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Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
HEALTH

Daily Epidemiological Report for SARS-Cov-2

Report No. 342

Date Issued 11 Mar. 2021 @21h00

1. PURPOSE

The report provides a descriptive analysis of SARS-Cov-2 related cases and deaths, and hospitalizations in the Eastern Cape Province, as of 11 Mar. 2021.

2. HIGHLIGHTS

2.1. New cases, active cases and recoveries

- In the past 24 hours, 1 transfer-in and 22 new cases were reported from 7 districts. Amathole, BC Metro and Chris Hani accounted for 40.9% (9 cases), Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo 31.8% (7 cases), N Mandela Metro and Sarah Baartman 27.3% (6 cases).
- Of the 277 active cases, Amathole, BC Metro and Chris Hani account for 37.2% (103 cases), NM Metro and Sarah Baartman account for 36.5% (101 cases), Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo account for 6.9% (19 cases), and Joe Gqabi accounts for 5.4% (15 cases).
- The incidence of active cases was less than 5 cases per 100,000 populations. When comparing the past two weeks (one ended on 27th February and the other on 6th March), there was a 28,8% decrease in the number of active cases.
- The overall provincial recovery rate was 94%. All the districts reported a recovery rate greater than 90%.
- The number of tests per week was 173 tests per 100,000 populations (i.e. less than 200 tests per 100,000 populations) as per the week ended in 6th March.

2.2. SARS-Cov-2 related deaths

- In the last 24 hours, 5 (4 occurred within the last 48 hours) deaths were reported with.

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- The case fatality rate was 5.8%, with a CFR of 6.3% among males and 5.5% among the female population. Chris Hani has the highest case fatality rate, followed by BC Metro, NM Metro and OR Tambo.

2.3. **Hospitalizations and outcomes**

- The cumulative number of SARS-Cov-2 hospitalizations is 31,430 (DATCOV).
- Of all the hospitalized cases, 64,3% (20,218) of hospitalized patients were discharged alive and 65,6% (13,262) of the reported discharges were from the public sector. Thirty percent 29,8% of hospitalized cases demised due to SARS-Cov-2 related causes with 76% (7,125) of those reported deaths occurring in public sector facilities.
- Of the 195 current admissions, 152 (77.9%) were admitted in the general ward, 35 (17.9%) in ICU and 8 (4.1%) in High Care. And 68 (34.3%) of current admissions were on oxygen and 12 (6.1%) were on ventilation.

2.4. **Healthcare workers**

- The number of healthcare workers who tested positive for SARS-Cov-2 was **11,836** and **304** demised (the case fatality rate was 2.6%). The increase in the number of cases is related to an improved reporting of cases.
- Nurses were the most affected, followed by doctors and clinical associates. **There is an increase in the positivity rate among healthcare workers in the metros.**

2.5. Conclusion

The number of newly reported SARS-Cov-2 cases, active cases and deaths have significantly decreased. However, the number of new cases and active cases in the metros, Amathole and Chris Hani remains high.

There is a need to ensure that the currently active cases are isolated and their contacts are quarantined to minimize the possibility of a resurgence of SARS-Cov-2. The metros and the districts that are associated to them need assistance to reduce the possibilities of having a resurgence of cases.

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3. SARS-Cov-2 CASES & DEATHS

3.1. Summary of all cases and deaths

The number of new cases was **22** and **5** deaths (4 occurred within the past 48 hours). The cumulative number of cases and deaths were **194,197** and **11,321** respectively.

Table 1. SARS-Cov-2 cases and deaths in the Eastern Cape by sex, as of 11 Mar 2021

	No. of cases	Transfers	New Cases	Total	%	Deaths	New Deaths		Total	CFR
							*Newly Reported	**Newly occurred		
Male	76774	0	11	76785	39,5	4832	1	1	4834	6,3
Female	117384	1	11	117396	60,5	6484	0	3	6487	5,5
Unknown	16	0	0	16	0,0	0			0	0,0
Total	**194174**	**1**	**22**	**194197**	**100,0**	**11316**	**1**	**4**	**11321**	**5,8**

* Deaths which occurred more than 48 hours ago ** Deaths which occurred within the last 48 hours of reporting

The provincial case fatality rate (CFR) was 5.8%, with a CFR of 6.3% among males and 5.5% among the female population.

Table 2. Number of positive SARS-Cov-2 cases, recoveries and deaths, as of 11 Mar 2021

District	Cases	Transfers	New Cases	Total Confirmed	Recoveries	Deaths	New Deaths		Total Deaths	CFR%	Recovery Rate	Active Cases
							*Newly Reported	**Newly occurred				
Alfred Nzo	7971		3	7974	7538	429	0	0	429	5,4	94,5	7
Amathole	19287		3	19290	18159	1099	1	1	1101	5,7	94,1	30
BC Metro	38722		4	38726	36328	2340	0	1	2341	6,0	93,8	57
Chris Hani	19506		2	19508	17949	1533	0	0	1533	7,9	92,0	26
Joe Gqabi	7493		0	7493	7069	408	0	1	409	5,5	94,3	15
NM Metro	55313	1	4	55318	51927	3308	0	0	3308	6,0	93,9	83
OR Tambo	22423		4	22427	21057	1357	0	1	1358	6,1	93,9	12
S Baartman	21734		2	21736	20876	842	0	0	842	3,9	96,0	18
Imported	602		0	602	598	0	0	0	0	0,0	99,3	4
Unspecified	1123		0	1123	1098	0	0	0	0	0,0	97,8	25
E. Cape	**194174**	**1**	**22**	**194197**	**182599**	**11316**	**1**	**4**	**11321**	**5,8**	**94,0**	**277**

* Deaths that occurred more than 48 hours ** Deaths which occurred within the past 48 hours of reporting

In the past 24 hours, 1 transfer-in and 22 new cases were reported from 7 districts. Amathole, BC Metro and Chris Hani accounted for 40.9% (9 cases), Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo 31.8% (7 cases), N Mandela Metro and Sarah Baartman 27.3% (6 cases).

Of the 277 active cases, Amathole, BC Metro and Chris Hani account for 37.2% (103 cases), NM Metro and Sarah Baartman account for 36.5% (101 cases), Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo account for 6.9% (19 cases), and Joe Gqabi accounts for 5.4% (15 cases).
The overall provincial recovery rate was 94%. All the districts reported a recovery rate greater than 90%.

3.2. Newly diagnosed cases

The figure below provides the number of newly reported SARS-Cov-2 cases, using the date of collection of specimen.

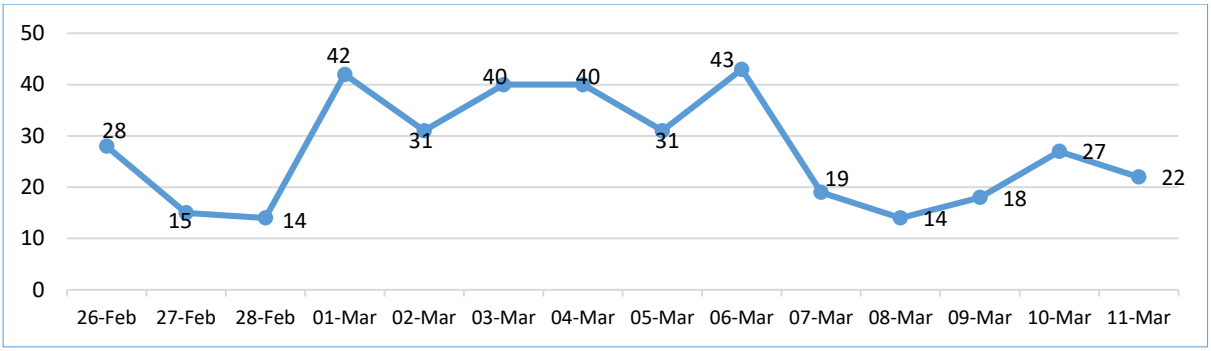
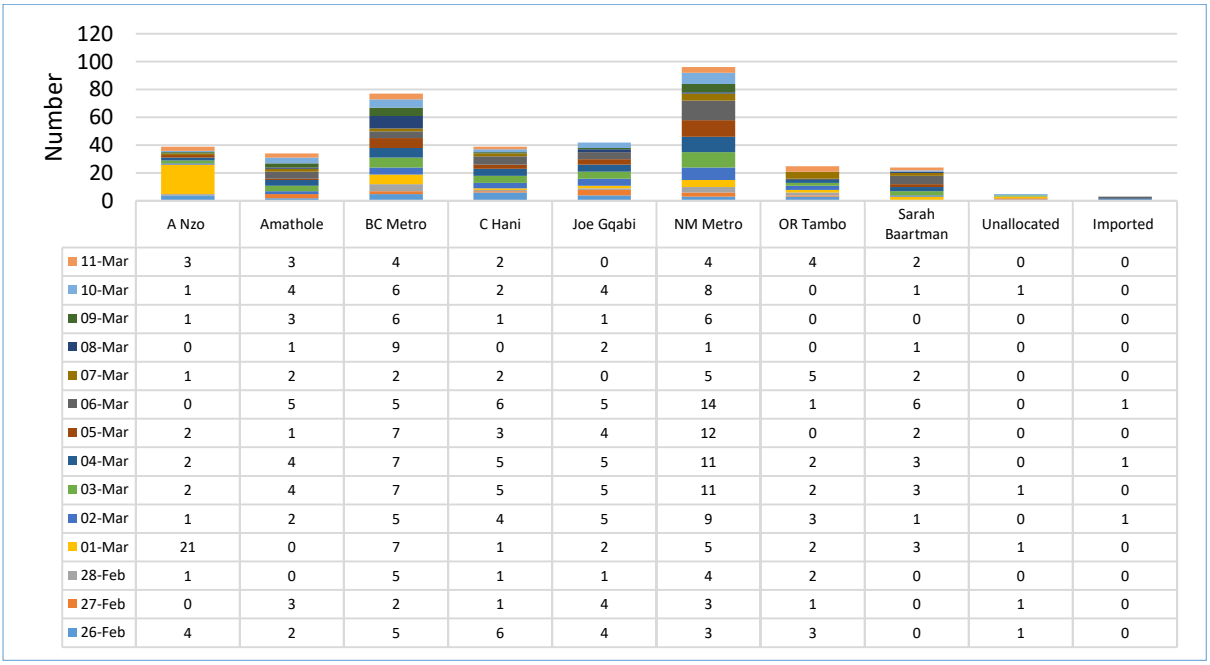


Fig. 1. No. of daily reported SARS-Cov-2 cases by date of collection, as of 10 Mar. 2021

In the past 14 days, 384 new cases were reported from all the districts, i.e. an average of 27 cases per day.



	A Nzo	Amathole	BC Metro	C Hani	Joe Gqabi	NM Metro	OR Tambo	Sarah Baartman	Unallocated	Imported
11-Mar	3	3	4	2	0	4	4	2	0	0
10-Mar	1	4	6	2	4	8	0	1	1	0
09-Mar	1	3	6	1	1	6	0	0	0	0
08-Mar	0	1	9	0	2	1	0	1	0	0
07-Mar	1	2	2	2	0	5	5	2	0	0
06-Mar	0	5	5	6	5	14	1	6	0	1
05-Mar	2	1	7	3	4	12	0	2	0	0
04-Mar	2	4	7	5	5	11	2	3	0	1
03-Mar	2	4	7	5	5	11	2	3	1	0
02-Mar	1	2	5	4	5	9	3	1	0	1
01-Mar	21	0	7	1	2	5	2	3	1	0
28-Feb	1	0	5	1	1	4	2	0	0	0
27-Feb	0	3	2	1	4	3	1	0	1	0
26-Feb	4	2	5	6	4	3	3	0	1	0

Fig. 2. No. of daily SARS-Cov-2 cases by district and date of collection, as of 11 Mar. 2021

The highest number of newly reported cases were from Buffalo City, Nelson Mandela Metro and OR Tambo followed by A Nzo, Amathole, Chris Hani, and Sarah Baartman. Twenty-one percent (20.7%) decrease in the number of cases from 210 on the 26 Feb-04 Mar to 174 on the 05-11 Mar.

4. SARS-Cov-2 LAB TESTS & RESULTS

4.1. Test Results by Laboratory

The cumulative number of SARS-Cov-2 tests was 894, 686 with about 62,3% done in the public sector and 37,7% in the private sector laboratories.

Table 3. Number of tests for Private and Public by Laboratories, as of 11 Mar 2021

	Private	Public	Total	Percentage (%)
Alfred Nzo	2449	27 859	30 308	3,4
Amathole	8339	70 689	79 028	8,8
BC Metro	30821	95 421	126 242	14,1
Chris Hani	6866	55 712	62 578	7,0
Joe Gqabi	1281	26 737	28 018	3,1
NMB Metro	35290	130 325	165 615	18,5
OR Tambo	16631	67 141	83 772	9,4
Sarah Baartman	3764	83 928	87 692	9,8
Unclassified	231433	0	231 433	25,9
Eastern Cape	**336874**	**557812**	**894 686**	**100,0**

The number of tests represents 10% of all the SARS-Cov-2 tests in South Africa. About 32,6% of the tests were from the Metros in the province.

