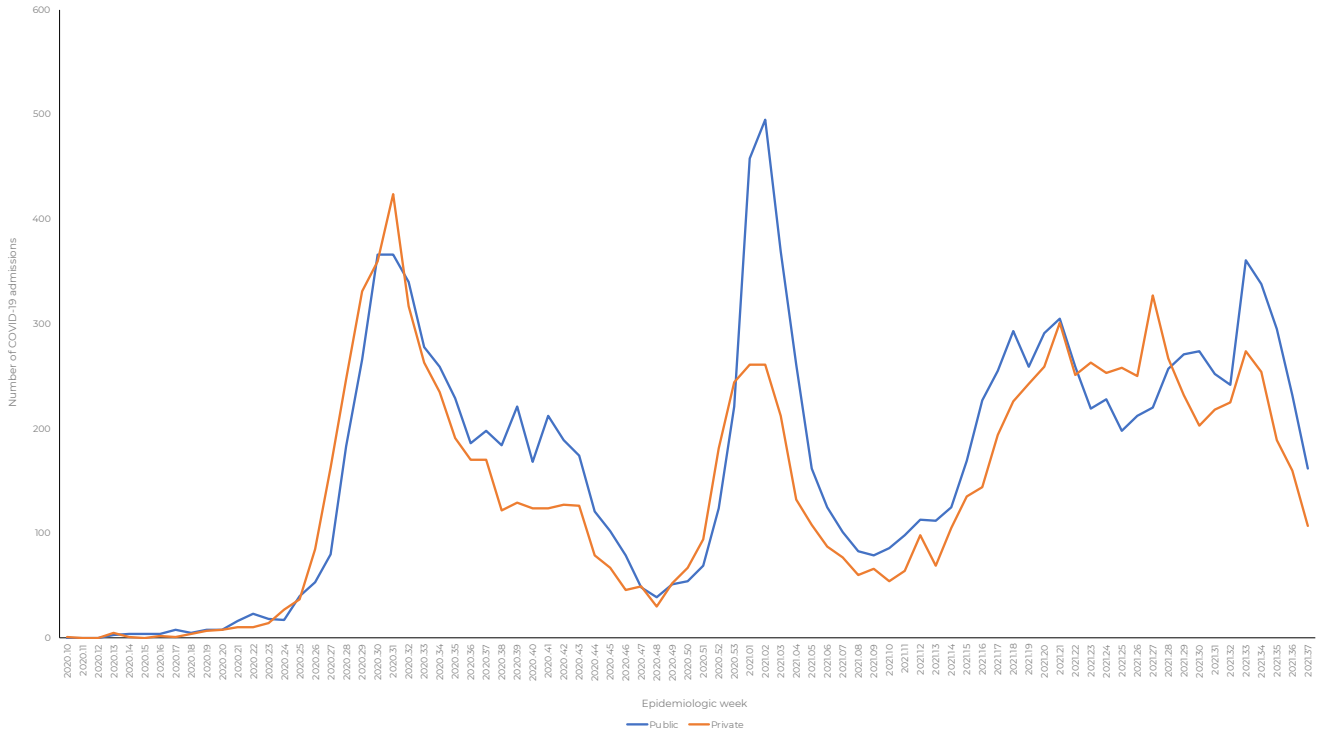

Figure 8: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Free State, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=25,118

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 and a second peak in week 33, but have shown sustained post-peak decreases in most districts over the past four weeks. 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.

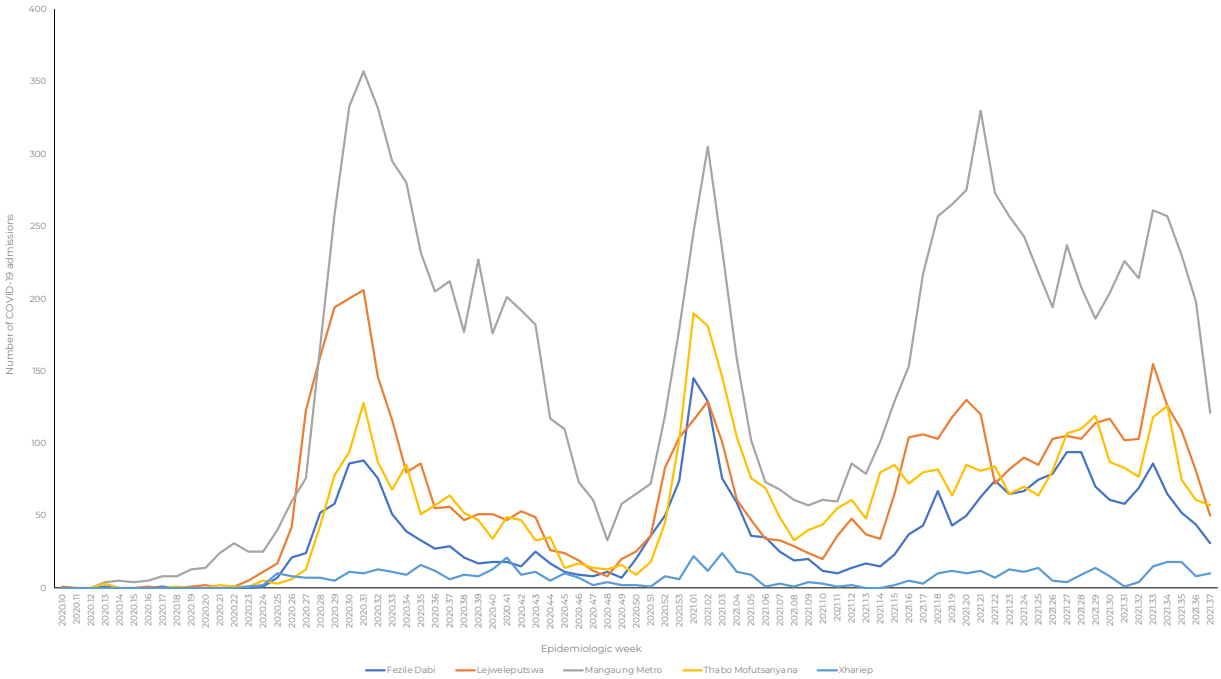

Figure 9: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Free State, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=25,118

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). Since the third wave peak, there has been 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.

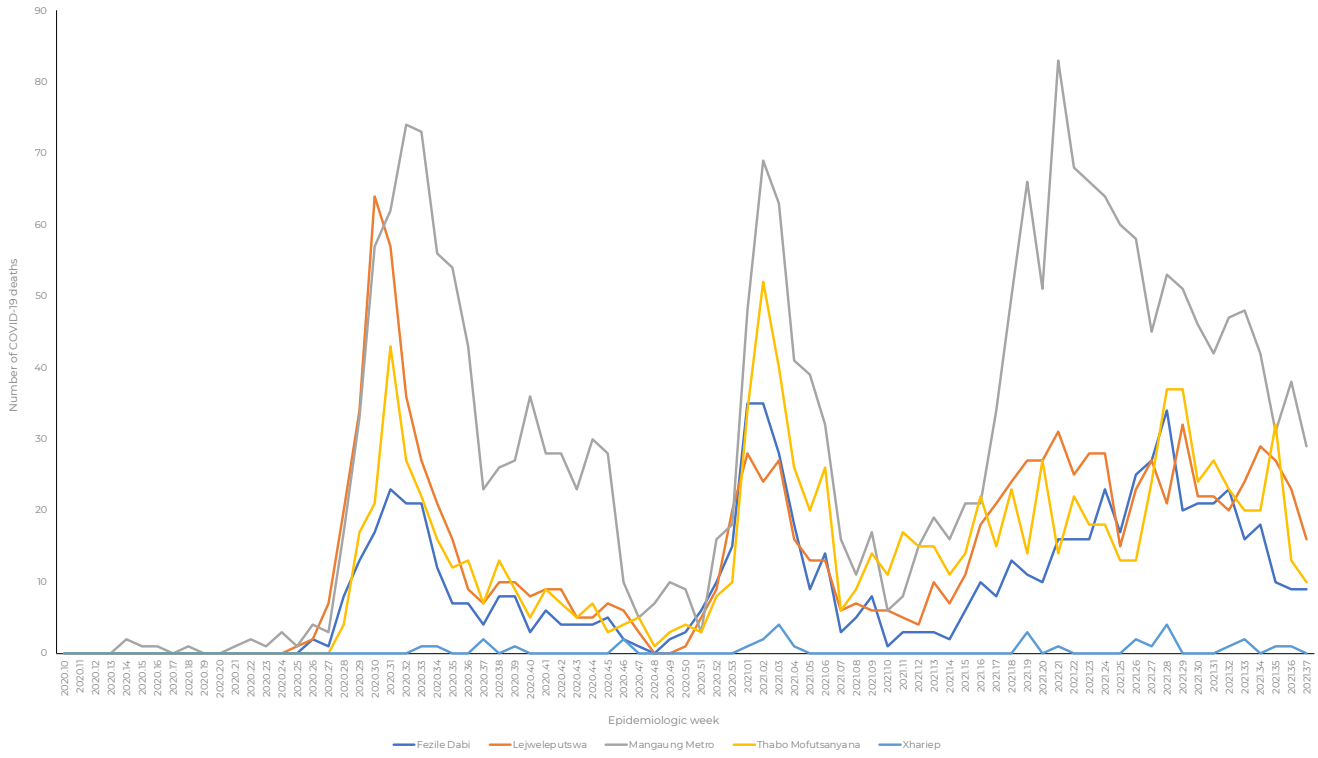

Figure 10: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Free State, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=5,299

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 5).

Table 5: Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Free State, 21 August-18 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	8.36	5.36	-35.90	2.00	1.29	-35.71
Lejweleputswa	16.79	9.36	-44.26	4.00	2.79	-30.36
Mangaung Metro	34.79	22.71	-34.70	5.21	4.79	-8.22
Thabo Mofutsanyana	14.36	8.43	-41.29	3.71	1.64	-55.77
Xhariep	2.57	1.29	-50.00	0.07	0.07	0.00

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.

