

Daily Epidemiological Report for SARS-Cov-2

Report No. 480

Date Issued: 27th July 2021

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 27th July 2021.

2. HIGHLIGHTS

2.1. New cases, active cases, and recoveries

- In the past 24 hours, 773 new cases were reported, 76,7% were from NM Metro (396 cases; 51,2%) and Sarah Baartman (197 cases; 25,5%); followed by 12,6% from Amathole (15 cases; 1,9%) and BC Metro (83 cases; 10,7%); 6,1% from Chris Hani (35 cases; 4,5%) and Joe Gqabi (12 cases; 1,6%); and 3,9% were from Alfred Nzo (10 cases; 1,3%) and OR Tambo (20 cases; 2,6%).
- Of the 6,137 active cases, 64,4% were from NM Metro (2,620 cases; 42,7%) and Sarah Baartman (1,329 cases, 21,7%); 15,7% from Amathole (226 cases; 3,7%) and BC Metro (737 cases; 12,0%); 10,6% from Chris Hani (452 cases; 7,4%) and Joe Gqabi (199 cases; 3,2%); and 7,0% from Alfred Nzo (101 cases; 1,6%) and OR Tambo (330 cases; 5,4%).
- The number of recoveries were 205,915, i.e., 91,6% recovery rate.

2.2. SARS-Cov-2 related deaths

- In the past 24 hours, 38 deaths were reported (22 occurred in the past 48 hours).

2.3. Hospitalizations and outcomes

- In the past 48 hours, 34 admissions were reported from 7 districts (see Table 12). The cumulative hospitalizations increased from to 34,755 to 34,959 i.e., 23,803 (68,1%) in public and 11,156 (31,9%) in private. Sixty-four percent (63,7%), i.e., 22,257 of the hospitalized patients were discharged alive and 14,130 (63,5%) occurred in public sector. About 10,279 (29,4%) demised and 7,630 (74,2%) in public sector.

- Joe Gqabi has the highest case fatality rate (42,5%) among the hospitalized, followed by Amathole (37,6%), Chris Hani (34,6%) and OR Tambo (33,8%). BC Metro discharged more than 70% of the hospitalized and the lowest discharge rate was seen in Joe Gqabi (50,6%).
- Of the 763 currently admitted, 435 (57,0%) occurred in public and 328 (43,0%) in private. Hospitalizations in General ward were 624, i.e., 416 in public and 208 in private; 113 in ICU, i.e., 5 in public and 108 in private; 26 in High Care, i.e., 14 in public and 12 in private; 211 on oxygen, i.e., 189 in public and 22 in private; and 144 on ventilation, i.e., 80 in public and 34 in private.

2.4 Healthcare workers

- The cumulative number of healthcare workers who tested positive for SARS-Cov-2 was 12,263, with 1,204 hospitalized and 316 demised (2,6% CFR). The nurses were the most affected professional category, followed by doctors and clinical associates. In 2021, 165 HCWs were hospitalized due to SARS-Cov-2 related causes.
- The post-vaccination cases were 133, and only 7 were hospitalized and discharged.

2.5 Conclusion

The number of new and active cases, hospitalizations, and deaths have increased in the July compared to June. More than half of the burden of disease was observed in NM Metro and Sarah Baartman.

Local municipalities or sub-districts to watch include Matatiele and Umzimvubu in Alfred Nzo, Mnquma in Amathole, East London in BC Metro, Emalahleni, Engcobo, and Enoch Mgijima in Chris Hani, Senqu and Walter Sisulu LM in Joe Gqabi, Sub-District B and C in NM Metro, KSD and Ingquza Hill in OR Tambo, and Dr Beyers Naude LM and Kouga LM in Sarah Baartman.

3. SARS-Cov-2 CASES & DEATHS

3.1. Summary of all cases and deaths

In the past 24 hours, 773 new cases and 38 deaths were reported (22 occurred in the past 48 hours). Cumulatively, **224,708 cases** and **12,656 deaths** were reported.

	No. of cases	New Cases	Total Cases	%	Deaths	New Deaths		Total Deaths	CFR (%)
						*Newly Reported	**Newly occurred		
Male	90112	368	90480	40,3	5365	8	7	5380	5,9
Female	133808	405	134213	59,7	7253	8	14	7275	5,4
Unknown	15	0	15	0,0	0	0	1	1	6,7
Total	223935	773	224708	100,0	12618	16	22	12656	5,6

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

Six percent (5,6%) of the cases demised, and 5,9% were males and 5,4% were females.

District	Cases	New Cases	Total Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	New Deaths		Total Deaths	CFR (%)	Recovery Rate	Active Cases
						*Newly Reported	**Newly occurred				
Alfred Nzo	8578	10	8588	7900	580	0	7	587	6,8	92,0	101
Amathole	20017	15	20032	18668	1134	3	1	1138	5,7	93,2	226
BC Metro	41797	83	41880	38704	2438	0	1	2439	5,8	92,4	737
Chris Hani	21145	35	21180	18996	1726	1	5	1732	8,1	89,7	452
Joe Gqabi	9011	12	9023	8257	565	1	1	567	6,3	91,5	199
NM Metro	71579	396	71975	65537	3807	6	5	3818	5,3	91,1	2620
OR Tambo	23536	20	23556	21784	1438	4	0	1442	6,1	92,5	330
Sarah Baartman	26208	197	26405	24143	930	1	2	933	3,5	91,4	1329
Imported	757	3	760	689	0	0	0	0	0,0	90,7	71
Unspecified	1307	2	1309	1237	0	0	0	0	0,0	94,5	72
E. Cape	223935	773	224708	205915	12618	16	22	12656	5,6	91,6	6137

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

Seventy-seven percent (76,7%) of the new cases were from NM Metro (396 cases; 51,2%) and Sarah Baartman (197 cases; 25,5%); followed by 12,6% from Amathole (15 cases; 1,9%) and BC Metro (83 cases; 10,7%); 6,1% from Chris Hani (35 cases; 4,5%) and Joe Gqabi (12 cases; 1,6%); and 3,9% were from Alfred Nzo (10 cases; 1,3%) and OR Tambo (20 cases; 2,6%).

Of the 6,137 active cases, 64,4% were from NM Metro (2,620 cases; 42,7%) and Sarah Baartman (1,329 cases, 21,7%); 15,7% were from Amathole (226 cases; 3,7%) and BC Metro (737 cases; 12,0%); 10,6% from Chris Hani (452 cases; 7,4%) and Joe Gqabi (199 cases; 3,2%); and 7,0% from Alfred Nzo (101 cases; 1,6%) and OR Tambo (330 cases; 5,4%).

The number of recoveries were 205,915, i.e., 91,6% recovery rate.

3.2. Weekly SARS-Cov-2 Cases, Deaths and %Change

In the past 7 days, there was an a 9,5% and 11,4% increase in the number of cases and deaths, respectively.

	Cases			Deaths			Current week cases and deaths	
	11-17 July	18-24 July	% Change (Cases)	11-17 July	18-24 July	% Change	Cases 25-26 July	Deaths 25-26 July
A Nzo	104	143	37,5	16	31	93,8	24	13
Amathole	115	129	12,2	7	7	0,0	42	4
BC Metro	379	507	33,8	21	20	-4,8	189	3
Chris Hani	278	385	38,5	29	46	58,6	124	10
Joe Gqabi	304	212	-30,3	23	9	-60,9	58	10
NM Metro	2183	2231	2,2	103	99	-3,9	800	34
OR Tambo	258	288	11,6	19	20	5,3	65	9
SB	827	980	18,5	10	22	120,0	454	12
Imported	11	13	18,2	0	0		4	0
Unspecified	39	37	-5,1	0	0		14	0
E. Cape	4498	4925	9,5	228	254	11,4	1774	95

In the past 2 days, 1774 cases and 95 deaths were reported from all the districts. Seventy-one percent (70,7%) of these cases and 48,4% of the deaths were from NM Metro & Sarah Baartman.

3.3. Newly diagnosed cases

The number of new cases has decreased by 19% from 696 on the 20th to 564 on the 26th July 2021.

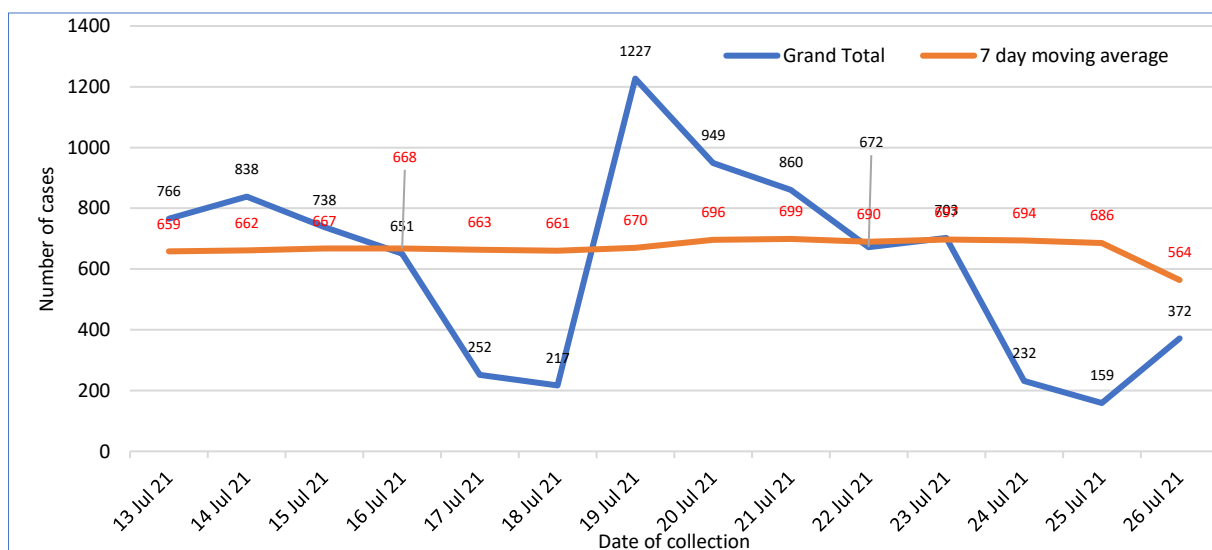


Fig. 1. Daily SARS-Cov-2 cases & 7-day moving average by date of collection, as of 27 July 2021

NM Metro and Sarah Baartman continue to report the highest number of new cases, followed by BC Metro, Chris Hani, Joe Gqabi.