4.2. Antigen Testing

Ten percent (10,1%) of the 75,632 tests done tested positive for SARS-Cov-2. These tests constitute 14% of the tests in the country.

Table 4. No. of SARS-Cov-2 Tests and results using Antigen Test Method, as of 11 Mar 2021

	Negative	Positive	Total	Percentage (%)	Positivity Rate (%)
A Nzo	7245	923	8168	10,8	11,3
Amathole	3589	603	4192	5,5	14,4
BC Metro	8892	1599	10491	13,9	15,2
Chris Hani	7011	1138	8149	10,8	14,0
Joe Gqabi	2510	465	2975	3,9	15,6
NM Metro	21276	1270	22546	29,8	5,6
OR Tambo	12601	1347	13948	18,4	9,7
Sarah Baartman	4863	300	5163	6,8	5,8
Total	**67987**	**7645**	**75632**	**100,0**	**10,1**

The Nelson Mandela Metro accounted for 29.8% followed by OR Tambo (18.4%), Buffalo City Metro (13.9%), Alfred Nzo (10.8%) and Chris Hani (10.8%). The highest positivity rate of 15.6% was observed in Joe Gqabi, followed by 15.2% in BC Metro, 14.4% in Amathole, and 14% in Chris Hani. The lowest positivity rates of 5.6% and 5.8% were reported in NM Metro and Sarah Baartman respectively. The number of antigen tests has increased by 7,8% from 3,201 on the previous week (ends of the 27th March) to 3,452 in the current week (ends on the 6th March).

4.3. Tests by age group and sex

Analysis of the tests, which were conducted shows that the majority of the tests, were among the economically active age group (20 to 59 years), i.e. 62.8%. The elderly population was 18,8% of the individuals who tested for SARS-Cov-2.

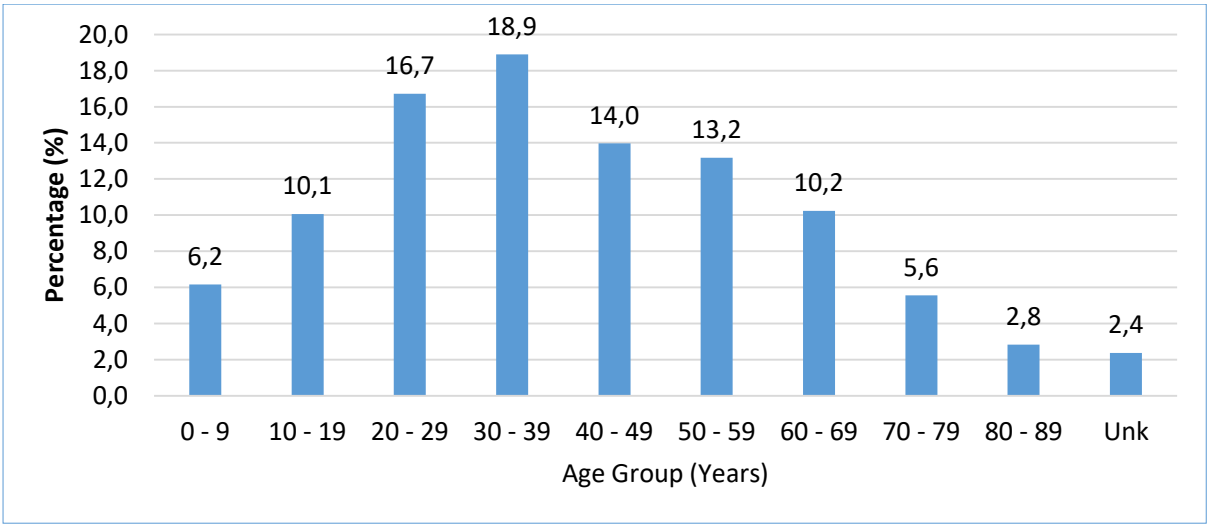


Fig. 3. The number of SARS-Cov-2 tests by age group, as of 11 Mar. 2021

The younger population and the elderly constitute less than 40% of the population that was tested.

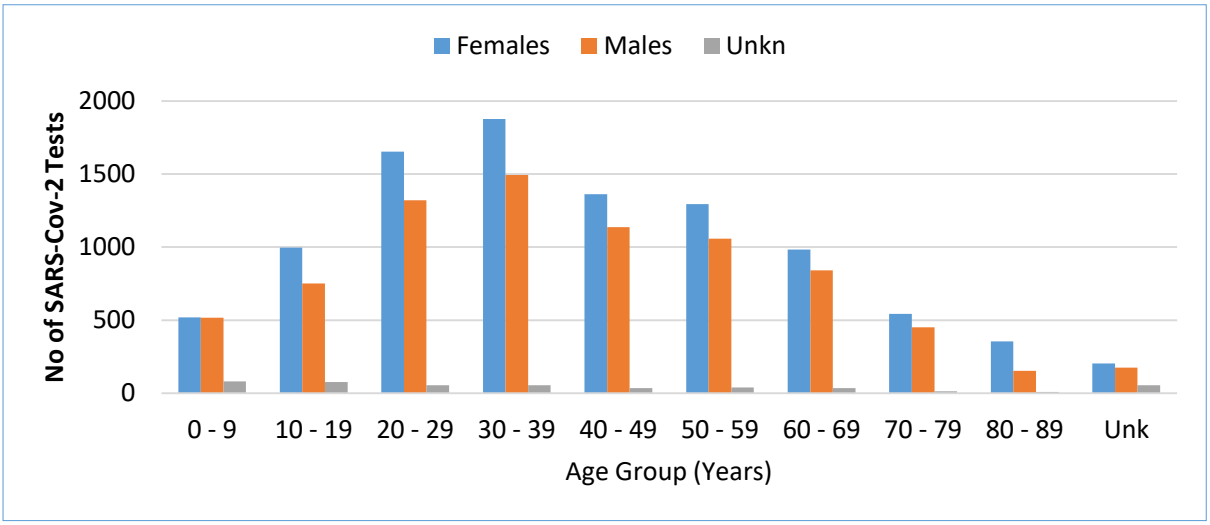


Fig. 4. No. of SARS-Cov-2 public sector tests by age group and gender, as of 11 Mar. 2021

The female population accounted for 54% and male population accounted for 43,6%, and 2,5% lacked information on gender.

4.4. Turnaround Time

The table below provides the turnaround time in both public and private laboratories.

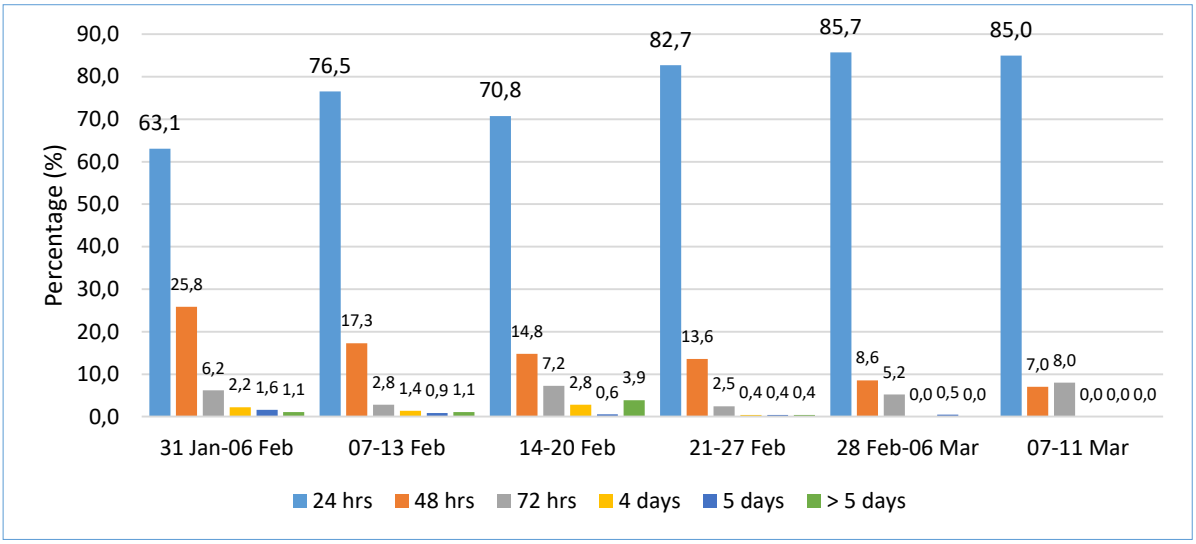


Fig. 5. Turnaround time for SARS-Cov-2 positive results by week as of 11 Mar. 2021

The laboratory results that were available within 24 hours of specimen collection have increased by 3,6%, i.e. from 82,7% in week 21-27 Feb to 85,7% in week 28 Feb-06 Mar. There was a 2,1% decrease in the results which were available within 48 hours, i.e. from 96,3% to 94,3% during the same period.

4.5. The 7-day moving average of SARS-Cov-2 tests & positivity rate

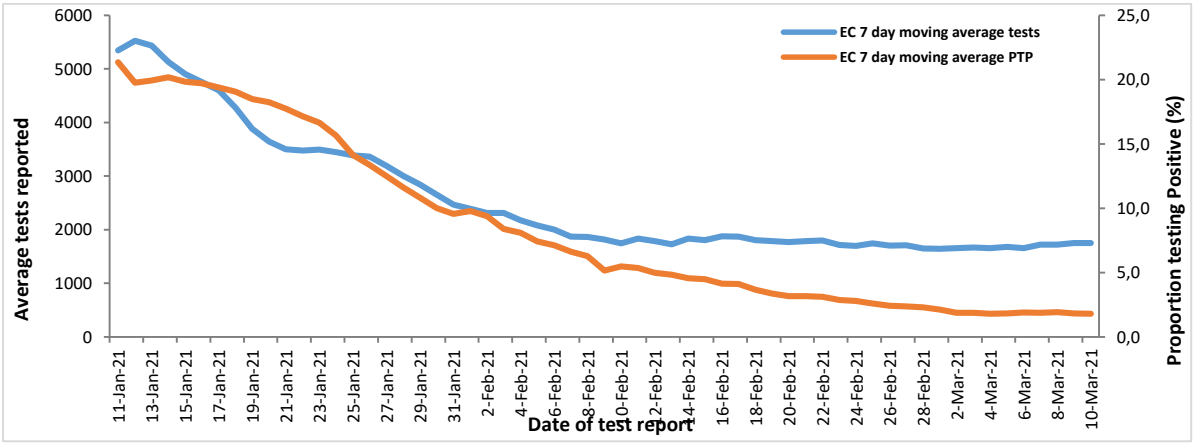


Fig. 6. 7-day moving average for SARS-Cov-2 tests and positivity rate, as of 10 Mar. 2021

The number of SARS-Cov-2 tests has increased by 5.3% from 1,658 on the 04th to 1,752 on the 10th of March 2021. However, the positivity rate remained the same at 1,8% during the same period.

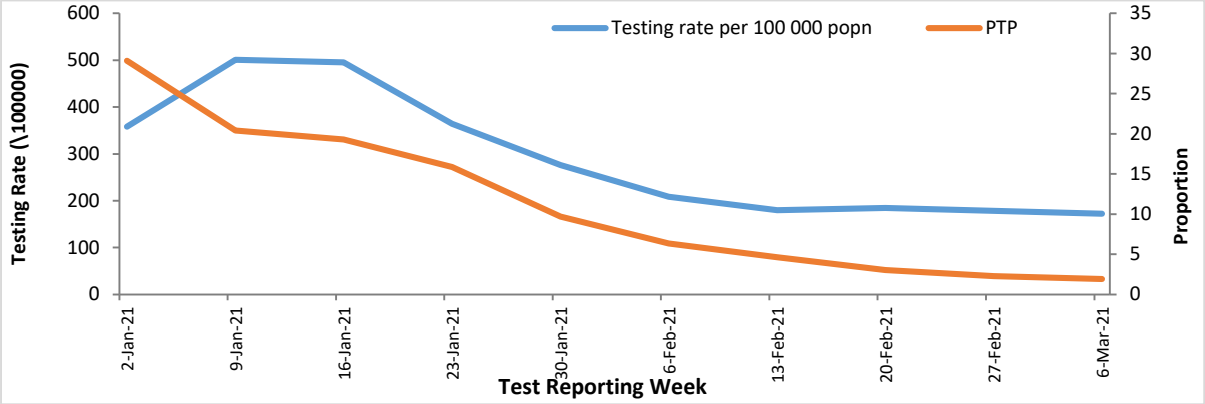


Fig. 7. Testing Rate for SARS-Cov-2 by week for past 9 weeks, as of 8 Mar. 2021

The testing rate for SARS-Cov-2 has decreased from the week of the 9th of January to the current week. In the past two weeks, there was a 2,9% decrease in the testing rate per week from 178 tests to 173 tests per 100,000 populations (i.e. < 200 tests per 100,000 per week). The current week was excluded because it is not yet complete.

