

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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

SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 47 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 27 November 2021.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 27 November 2021, 437,832 COVID-19 admissions and 94,616 in-hospital deaths were reported to DATCOV from 665 facilities (407 public-sector and 258 private-sector) in all nine provinces of South Africa.
- There has been an increase in weekly COVID-19 admissions in Gauteng in both private and public sectors. The increase in admissions was first observed in City of Tshwane Metro in week 45 and in all other Gauteng districts in week 46. There has also been an increase in admissions in North West, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Eastern Cape provinces since week 46.
- In City of Tshwane Metro, from 14-27 November 2021, 640 admissions and 23 deaths were reported from the public and private health sectors. Most (87%) patients were admitted for COVID-19 symptoms. 11% of all admissions were in children younger than 2 years.
- During the early third wave, most admissions (66%) were in individuals older than 50 years, while during the early fourth wave, most admissions (68%) were in individuals younger than 40 years.
- Among patients who already had a hospital outcome and were no longer still in hospital, during the early third wave, 66.1% of COVID-19 admissions were severe, and during the early fourth wave, 32.9% were severe. However, there was higher percentage of severe admissions among children <20 years during the fourth wave. It must be noted that severity data has several limitations at the early phase of the wave when numbers are small, mild patients are more likely to be admitted as a precaution, patients are diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 incidentally when admitted for other reasons, and because there has not been sufficient follow-up time for severity and outcomes to have emerged.

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## METHODS

Data on hospitalisation was accessed from DATCOV, a hospital surveillance system for COVID-19 admissions, 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.

Data on SARS-CoV-2 cases diagnosed in public and private laboratories submitted to the NICD were reported from the line list on the NMCSS.

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. For comparisons of change in admission, we used 14-day daily average admissions in the current 14-day period compared to the previous 14-day period.

Severity was defined as patients receiving oxygen or invasive ventilation, treated in high care or intensive care wards, developing acute respiratory distress syndrome, or died. While oxygen, ventilation and ward of stay variables are updated daily for all admissions in the private sector, there may be delays with the data being updated in the public sector. Also, as patients remain in hospital their condition may change and percentage of severity may change over time.

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 27 November 2021, a total of 665 facilities submitted data on hospitalised COVID-19 cases, 407 from public sector and 258 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 2020-27 November 2021.

Name of province	Public Sector	Private Sector
Eastern Cape	86	18
Free State	35	20
Gauteng	40	94
KwaZulu-Natal	69	47
Limpopo	41	7
Mpumalanga	31	9
North West	17	13
Northern Cape	29	6
Western Cape	59	44
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>258</b>

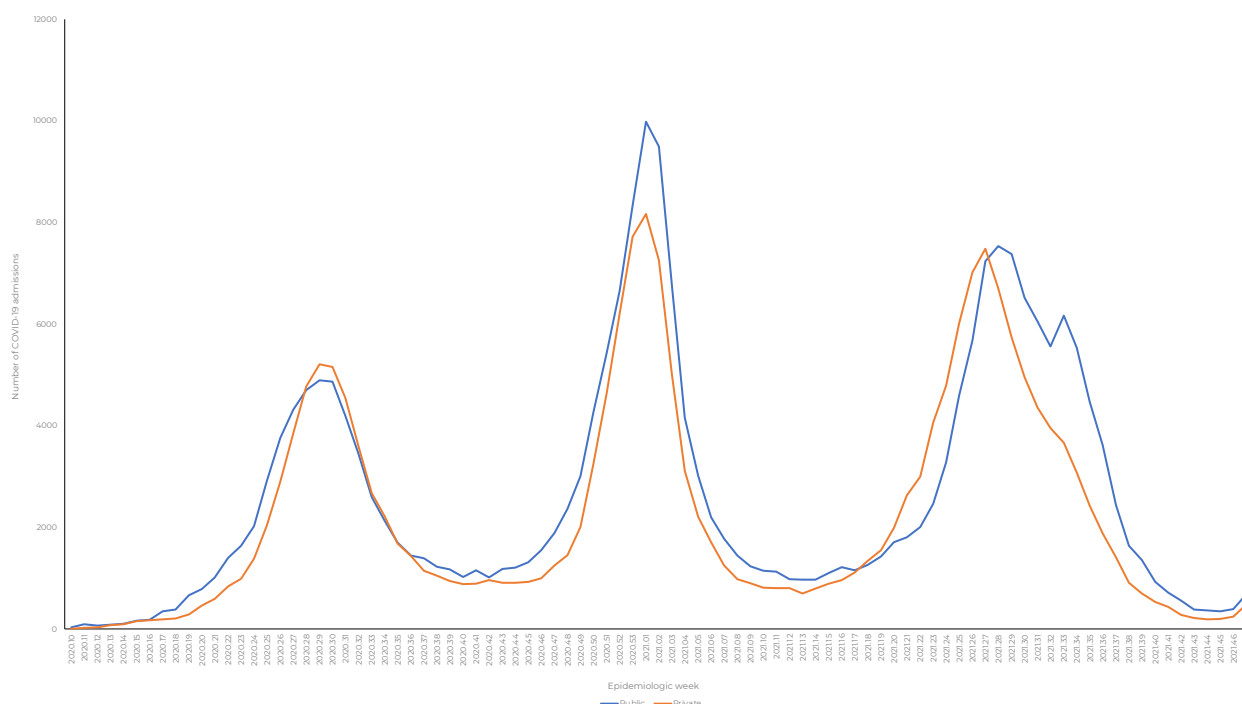
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## RESULTS

### Epidemiological and geographic trends in admissions

From 5 March 2020 to 27 November 2021, a total of 437,832 COVID-19 admissions were reported from 665 facilities in all nine provinces of South Africa. South Africa experienced three waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. There has been an increase in admissions in both sectors since week 45 of 2021 (Figure 1).

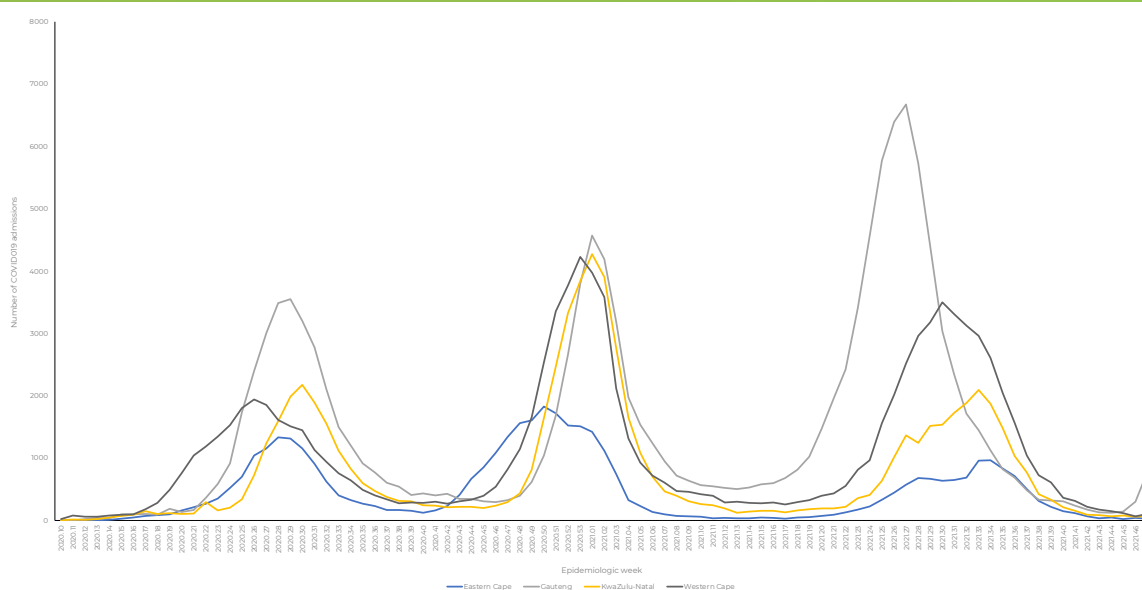


**Figure 1.** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=437,832

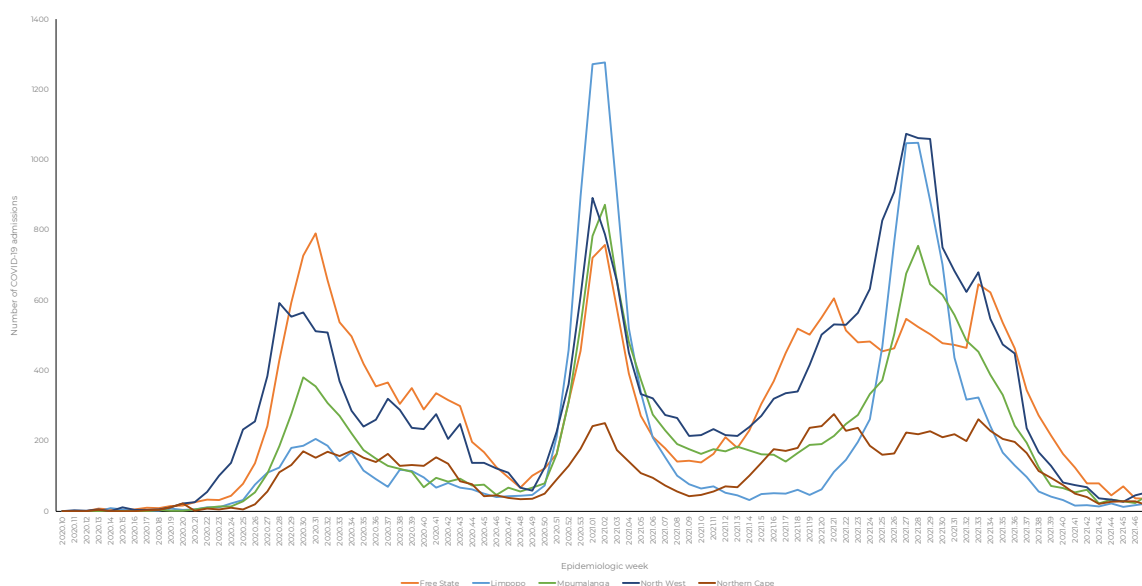
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The majority of admissions were recorded in four provinces, Gauteng 126,890 (29%), Western Cape 98,442 (23%), KwaZulu-Natal 69,950 (16%) and Eastern Cape 41,525 (10%) provinces. The weekly COVID-19 admissions have increased in Gauteng since week 45 (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 2020-27 November 2021, N=437,832



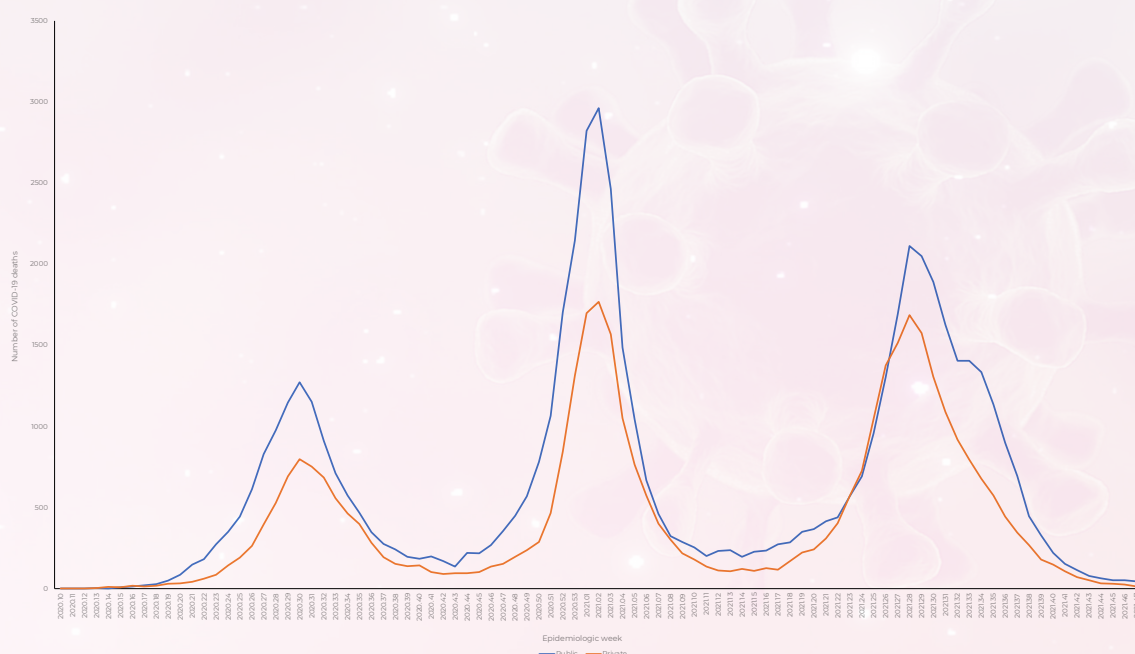
**Figure 2b.** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by provinces with lowest admissions and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, South Africa, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=437,832

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## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN IN-HOSPITAL MORTALITY

A total of 94,616 COVID-19 in-hospital deaths were reported in all nine provinces of South Africa. More deaths have been reported in the public sector in all three waves. There has been a sustained decrease in in-hospital COVID-19 deaths in both sectors since the third wave peak (Figure 3).

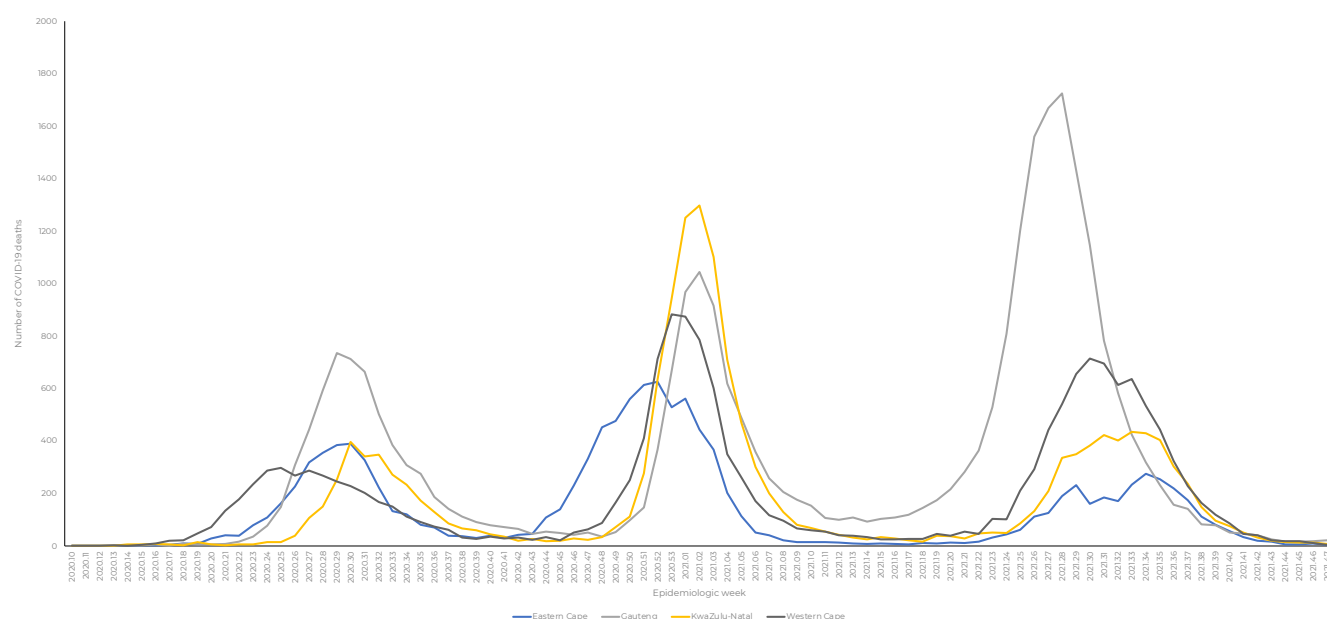


**Figure 3.** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by health sector and epidemiologic week, South Africa, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=94,616

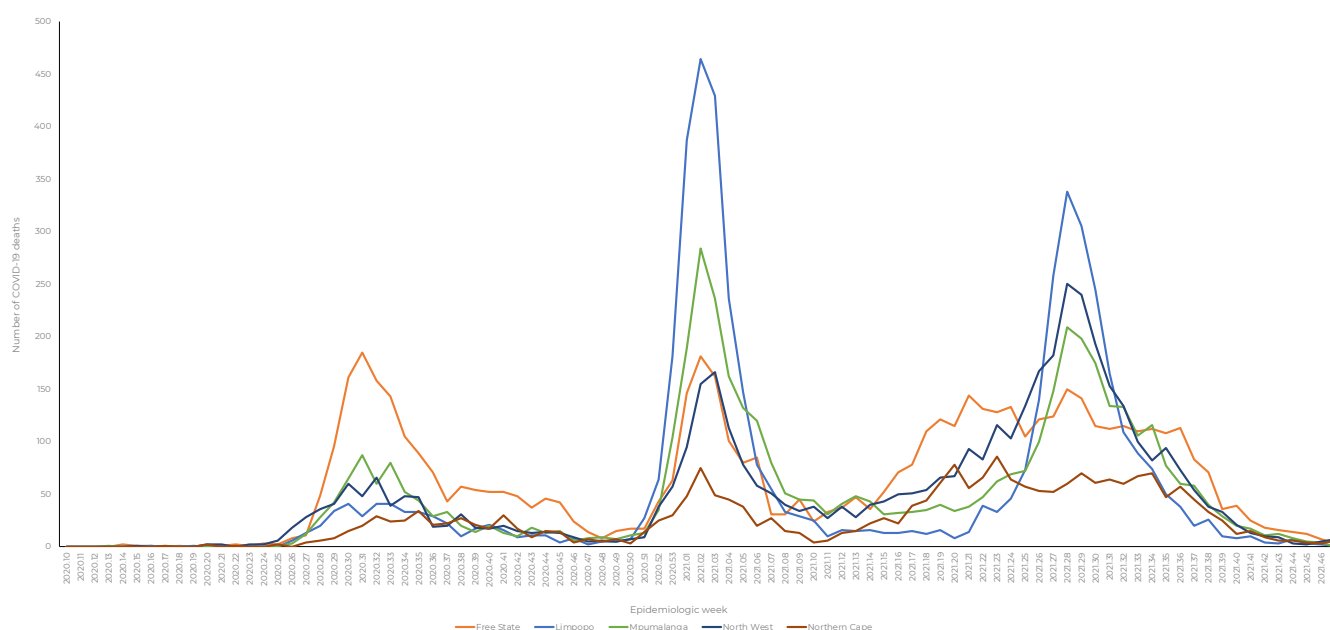
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Most deaths were reported in Gauteng 27,793 (29%), Western Cape 17,205 (18%), KwaZulu-Natal 15,728 (17%), and Eastern Cape 12,195 (13%). There has been a sustained post-peak decrease in deaths in all provinces since the third wave peak. (Figures 4a 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 2020-27 November 2021, N=94,616



**Figure 4b.** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by province with lowest deaths and epidemiologic week of death, South Africa, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=94,616

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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 2020-27 November 2021.