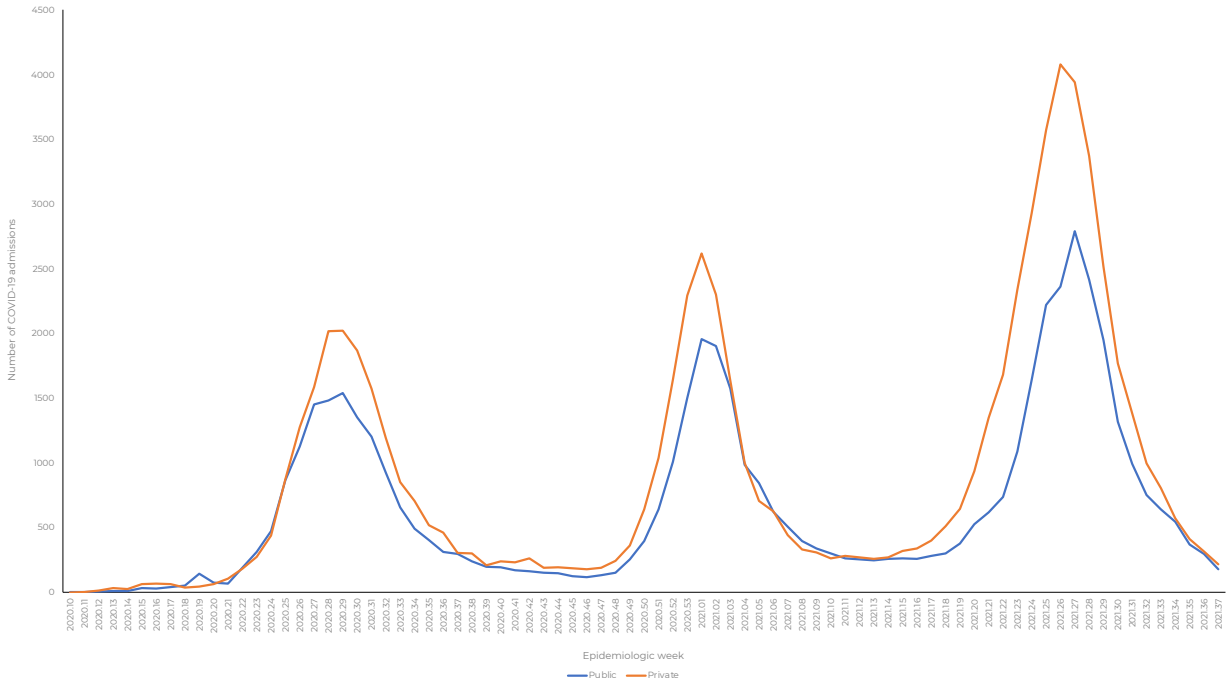

Figure 11: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=124,288

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 ten 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.

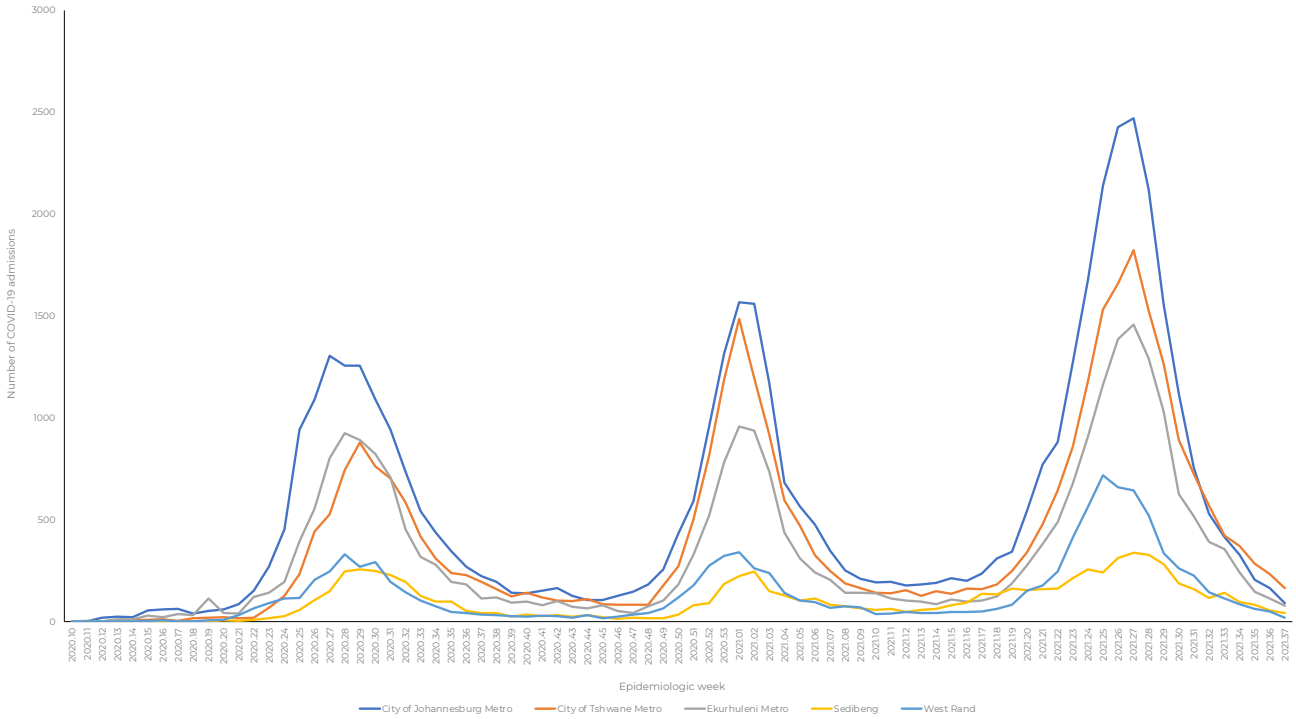

Figure 12: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=124,288

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 nine 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.

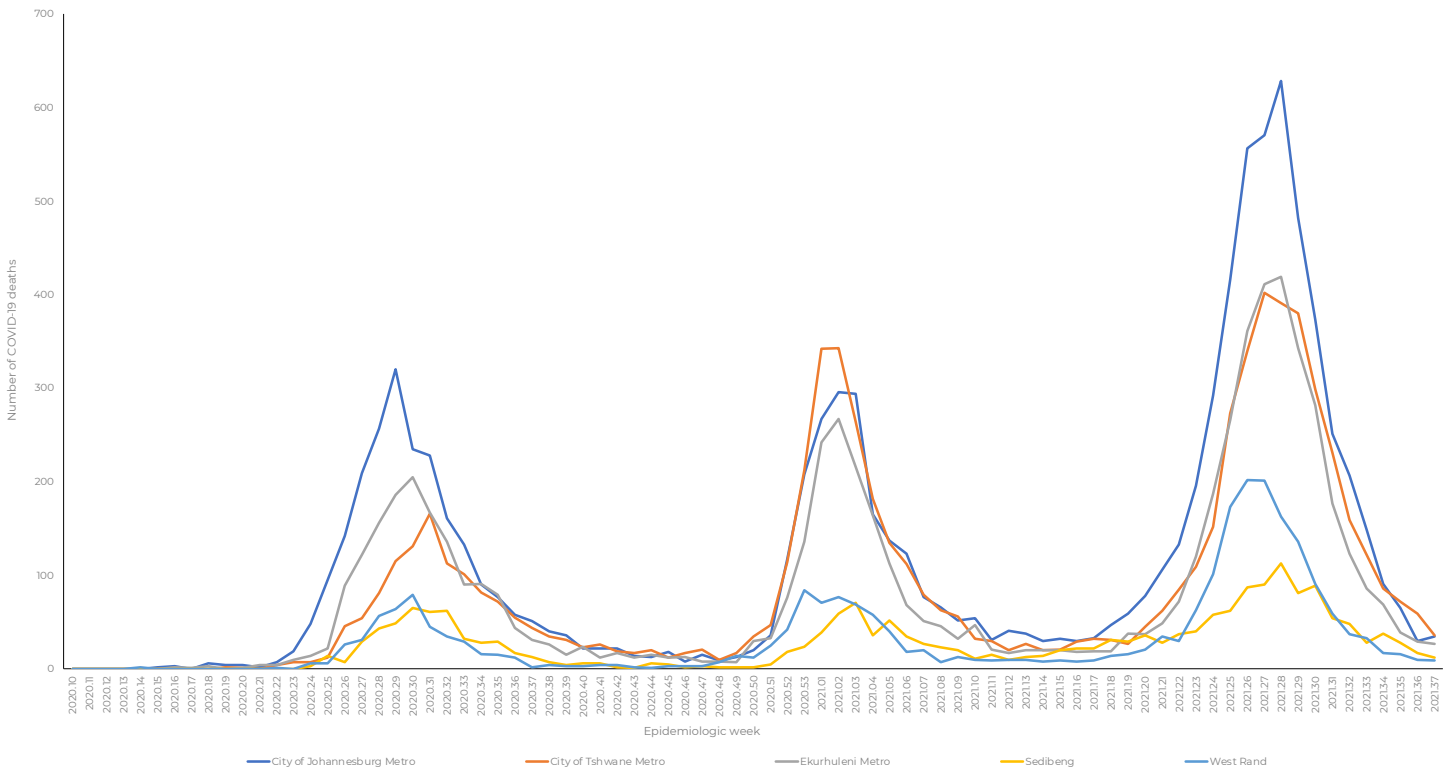

Figure 13: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=27,183

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, 21 August-18 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	38.07	18.07	-52.53	11.14	4.64	-58.33
City of Tshwane Metro	46.86	28.36	-39.48	11.29	6.79	-39.87
Ekurhuleni Metro	27.64	13.57	-50.90	7.71	4.00	-48.15
Sedibeng	12.71	7.00	-44.94	4.71	2.07	-56.06
West Rand	10.57	5.00	-52.70	2.36	1.36	-42.42

KWAZULU-NATAL

In the first and second waves there were higher numbers of admissions in the private sector but there have been higher numbers of admissions in the public sector 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). Since the third wave peak in week 33, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of admissions in both sectors.