5. ACTIVE CASES, INCIDENCE & POSITIVITY RATE

5.1. Active SARS-Cov-2 Cases

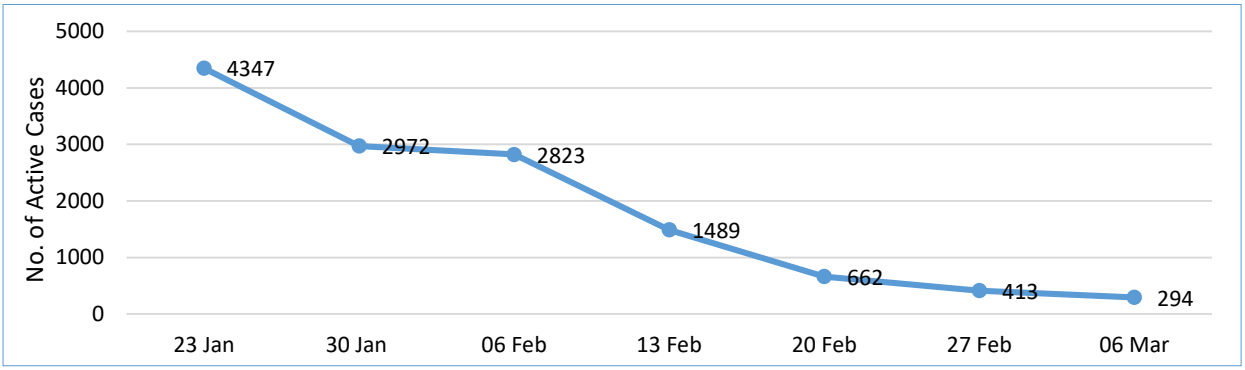
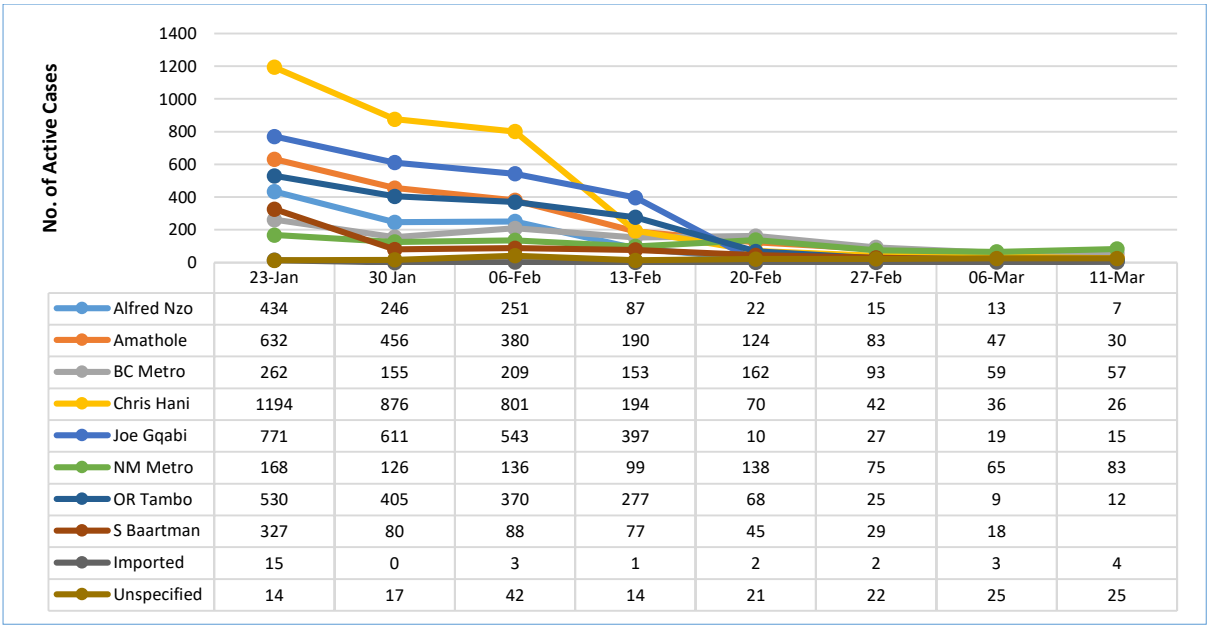


Fig. 8. Number of active SARS-Cov-2 cases by week, as of 06th March 2021

The abovementioned figure provides the number of active SARS-Cov-2 cases by week from the week that ended on the 23rd January to the one that ends on the 6th March.

The number of active SARS-Cov-2 cases has decreased significantly in the past 7 weeks. The number of active cases has decreased by 28,8% from 413 on the week ending on the 27th February to 294 on the week ending on the 06th March.



	23-Jan	30 Jan	06-Feb	13-Feb	20-Feb	27-Feb	06-Mar	11-Mar
Alfred Nzo	434	246	251	87	22	15	13	7
Amathole	632	456	380	190	124	83	47	30
BC Metro	262	155	209	153	162	93	59	57
Chris Hani	1194	876	801	194	70	42	36	26
Joe Gqabi	771	611	543	397	10	27	19	15
NM Metro	168	126	136	99	138	75	65	83
OR Tambo	530	405	370	277	68	25	9	12
S Baartman	327	80	88	77	45	29	18	
Imported	15	0	3	1	2	2	3	4
Unspecified	14	17	42	14	21	22	25	25

Fig. 9. No. of weekly Active SARS-Cov-2 cases by district, as of 11 March 2021

The number of SARS-Cov-2 active cases over the past 7 weeks appear to have decreased in all the districts. In the last three weeks, the two metros, Amathole and Chris Hani continue to have a high number of active cases compared to other districts.

5.2. Active SARS-Cov-2 cases and the cumulative positivity rate

Table 5. Confirmed SARS-Cov-2 cases, incidence & positivity rate, as on 11 Mar. 2020

District	Population Estimates	Number of Tests	SARS-Cov-2 Cases (ALL)	Active SARS-Cov-2 Cases	SARS-Cov-2 per 100,000 (Active)	Cumulative Positivity Rate
Alfred Nzo	827826	30 308	7974	7	0,8	26,3
Amathole	798067	79 028	19290	30	3,8	24,4
BC Metro	798798	126 242	38726	57	7,1	30,7
Chris Hani	733743	62 578	19508	26	3,5	31,2
Joe Gqabi	343075	28 018	7493	15	4,4	26,7
NM Metro	1210803	165 615	55318	83	6,9	33,4
OR Tambo	1520922	83 772	22427	12	0,8	26,8
S Baartman	480223	87 692	21736	18	3,7	24,8
Imported		0	602	4	0,0	0,0
Unspecified		231 433	1123	25	0,0	0,5
E Cape	**6713457**	**894 686**	**194197**	**277**	**4,1**	**21,7**

The incidence of active cases was 4,1 cases per 100,000 population. Six (6) districts had an incidence that was less than 5% per 100,000 and 2 districts have more than 5 per 100,000 but less than 10 per 100,000.

The cumulative positivity rate was 21,7%. Three (3) districts reported a cumulative positivity rate above 30%.

5.3. Incidence of SARS-Cov-2 cases

The incidence of SARS-Cov-2 has significantly declined in all districts. Since week 2 of the year, there was a decrease in incidence in all districts.

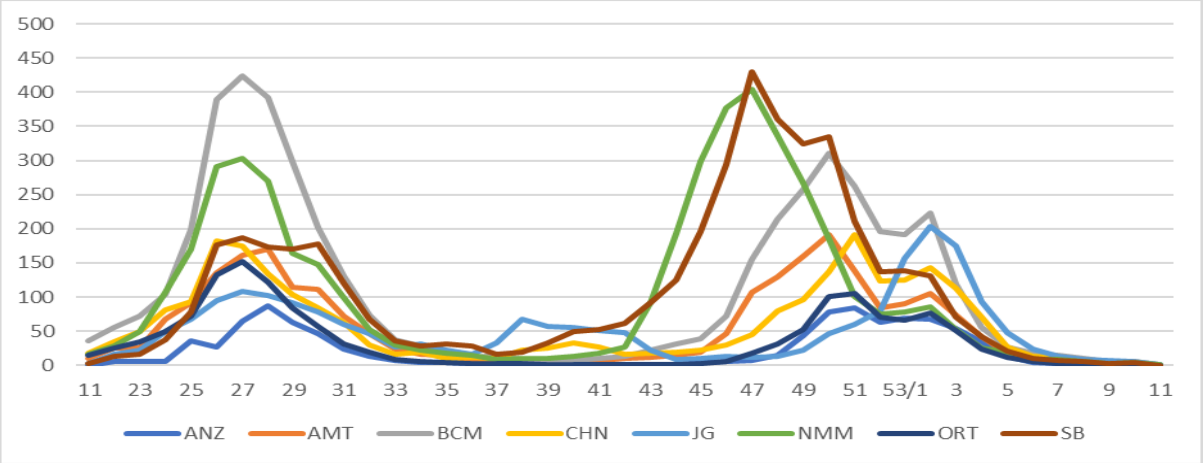
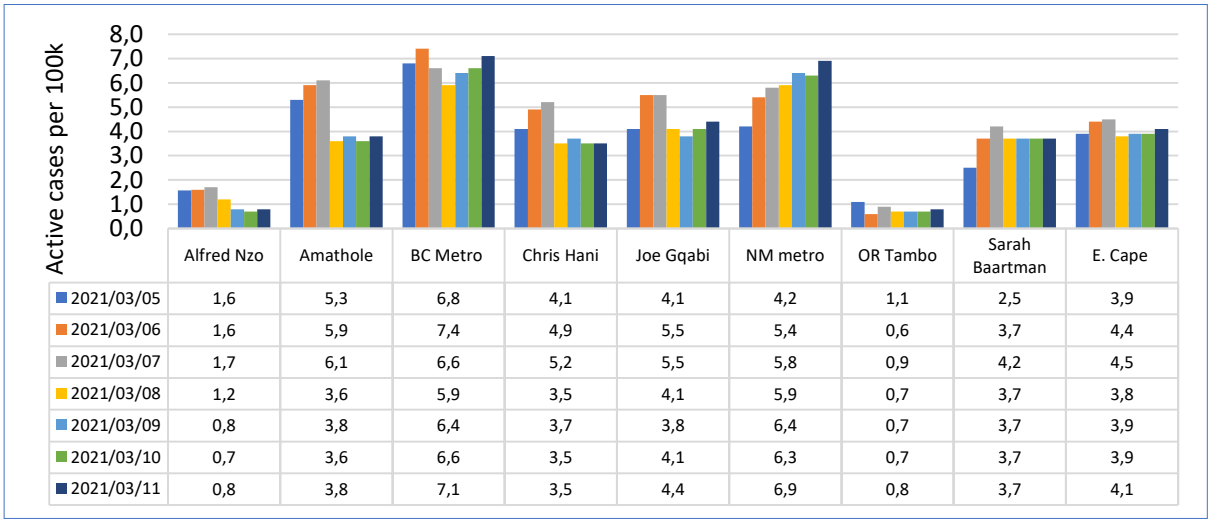


Fig. 10. Incidence of SARS-Cov-2 cases by epidemiological week, as of 11 Mar. 2021

In the past 7 days, the incidence of SARS-Cov-2 increased from 3.9 cases per 100,000 on the 05th March to 4,1 cases per 100,000 on the 11th March 2021.



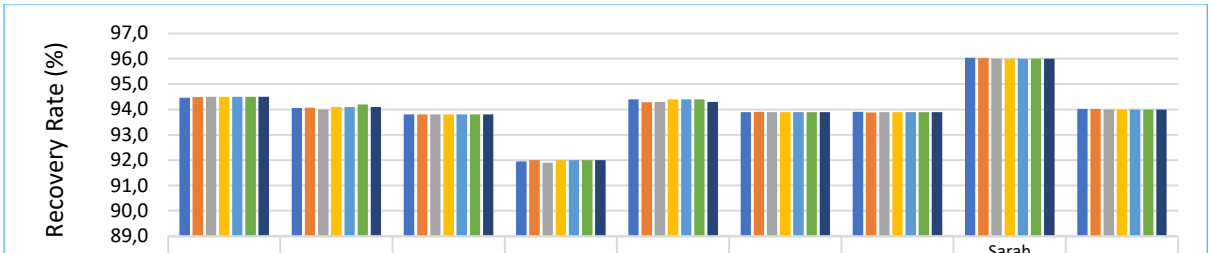
	Alfred Nzo	Amathole	BC Metro	Chris Hani	Joe Gqabi	NM metro	OR Tambo	Sarah Baartman	E. Cape
2021/03/05	1,6	5,3	6,8	4,1	4,1	4,2	1,1	2,5	3,9
2021/03/06	1,6	5,9	7,4	4,9	5,5	5,4	0,6	3,7	4,4
2021/03/07	1,7	6,1	6,6	5,2	5,5	5,8	0,9	4,2	4,5
2021/03/08	1,2	3,6	5,9	3,5	4,1	5,9	0,7	3,7	3,8
2021/03/09	0,8	3,8	6,4	3,7	3,8	6,4	0,7	3,7	3,9
2021/03/10	0,7	3,6	6,6	3,5	4,1	6,3	0,7	3,7	3,9
2021/03/11	0,8	3,8	7,1	3,5	4,4	6,9	0,8	3,7	4,1

Fig. 11. Incidence of active SARS-Cov-2 (per 100,000) by district date, as of 11 Mar. 2021

The incidence of SARS-Cov-2 was less than 5 cases per 100,000 in 6 districts, i.e. Alfred Nzo, Amathole, Chris Hani, Joe Gqabi, OR Tambo, and Sarah Baartman. Both metros had more than 5 cases but less than 10 cases per 100,000.