Province	Provincial Population mid 2020*	Cumulative admissions	Cumulative Admissions / 100,000	Cumulative deaths	Cumulative deaths / 100,000
Eastern Cape	6734001	41525	616.6	12195	181.1
Free State	2928903	26500	904.8	5594	191.0
Gauteng	15488137	126 890	819.3	27793	179.4
KwaZulu-Natal	11531628	69950	606.6	15726	136.4
Limpopo	5852553	17298	295.6	4869	83.2
Mpumalanga	4679786	18486	395.0	4512	96.4
North West	4108816	28 780	700.4	4446	108.2
Northern Cape	1292786	9 961	770.5	2274	175.9
Western Cape	7005741	98 442	1405.2	17204	245.6
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>59622350</b>	<b>437 832</b>	<b>734.3</b>	<b>94 613</b>	<b>158.7</b>

\*StatsSA mid-year population estimates 2020

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## PROVINCIAL TRENDS

Three provinces had an increase in the average daily COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days, Gauteng, Limpopo and North West (Table 3).

**Table 3.** Previous 14 days and current 14 days daily average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, South Africa, 30 October-27 November 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	5.21	5.29	1.37	0.86	1.00	16.67
Free State	8.36	5.21	-37.61	1.86	0.71	-61.54
Gauteng	19.21	77.71	304.46	2.43	2.86	17.65
KwaZulu-Natal	10.50	9.71	-7.48	2.00	1.50	-25.00
Limpopo	2.57	2.93	13.89	0.71	0.21	-70.00
Mpumalanga	4.36	4.79	9.84	0.93	0.29	-69.23
North West	4.29	7.07	65.00	0.36	0.86	140.00
Northern Cape	3.93	3.29	-16.36	0.71	0.64	-10.00
Western Cape	19.14	12.29	-35.82	2.57	1.07	-58.33

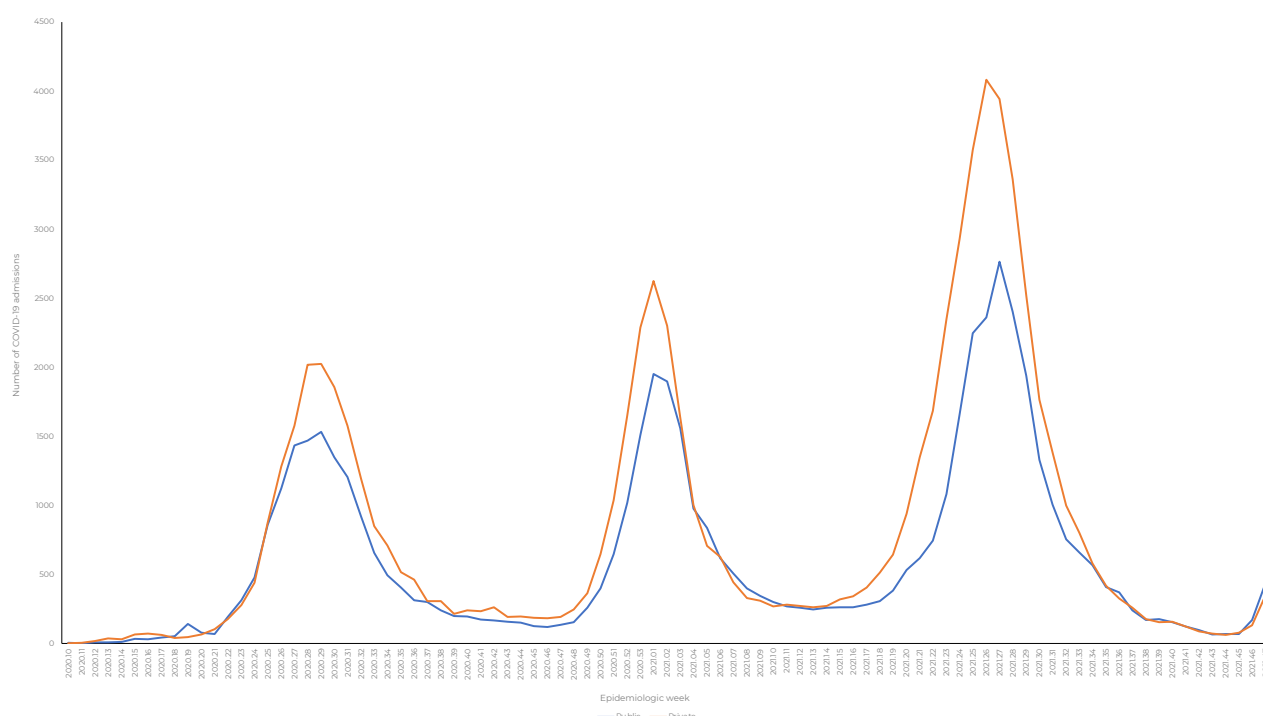
\* Reporting of new admissions in the most recent week may be delayed

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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. 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 5). There has been an increase in admissions in both sectors since week 45.

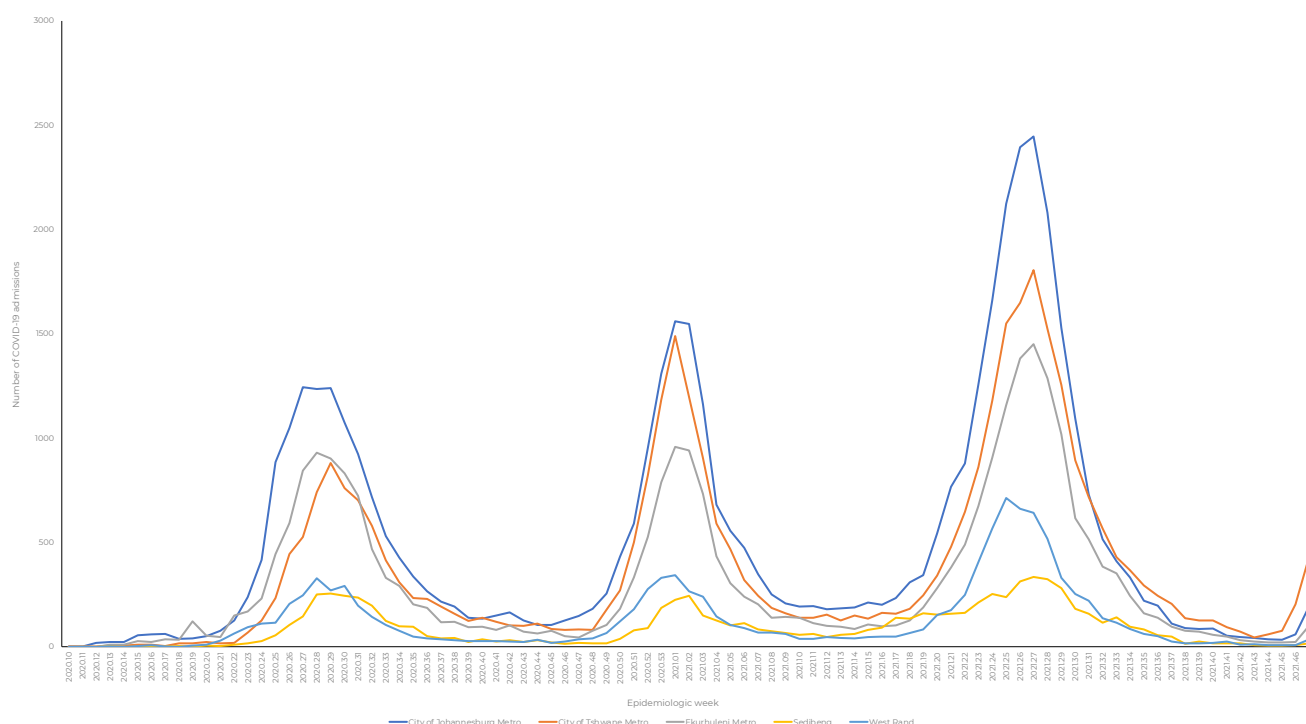


**Figure 5:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=126,890

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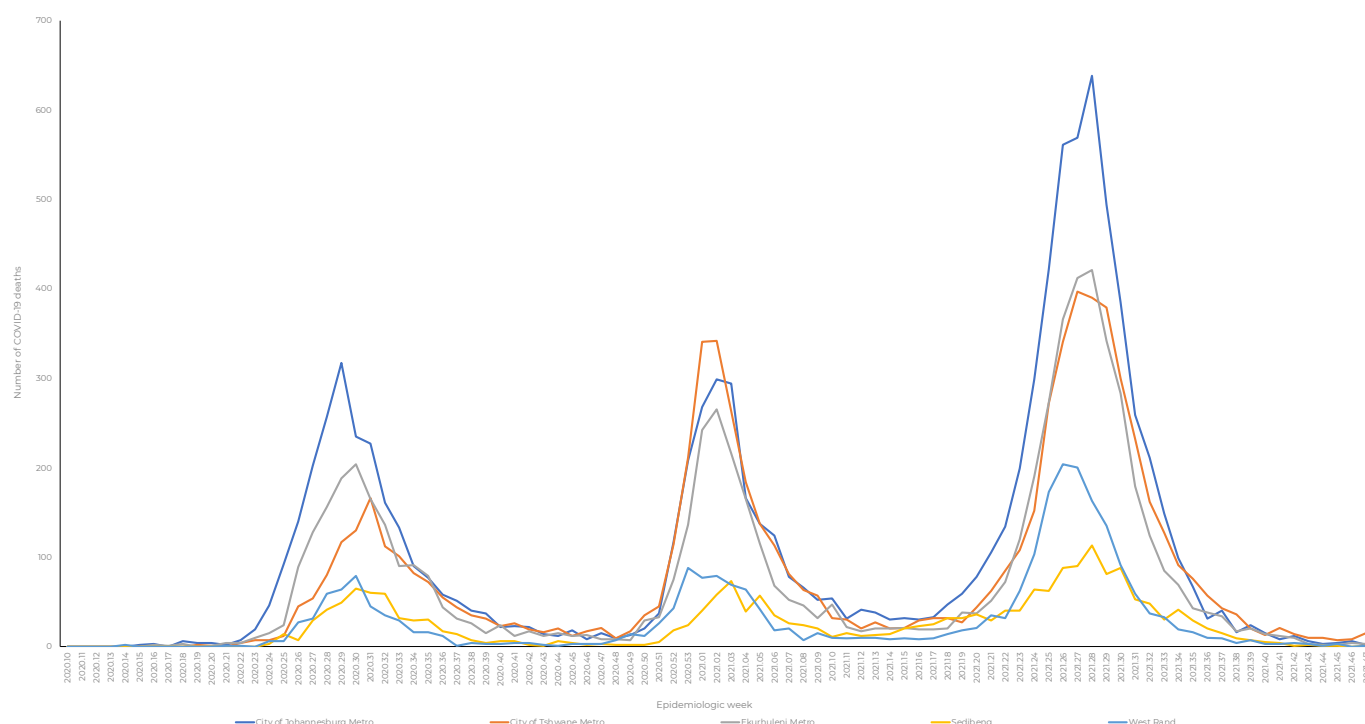
Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in City of Johannesburg Metro, City of Tshwane Metro, Ekurhuleni Metro and West Rand. Weekly admissions at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in all districts (Figure 6). There has been an increase in admissions in City of Tshwane Metro since week 45, City of Johannesburg Metro, Ekurhuleni Metro, Sedibeng and West Rand since week 46.



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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. Weekly deaths at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the second wave in all districts (Figure 7). There has been a small increase in deaths in City of Tshwane Metro since week 46.



**Figure 7.** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Gauteng, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=27,793

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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 districts, and an increase in average daily COVID-19 in-hospital deaths in City of Johannesburg, City of Tshwane Metro and Ekurhuleni Metro (Table 4).

**Table 4:** Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Gauteng, 30 October-27 November 2021.

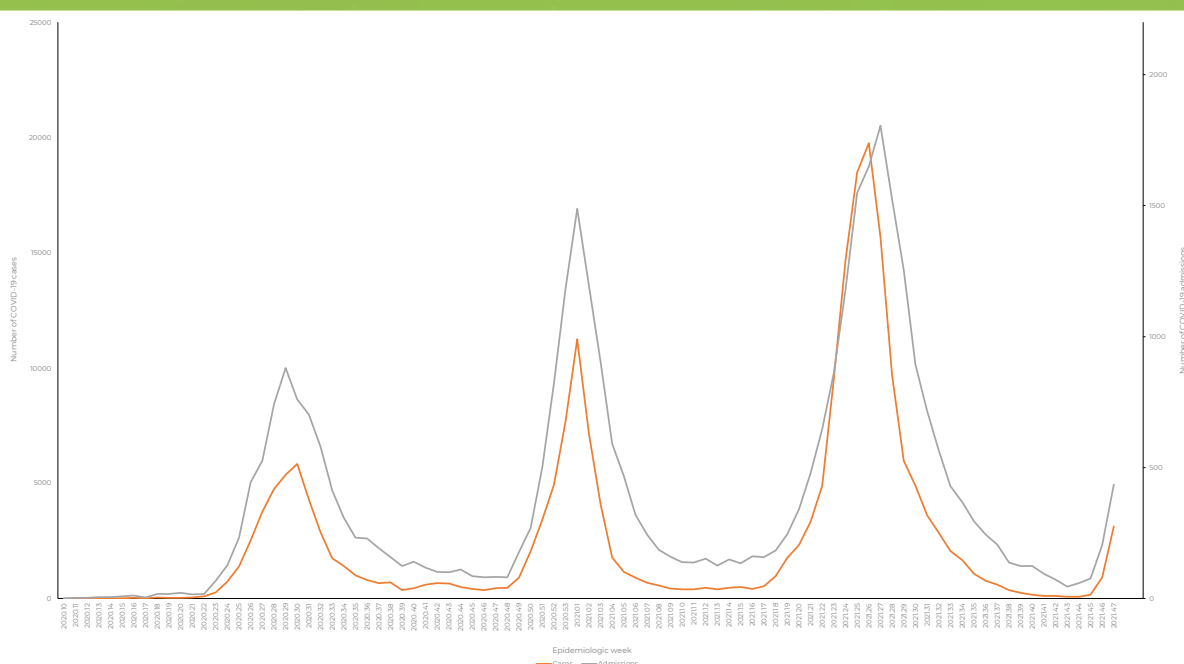
District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
City of Johannesburg Metro	4,86	18,29	276,47	0,50	0,57	14,29
City of Tshwane Metro	9,71	45,71	370,59	1,21	1,64	35,29
Ekurhuleni Metro	2,86	9,00	215,00	0,29	0,50	75,00
Sedibeng	0,79	1,71	118,18	0,14	0,07	-50,00
West Rand	1,00	3,00	200,00	0,29	0,07	-75,00

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## RESURGENCE CITY OF TSHWANE METRO

There has been an increase in SARS-CoV-2 cases and COVID-19 admissions in City of Tswane Metro since week 45 (Figure 8). From 14-27 November 2021, there were 4,062 SARS-CoV-2 cases and 640 admissions in City of Tshwane Metro, 373 (58.3%) in the public sector and 267 (41.7%) in the private sector. The overall proportion of cases admitted was 15.8%. Among patients admitted, 422 (65.9%) were discharged alive, 44 (6.9%) transferred to another facility, 23 (3.6%) died, and 144 (22.5%) were still in hospital.