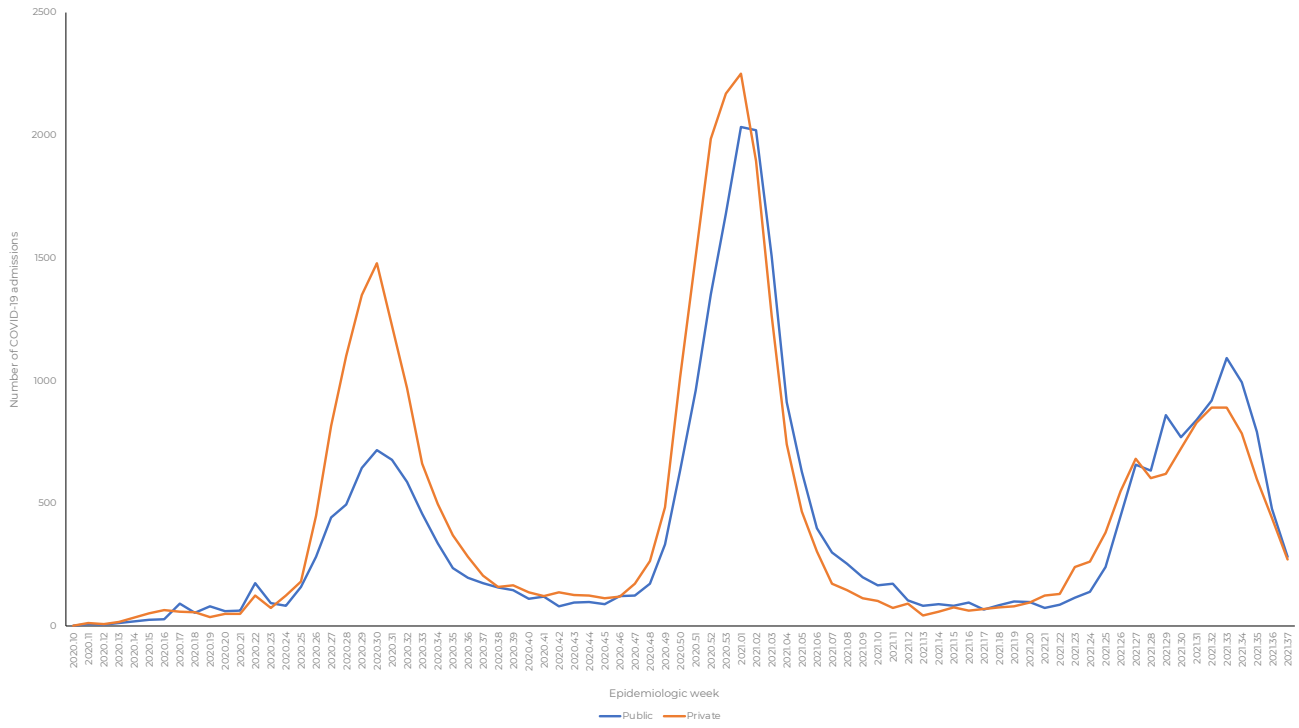

Figure 14: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=67,453

Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in all districts except Amajuba (Figure 15). Since the third wave peak in week 33, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of admissions in all districts.

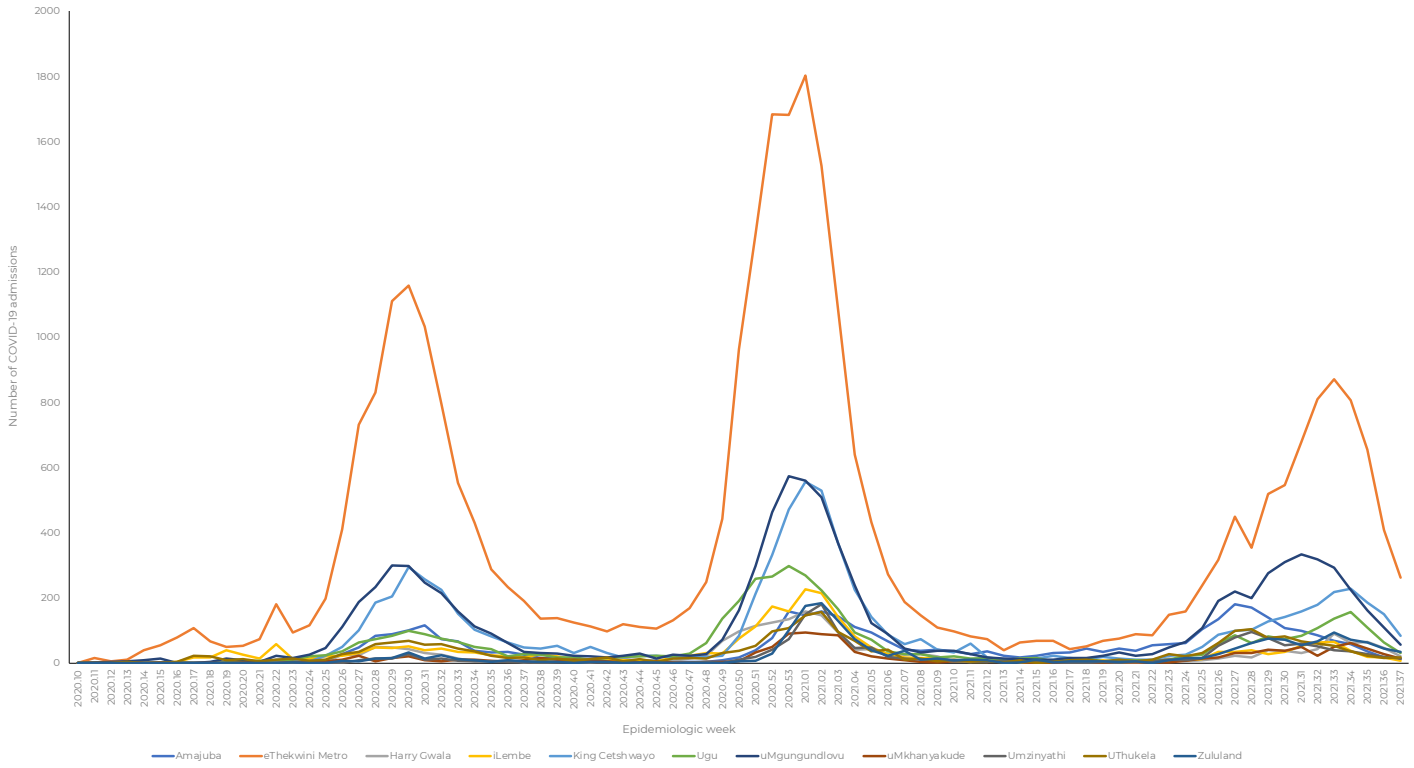

Figure 15: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=67,453

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 third wave peak in week 33, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of deaths in all districts.

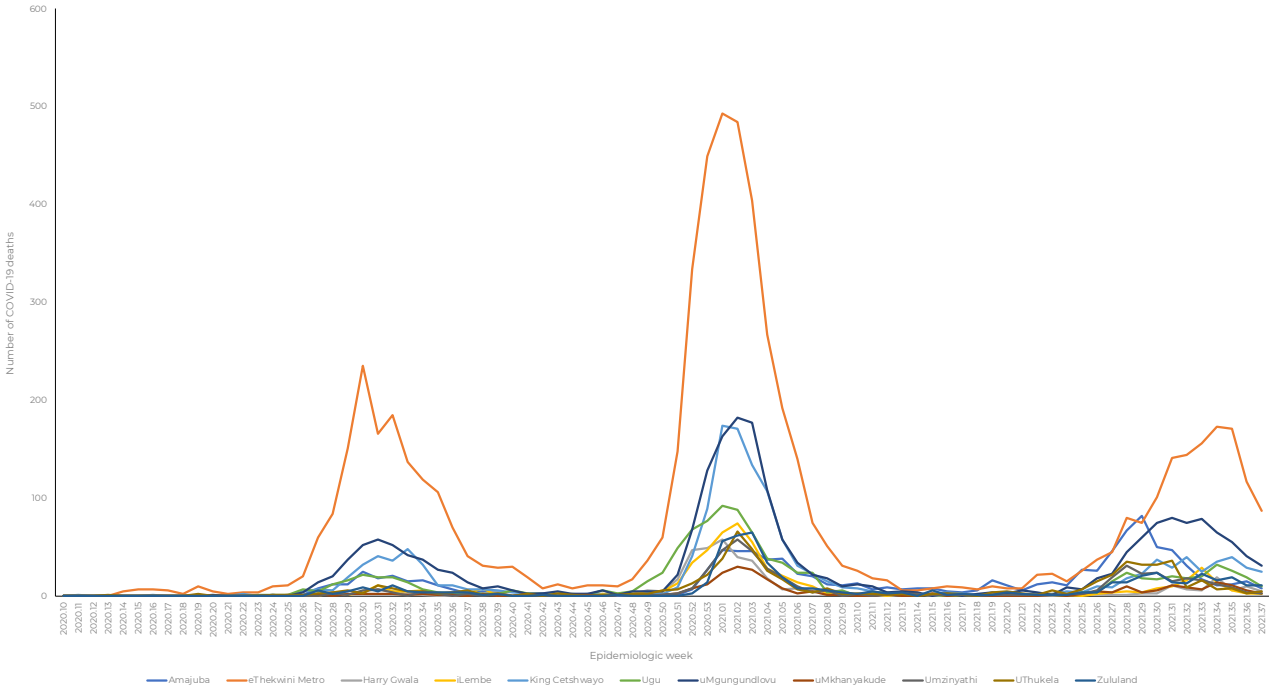

Figure 16: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=15,011

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 7).

Table 7: Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, KwaZulu-Natal, 21 August-18 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	6.64	2.07	-68.82	1.64	1.64	0.00
eThekwini Metro	104.29	47.79	-54.18	24.57	14.57	-40.70
Harry Gwala	9.00	4.71	-47.62	1.79	1.07	-40.00
iLembe	4.07	1.71	-57.89	1.43	0.36	-75.00
King Cetshwayo	29.00	16.21	-44.09	5.36	3.79	-29.33
Ugu	18.93	6.71	-64.53	4.14	2.07	-50.00
uMgungundlovu	27.57	11.86	-56.99	8.57	5.14	-40.00
uMkhanyakude	7.50	2.93	-60.95	1.79	0.64	-64.00
Umzinyathi	4.57	2.29	-50.00	1.50	0.50	-66.67
UThukela	4.21	2.36	-44.07	1.07	0.57	-46.67
Zululand	9.64	5.64	-41.48	2.50	1.57	-37.14

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.