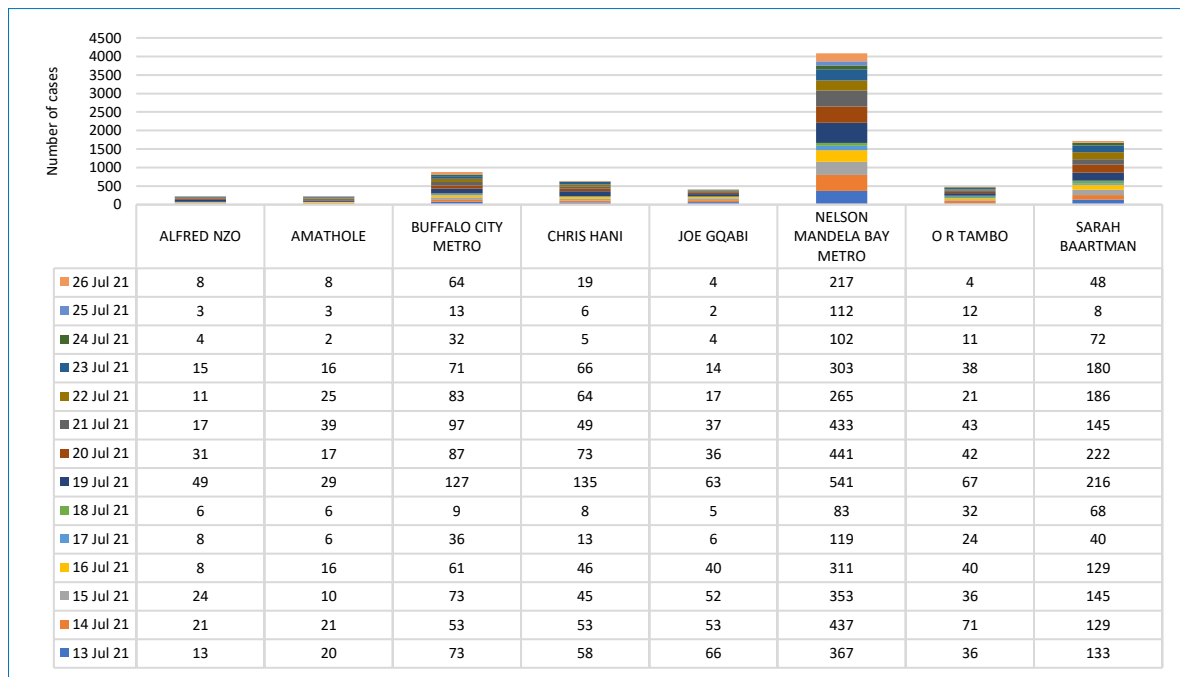


Fig. 2. Daily SARS-Cov-2 cases by district and date of collection, as of 27 July 2021

The burden of disease remains high in the western part, which continues to yield high number of new cases. There is a need to improve case detection (including increased testing rate) and contact tracing and monitoring in all districts.

4. SARS-Cov-2 LAB TESTS & RESULTS

4.1. Test Results by Laboratory

A total of 18,784 tests were reported during the previous week. In the past 24 hours, 5,359 tests were done. Cumulatively, 1,1 million were from public and private sector.

	Private	Public	Total	Percentage (%)	New Tests 25-26 July	Tests 18-24 July
Alfred Nzo	4556	31749	36 305	3,2	47	320
Amathole	9821	78198	88 019	7,8	138	625
BC Metro	62909	109192	172 101	15,3	273	1065
Chris Hani	13141	67370	80 511	7,1	281	1046
Joe Gqabi	1281	33293	34 574	3,1	196	555
NMB Metro	93335	178513	271 848	24,1	1035	4843
OR Tambo	30253	72930	103 183	9,2	187	753
Sarah Baartman	18788	101577	120 365	10,7	651	2399
Unclassified	219427	0	219 427	19,5	2551	7178
Eastern Cape	453511	672822	1 126 333	100	5359	18784

NM Metro accounts for 24,1% of the tests, followed by BC Metro (15,3%), Sarah Baartman (10,7%) and OR Tambo (9,2%).

4.2. Antigen Testing

Antigen Test Method was used to test 173,741 specimens with a 7,7% positivity rate.

	Negative	Positive	Total	Percentage (%)	Positivity Rate (%)
A Nzo	19653	1073	20726	11,9	5,2
Amathole	5447	659	6106	3,7	10,8
BC Metro	16079	1841	17920	10,5	10,3
Chris Hani	15092	1371	16463	9,6	8,3
Joe Gqabi	4822	598	5420	3,1	11,0
NM Metro	56275	5510	61785	35,1	8,9
OR Tambo	33321	1576	34897	20,2	4,5
Sarah Baartman	9728	696	10424	5,9	6,7
Total	160417	13324	173741	100	7,7

NM Metro accounted for 35,1% of the tests, followed by OR Tambo (20,2%), Alfred Nzo (11,9%), and BC Metro (10,5%). Four (4) districts reported more than 10% positivity rate.

4.3. Tests by age group and sex

In the last 31 days, 33,728 specimens were tested for SARS-Cov-2 in public sector laboratories. Sixty-six percent (66,4%) of the tests were among the 20 to 59 year's age group, and 32,1% were the younger and elderly population.

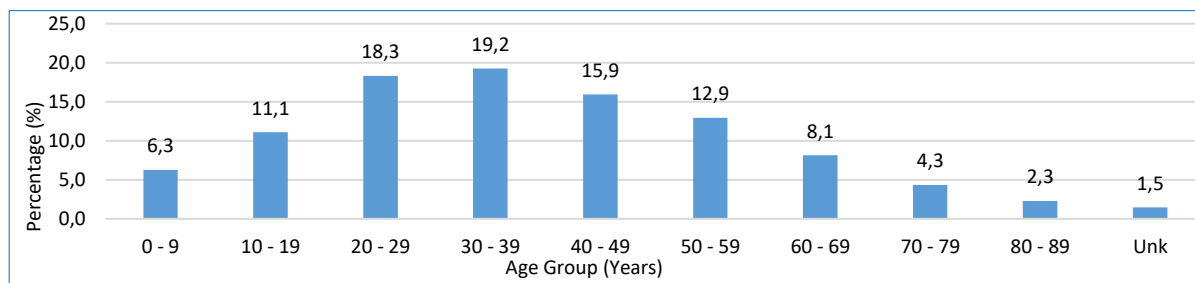


Fig. 3. The number of SARS-Cov-2 tests by age group in the last 31 days, as of 27 July 2021

Only 1,5% of the tests lacked information on the age of the individuals.

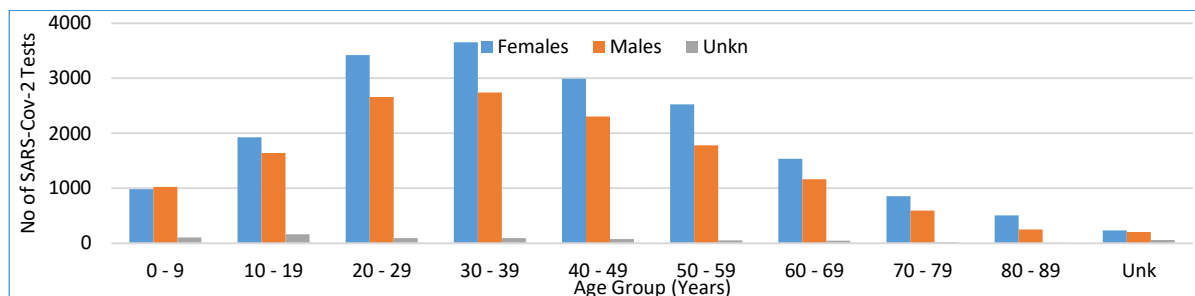


Fig. 4. No. of SARS-Cov-2 public sector tests by age group and gender, as of 27 July 2021

Fifty-five percent (55,3%) of the tested individuals were females, 42,6% were males, and 2,1% had no information on gender.

4.4. Turnaround Time

Availability of the laboratory results within a short period is essential for early response to positive cases and their contacts.

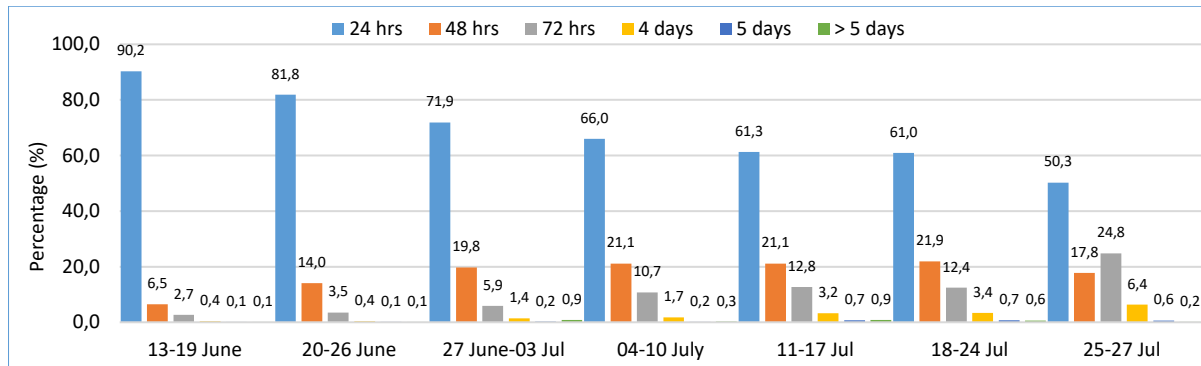


Fig. 5. Turnaround time for SARS-Cov-2 positive results by week as of 27 July 2021

The 24 hours turnaround time (TAT) has decreased by 17,5% from 61% in week 30 to 50,3% in week 31. Similarly, the 48 hours TAT has decreased by 14,8% from 82,8% to 68,1% during the same period.

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

The figure below provides the 7-day moving average for the number of tests and the positivity rate over a period.