**Figure 8:** Number of SARS-CoV-2 cases and COVID-19 admissions, by epidemiologic week, City of Tshwane, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021

The prevalence of comorbidities was highest in patients older than 50 years while patients younger than 40 years had low prevalence (<10%) of comorbidities. The median length of stay was 3 days for younger patients 0-9 years and was lowest amongst younger patients (Table 5).

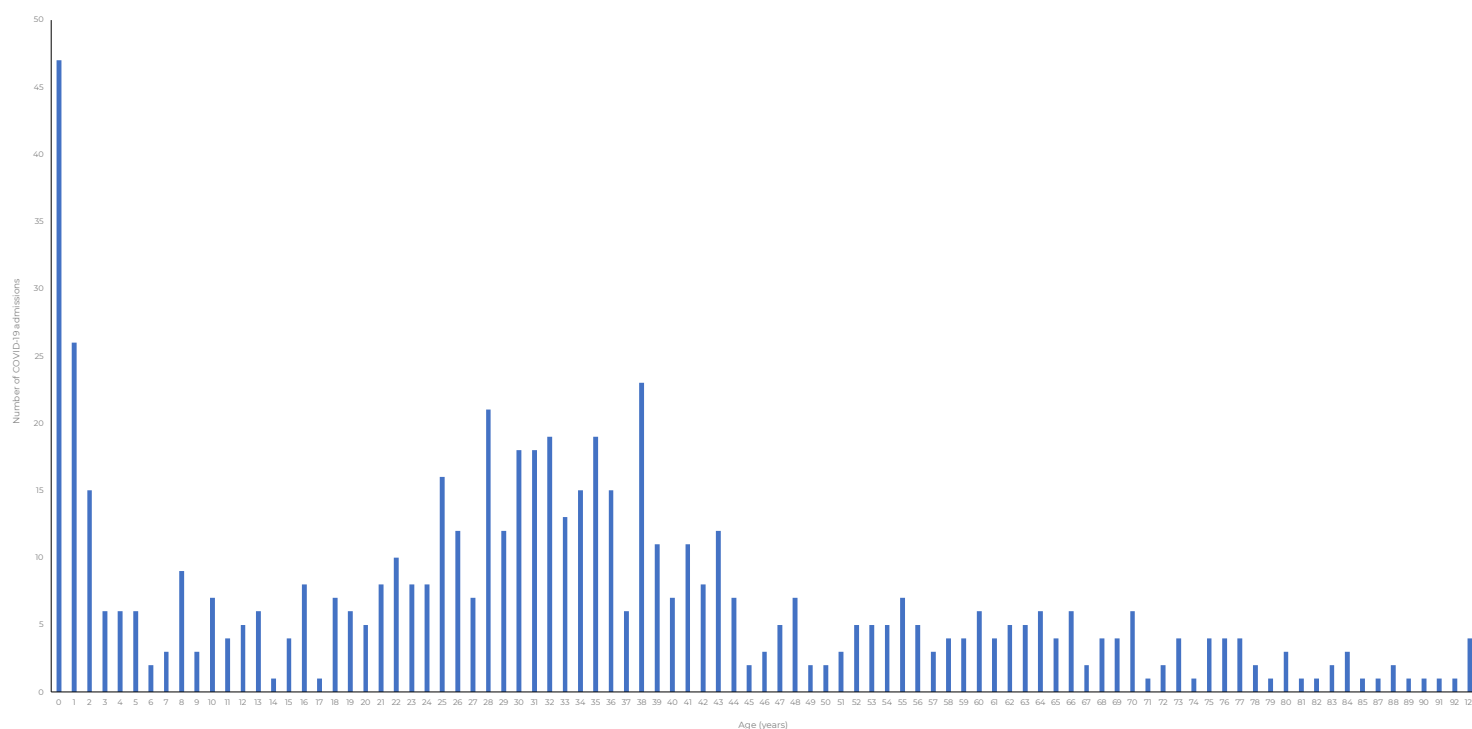
**Table 5.** Description of COVID-19 admissions, City of Tshwane Metro, 14-27 November 2021

Characteristic	Age group in years												
	0-4	5-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	50-54	55-59	>60
Number of admissions	100	23	49	107	157	64	43	46	29	22	2.5	2.5	3.1
Percent with comorbidities	1%	4%	2%	4%	8%	19%	23%	26%	31%	18%	0.4	0.5	2.5
Average LOS (days)	3	3	5	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	1.3	2.0	1.6

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Children younger than 2 years (73/640) comprised 11.4% of all admissions during this period (Figure 9).

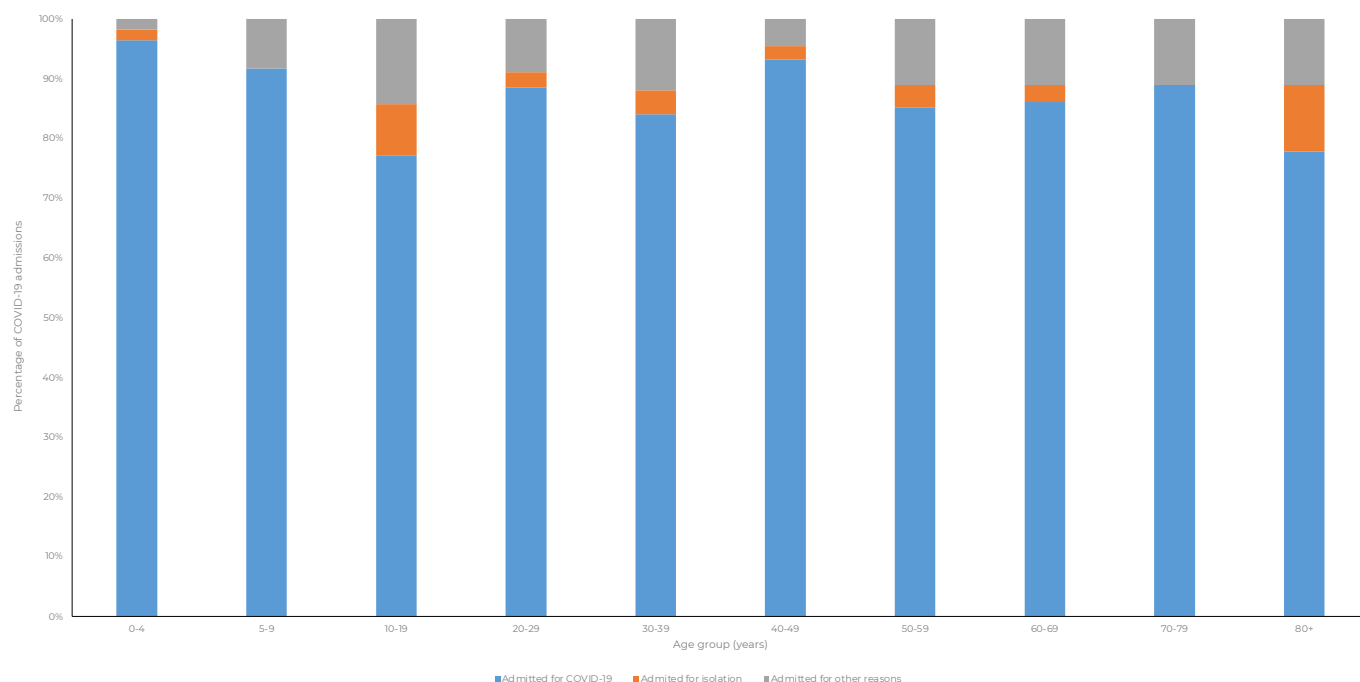


**Figure 9:** Number of COVID-19 admissions by age in years, City of Tshwane Metro, 11-27 November 2021

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The reason for admission was available for 415 (64.8%) admissions. Most patients (363, 87%) were reported to be admitted for COVID-19 symptoms, while 14 (3%) were admitted for isolation and 38 (9%) tested SARS-CoV-2 positive incidentally when admitted for other reasons (Figure 10).

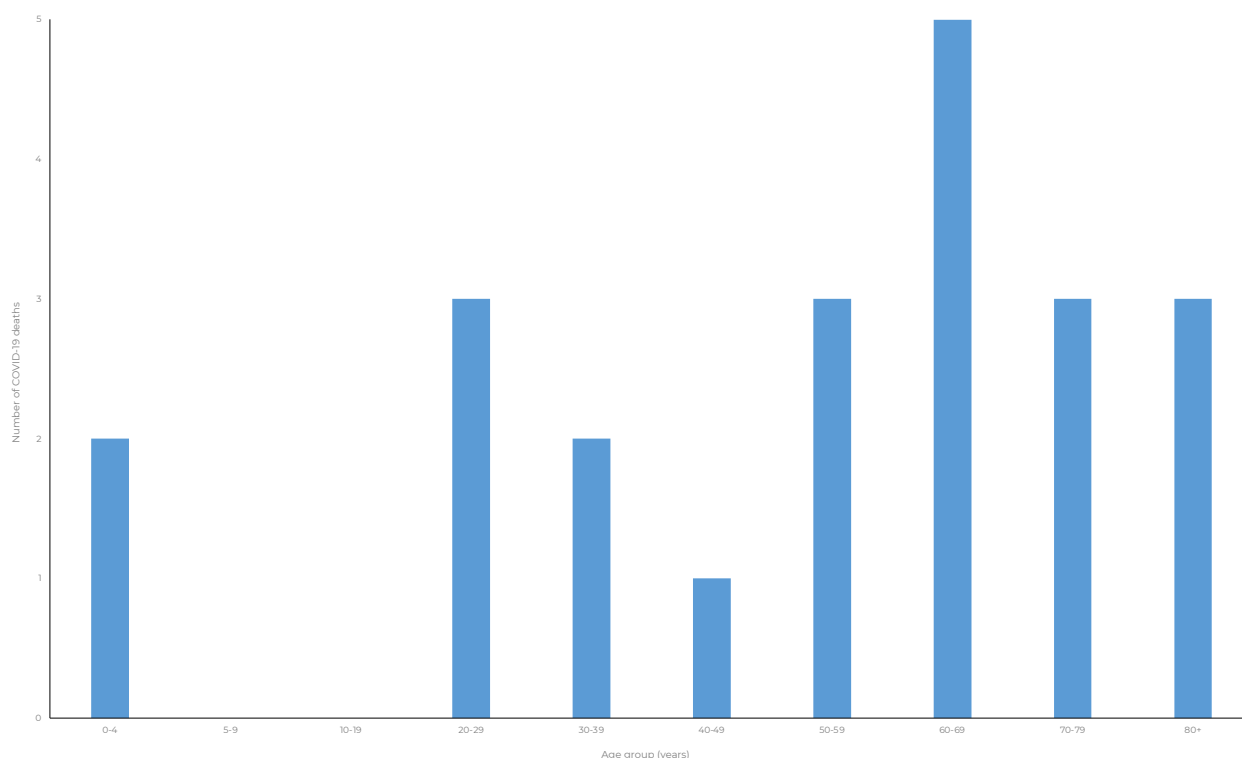


**Figure 10:** Reason for admission among patients admitted and tested SARS-CoV-2 positive, by age group (in years), City of Tshwane Metro, 14-27 November 2021

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Among the 23 deaths in City of Tshwane from 14-27 November 2021, 7 deaths were in patients older than 60 years and 3 deaths in patients younger than 20 years (Figure 11).

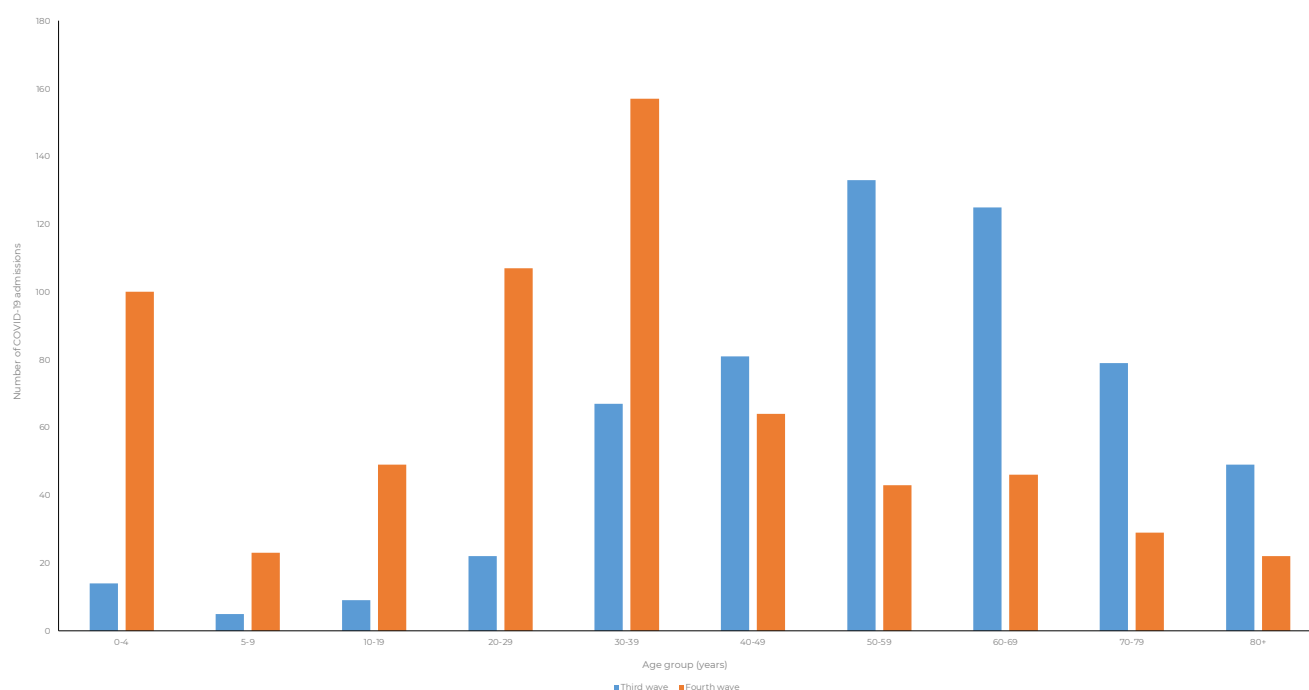


**Figure 11:** Number of COVID-19 deaths by age group, City of Tshwane Metro, 14-27 November 2021, N=23

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The numbers of COVID-19 admissions in City of Tshwane during the first two weeks of the third wave (9-22 May 2021) and the fourth wave (14-27 November 2021) were compared. There were 584 admissions in the early third wave and 640 admissions in the early fourth wave. During the early third wave, most admissions (386/584, 66.1%) were in older age groups >50 years, while during the early fourth wave, most admissions (436/640, 68.1%) were in younger age groups <40 years (Figure 12).

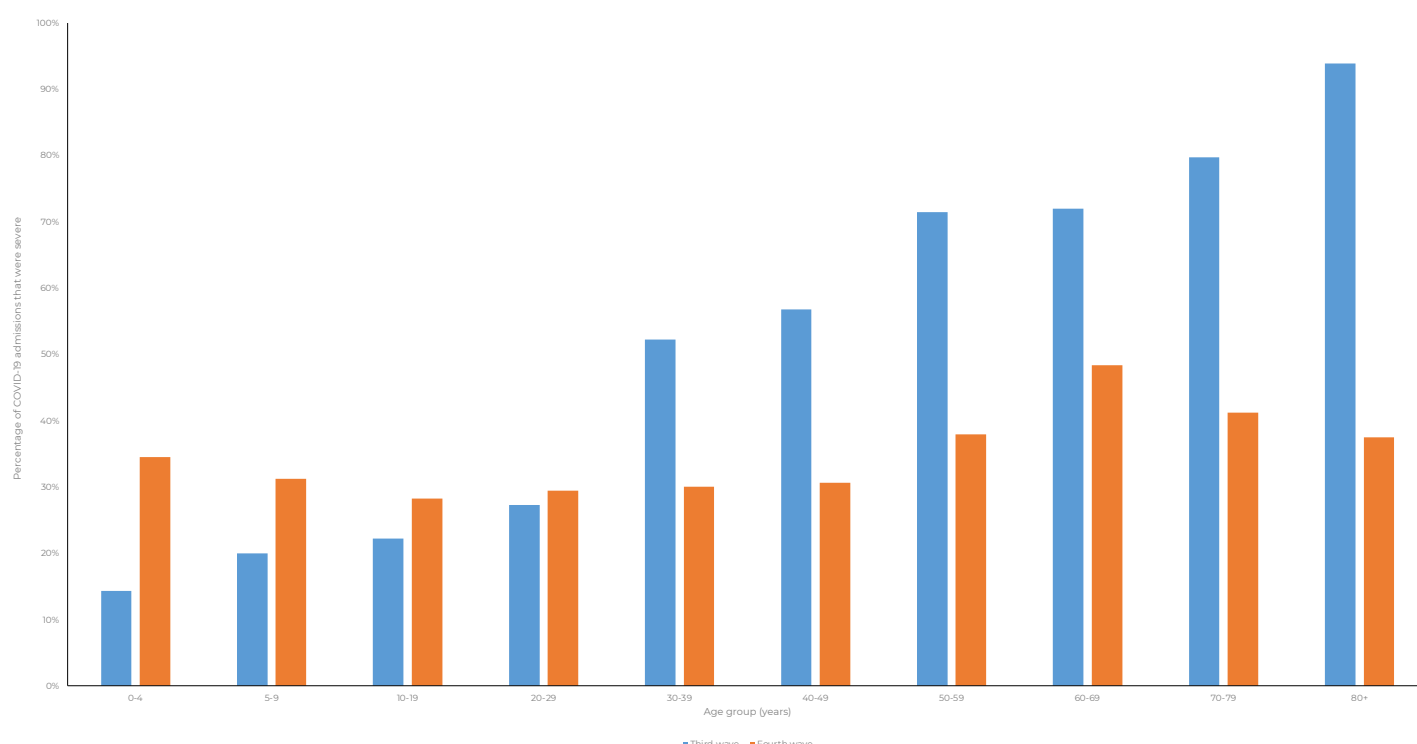


**Figure 12:** Number of COVID-19 admissions in first two weeks of third and fourth wave, by age group in years, City of Tshwane Metro, 9-22 May 2021 and 14-27 November 2021

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

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Among patients who already had a hospital outcome and were no longer still in hospital, during the early third wave, 386/584 (66.1%) of COVID-19 admissions were severe, and during the early fourth wave, 161/489 (32.9%) were severe. This differed by age group, with higher percentage of severe admissions among children <20 years during the fourth wave, and higher proportion of severe admissions among adults older than 30 years in the third wave (Figure 13).