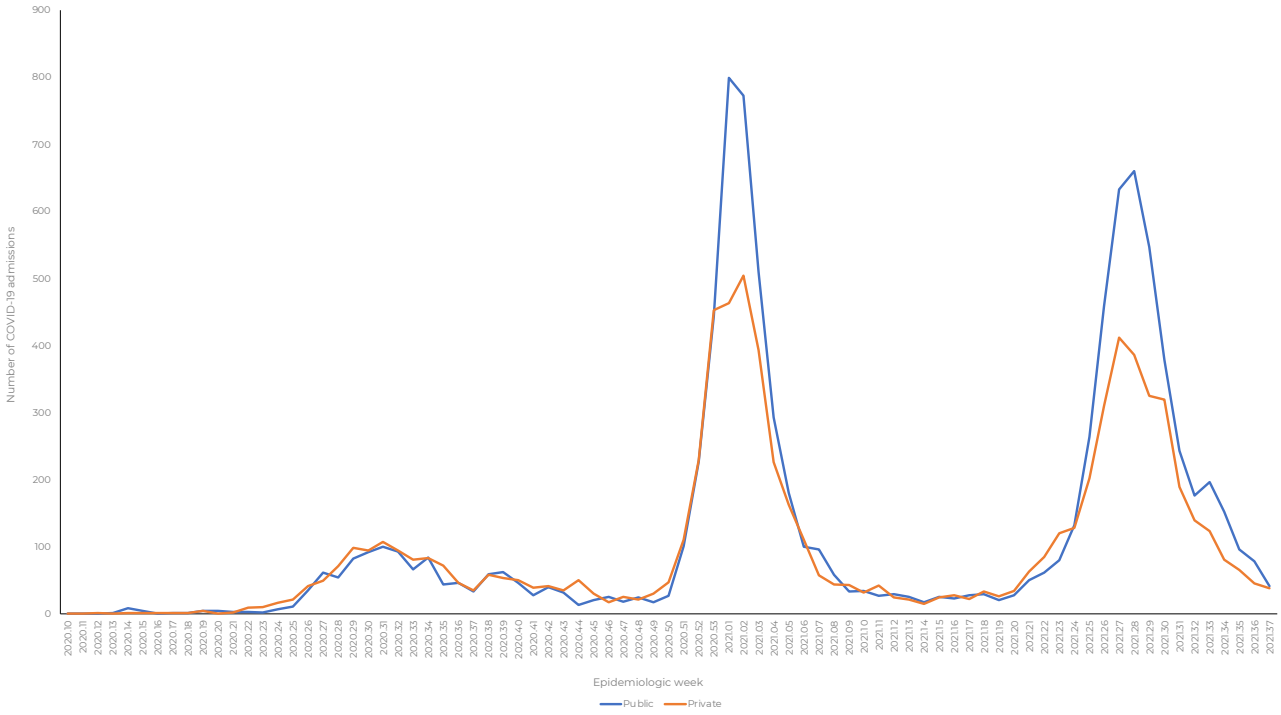

Figure 17: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Limpopo, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=16,954

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. 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.

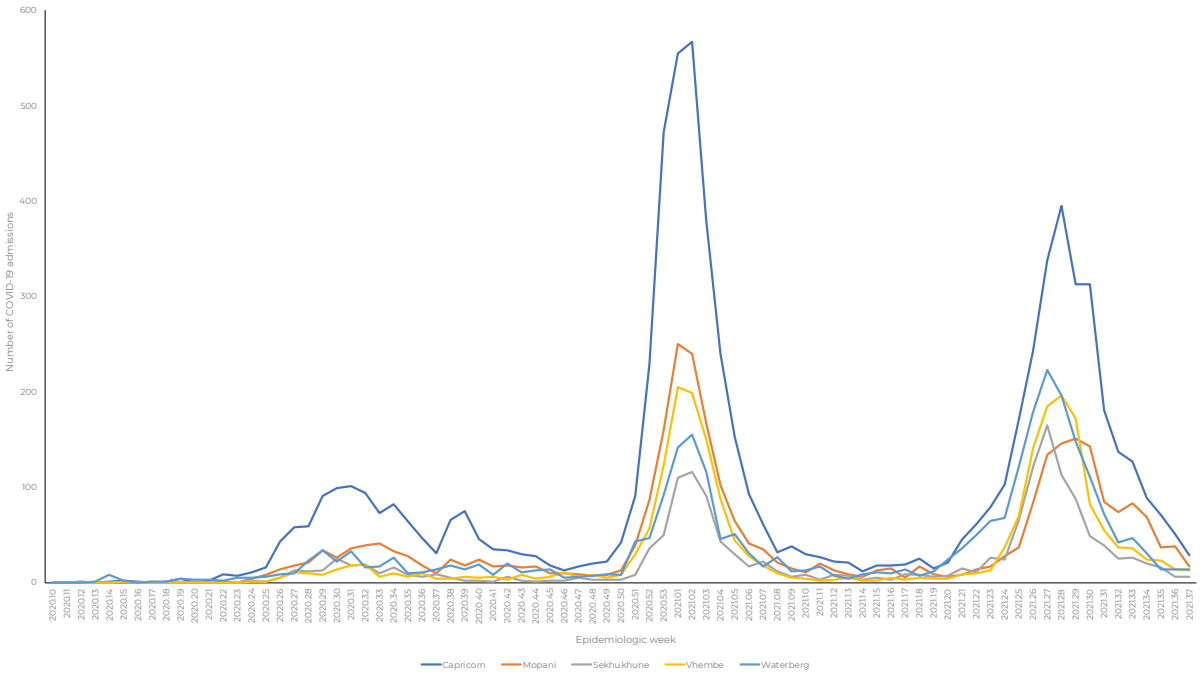

Figure 18: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Limpopo, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=16,954

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.

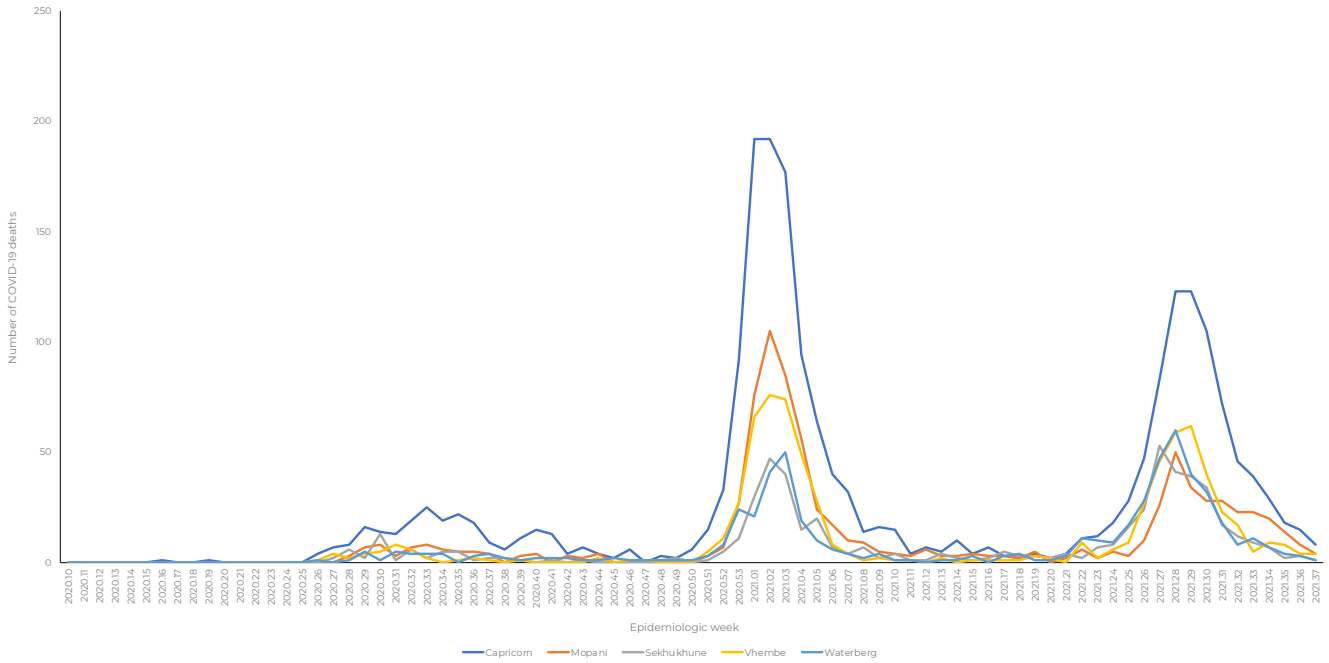

Figure 19: Number oof reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Limpopo, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=4,729

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, 21 August-18 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	11.43	5.71	-50.00	3.36	1.64	-51.06
Mopani	7.57	3.93	-48.11	2.43	0.86	-64.71
Sekhukhune	2.57	0.86	-66.67	0.64	0.29	-55.56
Vhembe	3.36	1.93	-42.55	1.21	0.57	-52.94
Waterberg	3.21	2.00	-37.78	0.79	0.29	-63.64

MPUMALANGA

In the first wave there were higher numbers of admissions in the private sector, in the second wave there were higher numbers of admissions in the public sector, and in the third wave there were 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 20). Since the third wave peak in week 28, a decrease in the number of admissions has been observed 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 the private sector.