5.4. Recovery Rate (%)

The provincial recovery rate remained above 90% over the past 7 days. In the past 7 days, all the districts reported a recovery rate above 90%. The recovery rate has remained at 94,0% for the past 7 days.



	Alfred Nzo	Amathole	BC Metro	Chris Hani	Joe Gqabi	NMB metro	O R Tambo	Sarah Baartman	E. Cape
2021/03/05	94,5	94,1	93,8	92,0	94,4	93,9	93,9	96,0	94,0
2021/03/06	94,5	94,1	93,8	92,0	94,3	93,9	93,9	96,0	94,0
2021/03/07	94,5	94,0	93,8	91,9	94,3	93,9	93,9	96,0	94,0
2021/03/08	94,5	94,1	93,8	92,0	94,4	93,9	93,9	96,0	94,0
2021/03/09	94,5	94,1	93,8	92,0	94,4	93,9	93,9	96,0	94,0
2021/03/10	94,5	94,2	93,8	92,0	94,4	93,9	93,9	96,0	94,0
2021/03/11	94,5	94,1	93,8	92,0	94,3	93,9	93,9	96,0	94,0

Fig. 12. SARS-Cov-2 Recovery Rate (%) by districts, as of 11 Mar. 2021 (N=182,599)

The limitation of the data on outcomes is that there is poor reporting of the number of active cases, and recoveries during weekends.

5.5. Mapping of active cases, recoveries and deaths

The map shows the distribution of active cases, recoveries and deaths related to SARS-Cov2.

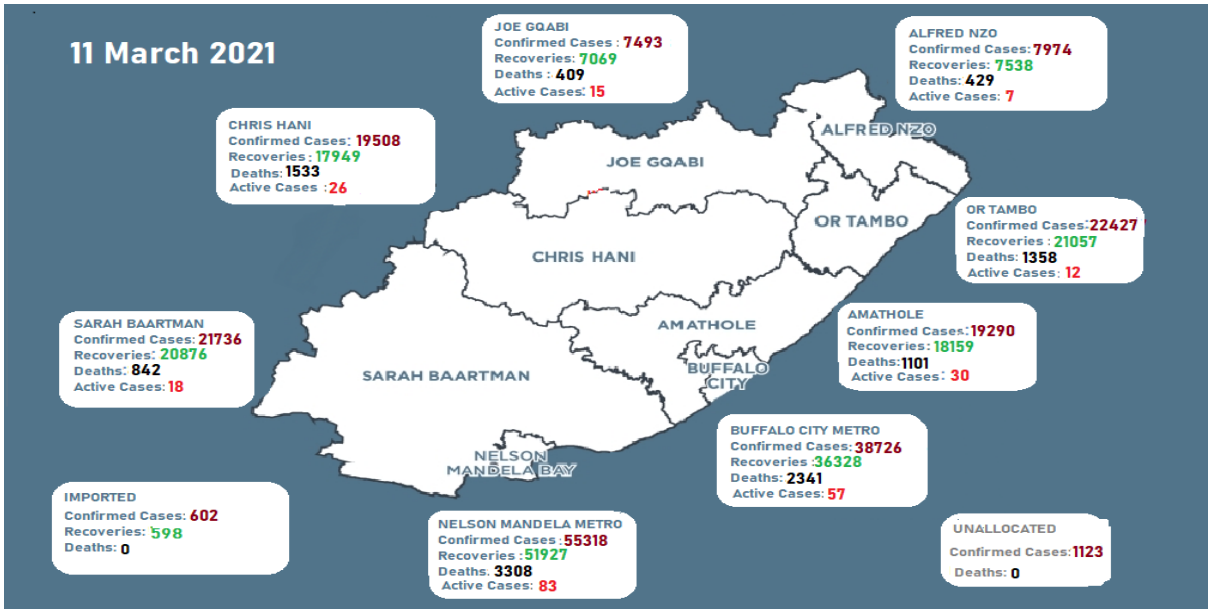
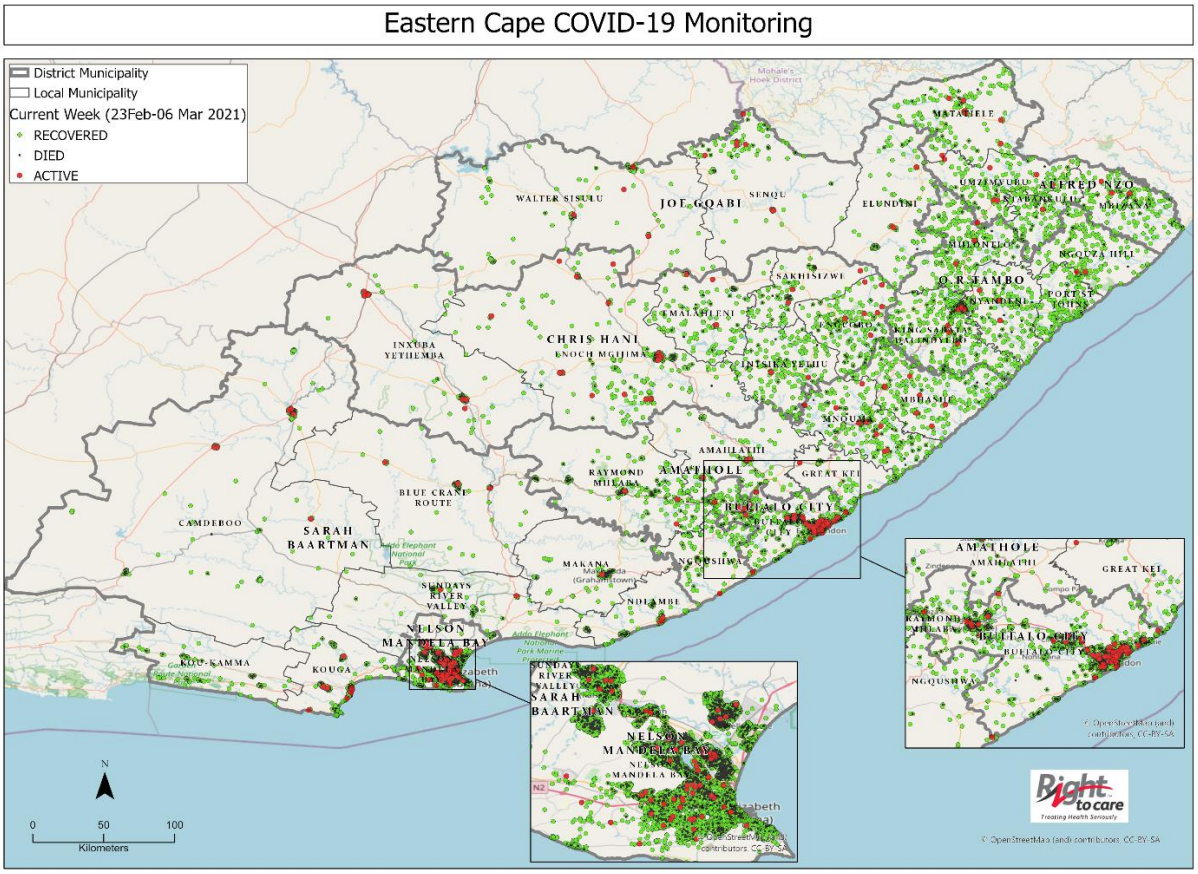


Fig. 13. The number of Covid-19 cases, recoveries and deaths, as of 11 Mar. 2021



6. SARS-COV-2 CASES AND 7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE

The graph below depicts the total number (including cumulative) of cases and the 7-day moving average.

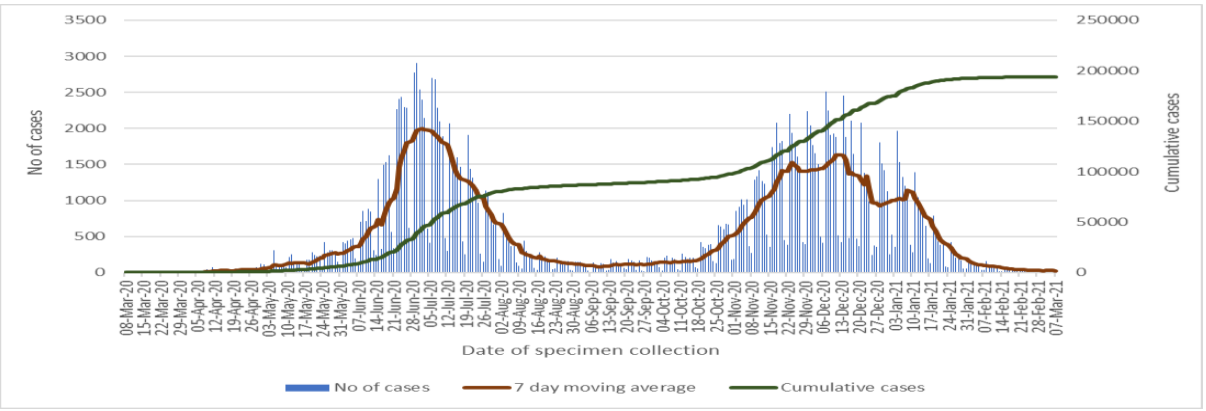


Fig. 14. The 7-day moving average for Covid-19 cases by date of collection, as of 11 Mar. 2021

The number of daily newly diagnosed cases increased from the second half of October and peaked in mid-December, and then decreased until to date. The number of cumulative cases appears to have stabilized (known as flattening of the curve).

7. SARS-Cov-2 RELATED MORTALITY

7.1. SARS-Cov-2 related deaths

The table below provides the total number of cases, deaths and mortality rate by the month.

Table 5. Number of cases and deaths by month, as on 11 Mar. 2020					
Month	**Cases**	**Deaths**	**Percent (%)**	**Case Fatality Rate (%)**	**Mortality Rate (per 100,000)**
Mar-20	13	1	0,0	7,7	0,0
Apr-20	638	35	0,3	5,5	0,5
May-20	3282	285	2,5	8,7	4,2
Jun-20	23793	1036	9,2	4,4	15,4
Jul-20	50290	2033	18,0	4,0	30,3
Aug-20	8279	668	5,9	8,1	10,0
Sep-20	2991	213	1,9	7,1	3,2
Oct-20	8625	287	2,5	3,3	4,3
Nov-20	33706	1709	15,1	5,1	25,5
Dec-20	42472	2776	24,5	6,5	41,3
Jan 21	18154	1909	16,9	10,5	28,4
Feb 21	1705	205	1,8	12,0	3,1
Mar 21	249	19	0,2	7,6	0,3
Unknown	0	145	1,3	0,0	2,2
Total	**194197**	**11321**	**100,0**	**5,8**	**168,6**

Twenty-five percent (24,5%) of the deaths occurred in December, 16,9% in January, 1,8% in February and 0.2% in March. The Case Fatality Rate was 6,5% in December, 10,5% in January, 12% in February and 7,6% in March.