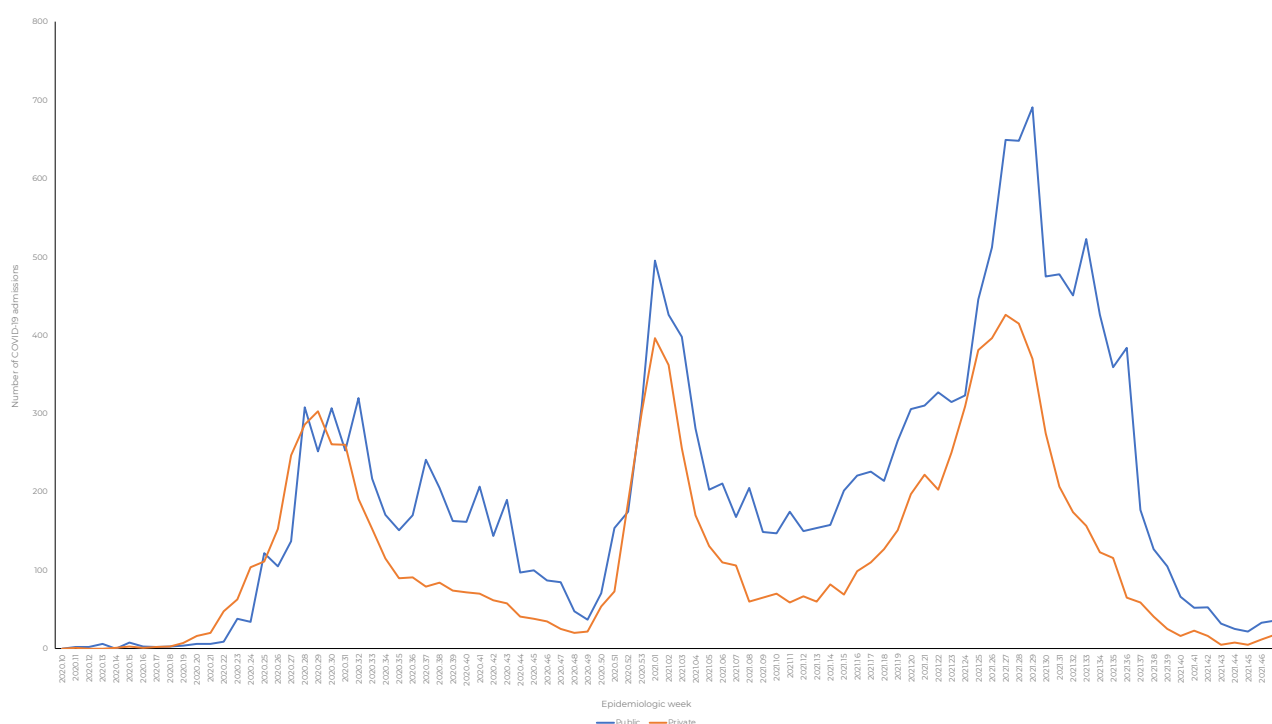
**Figure 13:** Percentage of COVID-19 admissions that were severe in first two weeks of third and fourth wave, by age group in years, City of Tshwane Metro, 9-22 May 2021 and 14-27 November 2021

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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. 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 14). There has been a small increase in numbers of weekly admissions in both sectors since week 46.

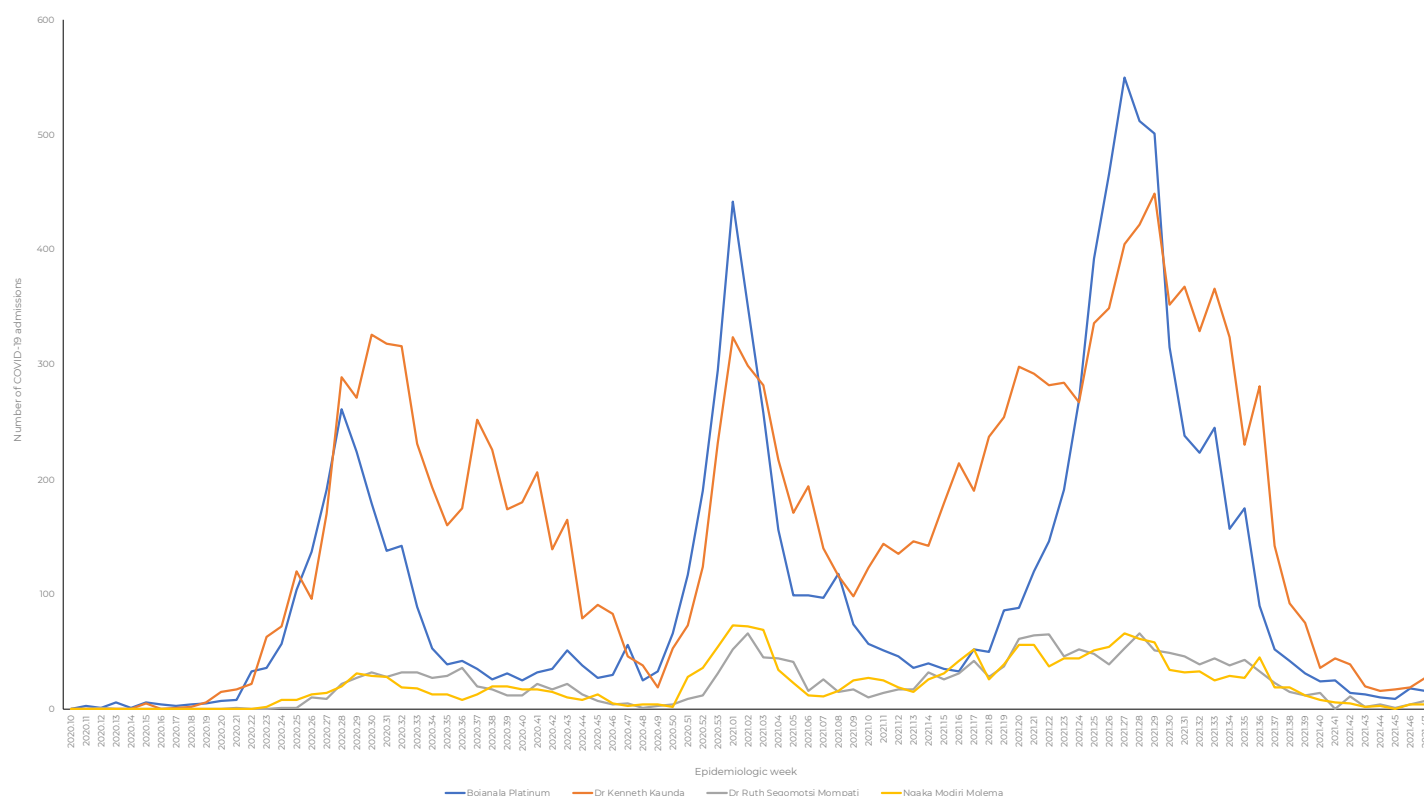


**Figure 14:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, North West, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=28,780

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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. 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 15). There has been an increase in the numbers of weekly admissions in Dr Kenneth Kaunda since week 46.

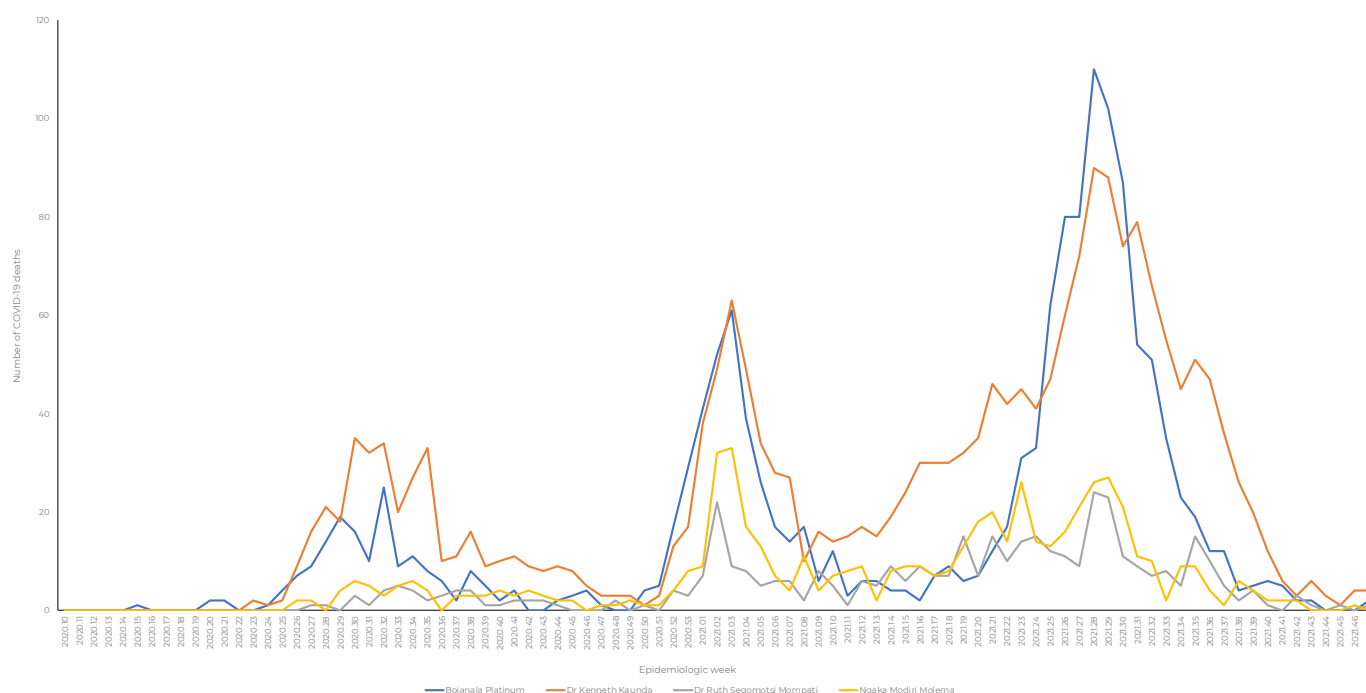


**Figure 15:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, North West, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=28,780

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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. Weekly deaths at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the second wave in Bojanala Platinum and Dr Kenneth Kaunda (Figure 16). Since the third wave peak, 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, North West, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=4,446

There has been an increase 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, North West, 30 October-27 November 2021.

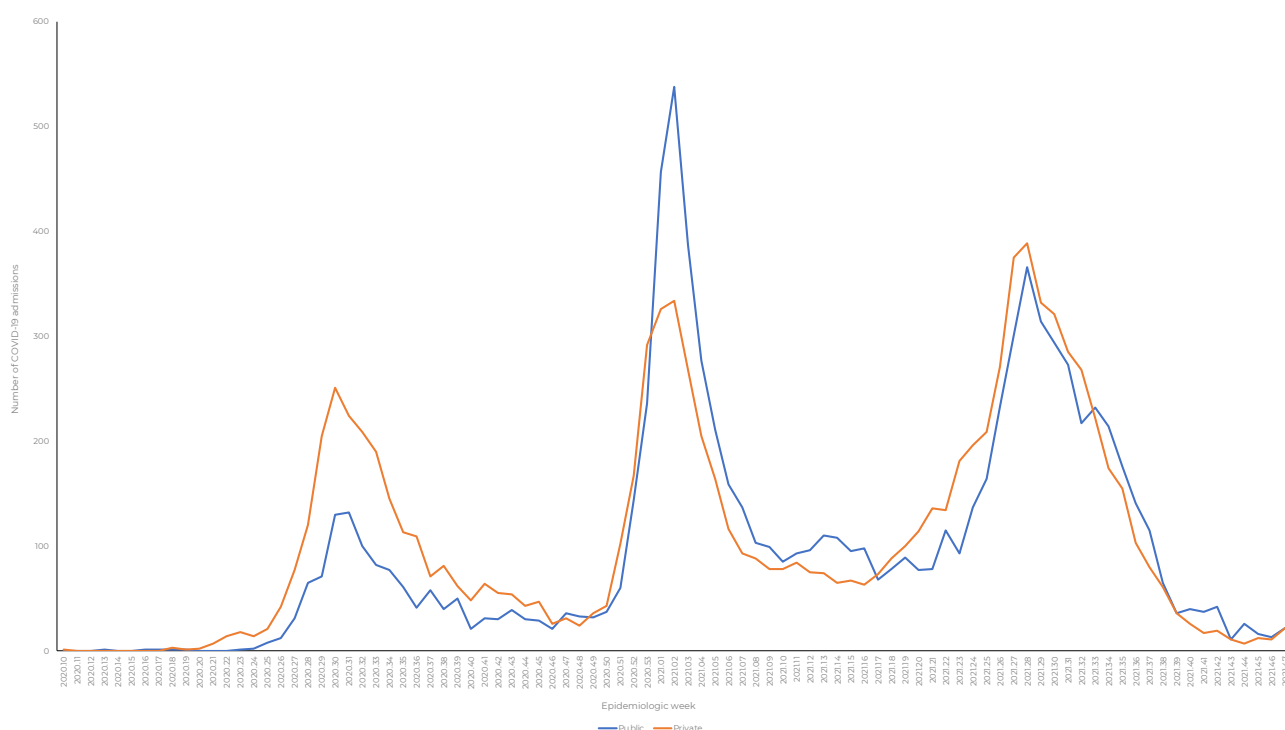
District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
Bojanala Platinum	1,36	2,43	78,95	0,00	0,14	0,00
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	2,36	3,29	39,39	0,29	0,57	100,00
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	0,36	0,79	120,00	0,07	0,07	0,00
Ngaka Modiri Molema	0,21	0,57	166,67	0,00	0,07	0,00

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## 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. 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 17). There has been a small increase in admissions in both sectors since week 46.