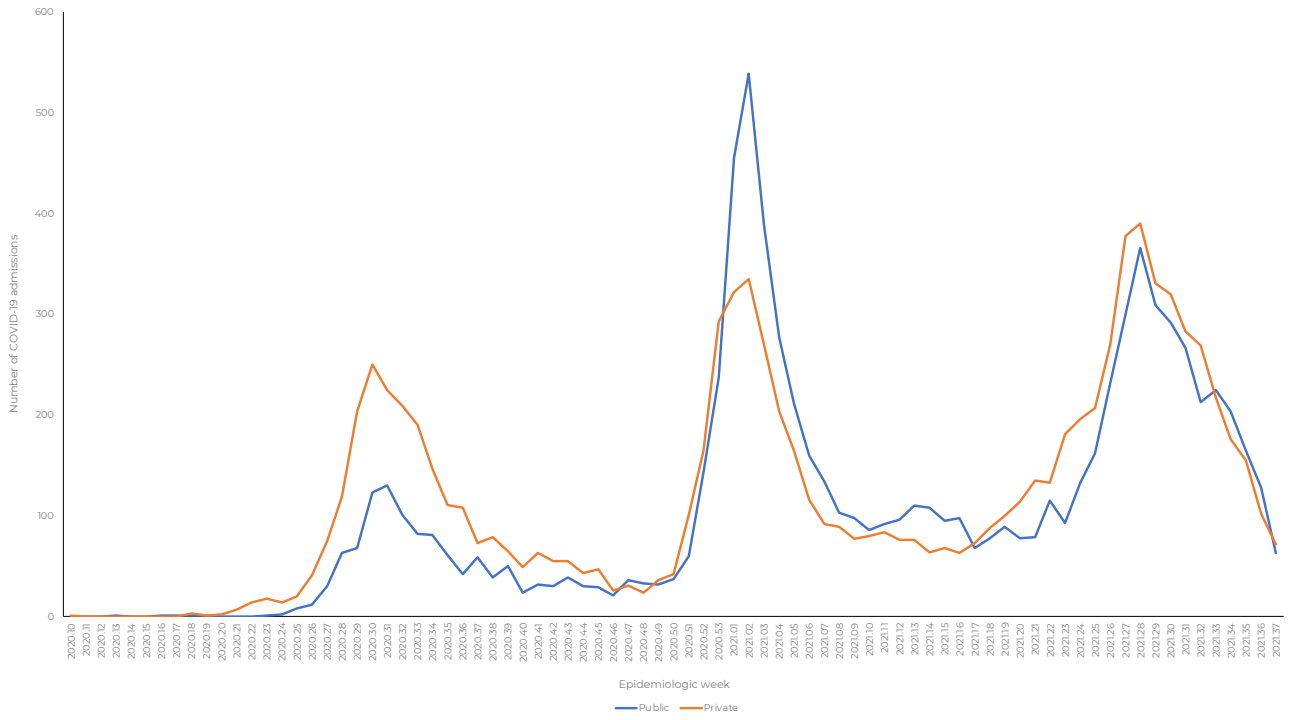

Figure 20: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=17,806

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.

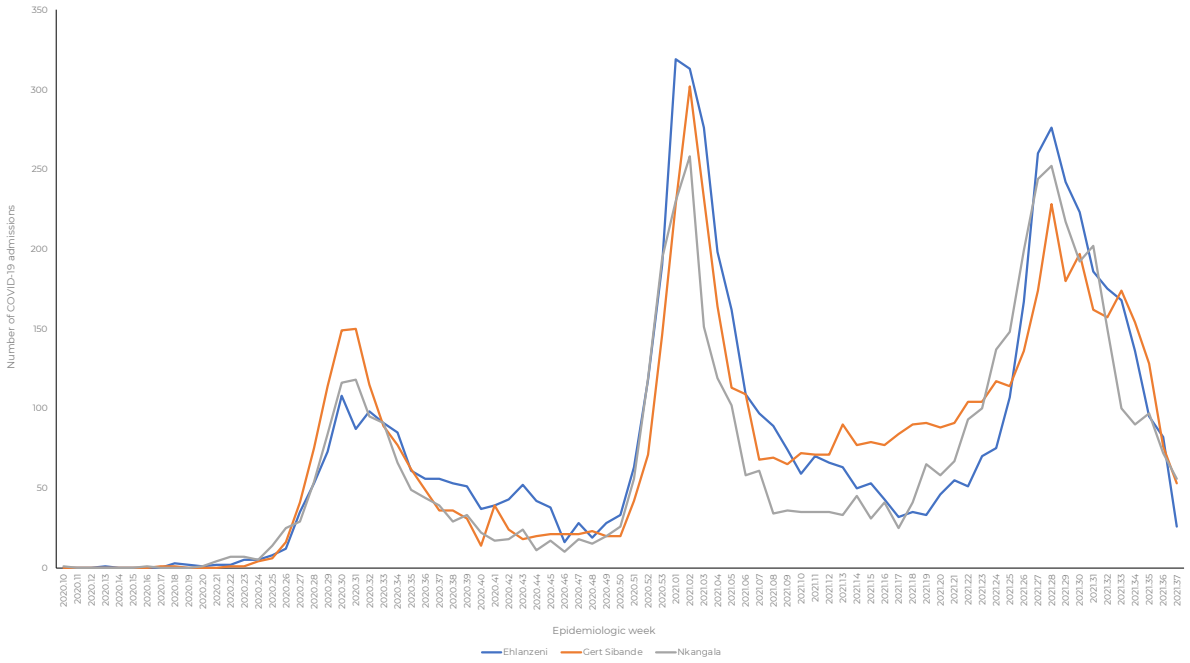

Figure 21: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=17,806

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.

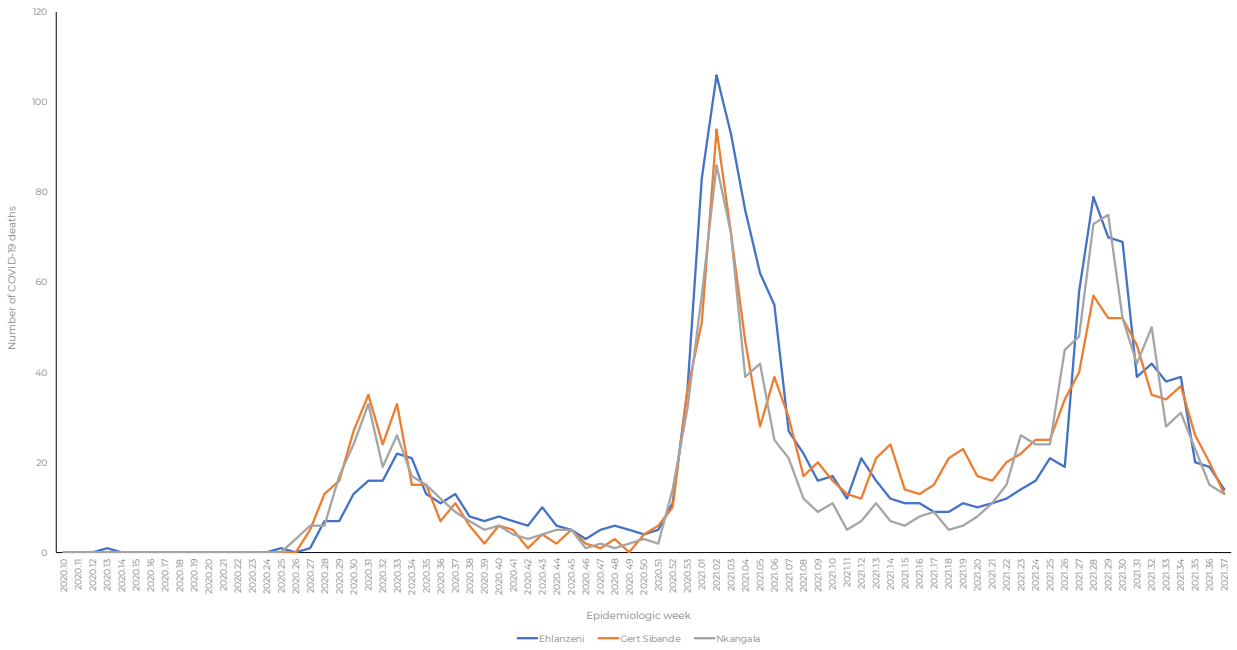

Figure 22: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=4,290

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, 21 August-18 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	16.43	7.64	-53.48	4.14	2.36	-43.10
Gert Sibande	20.07	9.21	-54.09	4.50	2.36	-47.62
Nkangala	13.36	9.14	-31.55	3.86	2.00	-48.15

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. 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.

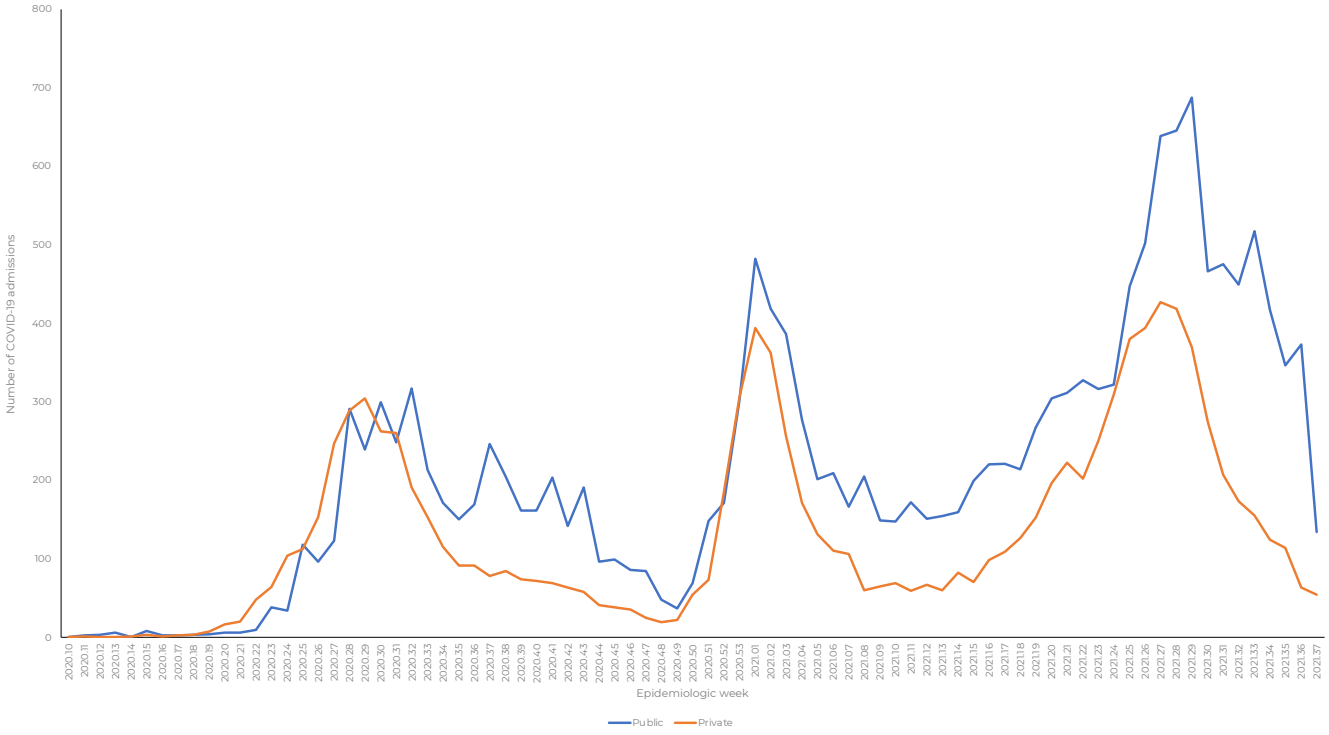

Figure 23: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, North West, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=27,767

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 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.