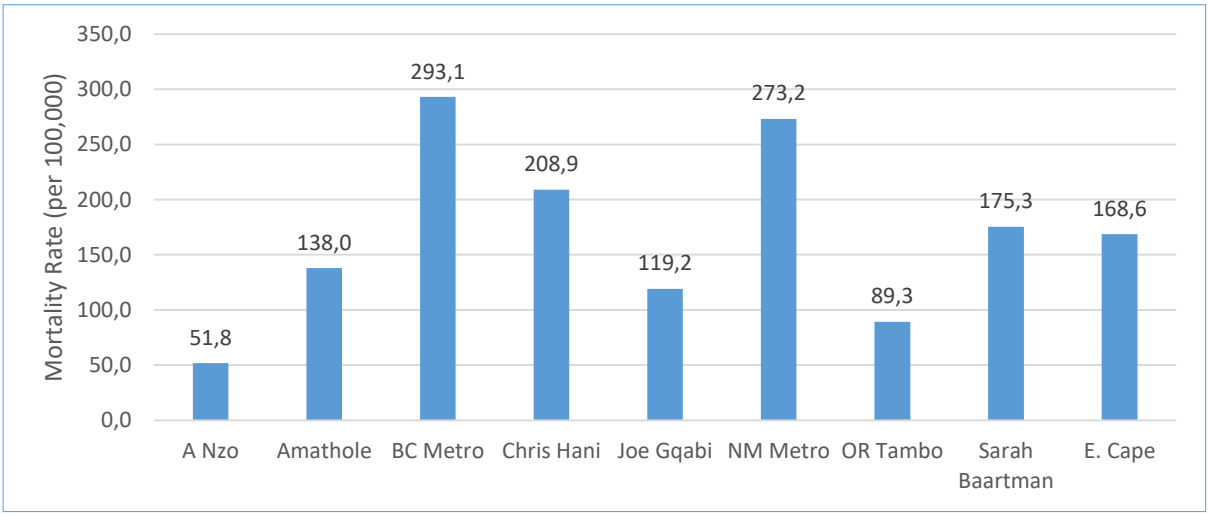


Fig. 15. SARS-Cov-2 related mortality per 100,000 by district, as of 11 Mar. 2021

The mortality rate related to SARS-Cov-2 was 168,6 deaths per 100,000 populations. The highest mortality rate was observed in Buffalo City Metro (293,1 deaths per 100,000) followed by Nelson Mandela Metro (273,2 deaths per 100,000), Chris Hani (208,9 per 100,000) and Sarah Baartman (175,3 per 100,000).

7.2. Number of reported SARS-Cov-2 related deaths

The figure below depicts the daily deaths and the cumulative number of deaths.

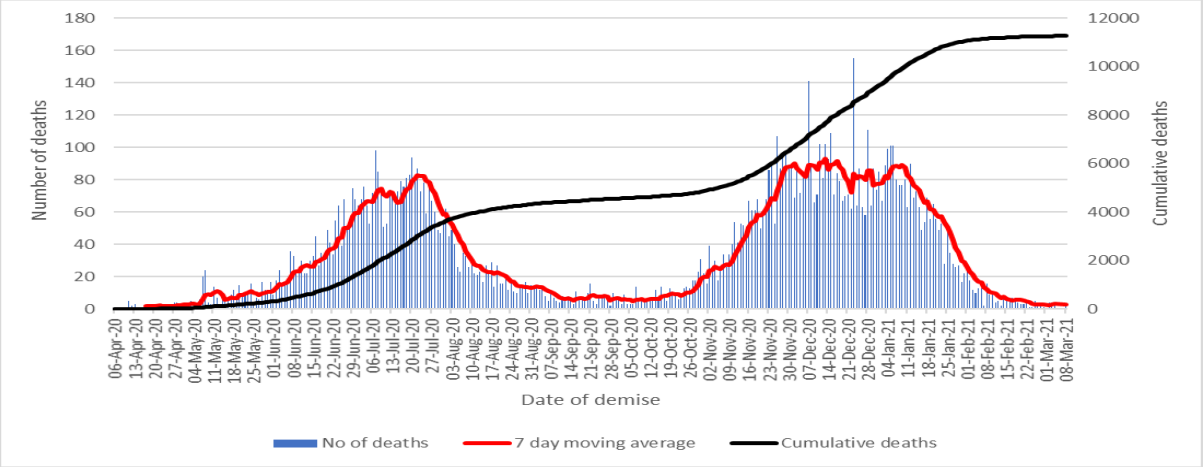


Fig. 16. Daily and cum. SARS-Cov-2 related deaths by date of demise, as of 11 Mar. 2021

The number of daily deaths increased since May 2020 and peaked on the 20th July 2020, then rapidly declined in August and October. In the last week of October, the number of deaths increased and peaked in mid-December. The number of deaths continues to decline from the first week of January.

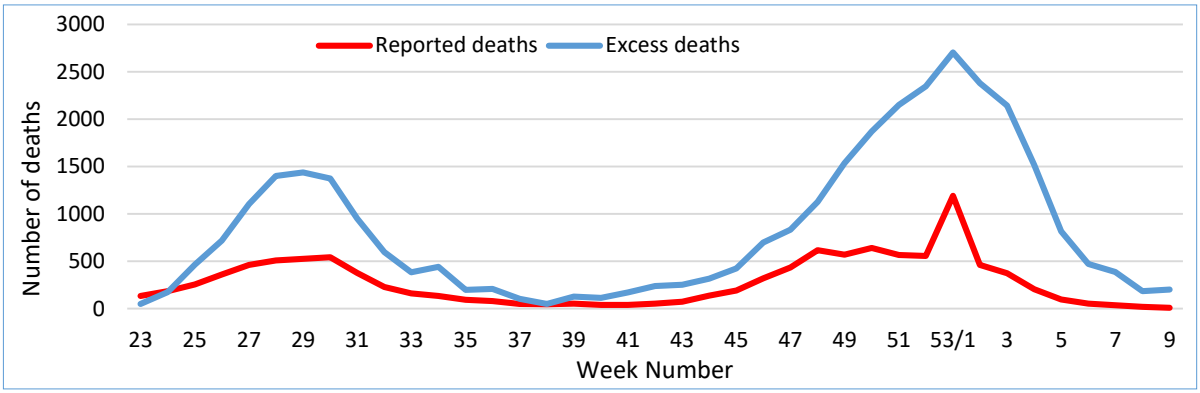
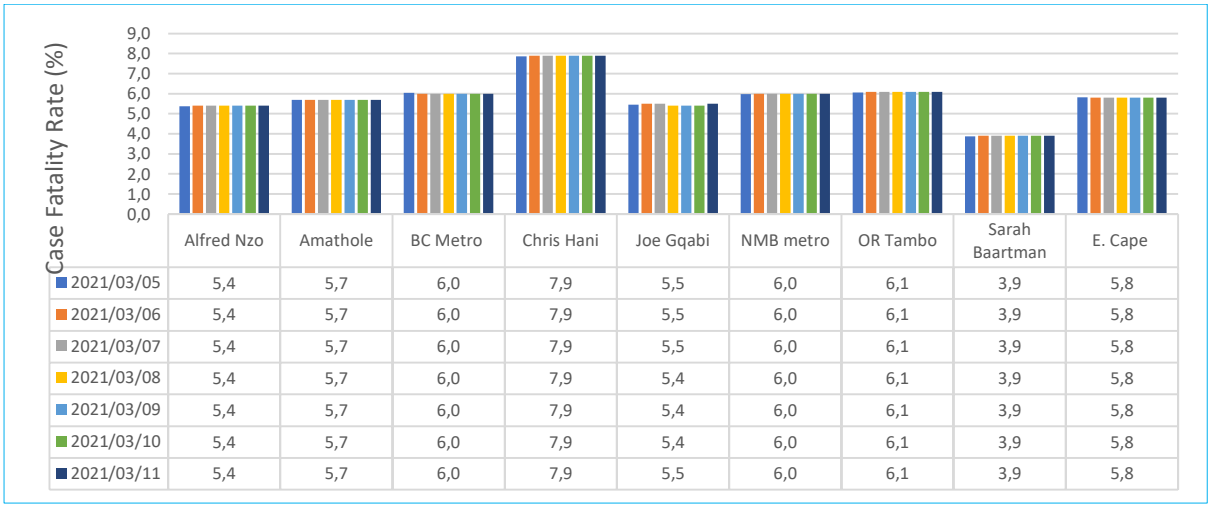


Fig. 17. Excess and SARS-Cov-2 related deaths by week, as on 04th Mar. 2021 (ECDOH, MRC)

The above graph shows the number of excess deaths extracted from the MRC website, and the number of SARS-Cov-2 related deaths as reported by the districts and their facilities. The differences in the number of deaths during the period of low transmission appear to be lower compared to the period of high transmission. In both the first and second waves, the number of excess deaths was significantly higher than the number of deaths that were reported in the department.

7.3. Case Fatality Rate by district

The Chris Hani district reported the highest case fatality rate of 7,9%, followed by OR Tambo (6.1%), Buffalo City Metro (6.0%), Nelson Mandela Metro (6.0%), Amathole (5.7%), Joe Gqabi (5,5%), Alfred Nzo (5.4%) and the lowest being Sarah Baartman by 3.9%.



	Alfred Nzo	Amathole	BC Metro	Chris Hani	Joe Gqabi	NMB metro	OR Tambo	Sarah Baartman	E. Cape
2021/03/05	5,4	5,7	6,0	7,9	5,5	6,0	6,1	3,9	5,8
2021/03/06	5,4	5,7	6,0	7,9	5,5	6,0	6,1	3,9	5,8
2021/03/07	5,4	5,7	6,0	7,9	5,5	6,0	6,1	3,9	5,8
2021/03/08	5,4	5,7	6,0	7,9	5,4	6,0	6,1	3,9	5,8
2021/03/09	5,4	5,7	6,0	7,9	5,4	6,0	6,1	3,9	5,8
2021/03/10	5,4	5,7	6,0	7,9	5,4	6,0	6,1	3,9	5,8
2021/03/11	5,4	5,7	6,0	7,9	5,5	6,0	6,1	3,9	5,8

Fig. 18. SARS-Cov-2 Case Fatality Rate (%) by district, as of 11 Mar. 2021 (N=11,321)

There was no increase in the case fatality rate in the past 7 days. This may be due to a decrease in the number of deaths.

7.4. Case Fatality Rate by age group

The figure below provides the case fatality rate for both males and females.

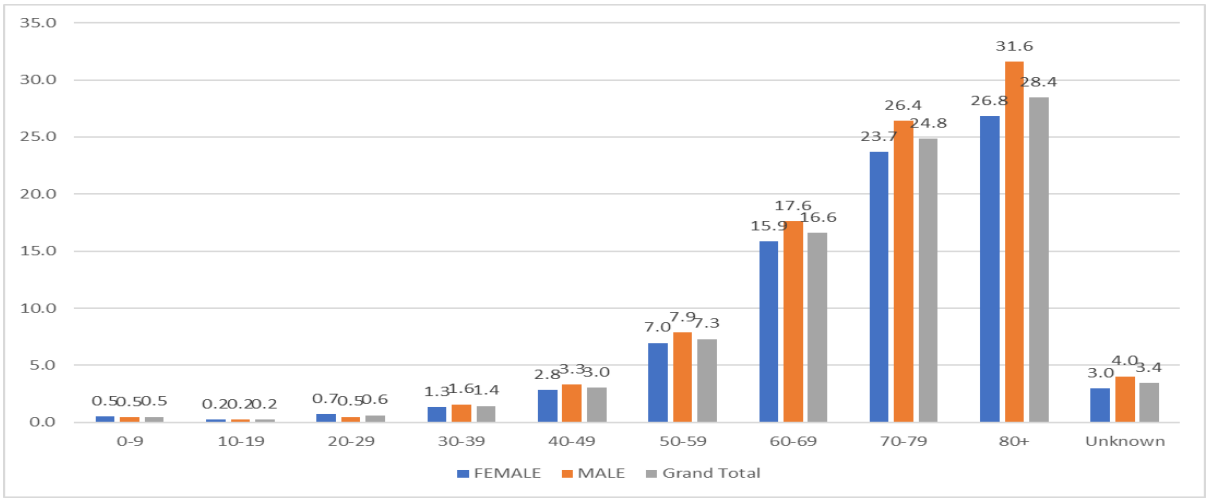


Fig. 19. SARS-Cov-2 related Case Fatality Rate (%) by age group, as of 10 Mar. 2021

The case fatality rate increases with increasing age. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the younger population had a low case fatality rate compared to the older population that had an increased case fatality rate. The male population had a higher case fatality rate compared to the female population.

7.5. Post-mortem testing

As of the 11th of March, 1,688 post-mortem tests were conducted from all districts.