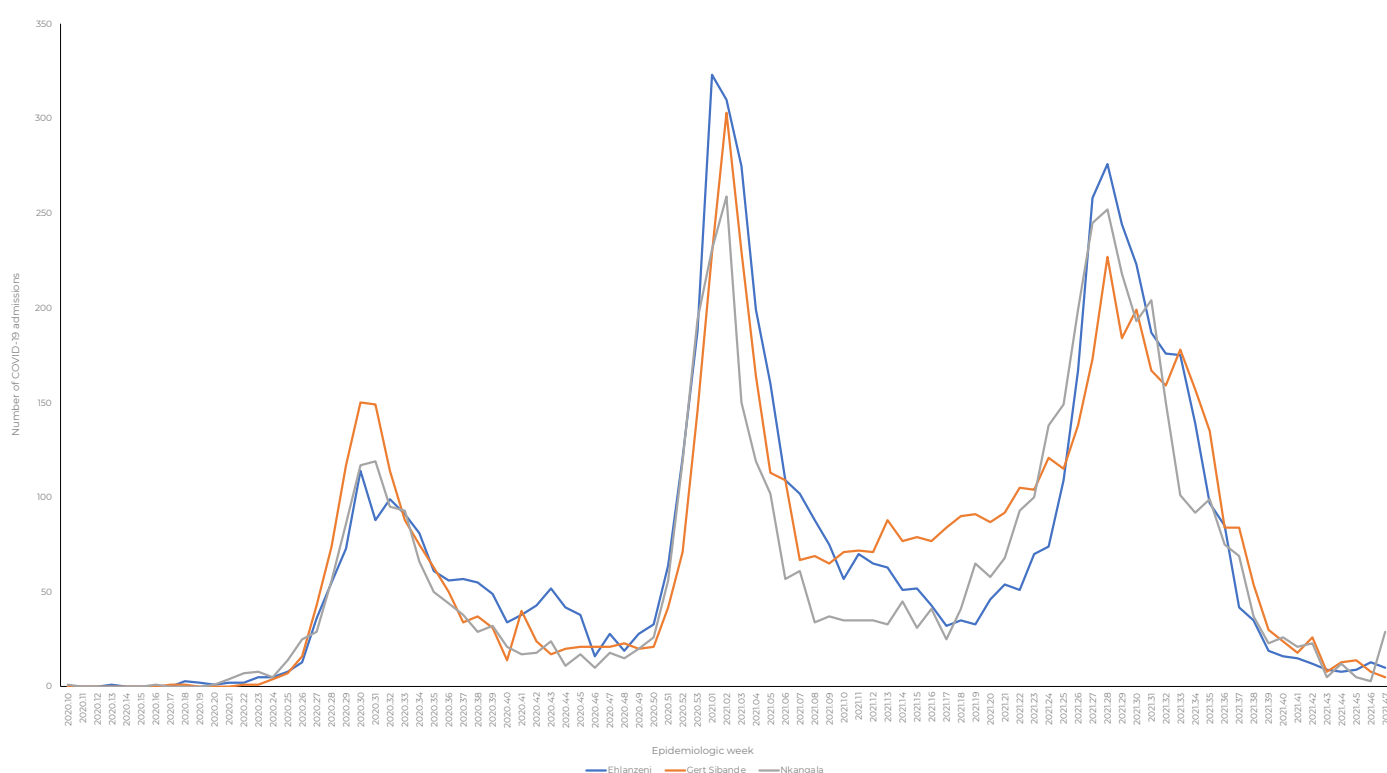


**Figure 17:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=18,486

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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, while weekly admissions in the third wave were lower than the second wave in all districts (Figure 18). There has been an increase in the number of weekly admissions in Nkangala since week 46.

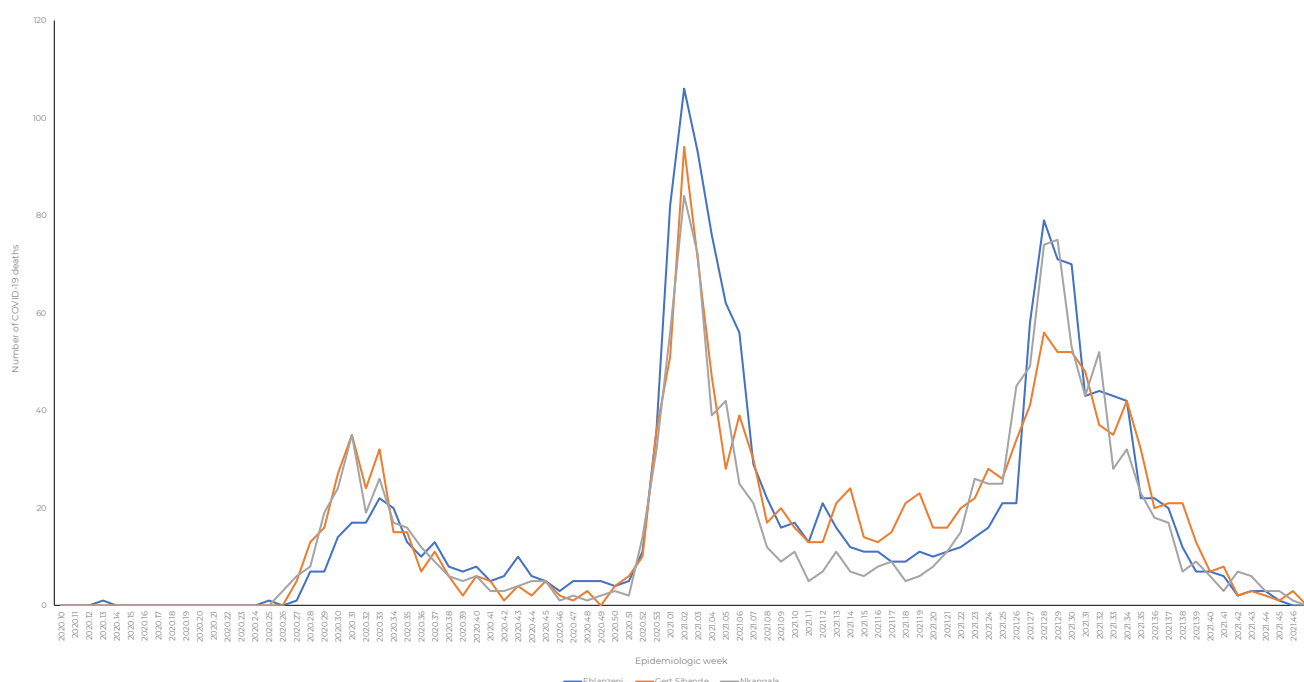


**Figure 18:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=18,486

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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, while weekly deaths in the third wave were lower than the second wave in all districts (Figure 19). Since the third wave peak, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of deaths in all districts.



**Figure 19:** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Mpumalanga, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=4,512

There has been a small increase in average daily COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in Ehlanzeni and Nkangala (Table 7).

**Table 7:** Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Mpumalanga, 30 October-27 November 2021.

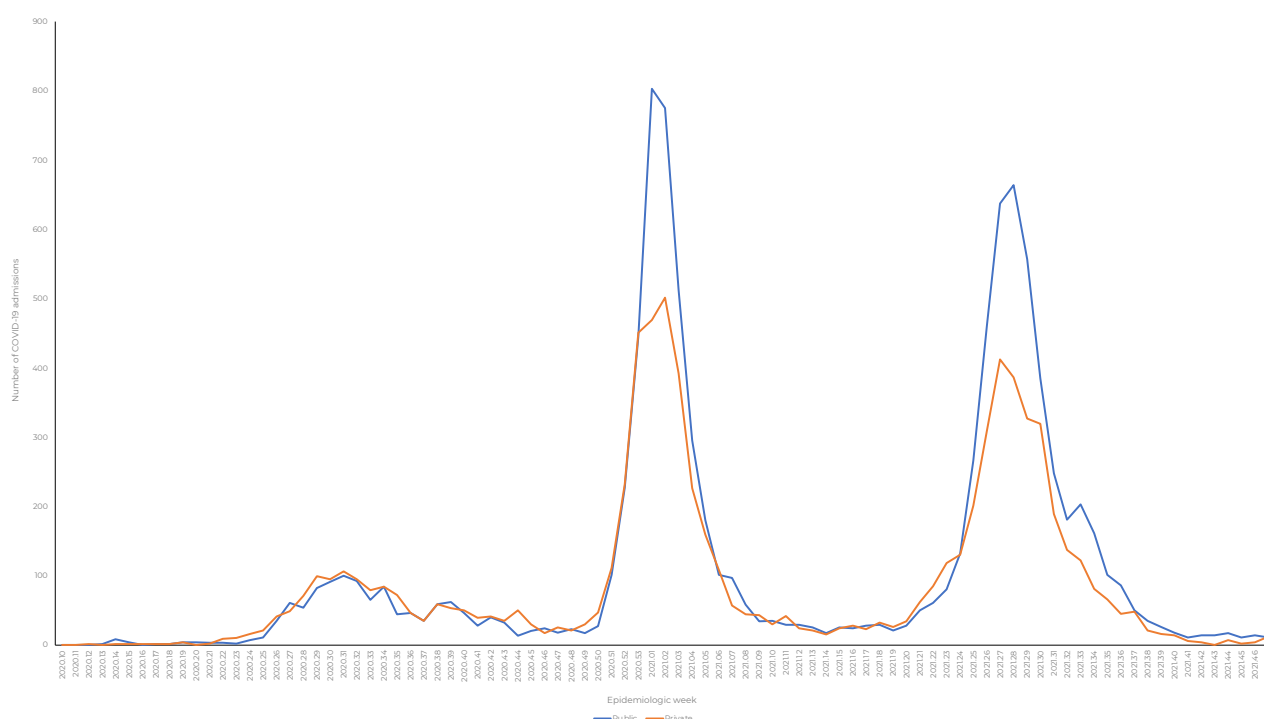
District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
Ehlanzeni	1,21	1,57	29,41	0,29	0,00	-100,00
Gert Sibande	1,93	0,93	-51,85	0,21	0,21	0,00
Nkangala	1,21	2,29	88,24	0,43	0,07	-83,33

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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, while weekly admissions in the third wave were lower than the second wave in both sectors (Figure 20). There has been a small increase in admissions in both sectors since week 46.

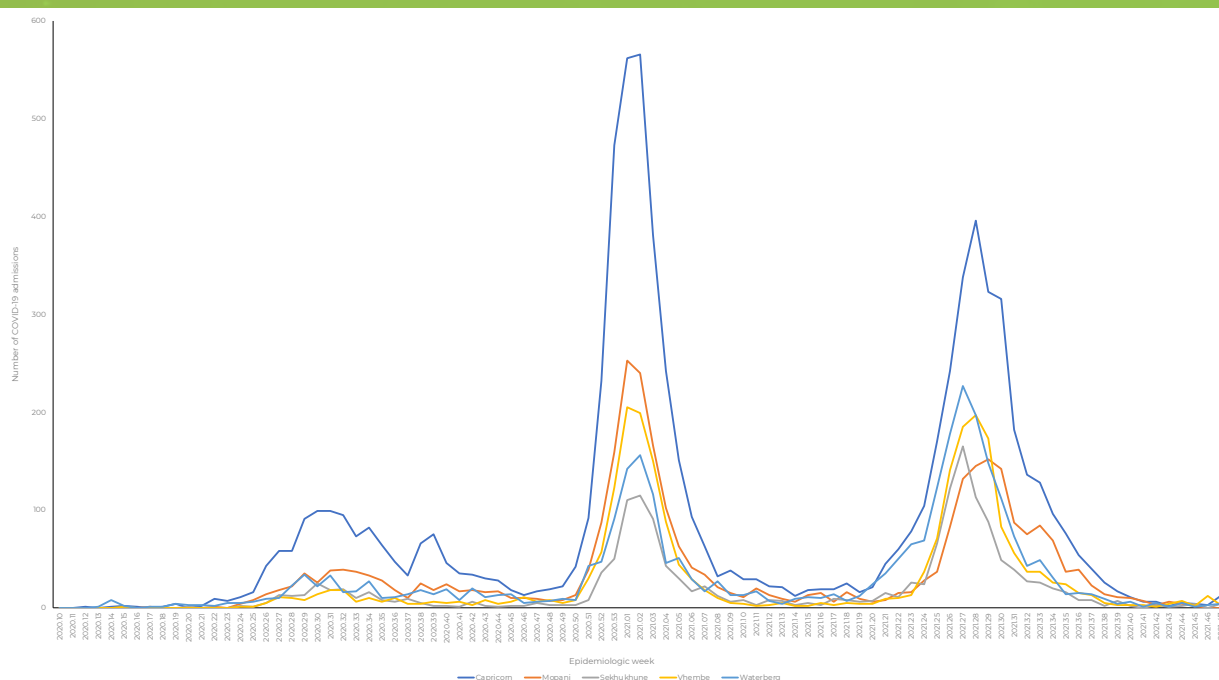


**Figure 20:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Limpopo, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=17,298

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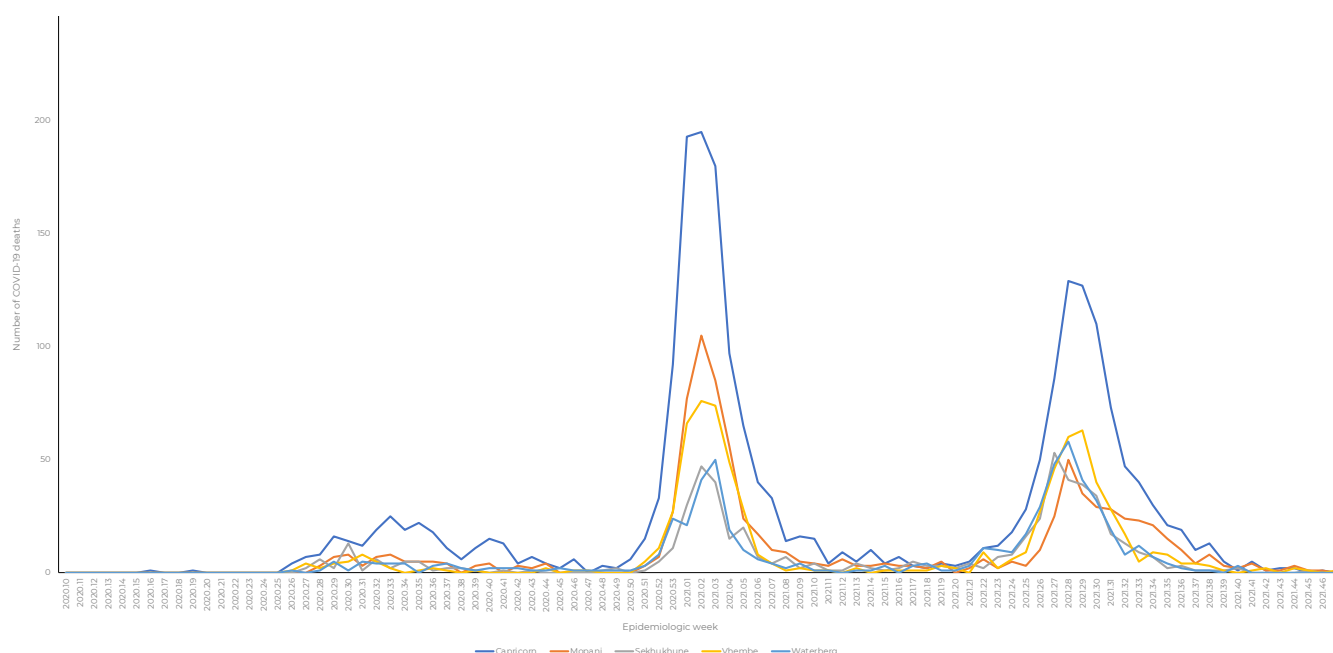
Weekly admissions at the peak of the second wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the first wave in all districts. Weekly admissions at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in Sekhukhune and Waterberg (Figure 21). There has been a small increase in admissions in in Capricorn and Vhembe districts since week 46.



# 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. Weekly deaths at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the second wave in Sekhukhune and Waterberg (Figure 22). Since the third wave peak, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of deaths in all districts.



**Figure 22:** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Limpopo, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=4,869

There has been a small increase in average daily COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in Capricorn, Vhembe and Waterberg (Table 8).

**Table 8:** Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Limpopo, 30 October-27 November 2021.

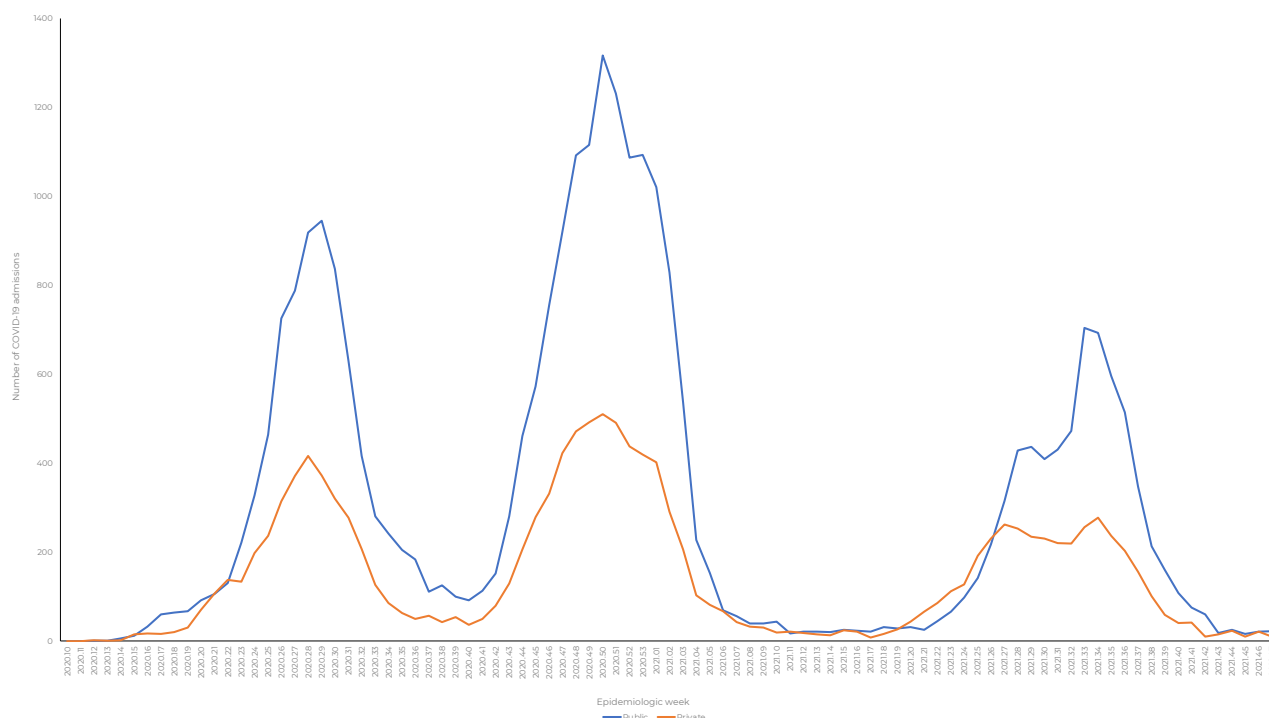
District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
Capricorn	0,64	1,07	66,67	0,14	0,07	-50,00
Mopani	0,43	0,00	-100,00	0,29	0,07	-75,00
Sekhukhune	0,43	0,29	-33,33	0,07	0,00	-100,00
Vhembe	0,64	1,07	66,67	0,21	0,07	-66,67
Waterberg	0,43	0,50	16,67	0,00	0,00	0,00

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 2021

## 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, while weekly admissions in the third wave were lower than the second wave in both sectors. There has been a small increase in admissions in both sectors since week 46 (Figure 23).