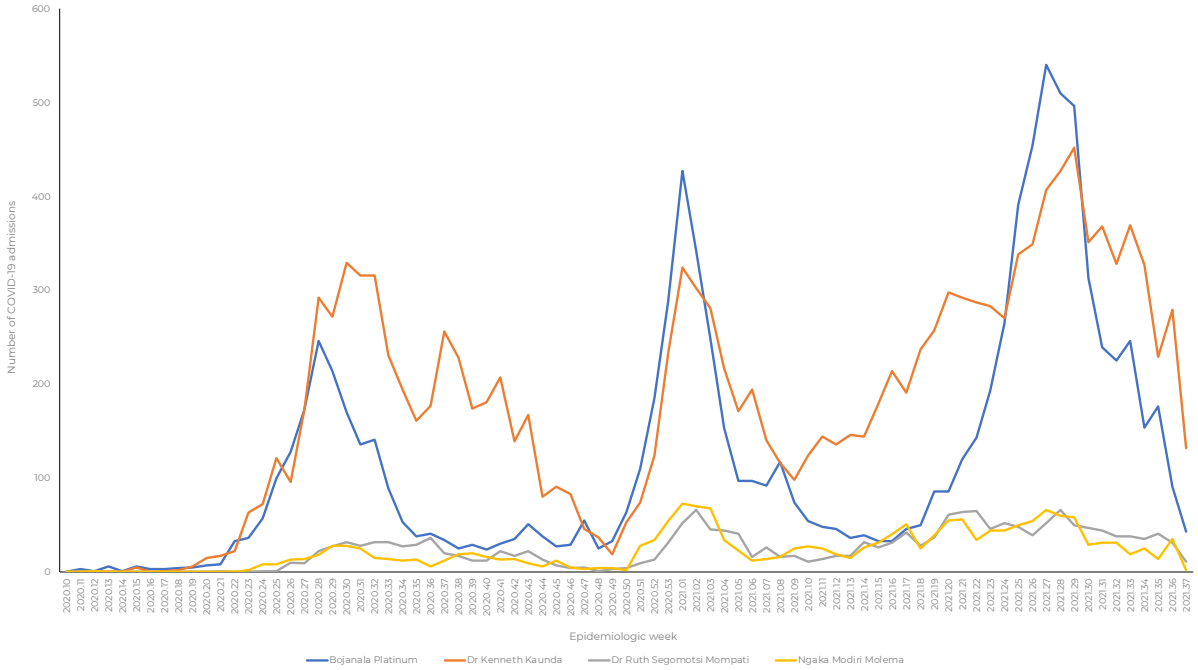

Figure 24: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, North West, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=27,767

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. 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.

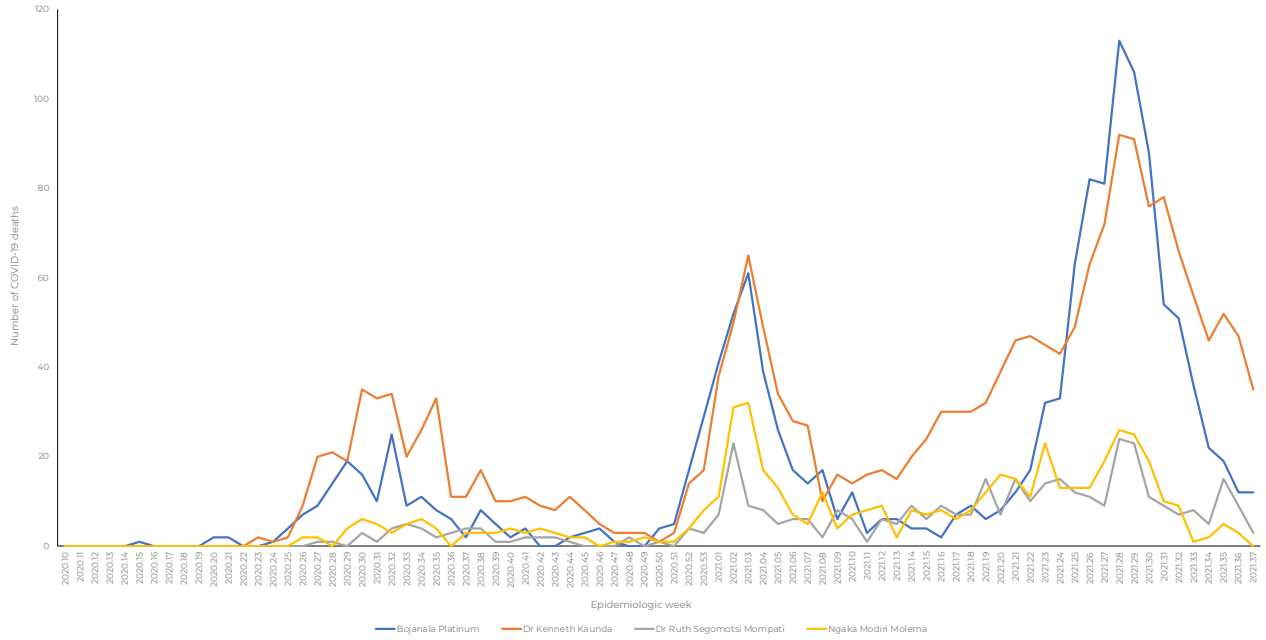

Figure 25: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, North West, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=4,316

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, 21 August-18 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	23.57	9.57	-59.39	2.93	1.71	-41.46
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	39.71	29.36	-26.08	7.00	5.86	-16.33
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	5.43	3.00	-44.74	1.43	0.86	-40.00
Ngaka Modiri Molema	2.79	2.64	-5.13	0.50	0.21	-57.14

NORTHERN CAPE

In all three waves there were roughly equal numbers of admissions in both sectors, however a second increase in the third wave was concentrated more in the public sector. Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in both sectors (Figure 26). The numbers of COVID-19 admissions increased in both sectors since week 9 peaking in week 21. A second increase in admissions was observed in both sectors but higher in the public sector, however, decreased in admissions has been observed in both sectors over the past three weeks. 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.

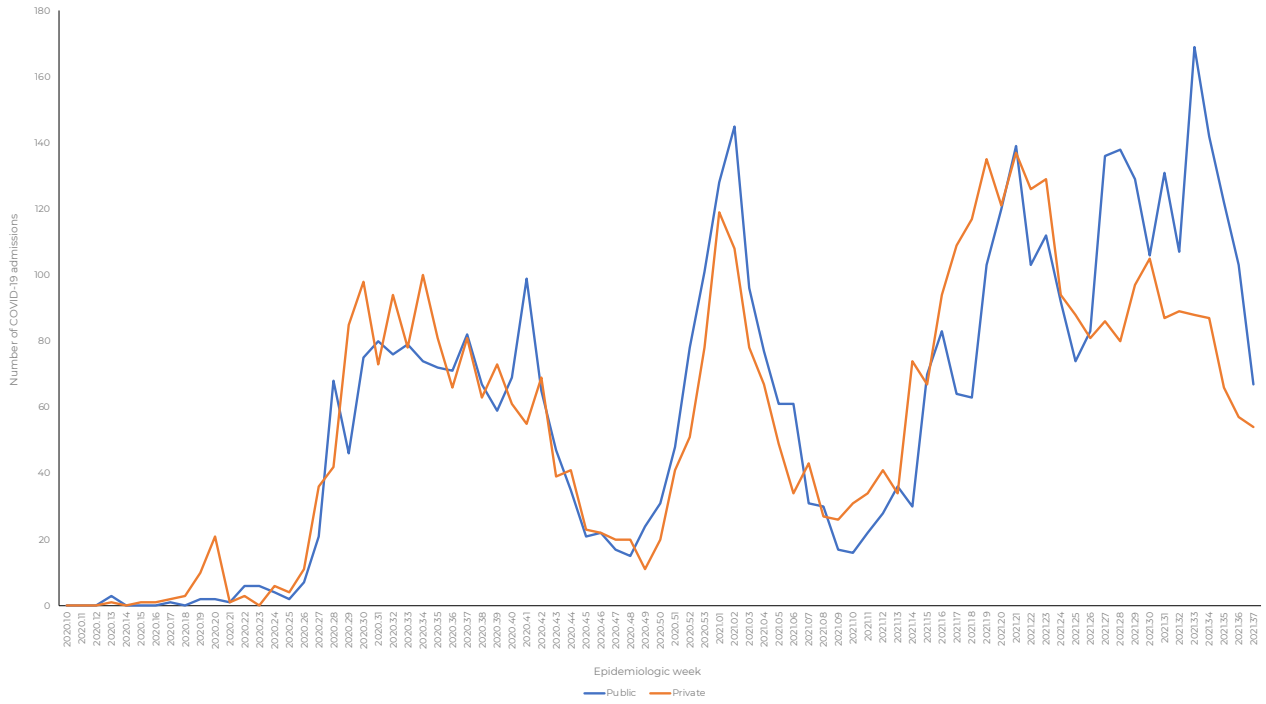

Figure 26: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=9,353

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 a second increases in admissions were observed from week 26. There has been a decrease in admissions in all districts over the past three weeks, 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.