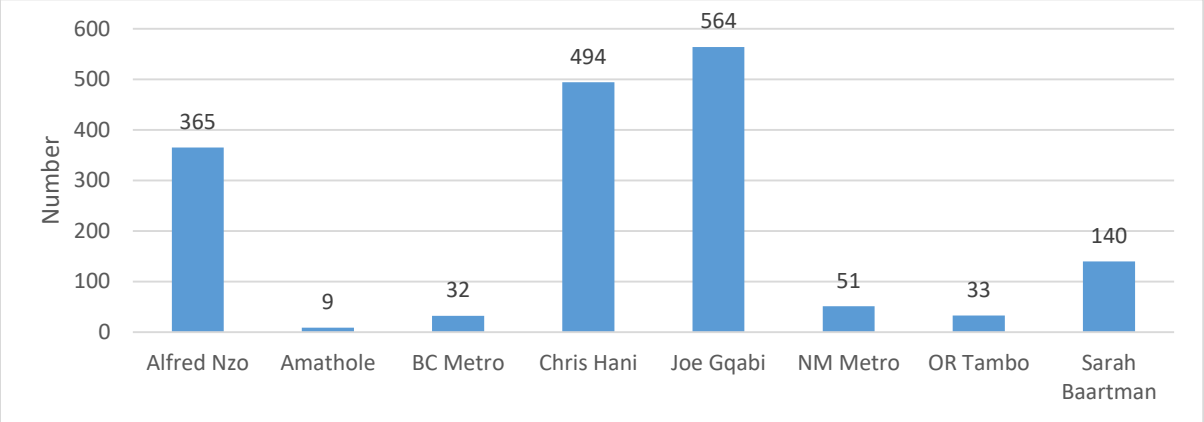
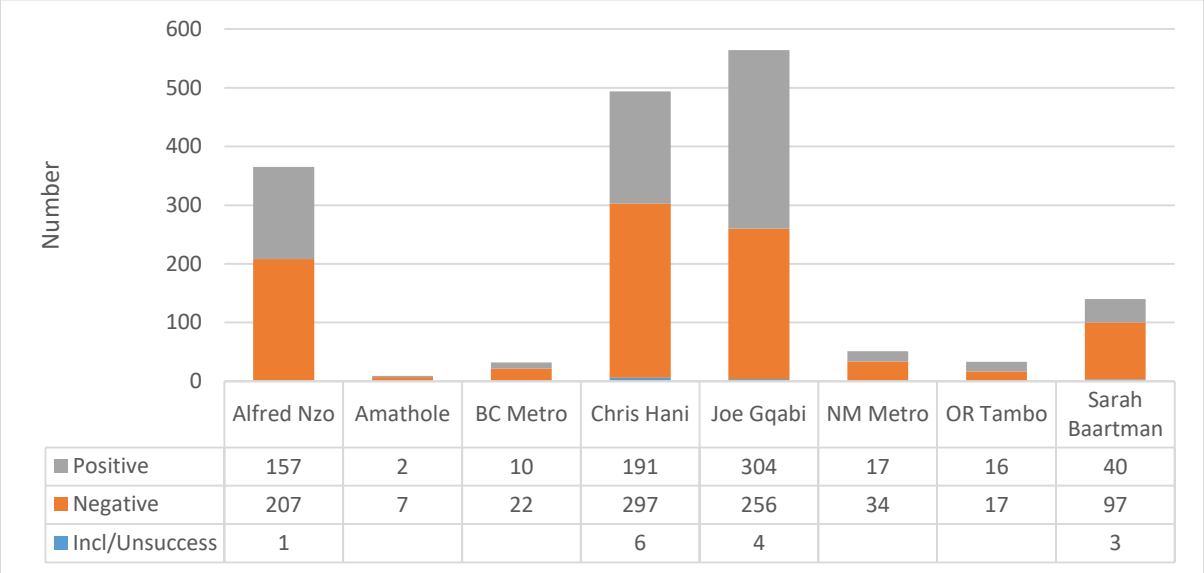


Fig. 20. No. of deaths with SARS-Cov-2 PMT done by district, as of 11th Mar. 2021 (N=1,688)

Three districts reported more than 300 post-mortem tests, i.e. Joe Gqabi, followed by Chris Hani and Alfred Nzo. Sarah Baartman reported more than 100 tests. The district with the lowest number of post-mortem tests was Amathole.



	Alfred Nzo	Amathole	BC Metro	Chris Hani	Joe Gqabi	NM Metro	OR Tambo	Sarah Baartman
Positive	157	2	10	191	304	17	16	40
Negative	207	7	22	297	256	34	17	97
Incl/Unsuccess	1			6	4			3

Fig. 21. Number of post-mortem test results by district, as of 11 Mar. 2020 (PMTs =1,688)

The number of post-mortem tests done by the public sector laboratories was 1,688. Eighty-four per cent (84,3%) of the tests were done in Alfred Nzo, Chris Hani and Joe Gqabi.

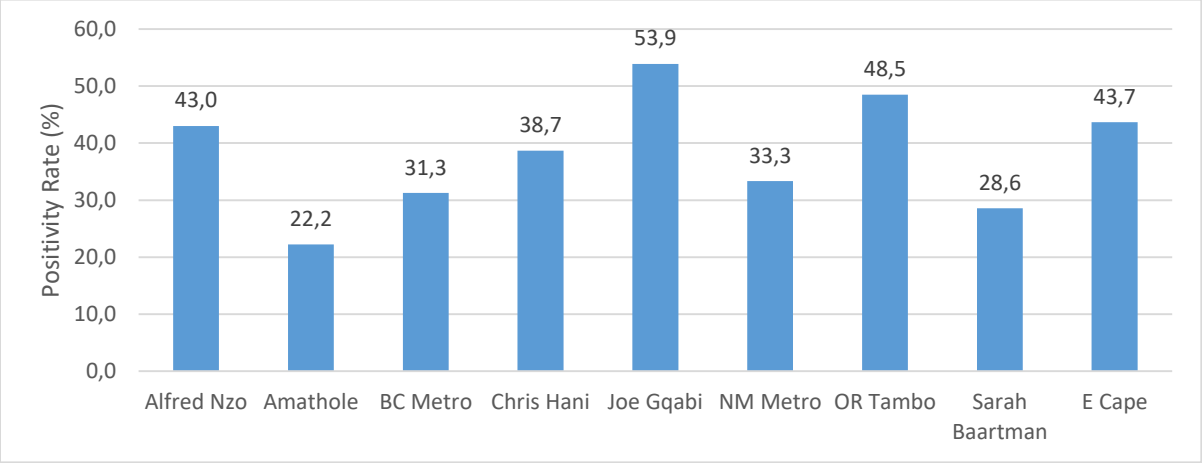


Fig. 22. Post-mortem SARS-Cov-2 positivity rate by district, as of 11th March 2021

Forty-four percent (43,7%) of the PMTs conducted have tested positive for SARS-Cov-2. Joe Gqabi reported a 50% and above positivity rate, followed by OR Tambo and Chris Hani. The lowest positivity rate was observed in the Amathole district, which had the lowest number of PMTs done.

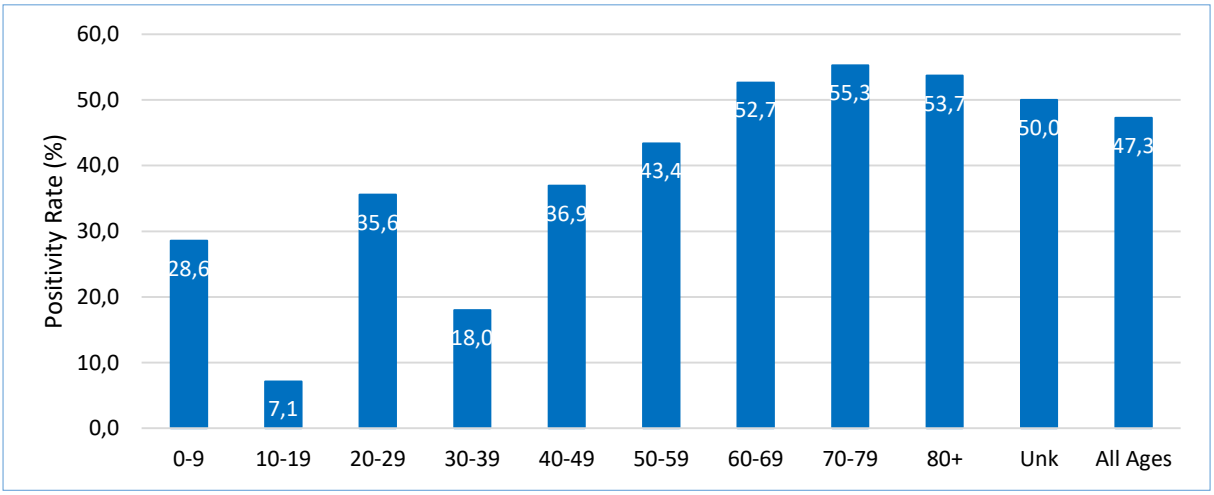


Fig. 23. SARS-Cov-2 post-mortem positivity rate by age group, as of 24th Feb. 2021

Sixty-six percent (65,5%) of the post mortems were done among the elderly population from 60 years and above. The positivity rate among that age group was 50% and above.

7.6. Deaths by health facilities

The figure below provides the number of deaths by hospital or place. Only hospitals or places with a minimum of 25 deaths are included in the figure below. Nearly most of the hospitals including both private and public have reported a case or more, whether private or public.

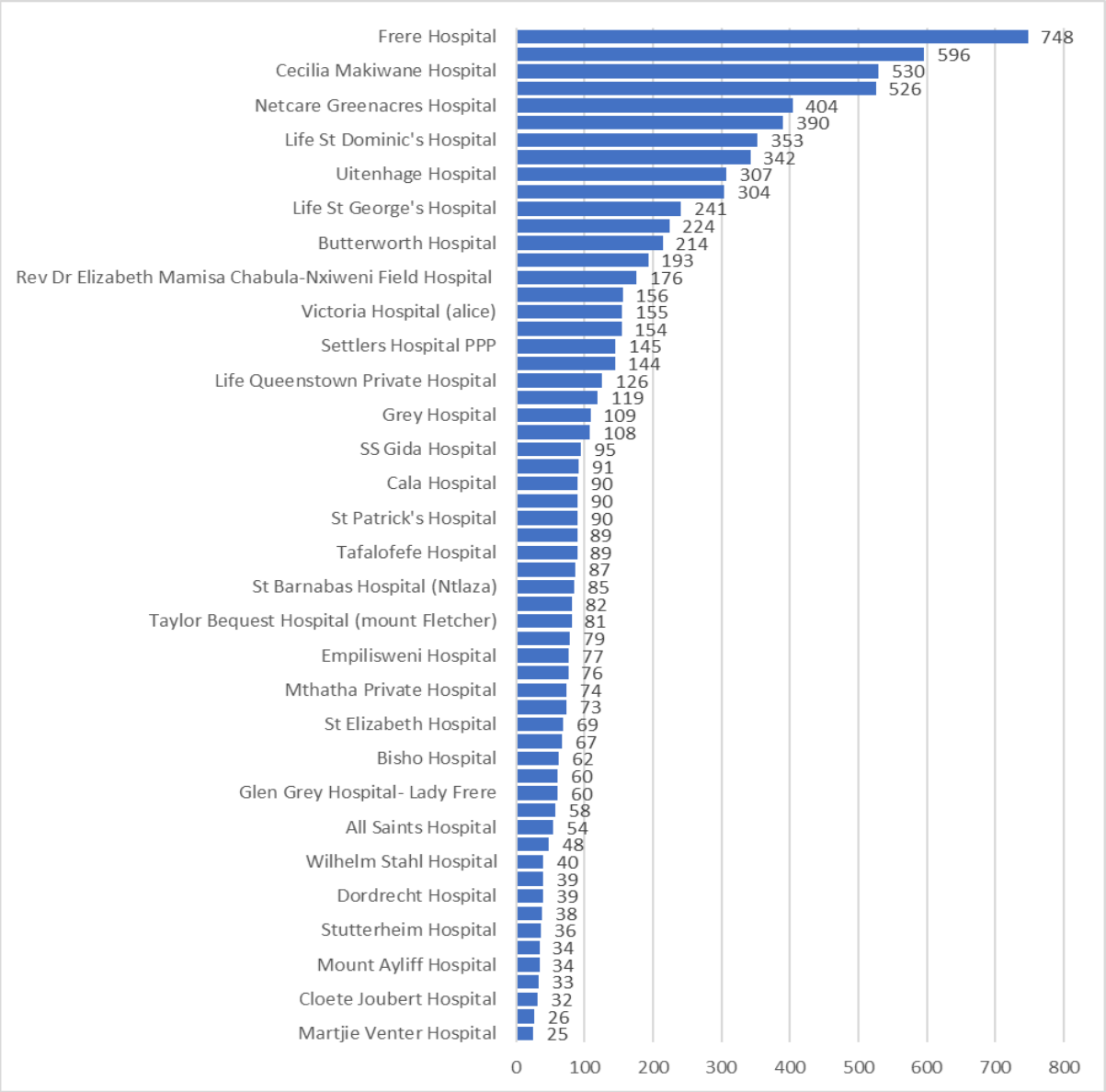


Fig. 24. No. of SARS-Cov-2 related deaths by the facility, as of 10 Mar. 2021

The majority of the deaths, which occurred in the province, occurred in 17 hospitals. The hospitals include Frere, Cecilia Makiwane, Dorah Nginza, Livingstone, Life St. Dominics, Netcare Greenacres, Mercantile, Uitenhage, Frontier, Mthatha Regional, Life St. Georges, Netcare Cuyler, Life EL Private, Life Queenstown, Butterworth and Rev. Dr. EM Chabula-Nxiweni Field Hospitals.

6. HEALTHCARE WORKERS

6.1. Cases and deaths among healthcare workers (HCWs)

As of 10th March 2021, 11,836 HCWs tested positive for SARS-Cov-2 and 304 persons demised.