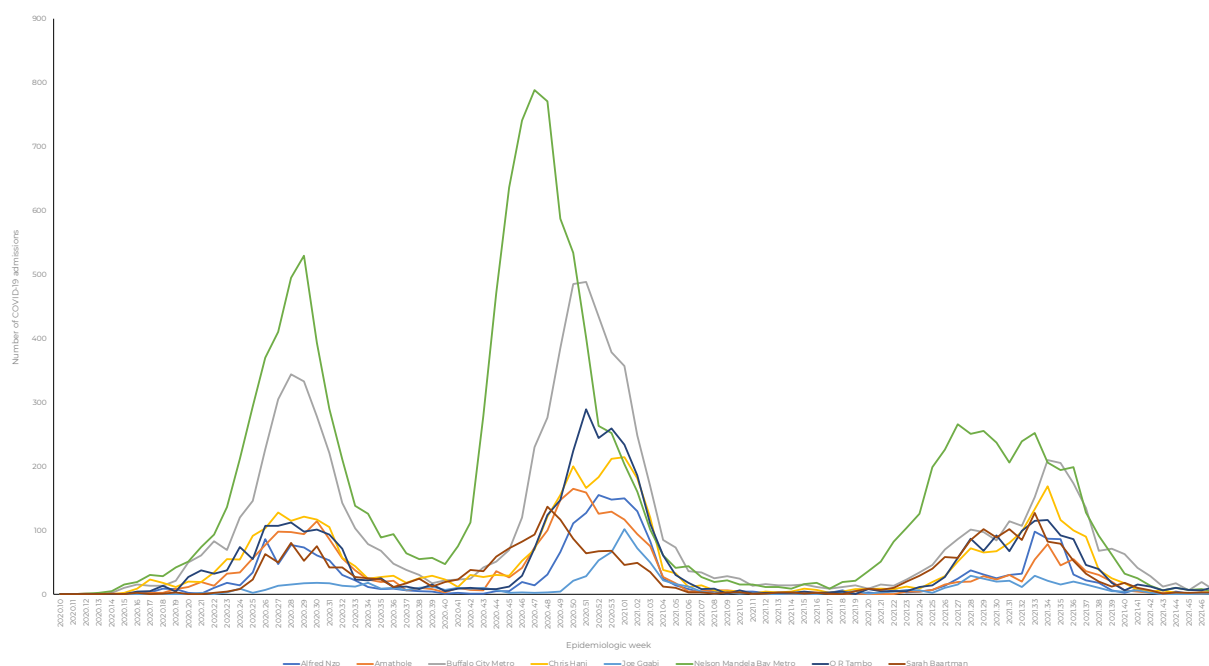


**Figure 23.** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Eastern Cape, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=41,525

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 2021

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, while weekly admissions in the third wave were lower than the second wave in all districts (Figure 24). There has been a small increase in admissions in Buffalo City Metro since week 46.

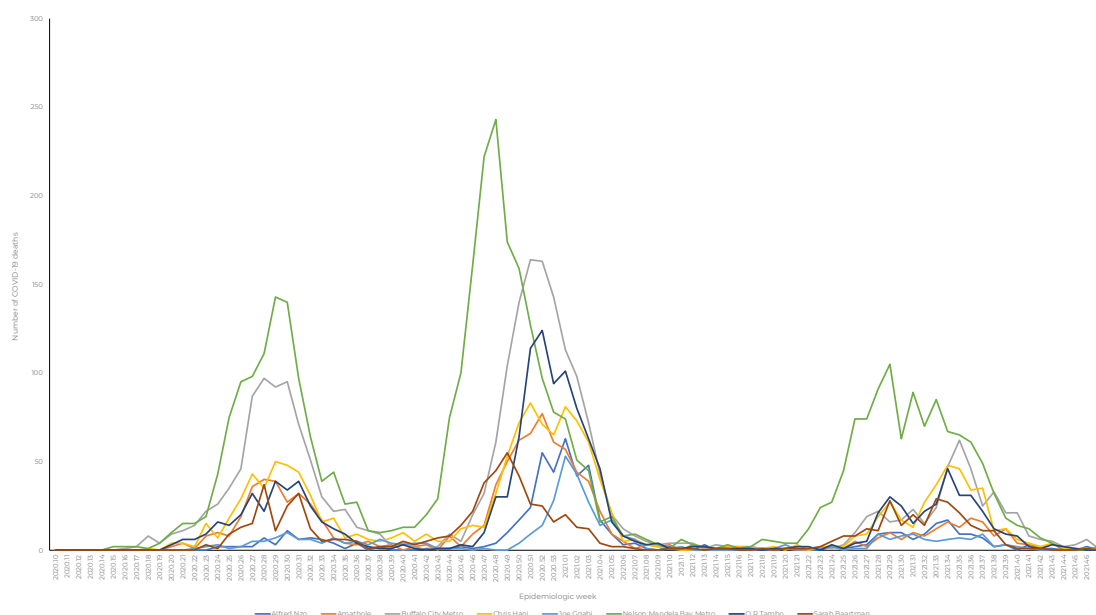


**Figure 24:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Eastern Cape, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=41,525

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 2021

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, while weekly deaths in the third wave were lower than the second wave in both sectors (Figure 25). Since the third wave peak in week 26, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of deaths in all districts.



**Figure 25:** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Eastern Cape, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=12,195

There has been a small increase in the average daily COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in Buffalo City Metro, Chris Hani and Sarah Baartman (Table 9).

**Table 9:** Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Mpumalanga, 23 October-20 November 2021.

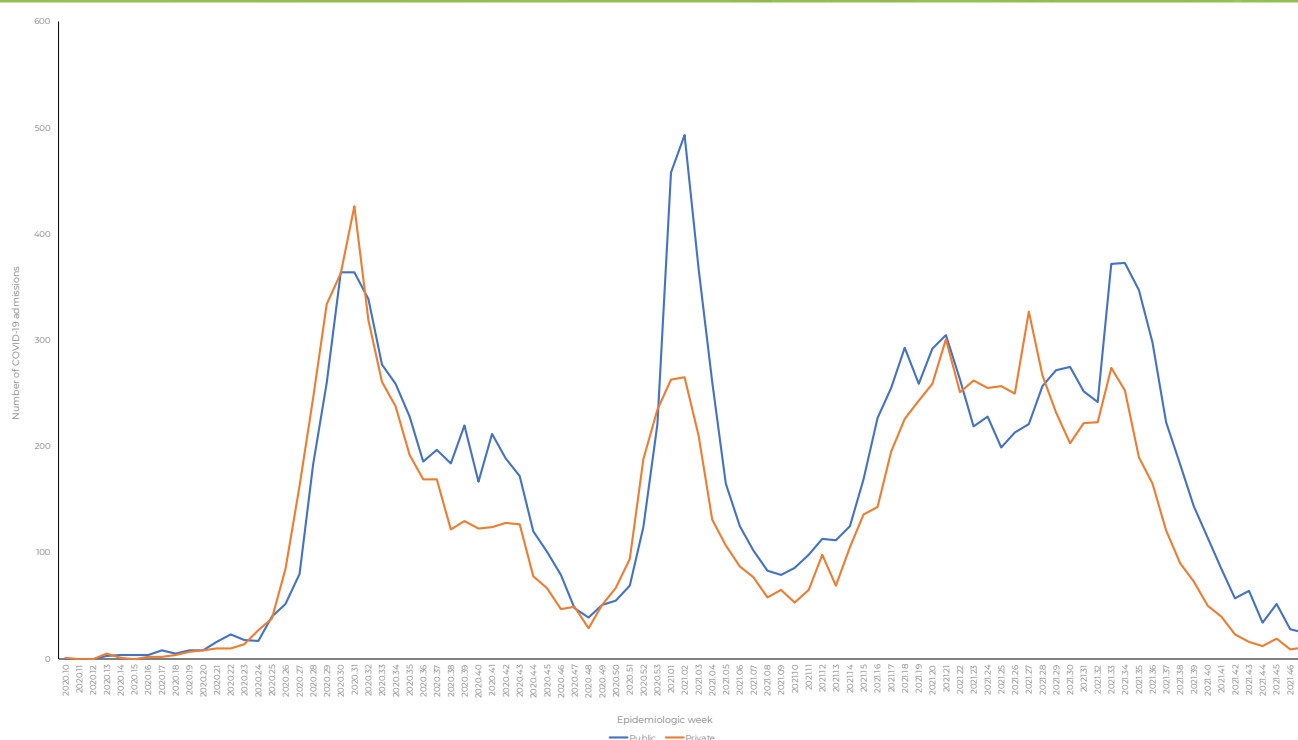
District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
Alfred Nzo	0,36	0,29	-20,00	0,00	0,14	0,00
Amathole	0,21	0,21	0,00	0,14	0,07	-50,00
Buffalo City Metro	1,64	1,79	8,70	0,36	0,50	40,00
Chris Hani	0,21	0,43	100,00	0,14	0,07	-50,00
Joe Qqabi	0,00	0,07	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	1,21	0,86	-29,41	0,00	0,14	0,00
O R Tambo	1,21	1,21	0,00	0,21	0,00	-100,00
Sarah Baartman	0,36	0,43	20,00	0,00	0,07	0,00

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 2021

## FREE STATE

In the 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 26). 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. 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. Since the third wave peak in week 35, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of admissions in both sectors.

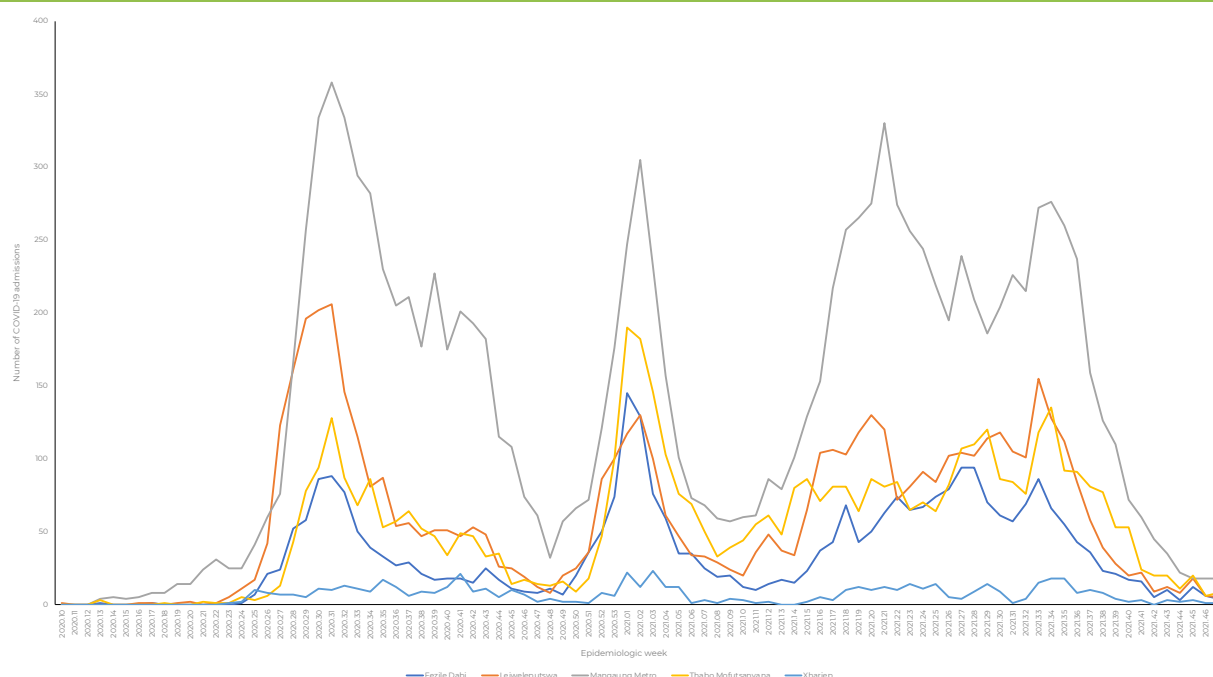


**Figure 26:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Free State, 5 March 2020–27 November 2021, N=26,500

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 2021

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. Weekly admissions at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in Lejweleputswa and Mangaung Metro (Figure 27). Since the third wave peak, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of admissions in all districts.

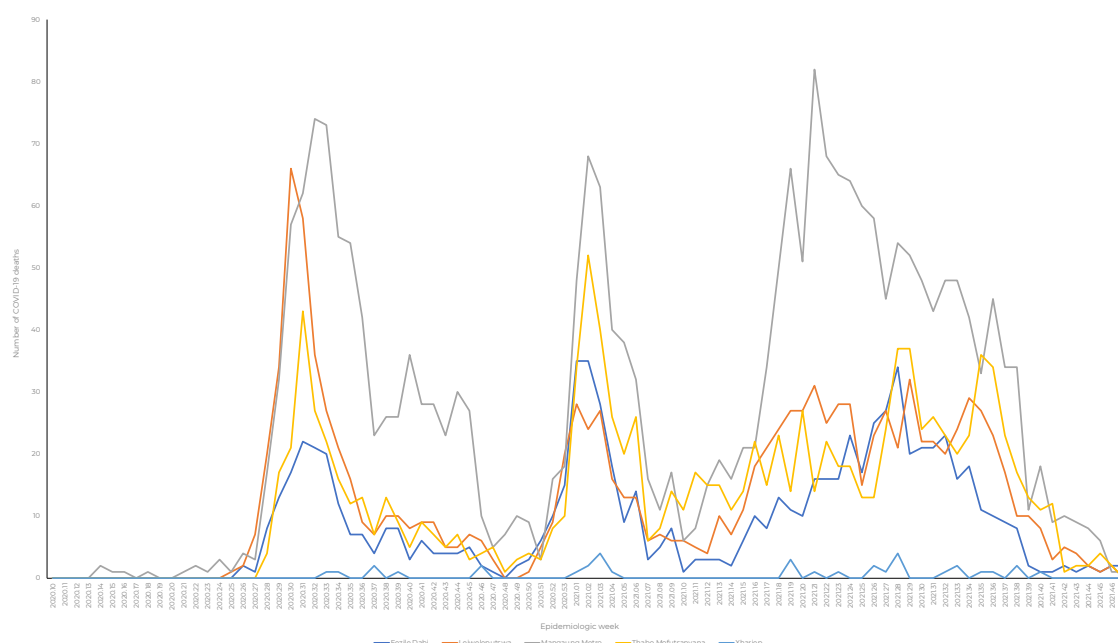


**Figure 27:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Free State, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=26,500

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 2021

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. Weekly deaths at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the second wave in Mangaung Metro and Lejweleputswa (Figure 28). Since the third wave peak, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of deaths in all districts.



**Figure 28:** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Free State, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=5,594

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, Free State, 30 October-27 November 2021.