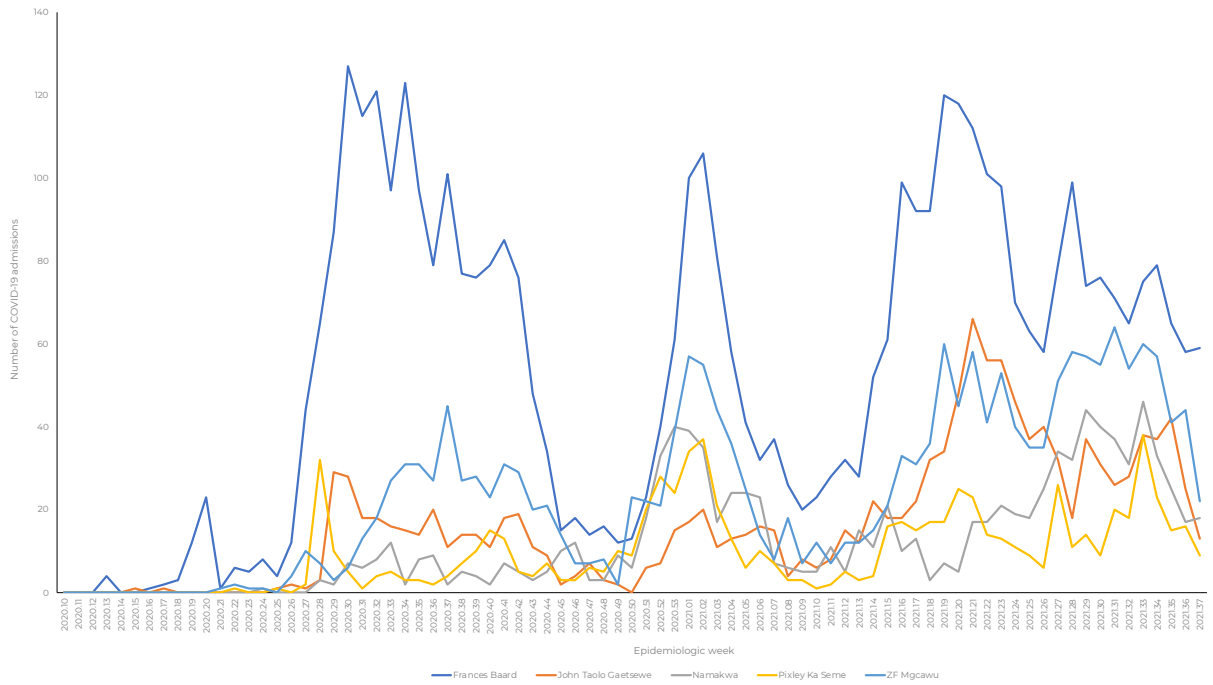

Figure 27: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=9,353

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. 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.

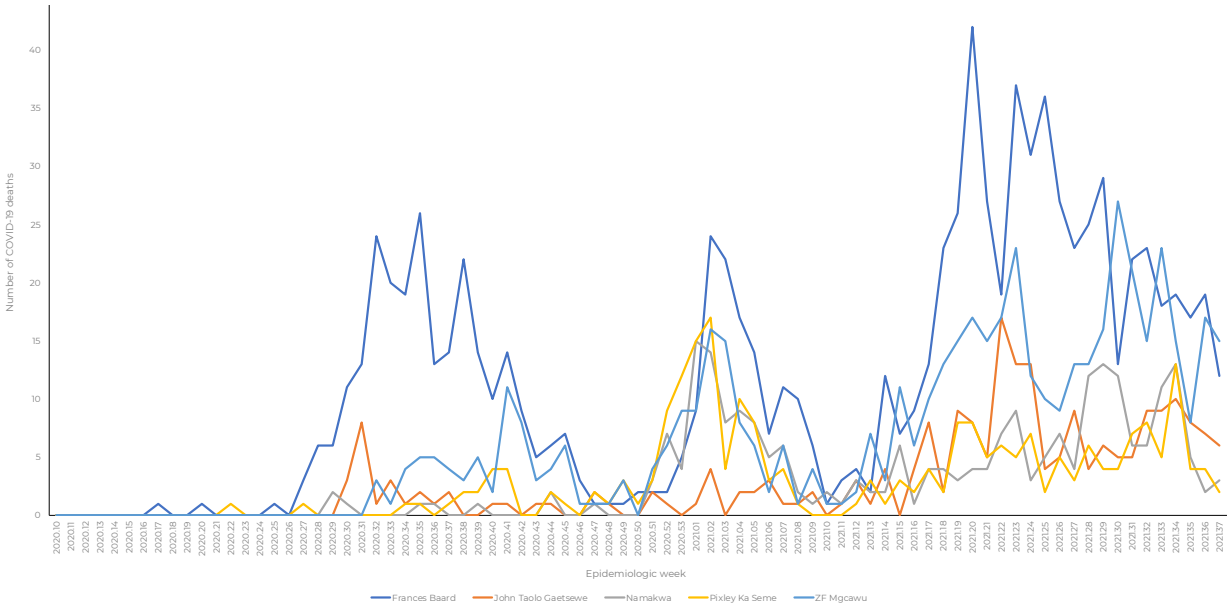

Figure 28: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=2,134

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, 21 August-18 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	10.29	8.36	-18.75	2.57	2.21	-13.89
John Taolo Gaetsewe	5.64	2.71	-51.90	1.29	0.93	-27.78
Namakwa	4.14	2.50	-39.66	1.29	0.36	-72.22
Pixley Ka Seme	2.71	1.79	-34.21	1.21	0.43	-64.71
ZF Mgcawu	7.00	4.71	-32.65	1.64	2.29	39.13

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.

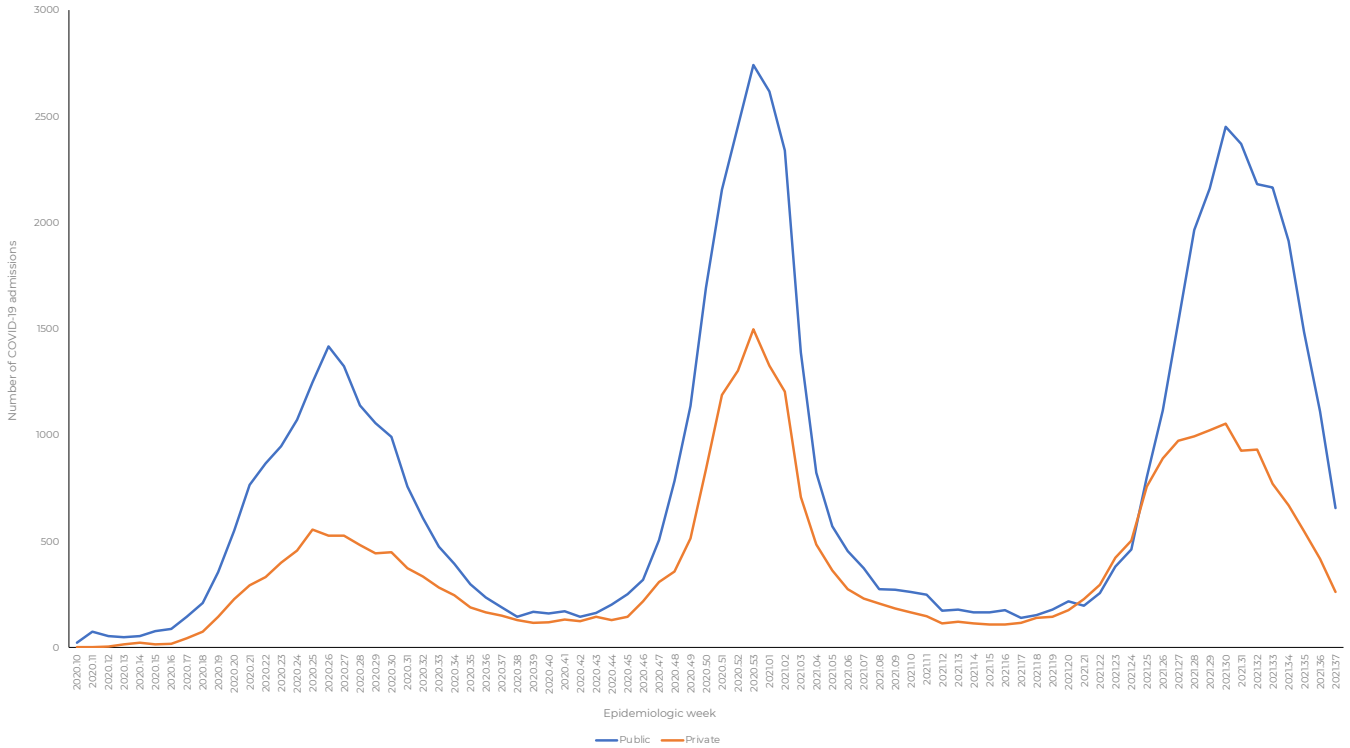

Figure 29: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Western Cape, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=95,151

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. Weekly number of admissions in the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in Garden Route.

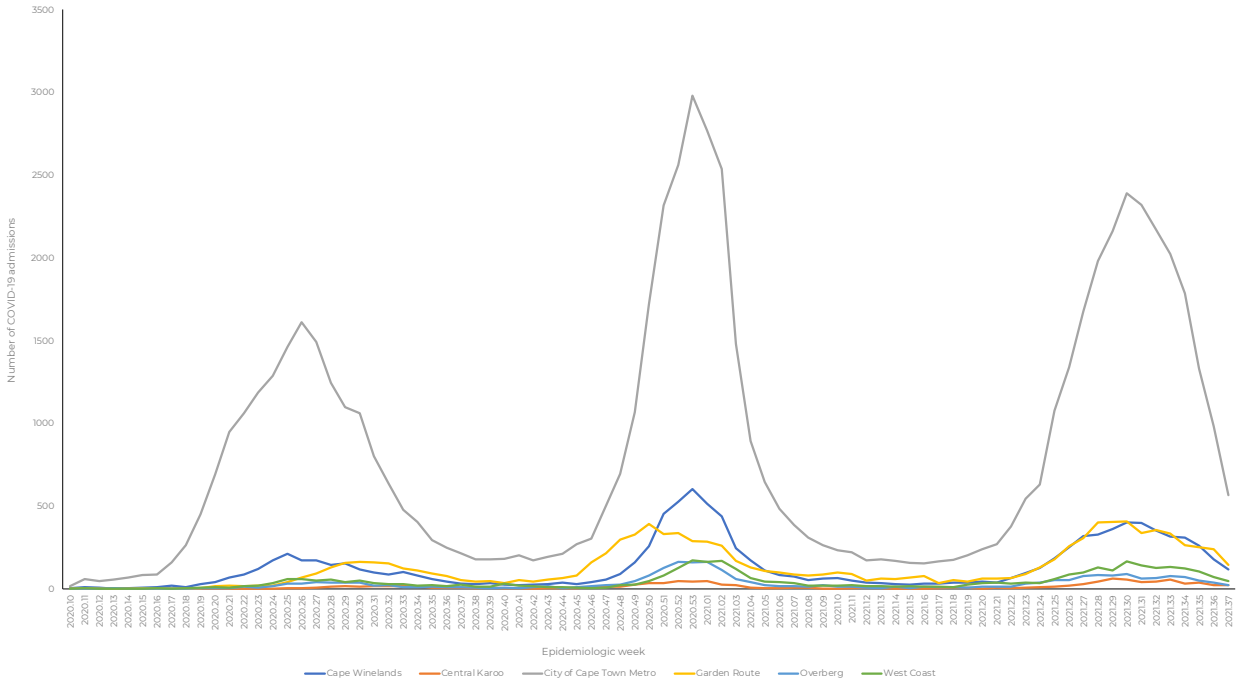

Figure 30: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Western Cape, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=95,151

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. 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.