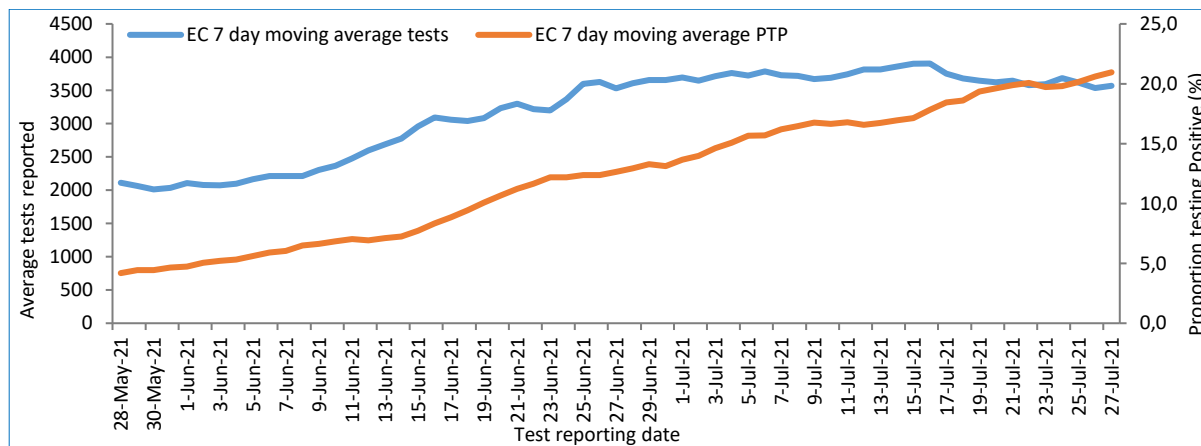


Fig. 6. 7-day moving average for SARS-Cov-2 tests & positivity rate, as of 27 July 2021

In the past 7 days, the number of SARS-Cov-2 tests has decreased by 2,1% from 3,645 on the 21st to 3,570 on the 27th July 2021. However, the positivity has increased by 5,5% from 19,9% to 21,0% during the same period.

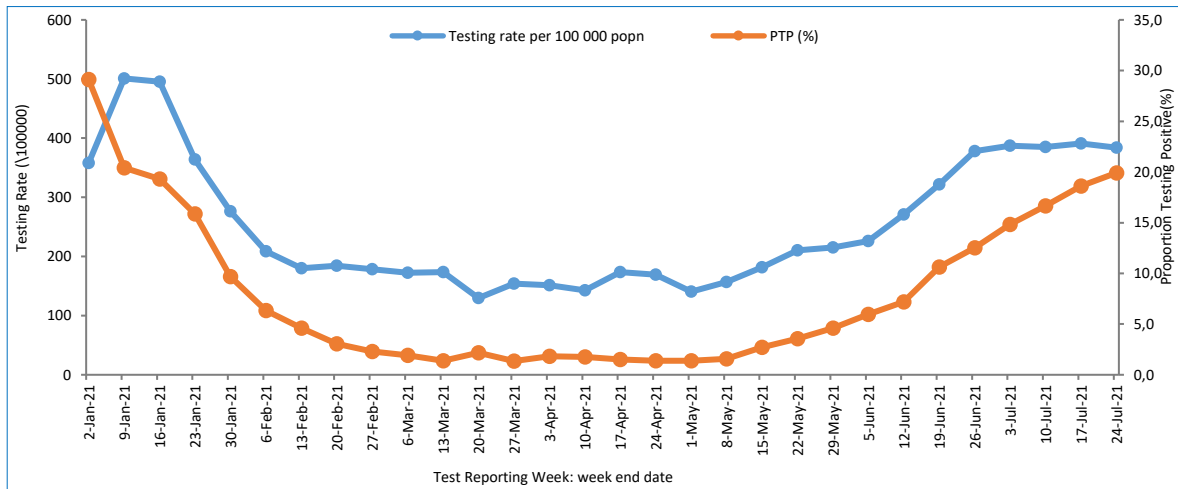


Fig. 7. Testing Rate and positivity rate for SARS-Cov-2 by week, as of 25th July 2021

The testing rate for SARS-Cov-2 has decreased by 2,0% from 391 tests to 384 per 100,000 on the 17th to 24th July. The testing rate has increased to more than 200 tests per 100,000 per week.

5. ACTIVE CASES, INCIDENCE & POSITIVITY RATE

5.1. Active SARS-Cov-2 Cases

The number of active cases has increased by 13,0% from 5,958 on the 17th to 6,732 on the 24th July 2021. In the past 24 hours, the number of active cases has decreased by 1,6% from 6,237 to 6,137.

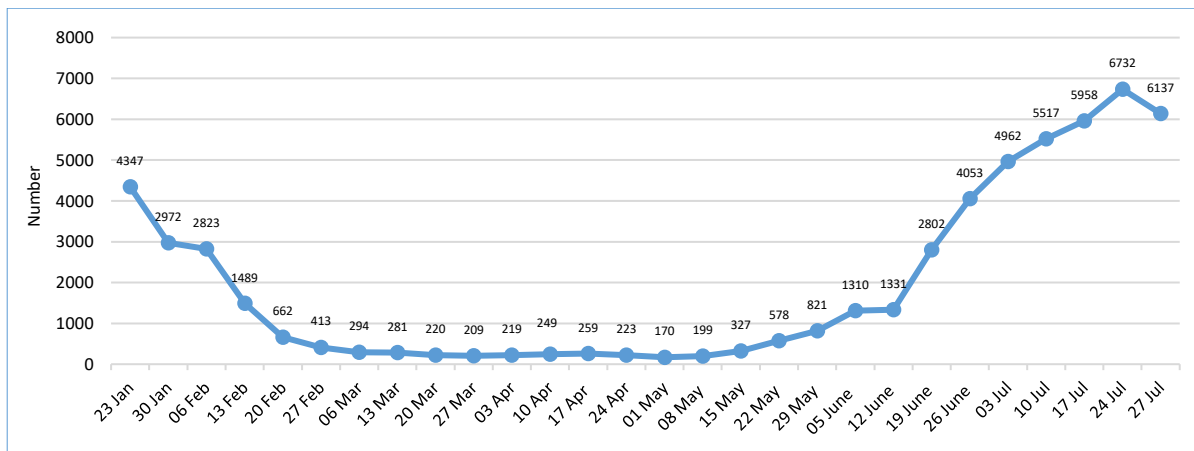


Fig. 8. Number of active SARS-Cov-2 cases by week, as of 27 July 2021

The increase in the number of active cases appear to be declining in nearly all the districts including the metros. The concern is the possible increase in the number of cases after the relaxation of the restrictions, especially clusters of cases.

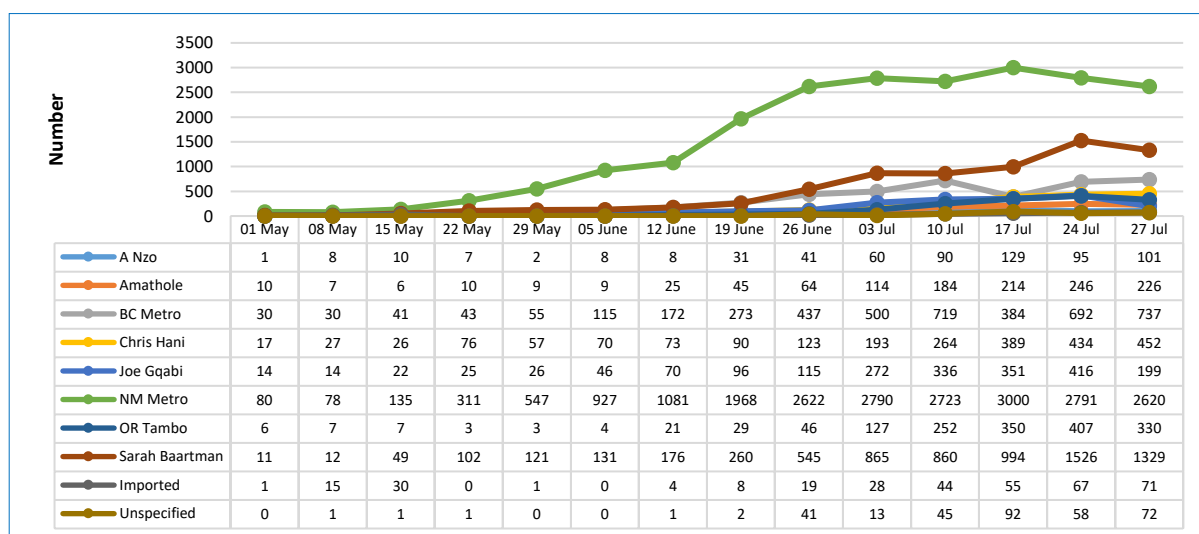


Fig. 9. Number of weekly Active SARS-Cov-2 cases by district, as of 27 July 2021

More than half of the active cases were from NM Metro and Sarah Sarah Baartman, followed BC Metro, Joe Gqabi and Chris Hani.

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

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	36 305	8588	101	12,2	23,7
Amathole	798067	88 019	20032	226	28,3	22,8
BC Metro	798798	172 101	41880	737	92,3	24,3
Chris Hani	733743	80 511	21180	452	61,6	26,3
Joe Gqabi	343075	34 574	9023	199	58,0	26,1
NM Metro	1210803	271 848	71975	2620	216,4	26,5
OR Tambo	1520922	103 183	23556	330	21,7	22,8
S Baartman	480223	120 365	26405	1329	276,7	21,9
Imported		0	760	71	0,0	0,0
Unspecified		219 427	1309	72	0,0	0,6
E. Cape	6713457	1 126 333	224708	6137	91,4	20,0

The incidence of SARS-Cov-2 was 91,4 cases per 100,000 populations, and 7 districts have more than 20 cases per 100,000 populations, except for Alfred Nzo. The cumulative positivity rate is at 20,0. All districts have less than a 30% positivity rate.

5.3. Incidence of SARS-Cov-2 cases

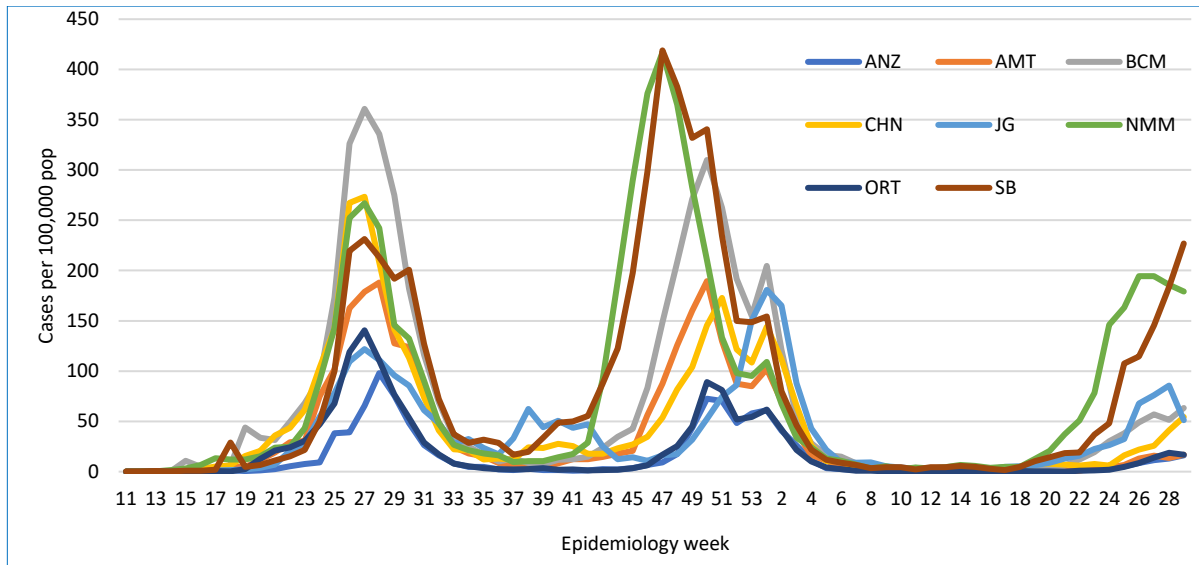


Fig. 10. Incidence of SARS-Cov-2 cases by epidemiological week, as of 27 July 2021

As the incidence decreases in NM Metro, Joe Gqabi and OR Tambo, there was an increase in which was observed in Sarah Baartman, BC Metro, Chris Hani, and Amathole and Alfred Nzo, especially in the current week.