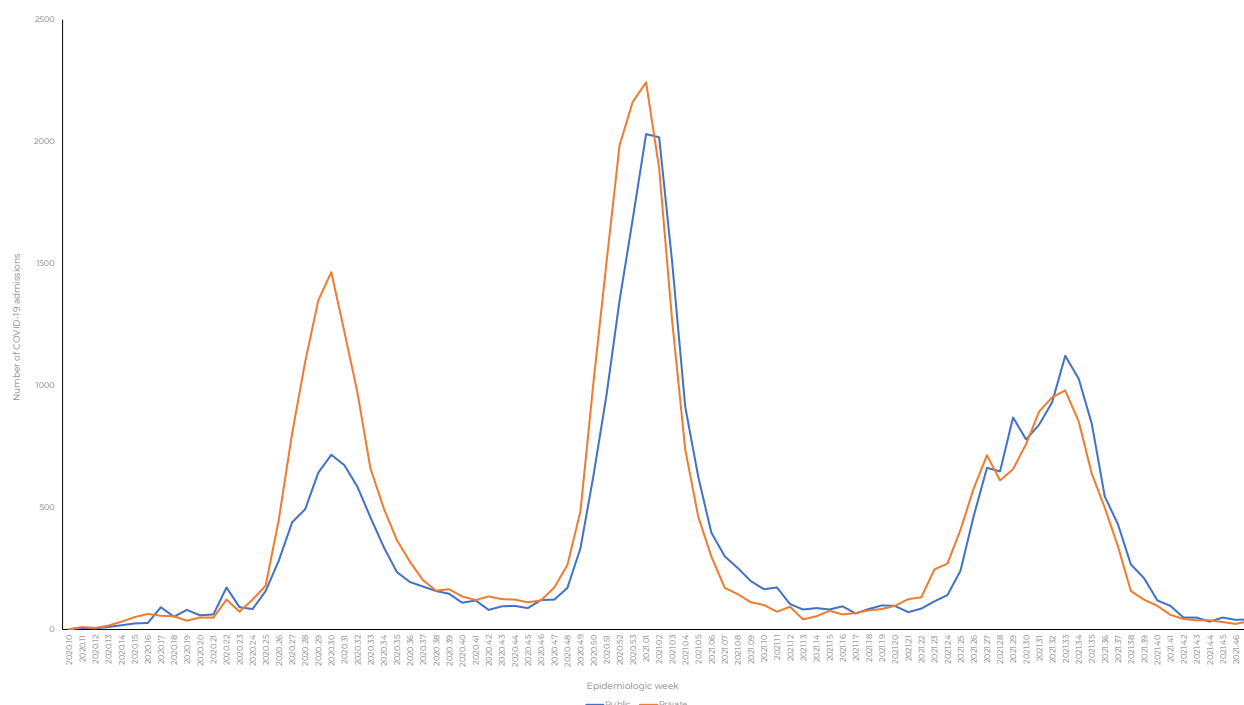
District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
Fezile Dabi	1,07	0,71	-33,33	0,21	0,29	33,33
Lejweleputswa	1,86	0,79	-57,69	0,21	0,14	-33,33
Mangaung Metro	2,86	2,57	-10,00	1,00	0,14	-85,71
Thabo Mofutsanyana	2,21	1,00	-54,84	0,43	0,14	-66,67
Xhariep	0,36	0,14	-60,00	0,00	0,00	0,00

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 2021

## 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 the public and private 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, while weekly admissions in the third wave were lower than the second wave in both sectors (Figure 29). Since the third wave peak in week 33, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of admissions in both sectors.

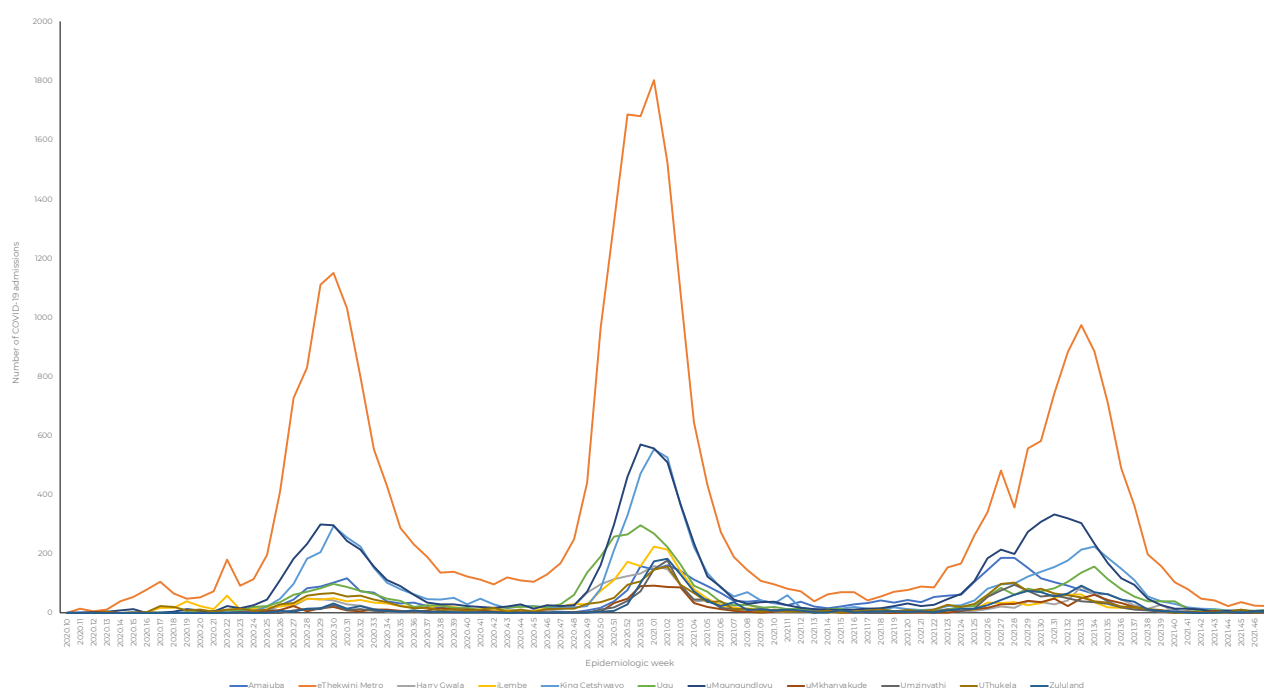


**Figure 29:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=69,950

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 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 Amajuba. Weekly admissions at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in Amajuba (Figure 30). Since the third wave peak in week 33, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of admissions in all districts.

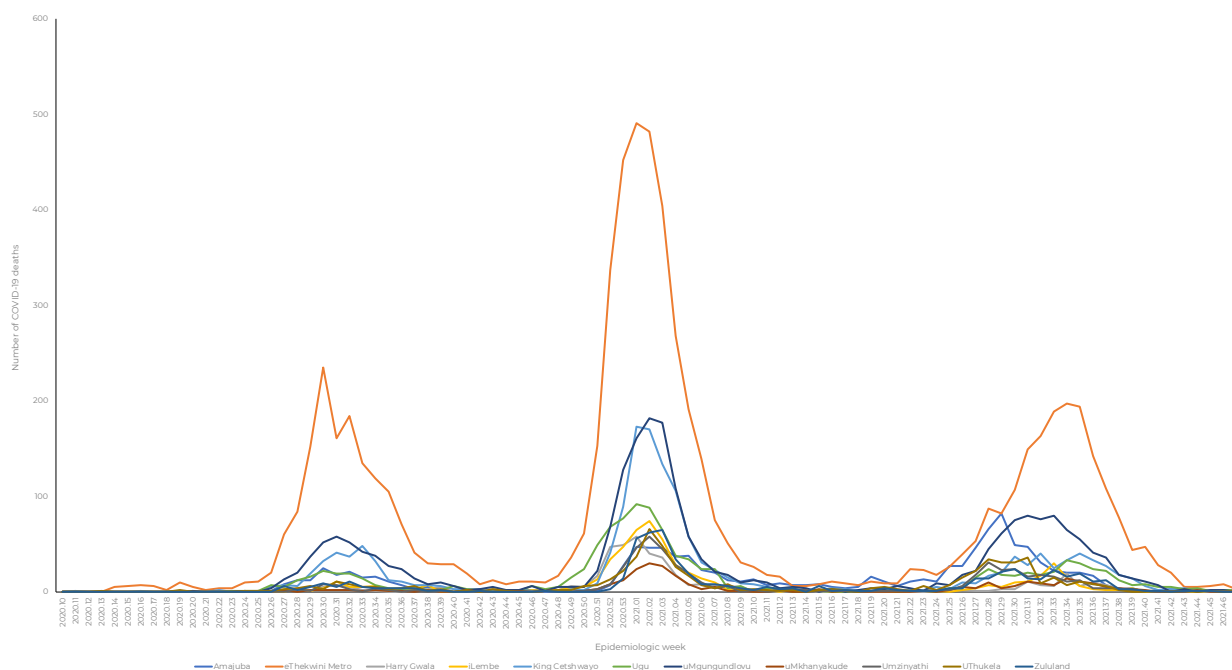


**Figure 30:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020–27 November 2021, N=69,950

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 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. Weekly deaths at the peak of the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the second wave in Amajuba (Figure 31). Since the third wave peak in week 33, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of deaths in all districts.



**Figure 31:** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, KwaZulu-Natal, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=15,728

There has been a small increase in average daily COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in Amajuba, iLembe, King Cetshwayo, uMkhanyakude and Zululand (Table 11).

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 2021

**Table 11:** Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, KwaZulu-Natal, 30 October-27 November 2021.

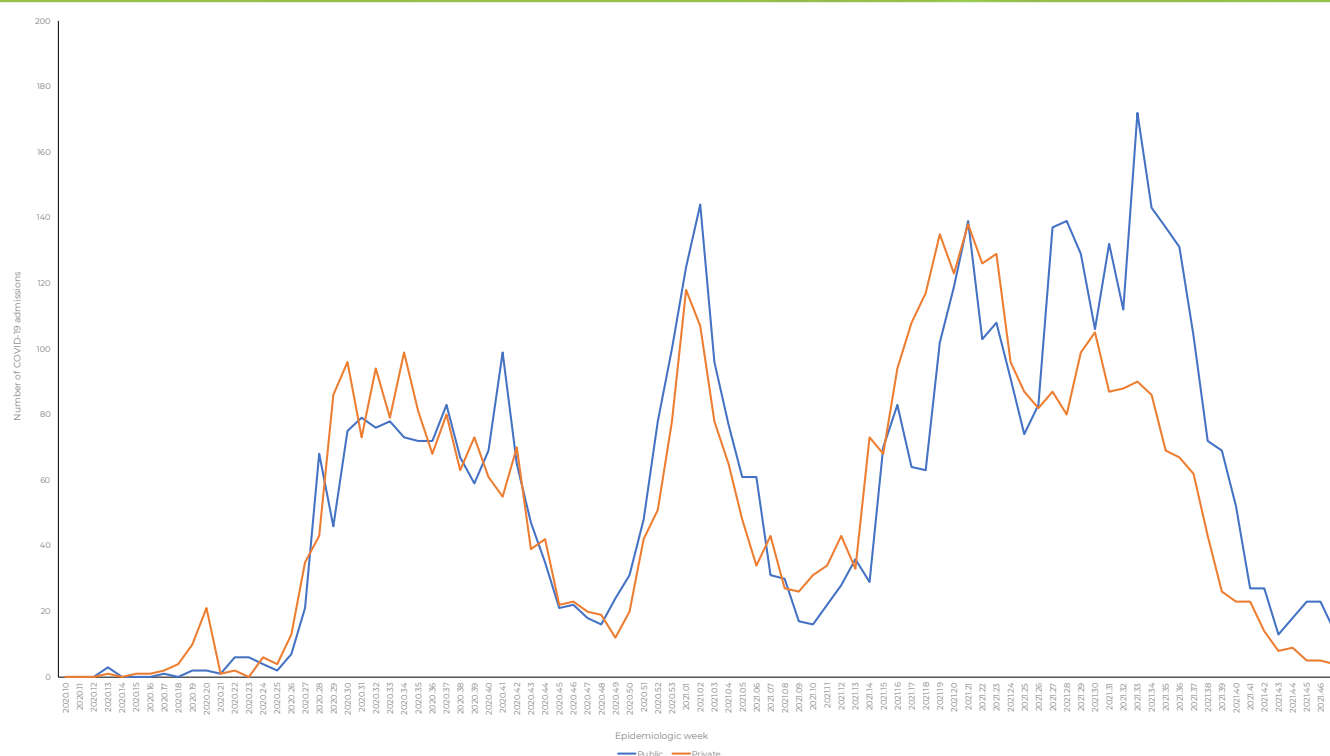
District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
Amajuba	0,29	0,43	50,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
eThekweni Metro	4,29	3,50	-18,33	0,79	0,79	0,00
Harry Gwala	0,43	0,29	-33,33	0,00	0,00	0,00
iLembe	0,43	0,64	50,00	0,07	0,00	-100,00
King Cetshwayo	0,93	1,29	38,46	0,14	0,07	-50,00
Ugu	1,21	1,21	0,00	0,36	0,29	-20,00
uMgungundlovu	1,21	1,00	-17,65	0,14	0,14	0,00
uMkhanyakude	0,14	0,21	50,00	0,14	0,07	-50,00
Umzinyathi	0,21	0,07	-66,67	0,14	0,07	-50,00
UThukela	1,00	0,50	-50,00	0,07	0,07	0,00
Zululand	0,36	0,57	60,00	0,14	0,00	-100,00

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 2021

## 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. 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 32). Since the third wave peak in week 35, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of admissions in both sectors, however there have been increases in admission in the public sector since week 42.

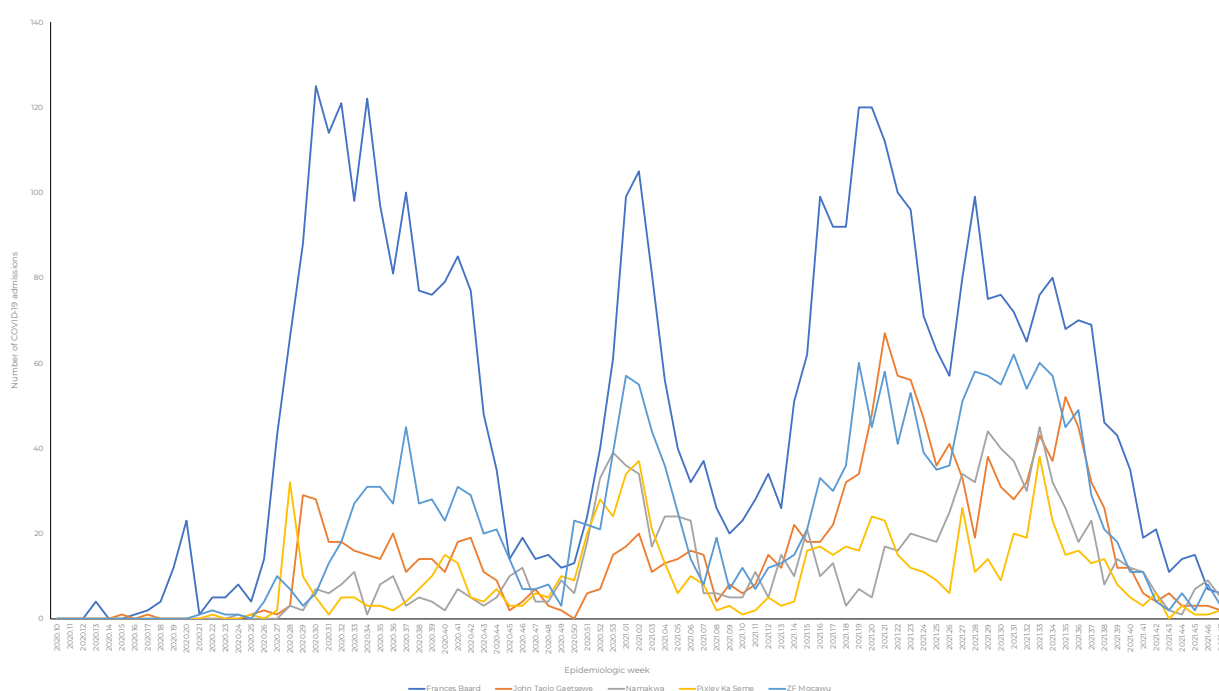


**Figure 32:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=9,961

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 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. 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 33). There have been small increases in weekly admissions in Namakwa and ZF Mgcawu districts.

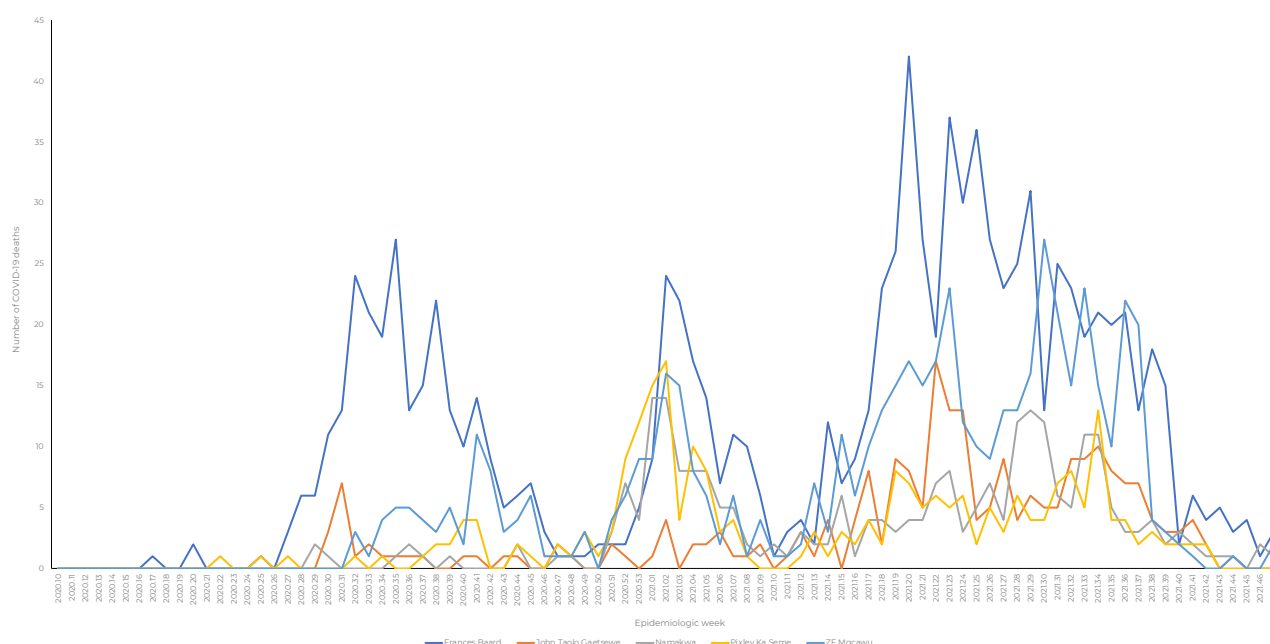


**Figure 33:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by district and epidemiologic week, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=9,961

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 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. 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 34). There have been small increases in weekly deaths in Namakwa and ZF Mgcawu districts.