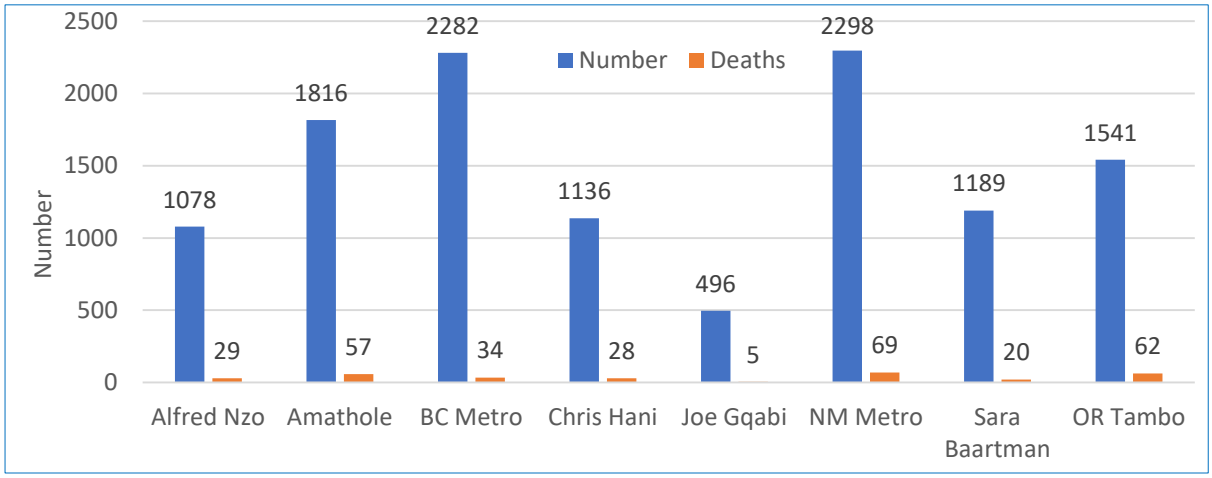


Fig. 25. SARS-Cov-2 positive Healthcare Workers, as on 10 Mar. 2021 (N = 11,836)

The number of healthcare workers who tested positive for SARS-Cov-2 in Nelson Mandela Metro was 2,298 (69 deaths), Buffalo City Metro 2,282 (34 deaths), Amathole 1,816 (57 deaths), OR Tambo 1,541 (62 deaths), Sarah Baartman 1189 (20 deaths), Chris Hani 1,136 (27 deaths) and Alfred Nzo (1078 cases, with 29 deaths).

6.2. SARS-Cov-2 Cases by job category

The table below provides the number of selected healthcare professionals employed by the State and SARS-Cov-2 cases by job categories, and the positivity rate of that job category.

Table 6. SARS-Cov-2 cases by selected job categories, as on 10 Mar. 2021

	Population	Cases	Positivity Rate (%)
Admin	12434	793	6,4
Allied Professionals	3041	233	7,7
Doctors & Clinical Assoc	2369	440	18,6
Nurses	20650	4850	23,5
Emergency Medical Services	2498	298	11,9

The positivity rate among the nurses was 23,5%, followed by doctors and clinical associates (18,6%), allied professionals (7,7%), EMS (11,9%), and admin personnel (6,4%). The positivity rates among healthcare workers negatively affect patient safety, staff morale and confidence, and the capacity of the State to provide quality health services to the population.

6.3. Admissions of healthcare workers

The analysis of the admissions of the healthcare workers was 1,029 healthcare workers who admitted to the hospitals in the Eastern Cape. The source of the data was DATCOV.

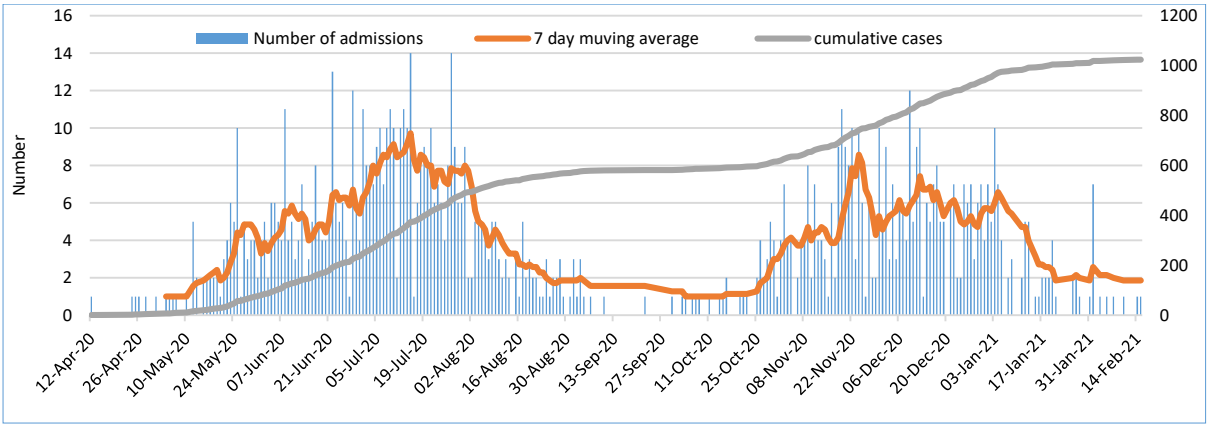


Fig. 26. No. of SARS-Cov-2 related admissions of healthcare workers, as of 19th Feb. 2021

The abovementioned figure shows the number of admissions, 7-day moving average and cumulative cases among healthcare workers. Figure 19 appear to mimic the epi-curve and admissions of the general population in both the first and the second waves.

6.4. Case Fatality Rate (%) among HCWs

The figure below provides the cases fatality rate among all healthcare workers.

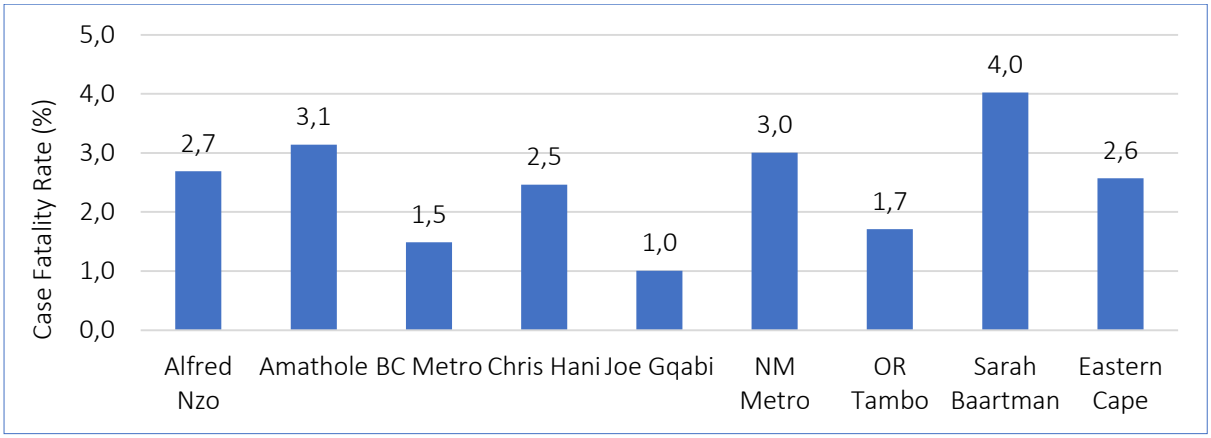


Fig. 27. SARS-Cov-2 Case Fatality Rate (%) among HCWs, as of 09 Mar. 2021 (N=304)

The case fatality rate among healthcare workers was 2.6%. The case fatality rate was reported to be equal or above 1% in all the districts in the province. Sarah Baartman reported the highest case fatality rate, followed by Amathole, Nelson Mandela Metro, Alfred Nzo and Chris Hani. The case fatality rate of less than 2% was observed in three districts, i.e. Joe Gqabi, BC Metro and OR Tambo.

7. Hospitalization and outcomes

7.1. Admissions and outcomes

The cumulative number of SARS-Cov-2 hospitalizations is 31,430 (DATCOV). Fifty-nine percent (58,5%) of the hospitalizations occurred in the Metros. Chris Hani and OR Tambo reported 10,5% and 10,1% of the hospitalizations, respectively.

Table 7: No of hospitalisation by district as on 11 March 2021

District	Public	Private	Grand Total	Percentage
Alfred Nzo	1682	93	1775	5,60%
Amathole	2351	0	2351	7,50%
Buffalo City Metro	4205	3102	7307	23,20%
Chris Hani	2552	736	3288	10,50%
Joe Gqabi	703	0	703	2,20%
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	6683	4418	11101	35,30%
O R Tambo	2284	888	3172	10,10%
Sarah Baartman	1595	138	1733	5,50%
EC	**22055**	**9375**	**31430**	**100,00%**

Of the reported hospitalizations, 22,055 (70,2%) occurred in public sector and 9,375 (29,8%) occurred in private sector health facilities.

Table 8 : No of hospitalisation and Outcomes as on 11 March 2021

Eastern Cape	Public	Private	Total
Cumulative Admissions	22055	9375	31430
Died	7125	2255	9380
Discharged Alive	13262	6956	20218
Transferred Out	1552	34	1586
Currently Admitted	71	124	195
In ICU	0	35	35
In High Care	4	4	8
In General	67	85	152
On Oxygen	37	31	68
Ventilated	3	9	12

Of all the hospitalized cases, 64,3% (20,218) of hospitalized patients were discharged alive and 65,6% (13,262) of the reported discharges were from the public sector. Thirty percent 29,8% of hospitalized cases demised due to SARS-Cov-2 related causes with 76% (7,125) of those reported deaths occurring in public sector facilities.

Of the 195 current admissions, 152 (77.9%) were admitted in the general ward, 35 (17.9%) in ICU and 8 (4.1%) in High Care. And 68 (34.3%) of current admissions were on oxygen and 12 (6.1%) were on ventilation.

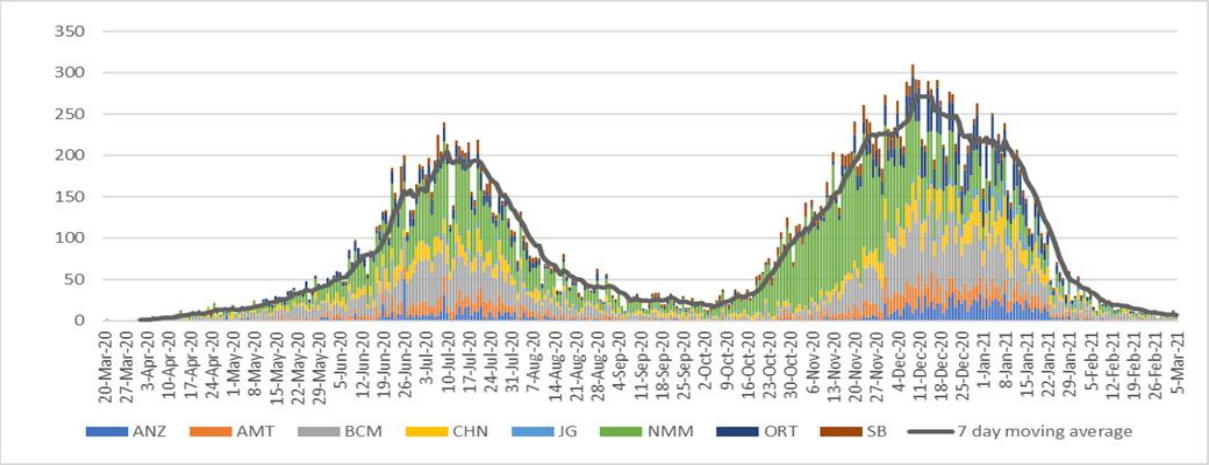


Fig. 28. Average (7 days moving) daily admissions by districts, as of 11 Mar. 2021 (DATCOV)

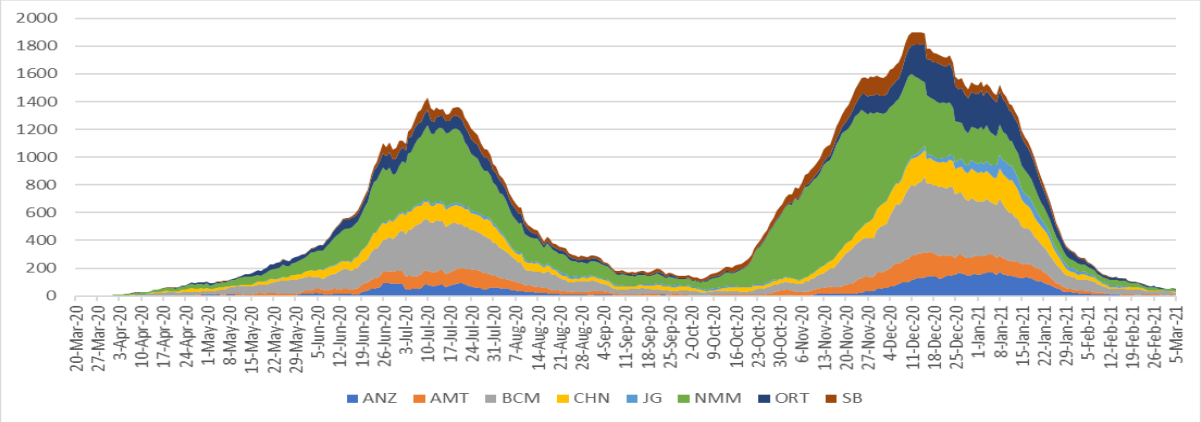


Fig. 29. No. of hospitalizations by date of admission for each district, as of 11 Mar. 2021