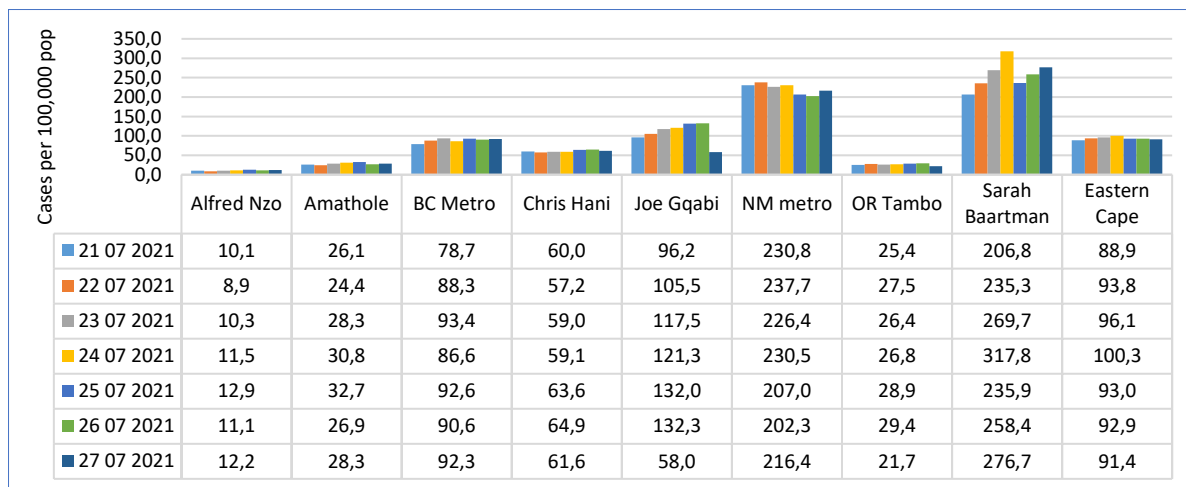


Fig. 11. Active SARS-Cov-2 cases (per 100,000 pop) by district, as of 27 July 2021

In the past 7 days, the incidence of SARS-Cov-2 increased by 2,8% from 88,9% cases to 91,4% cases per 100,000 population. Two (2) districts have more than 100 cases per 100,000, i.e., NM Metro and Sarah Baartman. Five (5) districts have more than 20 cases but less than 100 cases per 100,000 populations, except Alfred Nzo (with less than 20 cases per 100,000).

5.4. Recovery Rate (%)

The provincial recovery rate remained above 90% over the past 7 days. However, it has shown a decrease during the same period.

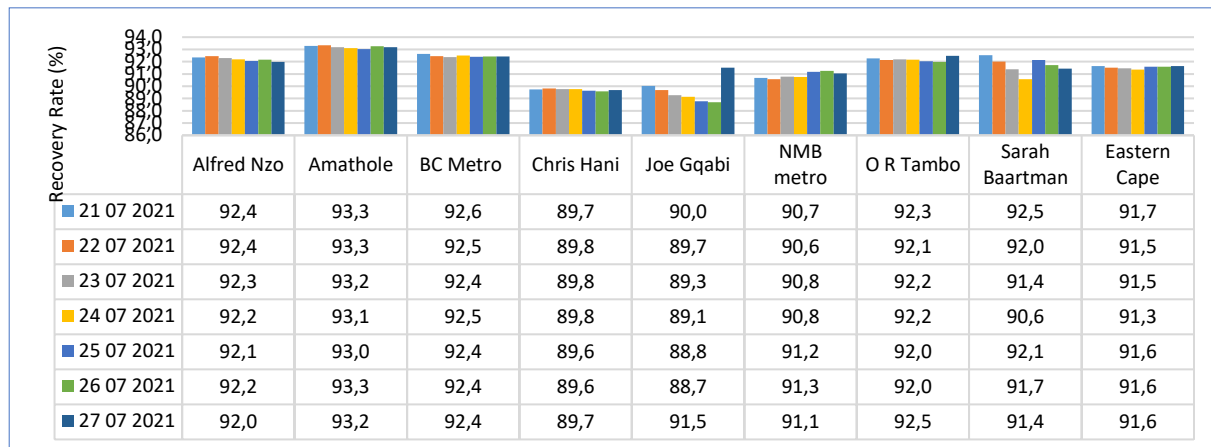


Fig. 12. SARS-Cov-2 Recovery Rate (%) by districts, as of 27 July 2021 (N=205,915)

As the number of new and active cases increases, the recovery rate also decreases. The recovery rate decreased by 0,1% in the past 7 days.

5.5. Mapping of active cases, recoveries, and deaths

The map shows the distribution of SARS-Cov-2 active cases, recoveries, and deaths.

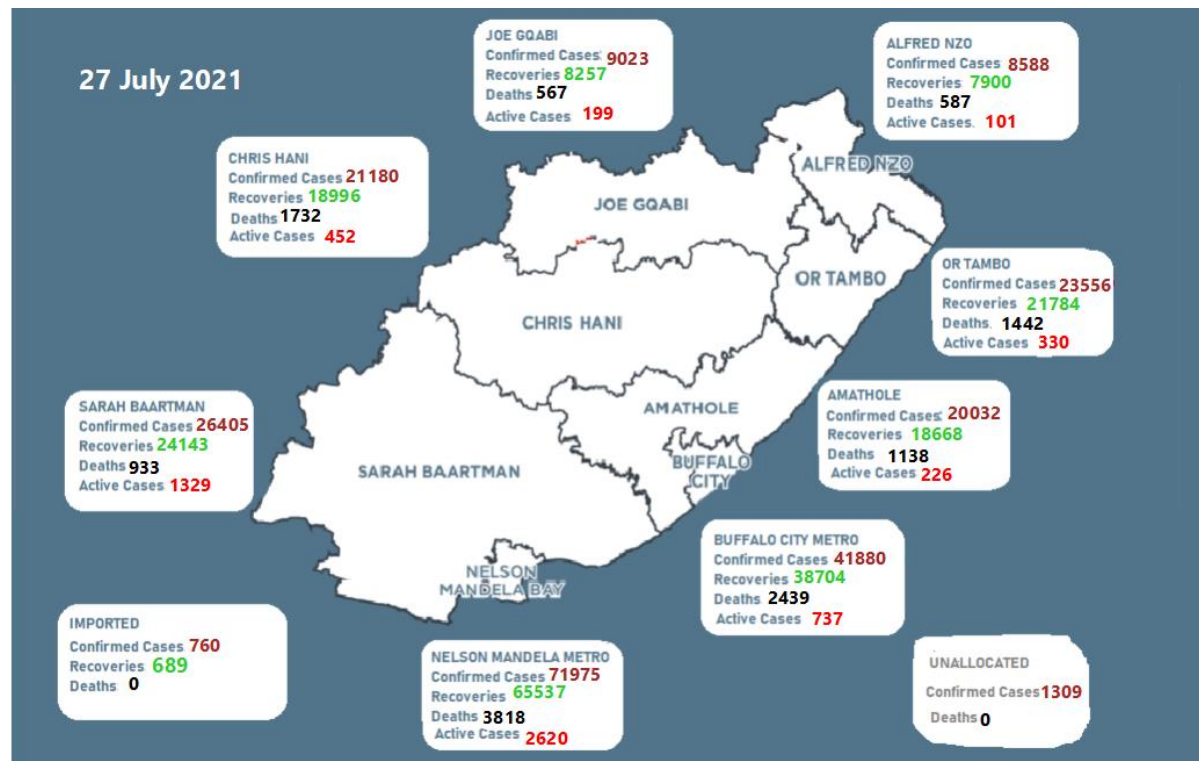


Fig. 13. The number of Covid-19 cases, recoveries, and deaths, as of 27 July 2021

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

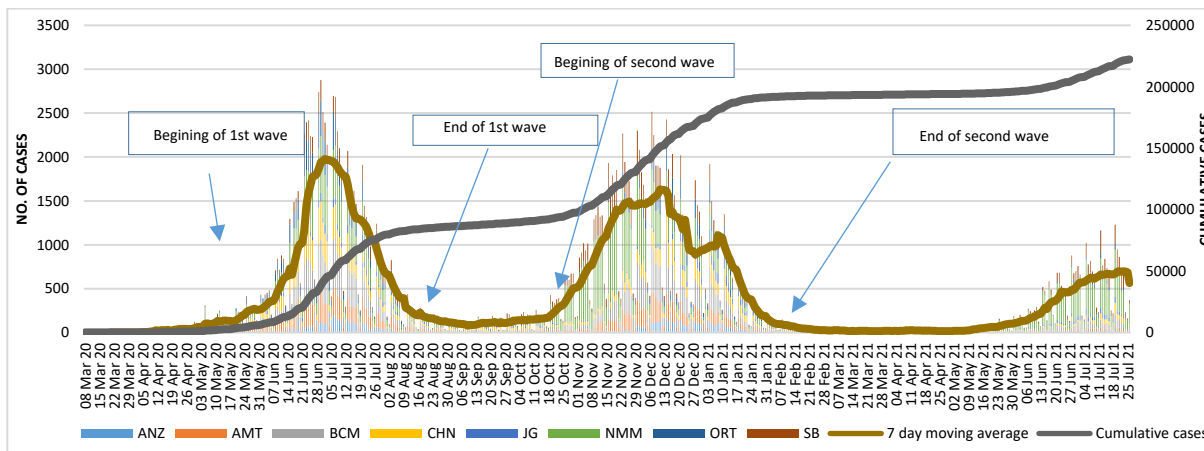


Fig. 14. The 7-day moving average for Covid-19 cases by date of collection, as of 27 July 2021

After an increase in the number of new cases from the beginning of June, the number of cases were showing a decline in the end of July.