**Figure 34:** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Northern Cape, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=2,274

There has been a small increase in average daily COVID-19 admissions comparing the previous 14 days and the current 14 days in Namakwa and ZF Mgcawu (Table 12).

**Table 12:** Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Northern Cape, 30 October-27 November 2021.

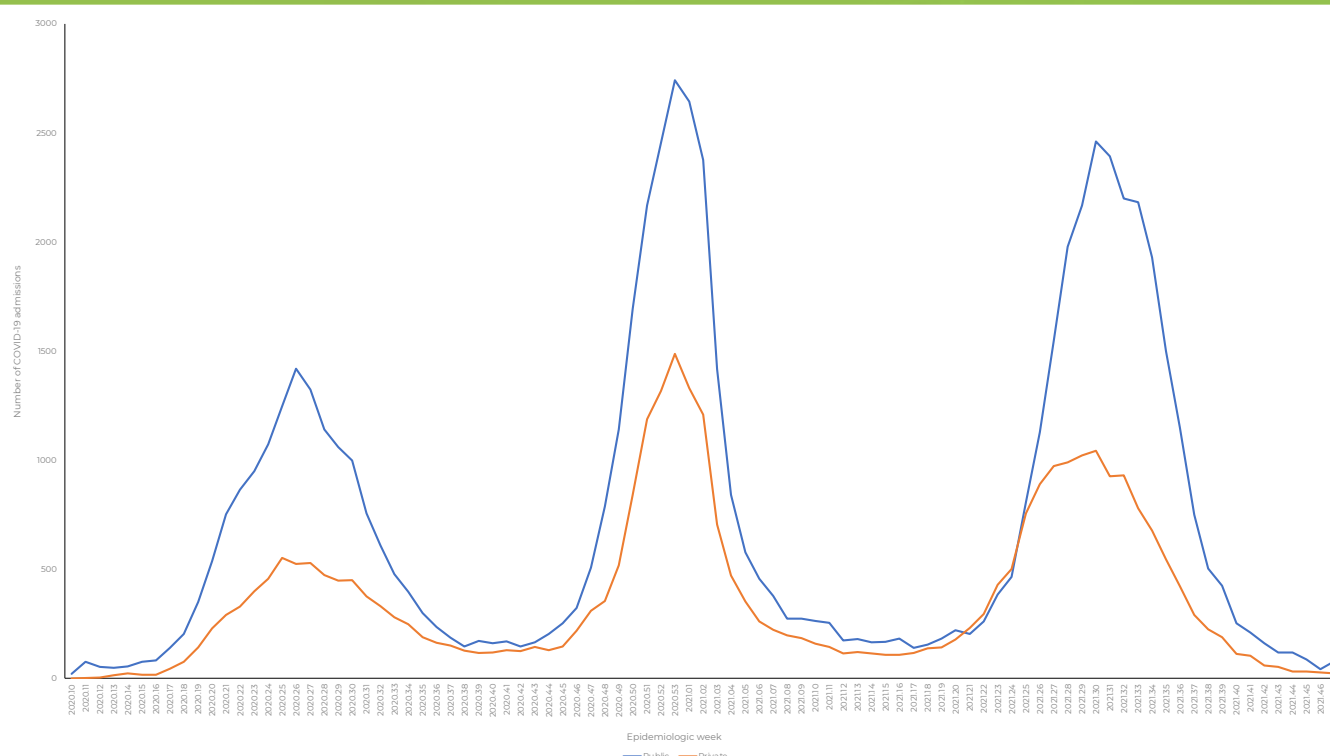
District	Previous 14 days admissions average	Current 14 days admissions average	Percentage change in admissions	Previous 14 days deaths average	Current 14 days deaths average	Percentage change in deaths
Frances Baard	2,07	0,93	-55,17	0,50	0,29	-42,86
John Taolo Gaetsewe	0,43	0,36	-16,67	0,07	0,00	-100,00
Namakwa	0,57	1,00	75,00	0,07	0,21	200,00
Pixley Ka Seme	0,29	0,21	-25,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
ZF Mgcawu	0,57	0,79	37,50	0,07	0,14	100,00

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 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, while weekly admissions in the third wave were lower than the second wave in both sectors (Figure 35). Since the third wave peak in week 30, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of admissions in both sectors.

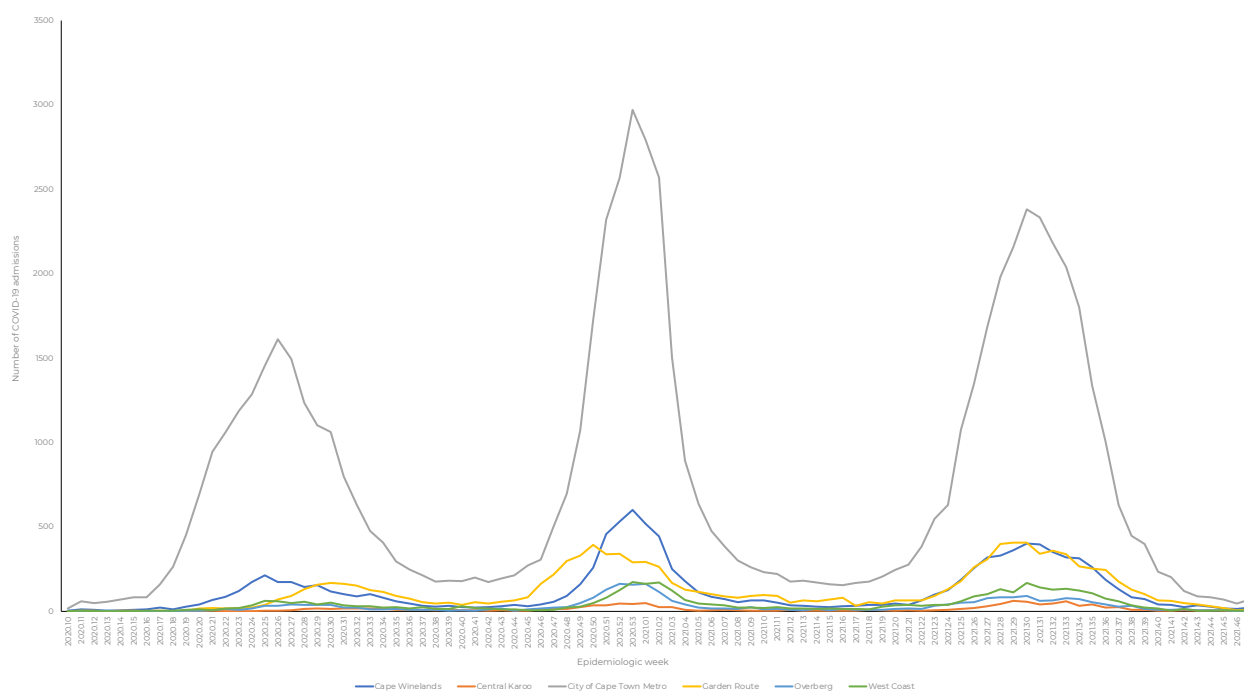


**Figure 35:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions by health sector and epidemiologic week of diagnosis, Western Cape, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=98,442

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 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. Weekly number of admissions in the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of admissions at the peak of the second wave in Central Karoo and Garden Route (Figure 36). Since the third wave peak, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of admissions in all districts.

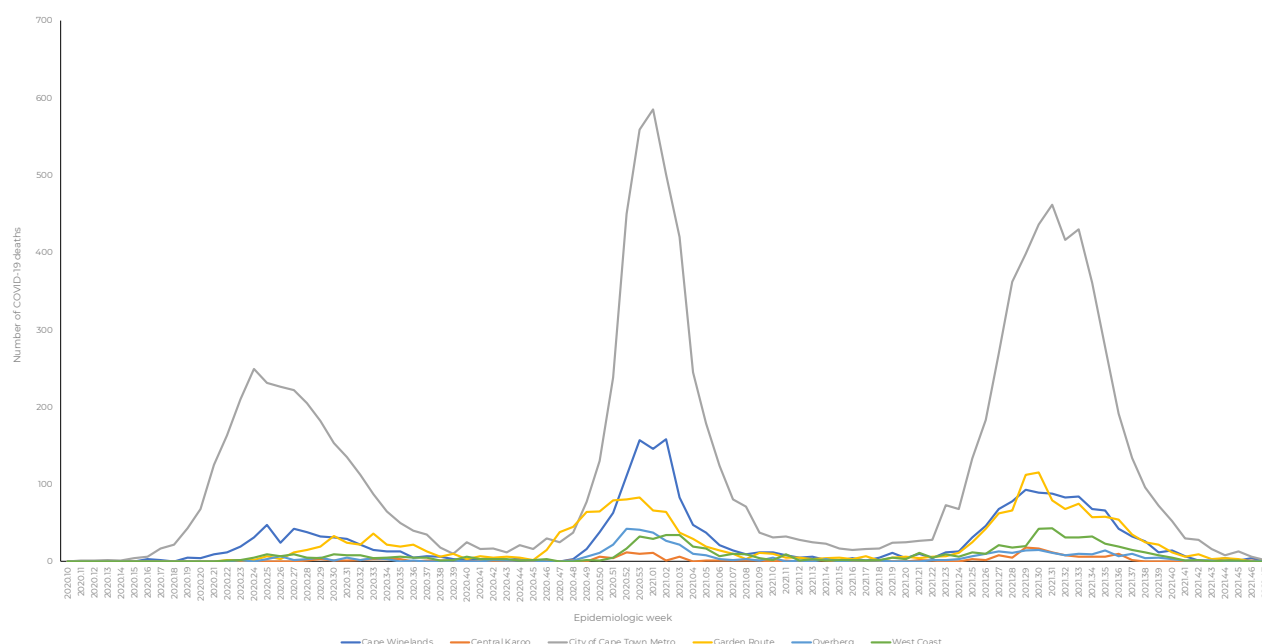


**Figure 36:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions, by district and epidemiologic week, Western Cape, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=98,442

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 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. Weekly number of deaths in the third wave exceeded the weekly numbers of deaths at the peak of the second wave in Central Karoo, Garden Route and West Coast (Figure 37). Since the third wave peak, there has been a return to low weekly numbers of deaths in all districts.



**Figure 37:** Number of reported COVID-19 in-hospital deaths, by district and epidemiologic week, Western Cape, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021, N=17,205

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 13).

**Table 13:** Previous 14 days and current 14 days average COVID-19 admissions and deaths and percentage changes, Northern Cape, 30 October-27 November 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	3,14	2,43	-22,73	0,36	0,29	-20,00
Central Karoo	0,64	0,36	-44,44	0,07	0,07	0,00
City of Cape Town Metro	10,71	8,00	-25,33	1,50	0,57	-61,90
Garden Route	3,36	0,93	-72,34	0,50	0,07	-85,71
Overberg	0,79	0,29	-63,64	0,00	0,07	0,00
West Coast	0,50	0,29	-42,86	0,14	0,00	-100,00

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 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 47 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 47 2021

## APPENDIX

**Table 14:** Percentage incidence change in hospital admissions over 14 days, by district, South Africa, 13 November-27 November 2021.

Province	District	Total admissions	Incidence (per 100k)	New admissions	New admissions incidence (per 100k)	% average change (14 days)
Eastern Cape	Alfred Nzo	2303	276,72	3	0,3	200,0
	Amathole	2829	353,98	2	0,2	100,0
	Buffalo City Metro	9065	1131,89	6	0,5	-68,4
	Chris Hani	4496	617,88	3	0,3	0,0
	Joe Gqabi	995	288,43	0	0,0	-100,0
	Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	14617	1204,97	4	0,3	-50,0
	O R Tambo	4346	283,65	11	0,9	83,3
	Sarah Baartman	2874	594,02	3	0,3	0,0
Free State	Fezile Dabi	3096	606,91	4	0,3	-33,3
	Lejweleputswa	5437	831,85	5	0,4	-16,7
	Mangaung Metro	12559	1442,04	18	1,5	0,0
	Thabo Mofutsanyana	4821	630,35	8	0,7	33,3
	Xhariep	587	453,48	1	0,1	0,0
Gauteng	City of Johannesburg Metro	45512	775,79	197	16,8	233,9
	City of Tshwane Metro	34241	918,21	436	37,2	113,7
	Ekurhuleni Metro	27849	699,33	103	8,8	347,8
	Sedibeng	8173	855,34	17	1,5	142,9
	West Rand	11115	1164,20	35	3,0	400,0
KwaZulu-Natal	Amajuba	3917	686,56	3	0,3	0,0
	eThekweni Metro	32286	810,96	24	2,0	-4,0
	Harry Gwala	2139	416,13	2	0,2	0,0
	iLembe	2687	386,87	6	0,5	100,0
	King Cetshwayo	7614	784,40	10	0,9	25,0
	Ugu	4608	574,76	10	0,9	42,9
	uMgungundlovu	9427	820,14	8	0,7	33,3

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 2021

Province	District	Total admissions	Incidence (per 100k)	New admissions	New admissions incidence (per 100k)	% average change (14 days)
	uMkhanyakude	1283	186,78	3	0,3	300,0
	Umzinyathi	1551	273,27	0	0,0	-100,0
	UThukela	2575	360,53	5	0,4	150,0
	Zululand	1863	211,51	4	0,3	0,0
Limpopo	Capricorn	7374	563,78	12	1,0	300,0
	Mopani	3097	261,38	0	0,0	0,0
	Sekhukhune	1650	138,62	4	0,3	400,0
	Vhembe	2370	166,06	3	0,3	-75,0
	Waterberg	2807	378,19	4	0,3	33,3
Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni	6462	353,36	10	0,9	-23,1
	Gert Sibande	6415	516,44	5	0,4	-37,5
	Nkangala	5609	348,63	29	2,5	866,7
North West	Bojanala Platinum	9997	518,47	16	1,4	-11,1
	Dr Kenneth Kaunda	14814	1857,05	27	2,3	42,1
	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti	2005	423,82	7	0,6	75,0
	Ngaka Modiri Molema	1964	215,86	4	0,3	0,0
Northern Cape	Frances Baard	4616	1112,53	6	0,5	-14,3
	John Taolo Gaetsewe	1444	531,90	2	0,2	-33,3
	Namakwa	1057	914,26	5	0,4	-44,4
	Pixley Ka Seme	820	388,84	2	0,2	100,0
	ZF Mgcawu	2024	723,11	3	0,3	-62,5
Western Cape	Cape Winelands	11166	1186,28	20	1,7	42,9
	Central Karoo	1124	1496,41	2	0,2	-33,3
	City of Cape Town Metro	68638	1490,51	68	5,8	54,5
	Garden Route	11114	1782,07	7	0,6	16,7
	Overberg	2659	886,61	3	0,3	200,0
	West Coast	3741	811,83	2	0,2	0,0

# COVID-19 HOSPITAL SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

WEEK 47 2021

## APPENDIX

**Table 15:** Number of reported COVID-19 admissions and in-hospital deaths by age and gender, South Africa, 5 March 2020-27 November 2021.

Age (years)	ADMISSIONS				DEATHS			
	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
0-4	3618	4427	26	8071	134	144	2	280
5-9	1037	1326	7	2370	23	21	0	44
10-14	1718	1646	6	3370	57	47	0	104
15-19	4984	2663	2	7649	120	109	0	229
20-24	7729	3867	4	11600	277	214	1	492
25-29	12734	5800	10	18544	631	409	0	1040
30-34	16828	9696	6	26530	1079	895	1	1975
35-39	18221	13438	18	31677	1616	1489	4	3109
40-44	17225	15351	10	32586	2016	2074	0	4090
45-49	19685	19319	11	39015	2974	3118	1	6093
50-54	23260	21572	9	44841	4123	4225	1	8349
55-59	25978	23479	12	49469	5874	5851	5	11730
60-64	22797	20785	14	43596	6295	6477	4	12776
65-69	19531	17318	13	36862	6510	6039	5	12554
70-74	16263	14255	17	30535	5700	5515	4	11219
75-79	12034	9820	9	21863	4463	4134	2	8599
80-84	9052	6186	7	15245	3630	2780	3	6413
85-89	4768	2917	2	7687	1981	1432	0	3413
90-94	2058	990	1	3049	963	527	0	1490
>=95	624	306	2	932	303	134	0	437
Unknown	1159	1138	44	2341	69	111	0	180
<b>Total</b>	<b>241303</b>	<b>196299</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>437832</b>	<b>48838</b>	<b>45745</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>94616</b>