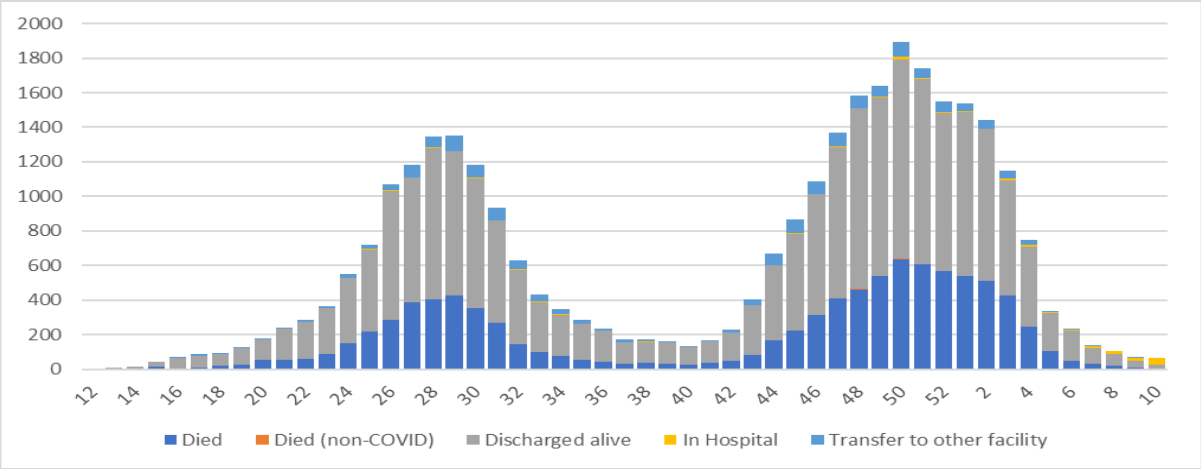


Fig. 30. Hospitalizations & outcomes by admission week, as of 11 Mar. 2021 (DATCOV)

The number of currently hospitalized patients remained high during the last part of the year and started to decline thereafter.

7.2. Co-morbidities among admitted cases and deaths

The most common co-morbidities among the hospitalized SARS-Cov-2 patients were hypertension (38,4%) and diabetes (25,5%) among hospitalized SARS-Cov-2 cases. Two other commonly reported co-morbidities HIV (7,2%), obesity (5,6%) and asthma (3,5%).

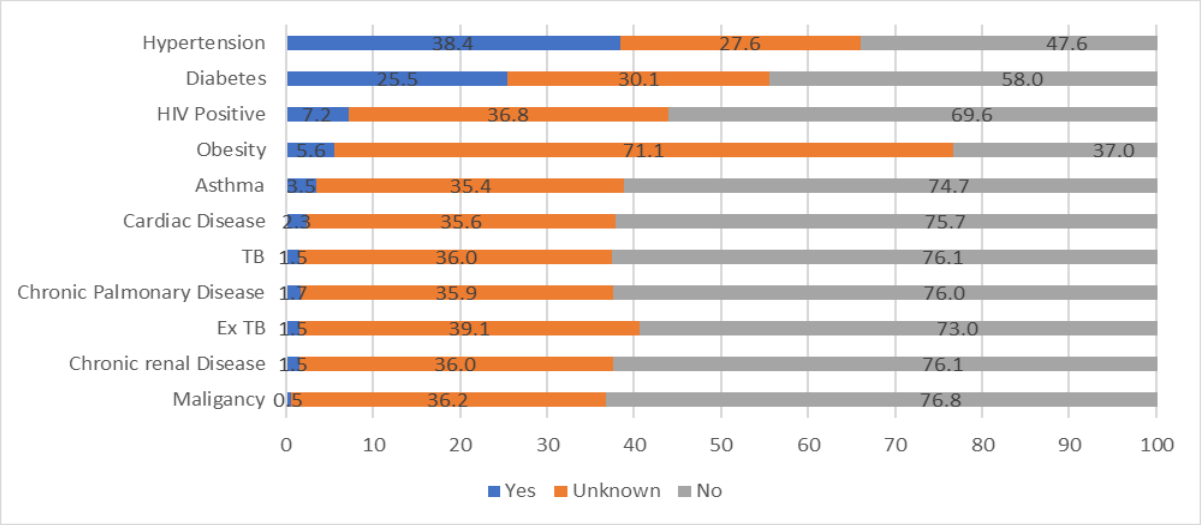


Fig. 31. Co-morbidities among SARS-Cov-2 hospitalizations, as of 10 Mar.2021 (DATCOV)

A significant percentage of hospitalized patients did not have co-morbidities. This may have resulted in the under-estimation of the burden of co-morbidities among hospitalized cases.

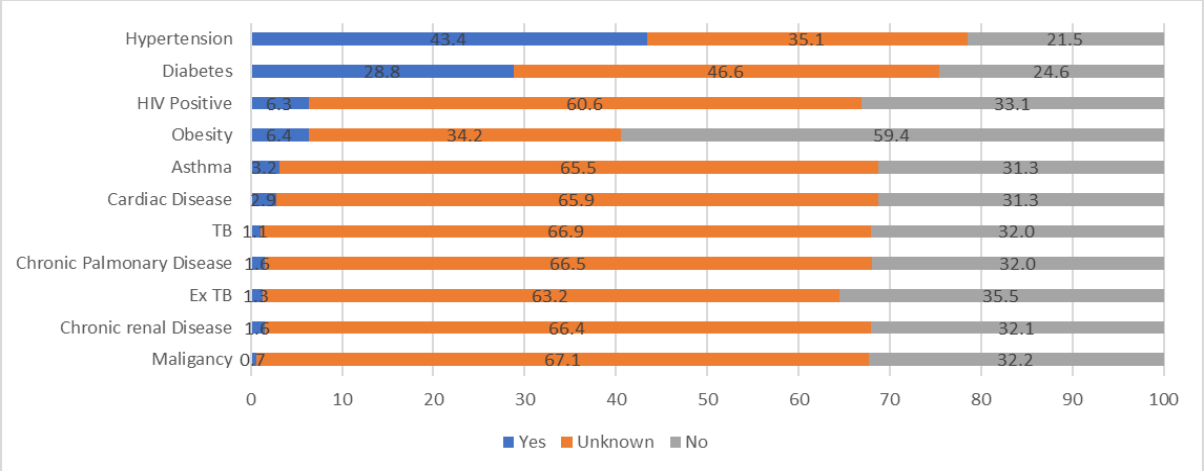


Fig. 32. Co-morbidities among SARS-Cov-2 cases who demised, as of 10 Mar. 2021 (DATCOV)

The most common comorbidities among those cases that demised in the hospital include hypertension (43,4%) and diabetes (28,8%). Other 4 co-morbidities were reported, i.e. obesity (6,4%), HIV (6,3%), asthma (3,2%) and cardiac diseases (2,9%).

8. KEY INTERVENTIONS

There are key issues, which require improvement;

- Strengthen surveillance of SARS-Cov-2 including collection and testing of specimens
- Prioritize contact tracing and monitoring to minimize the spread of the infections
- Isolate positive cases and quarantine contacts to minimize transmission
- Promote the use of prevention measures against SARS-Cov-2, i.e. wearing of masks, social distancing, and frequent handwashing.

DISTRICT	TOTAL SCREENED	TOTAL TESTED	TOTAL CASES	RECOVERIES	DEATHS	ACTIVE CASES	AREAS
ALFRED NZO	694 706	30 308	7 974	7 538	429	7	Badibanise,Bhakubha,Bizana,Brooksnek,Cedarville,Chithwa,Dutyini,Emanxiweni,Ezinteteni,Kokstad,Lucingweni,Maluti, Mandileni , Matatiele ,Mount Ayliff, Mount Frere , Ndlantana, Ngcingo , Ntabakhulu, Sugar Bush, Tabankulu
AMATHOLE	658 126	79 028	19 290	18 159	1101	30	Adelaide, Alice, Bolotwa, Butterworth, Cathcart, Centane, Cuba, Debe Nek, Dikana, Elliotdale, Ethafeni, Frankfort, Fort Beaufort, Ibika, Idutywa, Keiskammahoek, Willowale, Lower Mbhangcolo,Debe Nek, Mgababa, Nyaniso, Peddie
BUFFALO CITY METRO	210 367	126 242	38 726	36 328	2341	57	Abbottsford, Amalinda , Beacon Bay, Bisho, Braelynn, Buffalo Flats, Dimbaza, Duncan Village, East London, Ginsberg, Gonubie, Greenfields, Haven Hills, King William's Town, Mamata, Mdantsane, Masingata, Mantlaneni, Nahoon, Ndevana, Needs Camp, Parkside, Selbourne, Sunnyridge, Sunset Bay,Tshatshu, Vincent, West Bank, Zwelitsha
CHRIS HANI	515 346	62 578	19 508	17 949	1533	26	Bankies, Dordrecht, Dukathole, Ekunene, Ezibeleni, Kwanobuhle, Mcwangele, Madeira Park, New Rest, Ngcobo, Ngonyama, Popcorn Valley, Qebe, Qoqodala, Queenstown, Sigadleni, Vaalbank, Sada, Middleburg, Thornhill, Ndzamela, Mlungisi,Westbourne,Ntlonze, Maya Village,Ekuphumuleni, TopTown, Vleipoort, Zola
JOE GQABI	87 855	28 018	7 493	7 069	409	15	Aliwal North, Barkley East, Bhodi, Land Camp, Ugie, Inglewood, Maclear, Solomzi, Sunduza,Robbern,Venterstsad
NELSON MANDELA METRO	856 883	165 615	55 318	51 927	3308	83	Algoa Park, Bethelsdorp, Bloemendal, Bluewater Bay, Booysens Park, Cotswold, Cuyler, Daleview, Despatch, Fernglen Port, Gelvandale, Govan Mbeki, Heath Park, Helenvale, Jacksonville, Joe Slovo, Kabega Park, Kamma Park, Kamvelihle, Khayalethu, Kleinskool, Kwa Dwesi, Kwa-Magxaki, Kwanobuhle, Kwanoxolo, KwaZakhele, Lovemore Heights, Missionvale, Motherwell, Mount Croix, New Brighton, Newton Park ,North End, Port Elizabeth, Rowallan Park, Salt Lake, Sardinia Bay, Schauderville, Sherwood, Silvertown, Soweto-On-Sea, Steve Tshwete, Summerstrand, Tamboville, Uitenhage, Veeplaas, Walmer, West End, Westering, Zwide, Lorraine, Hillside, Daleview
OR TAMBO	265 613	83 772	22 427	21 057	1358	12	Gomora, Lutatweni, Machibi, Majola, Mandilini ,New Payne Ngqeleni, Ntsimbini, Old Payne, Libode, Lusikisiki, Mqanduli, Tombo, Marhewini, Mpikwana,Bhongweni,Cibeni, Flagstaff,Magcakeni,Ngangelizwe, Ngqanda,Tyebelana, Pollar Park, Tabase Mission, Slovo Park, Southernwood, Waterfall Park, Zandukwana,Zimbane, Ziphunzana
SARAH BAARTMAN	288 877	87 692	21 736	20 876	842	18	Aberdeen, Alexandria, Graaf-Reinet, Grahamstown, Jeffrey's Bay, Jourbertina, Humansdorp, Parson, St. Francis Bay, Kirkwood, Lotusville, Bergendal, Bratenfel, Joza, Santaville, Somerset East, Thornhill, Willomore
IMPORTED*	-	0	602	598	0	4	Bloemfontein, Ceres, Cape Town, Dunoon, Fishoek, George, Green Point, Gugulethu, Hout Bay, Langa, Khayelitsha, Knysna, Phillipi, Stellenbosch, Strand
PENDING	-	231 433	1123	1098	0	25	
GRAND TOTALS	3 577 773	894 686	194 197	182 599	11 321	277	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- The epidemiological and surveillance functions continue because of the strong partnership between the following stakeholders;
- WHO supported epidemiologists, biostatisticians, and technical support
- The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) provided the province with epidemiologists and technical support
- The data analyst from TB/HIV Care has supported data management, mapping of the cases and other functions in the department
- Right to Care assists in mapping the cases in different areas in the province
- Centre for Disease Control (Atlanta-Pretoria) provided the Department with an epidemiologist and a statistician to support the province
- The Department of Health, both the National and Provincial Department of Health re-purposed the employees to focus on the control and prevention of the pandemic
- Laboratories; National Health Laboratory Services, Pathcare and Ampath for prompt and regular reporting of SARS-Cov-2 newly diagnosed cases.