7. SARS-Cov-2 RELATED MORTALITY

7.1. SARS-Cov-2 related deaths

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

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	2,3	8,7	4,2
Jun 20	23793	1036	8,2	4,4	15,4
Jul 20	50291	2035	16,1	4,0	30,3
Aug 20	8295	668	5,3	8,1	10,0
Sep 20	2992	213	1,7	7,1	3,2
Oct 20	8626	287	2,3	3,3	4,3
Nov 20	34232	1710	13,5	5,0	25,5
Dec 20	42757	2777	21,9	6,5	41,4
Jan 21	18169	1919	15,2	10,6	28,6
Feb 21	1708	312	2,5	18,3	4,6
Mar 21	701	107	0,8	15,3	1,6
Apr 21	626	56	0,4	8,9	0,8
May 21	1899	94	0,7	4,9	1,4
Jun 21	9060	258	2,0	2,8	3,8
Jul 21	17626	718	5,7	4,1	10,7
Unknown	0	145	1,1	0,0	2,2
Total	224708	12656	100,0	5,6	188,5

Twenty-two percent (21,9%) of the deaths occurred in December; 15,2% in January; 2,5% in February; 0,8% in March; 0,4% in April; 0,7% in May, 2,0% in June, and 5,7% in July. The Case Fatality Rate was 6,5% in December, 10,6% in January, 18.3% in February, 15.3% in March, 8,9% in April, 4,9% in May, 2,8% in June, and 4,1% in July.

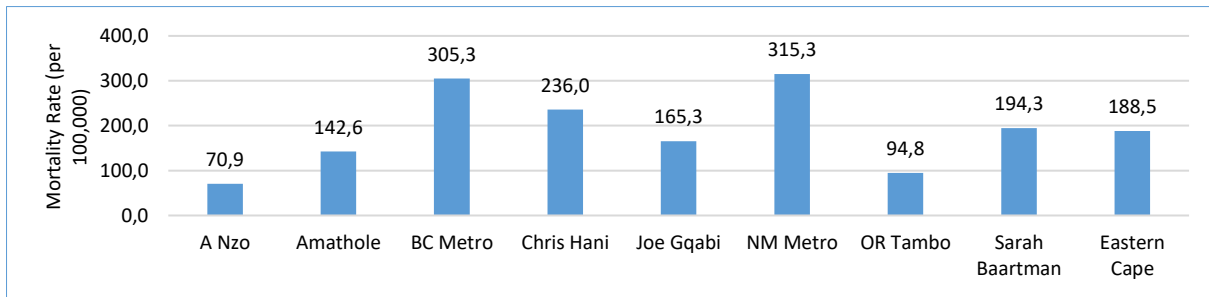


Fig. 15. SARS-Cov-2 related mortality per 100,000 by district, as of 27 July 2021

The provincial mortality rate was 188,5 deaths per 100,000 populations. BC Metro reported the highest mortality rate at 305,3 per 100,000; followed by NM Metro (315,3 per 100,000); Chris Hani (236,0 per 100,000) and Sarah Baartman (194,3 per 100,000).

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

The figure below depicts the daily and cumulative number of SARS-Cov-2 related deaths which occurred in the province from the beginning of the pandemic.

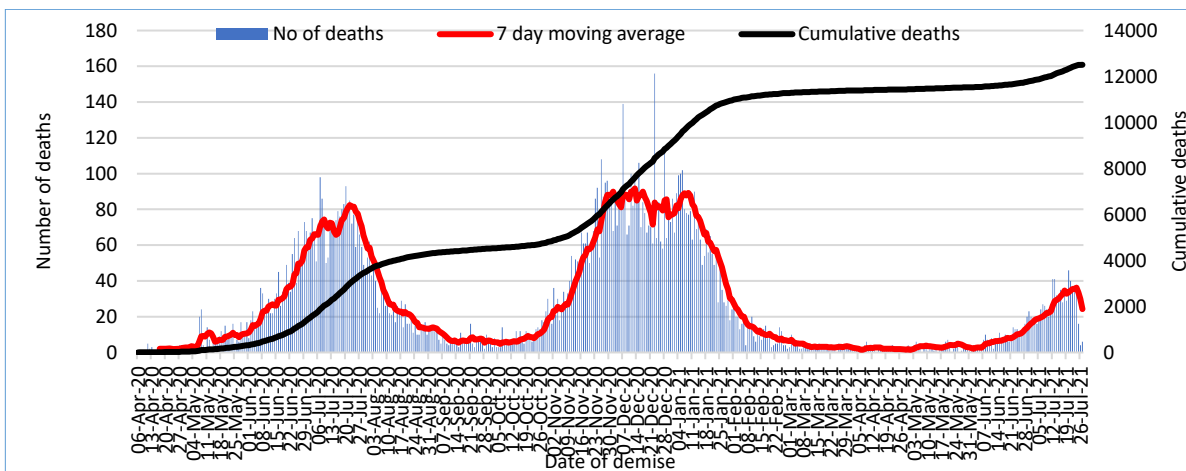


Fig. 16. Daily and cum. SARS-Cov-2 related deaths by date of demise, as of 27 July 2021

After a severe second wave, the number of deaths decreased with the number of cases. The number of deaths appear to have increased in July compared to June. As the number of cases increased, the number of deaths also increased. In the last part of July, the number of deaths appear to the decreasing with the decrease in the number of cases.

7.3. Case Fatality Rate by district

Chris Hani reported 8,1% of the SARS-Cov-2 deaths, followed by Joe Gqabi (6,3%), Alfred Nzo (6,8%), OR Tambo (6,1%), BC Metro (5,8%), NM Metro (5,3%), Amathole (5,7%) and the lowest being Sarah Baartman (3,5%).

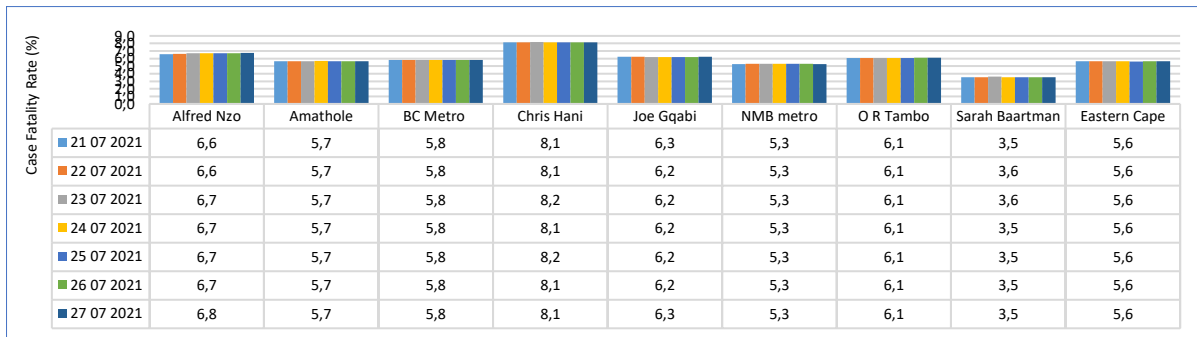


Fig. 17. SARS-Cov-2 Case Fatality Rate (%) by district, as of 27 July 2021 (N=12,656)

The case fatality rate in the province has not changed in the past 7 days, except 4 districts. The number of deaths has significantly increased during July compared to June.

7.4. Case Fatality Rate by age group

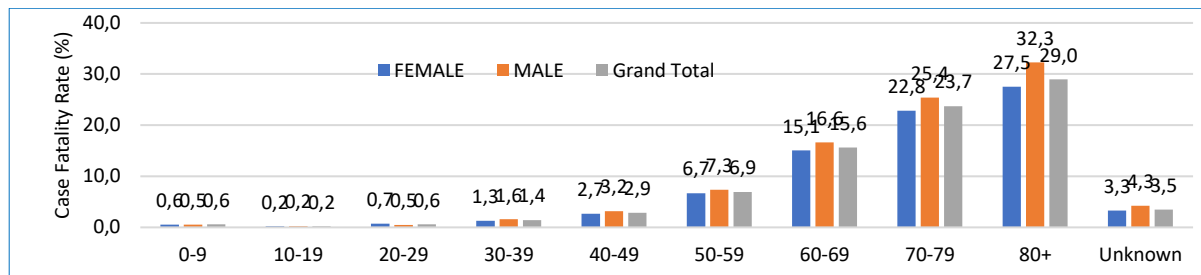


Fig. 18. SARS-Cov-2 related Case Fatality Rate (%) by age group, as of 27 July 2021

The case fatality rate increases with increasing age. The younger population reported 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. Excess versus reported deaths

Data is from the Medical Research Council (as of the 17th July 2021) and ECDOH (21st July).

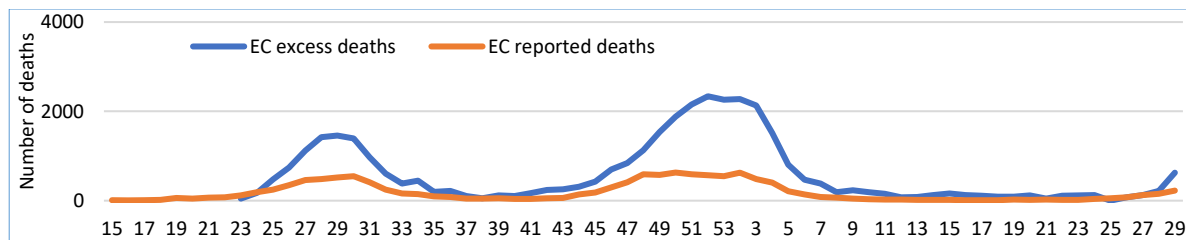


Fig. 19. Excess & reported Covid-19 deaths by week, as of 21 July 2021 (ECDOH, MRC¹)

The gap between the number of reported deaths related to SARS-Cov-2 appears to be narrower in BC Metro and NM Metro compared to the provincial figures. Like the provincial figures, there were notable gaps during the peak periods in the first and second waves.