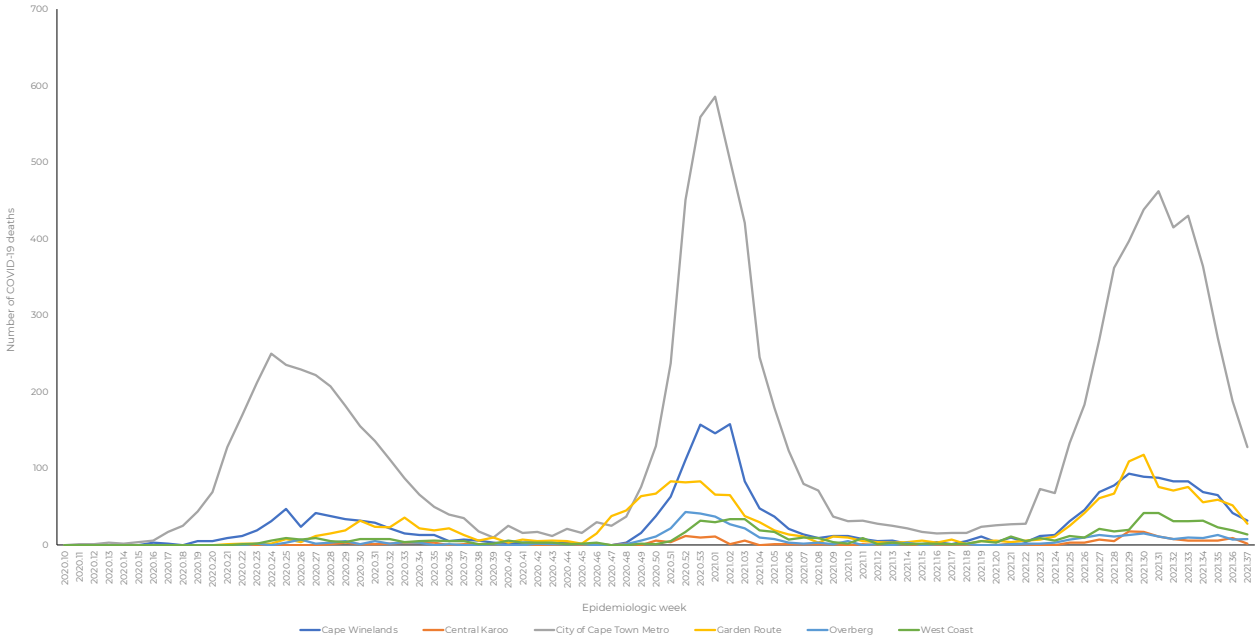

Figure 31: Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Western Cape, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021, n=16,705

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, 21 August-18 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	40.57	21.07	-48.06	9.57	5.29	-44.78
Central Karoo	5.00	3.14	-37.14	0.86	0.79	-8.33
City of Cape Town Metro	222.36	110.64	-50.24	45.36	22.57	-50.24
Garden Route	36.71	27.29	-25.68	8.21	5.71	-30.43
Overberg	8.71	4.29	-50.82	1.57	1.07	-31.82
West Coast	16.21	8.43	-48.02	3.93	2.36	-40.00

LIMITATIONS

DATCOV now includes reporting from all hospitals with COVID-19 admissions but many hospitals are yet to reach complete submission of historic data. Data quality in a surveillance system is dependent on the information submitted by healthcare institutions. It is not possible for the NICD to verify or check the quality of all these data, however, the NICD has built-in data quality checks. Delays in reporting of admissions and deaths may affect the numbers reported in the most recent week. The National Department of Health have recruited data capturers to support hospitals to improve data submission.

As hospitals reached capacity, admission criteria may change and therefore influence trends and inferences about the progression of the epidemic. DATCOV only reports hospital-based admissions and deaths and therefore does not include deaths occurring outside hospitals. DATCOV now has a module to record out-of-hospital deaths.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All public and private sector hospitals submitting data to DATCOV

Private hospital groups submitting data to DATCOV:

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

APPENDIX

Table 13: Percentage incidence change in hospital admissions over 14 days, by district, South Africa, 4 September-18 September 2021.

Province	District	Total admissions	Incidence (per 100k)	New admissions	New admissions incidence (per 100k)	% average change (14 days)
Eastern Cape	Alfred Nzo	2285	274.56	23	2.76	-36.11
	Amathole	2742	343.09	26	3.25	-51.85
	Buffalo City Metro	8976	1120.78	124	15.48	-31.11
	Chris Hani	4395	604.00	77	10.58	-29.36
	Joe Gqabi	950	275.39	10	2.90	-47.37
	Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	14351	1183.04	102	8.41	-51.66
	O R Tambo	4177	272.62	29	1.89	-59.72
	Sarah Baartman	2809	580.59	30	6.20	-46.43
Free State	Fezile Dabi	2976	583.39	35	6.86	-32.69
	Lejweleputswa	5264	805.38	56	8.57	-37.78
	Mangaung Metro	11907	1367.17	130	14.93	-40.09
	Thabo Mofutsanyana	4447	581.45	59	7.71	-14.49
	Xhariep	556	429.53	10	7.73	25.00
Gauteng	City of Johannesburg Metro	45438	774.53	106	1.81	-44.79
	City of Tshwane Metro	32886	881.87	199	5.34	-29.68
	Ekurhuleni Metro	26999	677.99	95	2.39	-18.80
	Sedibeng	8057	843.20	48	5.02	-23.81
	West Rand	10955	1147.44	21	2.20	-63.16
KwaZulu-Natal	Amajuba	3779	662.37	20	3.51	-4.76
	eThekwini Metro	30825	774.26	275	6.91	-37.64
	Harry Gwala	2069	402.51	25	4.86	-53.70
	iLembe	2658	382.70	7	1.01	-58.82
	King Cetshwayo	7446	767.10	86	8.86	-44.87
	Ugu	4401	548.94	41	5.11	-48.75
	uMgungundlovu	9230	803.00	65	5.65	-45.83

COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK **37** 2021

Province	District	Total admissions	Incidence (per 100k)	New admissions	New admissions incidence (per 100k)	% average change (14 days)
	uMkhanyakude	1233	179.50	14	2.04	-50.00
	Umzinyathi	1541	271.51	13	2.29	-31.58
	UThukela	2508	351.15	19	2.66	26.67
	Zululand	1823	206.97	34	3.86	-27.66
Limpopo	Capricorn	7228	552.62	32	2.45	-43.86
	Mopani	3034	256.06	17	1.43	-56.41
	Sekhukhune	1620	136.10	7	0.59	0.00
	Vhembe	2317	162.34	13	0.91	-7.14
	Waterberg	2759	371.73	15	2.02	-25.00
Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni	6275	343.13	29	1.59	-66.67
	Gert Sibande	6146	494.78	62	4.99	-31.87
	Nkangala	5388	334.89	58	3.60	-23.68
North West	Bojanala Platinum	9589	497.31	47	2.44	-49.46
	Dr Kenneth Kaunda	14499	1817.56	147	18.43	-52.27
	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	1911	403.95	12	2.54	-63.64
	Ngaka Modiri Molema	1800	197.83	2	0.22	-94.29
Northern Cape	Frances Baard	4378	1055.17	65	15.67	-2.99
	John Taolo Gaetsewe	1310	482.55	15	5.53	-42.31
	Namakwa	987	853.71	18	15.57	5.88
	Pixley Ka Seme	773	366.55	9	4.27	-43.75
	ZF Mgcawu	1924	687.39	26	9.29	-45.83
Western Cape	Cape Winelands	10878	1155.68	188	19.97	-36.91
	Central Karoo	1088	1448.48	39	51.92	30.00
	City of Cape Town Metro	67576	1467.45	913	19.83	-44.19
	Garden Route	10599	1699.49	201	32.23	-37.19
	Overberg	2576	858.93	34	11.34	-40.35
	West Coast	3654	792.95	62	13.45	-40.95

APPENDIX

Table 14: Number of reported COVID-19 admissions and in-hospital deaths by age and gender, South Africa, 5 March 2020-18 September 2021.

	ADMISSIONS				DEATHS			
Age (years)	**Female**	**Male**	**Unknown**	**Total**	**Female**	**Male**	**Unknown**	**Total**
0-4	3413	4142	26	7581	126	136	2	264
5-9	952	1191	7	2150	20	20	0	40
10-14	1580	1515	4	3099	50	44	0	94
15-19	4643	2488	3	7134	111	107	0	218
20-24	7267	3630	6	10903	258	198	1	457
25-29	12059	5514	13	17586	593	387	0	980
30-34	16026	9282	7	25315	1020	832	0	1852
35-39	17498	12908	20	30426	1535	1410	3	2948
40-44	16694	14904	14	31612	1942	1972	1	3915
45-49	19207	18843	13	38063	2874	2984	1	5859
50-54	22712	21075	12	43799	3974	4090	3	8067
55-59	25440	22969	20	48429	5703	5677	8	11388
60-64	22307	20374	20	42701	6116	6291	6	12413
65-69	19060	16981	19	36060	6300	5852	6	12158
70-74	15874	13953	23	29850	5527	5366	8	10901
75-79	11726	9629	10	21365	4342	4025	3	8370
80-84	8835	6036	9	14880	3503	2705	3	6211
85-89	4632	2855	5	7492	1915	1388	1	3304
90-94	2006	958	1	2965	938	508	0	1446
>=95	602	310	2	914	286	129	0	415
Unknown	1084	1055	46	2185	71	105	0	176
Total	**233617**	**190612**	**280**	**424509**	**47204**	**44226**	**46**	**91476**