¹ Medical Research Council (MRC) data was updated on the 17 July 2021

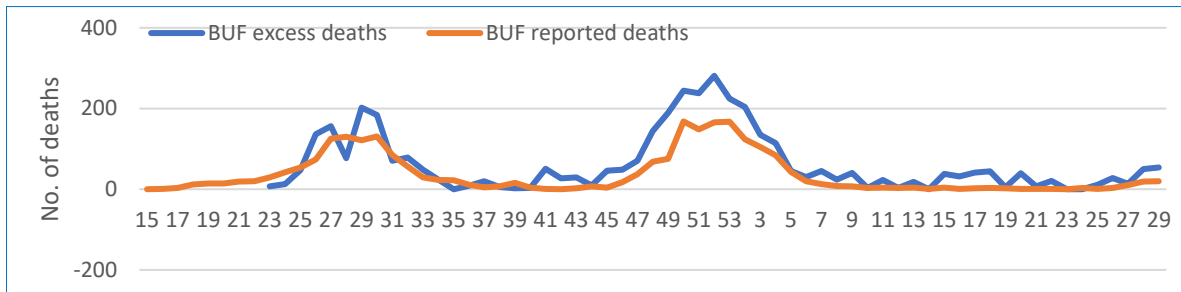


Fig. 20. Reported SARS-Cov-2 versus excess deaths in BC Metro, as of the 21 July 2021

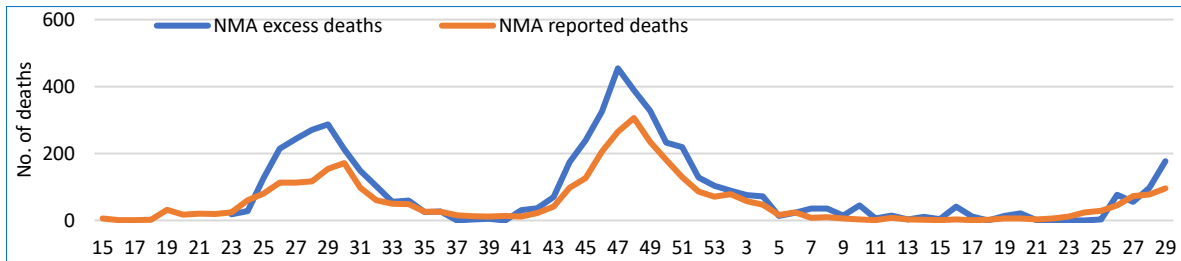


Fig. 21. Reported SARS-Cov-2 versus excess deaths in NM Metro, as of the 21 July 2021

Figures 20 and 21 shows that the gap between the number of excess deaths in BC Metro and NM Metro appears to be narrower, which is contrary to the provincial picture.

7.6. Post-mortem tests (PMTs) and results

To date, 3,941 PMTs were done and 1,036 confirmed positive for SARS-Cov-2.

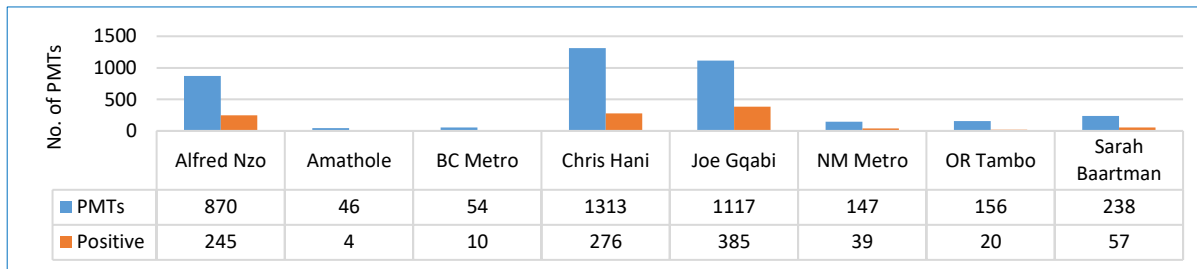


Fig. 22. Number of Post-Mortem Tests & Positive Cases by district, as of 27 July 2021

Of all the PMTs; 3,300 (83,7%) were from Alfred Nzo, Chris Hani and Joe Gqabi. Similarly, 906 of the 1,036 (88%) confirmed cases were from the 3 districts.

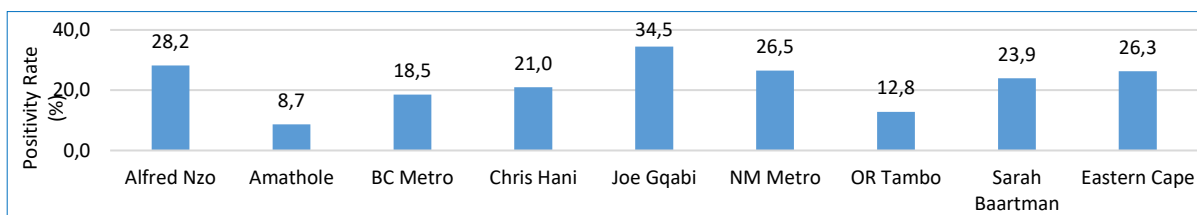


Fig. 23. Post-mortem SARS-Cov-2 positivity rate by district, as of 27 July 2021

Twenty-six percent (26,3%) of the PMTs tested positive. Joe Gqabi reported the highest positivity rate, followed by NM Metro, Alfred Nzo, BC Metro and Chris Hani.

Table 8. Number of Post-mortem tests and positive SARS-Cov-2 cases, as of 27 July 2021								
	11-17 Jul		18-24 Jul		25-26 Jul		11-26 Jul	
	PMTs	Positive	PMTs	Positive	PMTs	Positive	PMTs	Positive
Alfred Nzo	32	13	49	18	10	4	91	35
Amathole	3	1					3	1
BC Metro	2	0	1				3	0
Chris Hani	75	16	60	20	10	1	145	37
Joe Gqabi	36	12	34	10	4	1	74	23
NM Metro	25	10	29	5			54	15
OR Tambo	11		12	3			23	3
Sarah Baartman	1		9	6	1	1	11	7
Eastern Cape	185	52	194	62	25	7	404	121

In the past 16 days, 121 (30%) of the 404 PMTs tested positive for SARS-Cov-2. Alfred Nzo, Chris Hani and Joe Gqabi accounted for 310 PMTs (76,7%). The 95 confirmed cases were from Alfred Nzo, Chris Hani and Joe Gqabi districts. There was an improvement in the number of PMT in Amathole and OR Tambo.

7.6. Deaths by health facilities

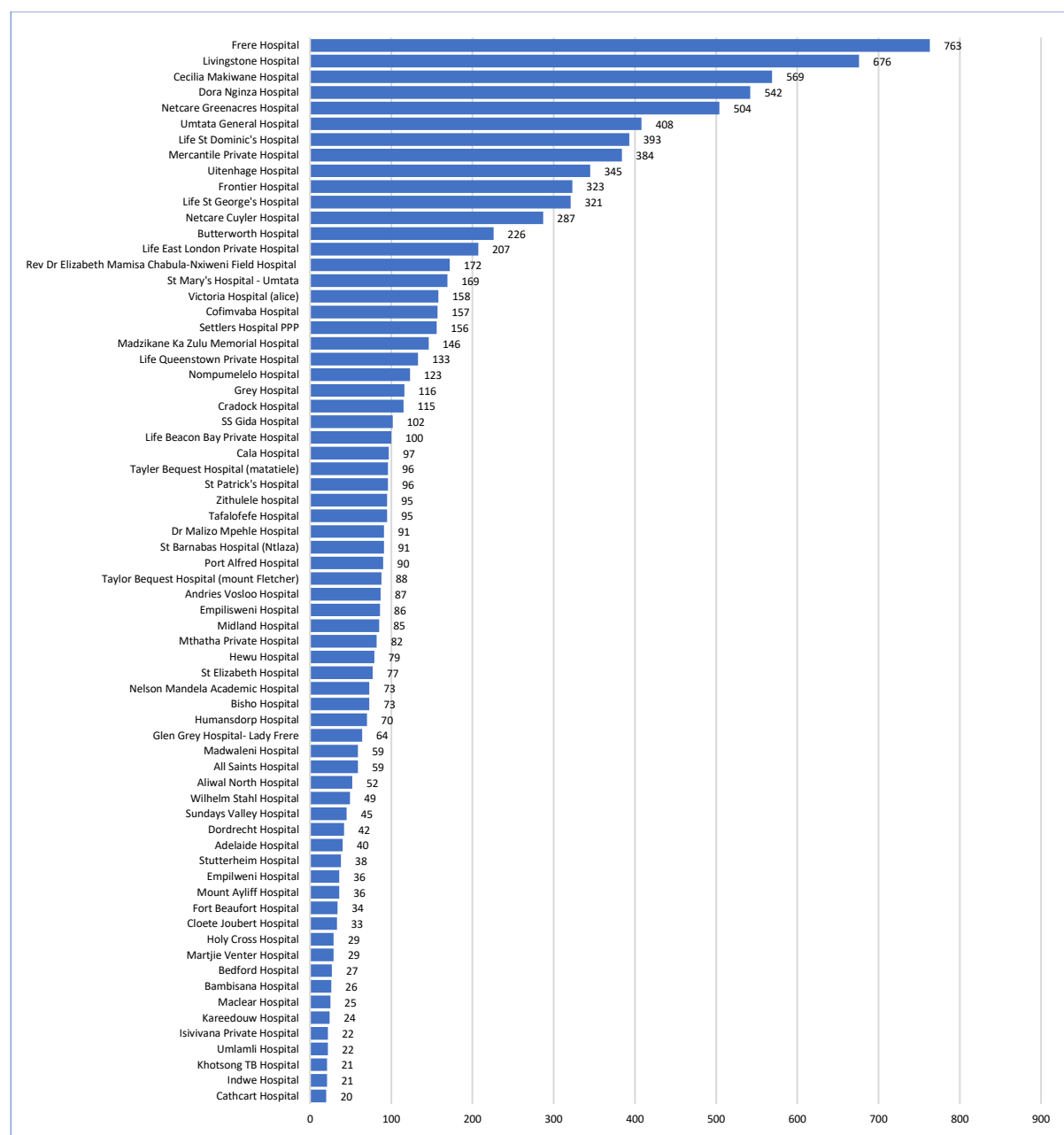


Fig. 24. Number of SARS-Cov-2 related deaths by the facility, as of 27 July 2021

Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the deaths occurred in 14 hospitals, i.e., 8 public and 6 private sectors. The public hospitals include Frere, Livingstone, CMH, Dora Nginza, Frontier, Mthatha, Uitenhage, and Butterworth hospitals. And the private hospitals include Netcare Greenacres, Life St. Dominics, Mercantile, Life St Georges, and Netcare Cuyler and Life East London Private hospitals. These hospitals reported more than 200 deaths from the beginning of the pandemic. Only hospitals with a minimum of 20 deaths are included in the above-mentioned figure.

6. HEALTHCARE WORKERS

6.1. Cases and deaths among healthcare workers (HCWs)

The number of HCWs who tested SARS-Cov-2 positive was 12,263 and 316 persons demised.

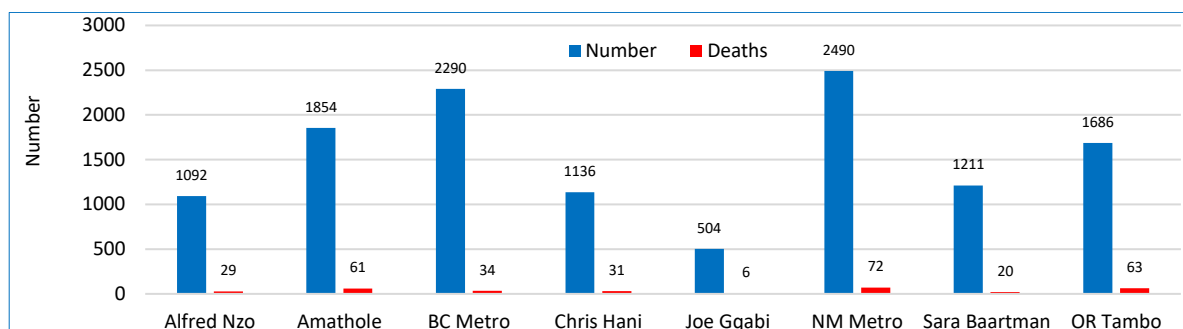


Fig. 25. SARS-Cov-2 positive Healthcare Workers, as of 27 July 2021 (N = 12,263)

The number of healthcare workers who tested positive for SARS-Cov-2 in NM Metro 2,490 (72 deaths), BC Metro 2,290 (34 deaths), Amathole 1,854 (61 deaths), OR Tambo 1,686 (63 deaths), Sarah Baartman 1,211 (20 deaths), Chris Hani 1,136 (31 deaths), Alfred Nzo 1,092 cases (29 deaths) and Joe Gqabi (504 cases, 6 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.

	Population	Cases	Positivity Rate (%)
Admin	12434	859	6,9
Allied Professionals	3041	256	8,4
Doctors & Clinical Assoc	2369	472	19,9
Nurses	20650	5074	24,6
Emergency Medical Services	2498	297	11,9

The positivity rate among the nurses was 24,6%, followed by doctors and clinical associates (19,9%), allied professionals (8,4%), EMS (11,9%), and admin personnel (6,9%). 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 cumulative number of admissions was 1,204 health workers. From January to date, 165 healthcare workers were hospitalized, i.e., 73 on January, 20 in February, 7 on March, 9 in April, 13 in May, 16 in June and 27 in July. The last admission was on the 25th and 26th of July 2021 in NM Metro and Chris Hani.

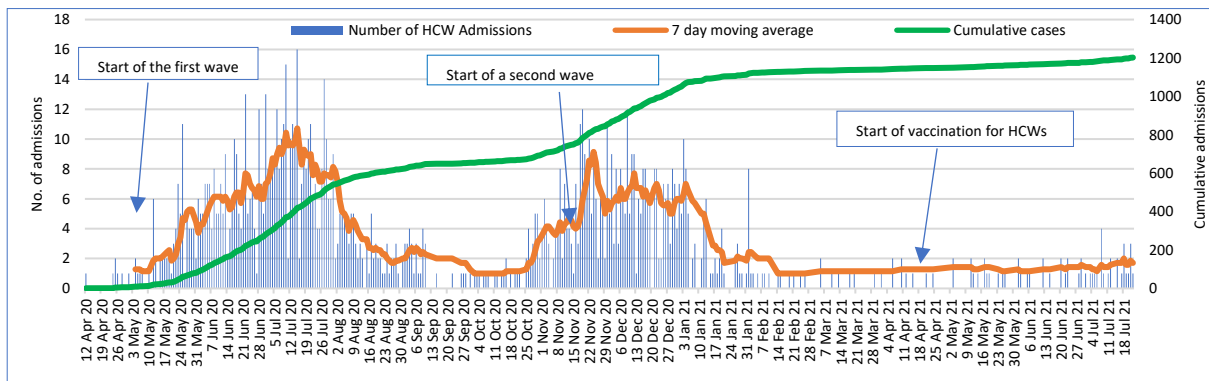


Fig. 26. No. of SARS-Cov-2 related admissions of healthcare workers, as of 27 July 2021
 This graph appears to be mimicking the epi-curve and admissions of the general population including during the first and the second waves. The number of hospitalizations appear to have increased during July month.

6.4. Vaccine Breakthrough Infections among HCWs

A vaccine breakthrough infection is defined as the detection of SARS-Cov-2 RNA or antigen in a respiratory specimen collected from a person ≥ 14 days after they have completed all recommended doses of the Covid-19 vaccine (adapted from CDC 2021).

	Breakthrough Infections	Admitted and discharged
Alfred Nzo	10	2
Amathole	7	2
BC Metro	8	1
Chris Hani	0	0
Joe Gqabi	6	0
NM Metro	71	2
OR Tambo	9	0
Sarah Baartman	22	0
Eastern Cape	133	7

The number of vaccine breakthrough infections was 133, with only 5 cases which were admitted and discharged. Majority of the reported cases were from NM Metro followed by Sarah Baartman, Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo, and other districts.

6.5. Case Fatality Rate (%) among HCWs

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

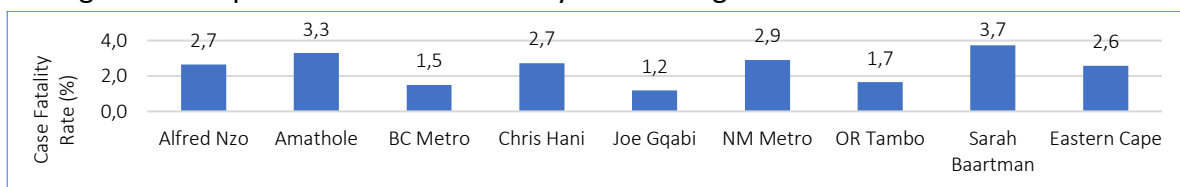


Fig. 27. SARS-Cov-2 Case Fatality Rate (%) among HCWs, as of 27 July 2021 (N=316)
 The case fatality rate among healthcare workers was 2,6%. Five districts reported more than 2% case fatality rate and only 3 with less than 2%. Sarah Baartman reported the highest case fatality rate, followed by Amathole, NM Metro, Chris Hani and Alfred Nzo.

7. Hospitalization and outcomes

7.1. Admissions and outcomes

In the past 48 hours, 34 admissions were reported from 7 districts (see Table 12). The cumulative hospitalizations increased from to 34,755 to 34,959 i.e., 23,803 (68,1%) in public and 11,156 (31,9%) in private. Sixty-four percent (63,7%), i.e., 22,257 of the hospitalized patients were discharged alive and 14,130 (63,5%) occurred in public sector. About 10,279 (29,4%) demised and 7,630 (74,2%) in public sector.

Districts	Public	Private	Total	Died	Case Fatality Rate (%)	Discharged to date	Discharged (%)
Alfred Nzo	1780	120	1900	445	23,4	1145	60,3
Amathole	2426	0	2426	912	37,6	1449	59,7
BC Metro	4412	3470	7882	2174	27,6	5563	70,6
Chris Hani	2728	825	3553	1231	34,6	2179	61,3
Joe Gqabi	810	0	810	344	42,5	410	50,6
NM Metro	7194	5548	12742	3345	26,3	8109	63,6
O R Tambo	2516	996	3512	1188	33,8	2128	60,6
Sarah Baartman	1937	197	2134	640	30,0	1274	59,7
Eastern Cape	23803	11156	34959	10279	29,4	22257	63,7

Joe Gqabi has the highest case fatality rate (42,5%) among the hospitalized, followed by Amathole (37,6%), Chris Hani (34,6%) and OR Tambo (33,8%). BC Metro discharged more than 70% of the hospitalized and the lowest discharge rate was seen in Joe Gqabi (50,6%).

	Public	Private	Total
Eastern Cape			
Cumulative Admissions	23803	11156	34959
Died	7630	2649	10279
Discharged Alive	14130	8127	22257
Transferred Out	1593	46	1639
Currently Admitted	435	328	763
In ICU	5	108	113
In High Care	14	12	26
In General	416	208	624
On Oxygen	189	22	211
Ventilated	80	34	114

Of the 763 currently admitted, 435 (57,0%) occurred in public and 328 (43,0%) in private. Hospitalizations in General ward were 624, i.e., 416 in public and 208 in private; 113 in ICU, i.e., 5 in public and 108 in private; 26 in High Care, i.e., 14 in public and 12 in private; 211 on oxygen, i.e., 189 in public and 22 in private; and 144 on ventilation, i.e., 80 in public and 34 in private.

Districts	Currently admitted	In ICU	Ventilated	Oxygenated	Admitted in Past Day
Alfred Nzo	26	0	0	8	3
Amathole	23	0	0	10	0
BC Metro	100	20	4	18	5
Chris Hani	65	13	1	23	1
Joe Gqabi	21	0	0	11	3
NM Metro	379	72	106	65	12
O R Tambo	94	8	3	48	1
Sarah Baartman	55	0	0	28	9
Eastern Cape	763	113	114	211	34

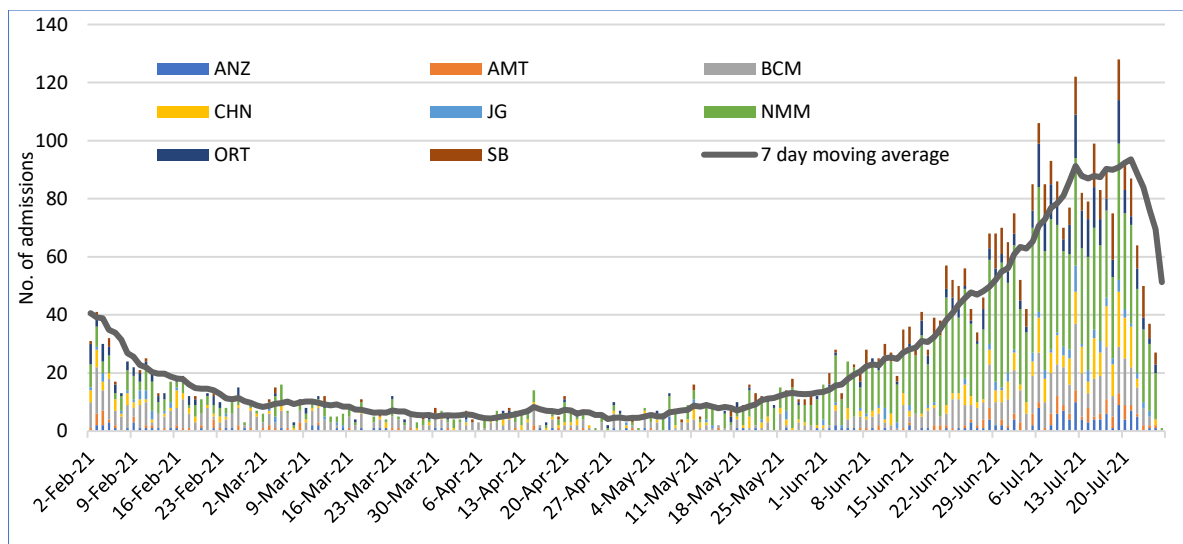


Fig. 28. Average (7 days moving) daily admissions by districts, as of 25 July 2021 (DATCOV)

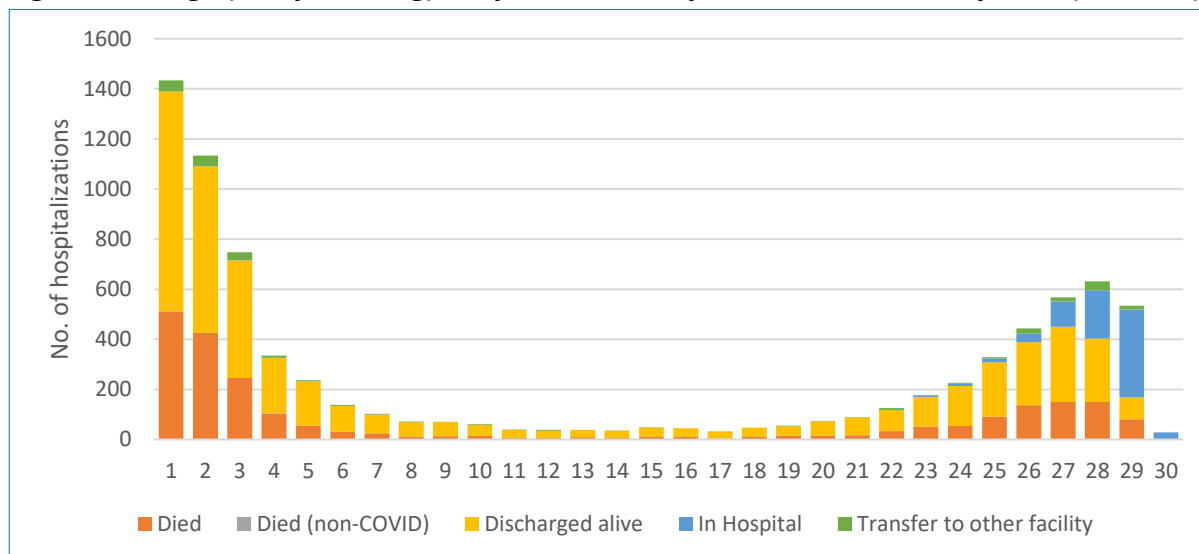


Fig. 29. Hospitalizations & outcomes by admission week, as of 27 July 2021 (DATCOV)

There was an increase in the number of patients who remained in hospital from week 24 to week 29.

7.2. Co-morbidities among admitted cases and deaths

The most common co-morbidities among the hospitalized SARS-Cov-2 patients were hypertension (43,2%) and diabetes (28,4%) among hospitalized SARS-Cov-2 cases. Two other commonly reported co-morbidities HIV (8,5%), obesity (6,5%) and asthma (4,0%).

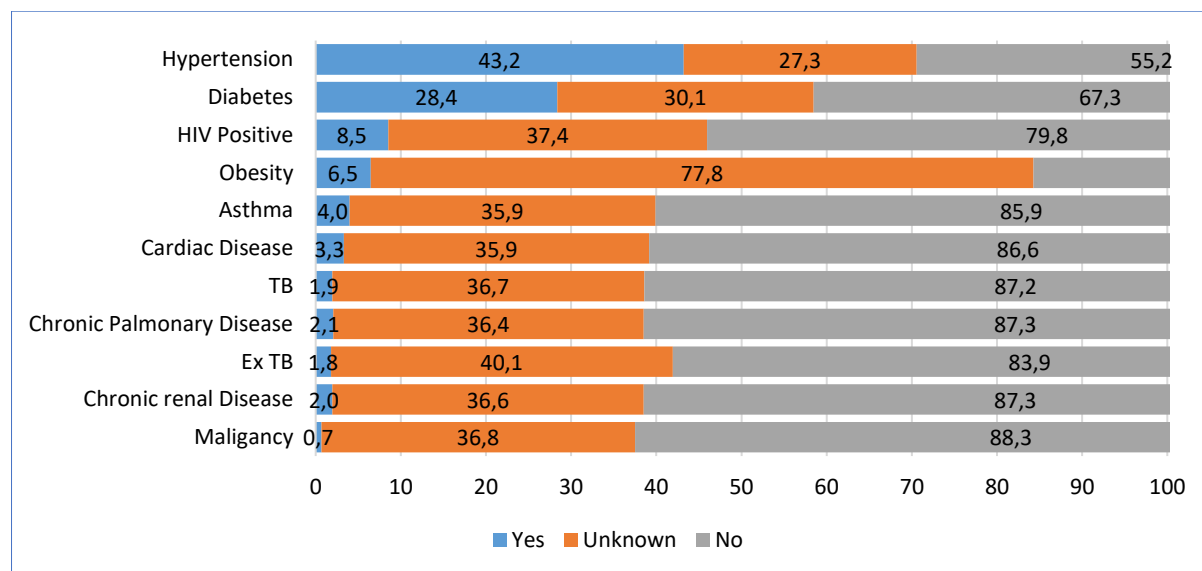


Fig. 30. Co-morbidities among SARS-Cov-2 hospitalizations, as of 25 July 2021 (DATCOV)

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

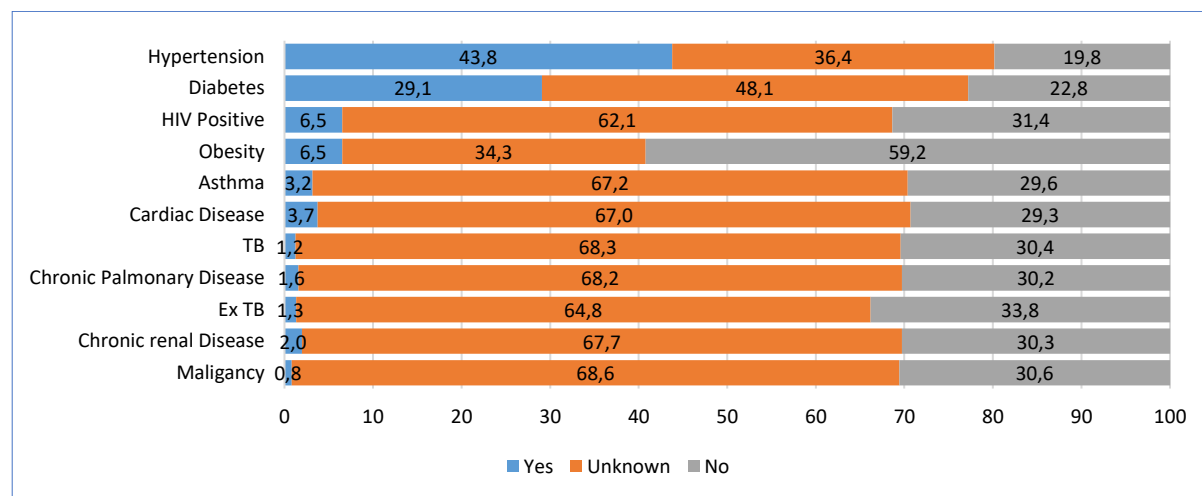


Fig. 31. Co-morbidities among SARS-Cov-2 cases who demised, as of 25 July 2021 (DATCOV)

The most common comorbidities among those cases that demised in the hospital include hypertension (43,8%) and diabetes (29,1%). Other 4 co-morbidities were reported, i.e. HIV (6,5%), obesity (6,5%), cardiac diseases (3,7%), and asthma (3,2%).



3 577 773

No Screened



1 126 333

Total Lab Tests



224 708

Positive Cases



205 915

Recoveries



12 656

Deaths

DISTRICT	TOTAL SCREENED	TOTAL TESTED	TOTAL CASES	RECOVERIES	DEATHS	ACTIVE CASES	AREAS
ALFRED NZO	694 706	36 305	8 588	7 900	587	101	Badibanise,Bhakubha,Bizana,Brooksnek,Cedarville,Chithwa,Dutyini,Emanxiweni,Ezinteteni,Kokstad,Lucingweni,Maluti, Mandileni , Matatiele,Mount Ayliff, Mount Frere , Ndiantana, Ngcingo , Ntabakhulu, Sugar Bush, Tabankulu
AMATHOLE	658 126	88 019	20 032	18 668	1138	226	Adelaide, Alice, Bolotwa, Butterworth, Cathcart, Centane, Cuba, Debe Nek, Dikana, Elliotdale, Ethafeni, Frankfort, Fort Beaufort, Ibika, Idutywa, Keiskammahoe, Willowale, Lower Mbhangcolo,Debe Nek, Mgababa, Nyaniso, Peddie
BUFFALO CITY METRO	210 367	172 101	41 880	38 704	2439	737	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, Nahoan, Ndevana, Needs Camp, Parkside, Selbourne, Sunnyridge, Sunset Bay,Tshatshu, Vincent, West Bank, Zweitsha
CHRIS HANI	515 346	80 511	21 180	18 996	1732	452	Bankies, Dordrecht, Dukathole, Ekunene, Ezibeleni, Kwanobuhle, Mcwangete, Madeira Park, New Rest, Ngcobo, Ngonyama, Popcorn Valley, Qebe, Qoqodala, Queenstown, Sigadleni, Vaalbank, Sada, Middleburg, Thornhill, Ndzamela, Mlungisi,Westbourne,Nttonze, Maya Village,Ekuphumuleni, TopTown, Vleiport, Zola
JOE GOABI	87 855	34 574	9 023	8 257	567	199	Aliwal North, Barkley East, Bhodi, Land Camp, Ugie, Inglewood, Maclear, Solomzi, Sunduza,Robbern,Venterstad
NELSON MANDELA METRO	856 883	271 848	71 975	65 537	3818	2 620	Algoa Park, Bethelsdorp, Bloemendal, Bluewater Bay, Booyens Park, Cotswold, Cuyler, Daleview, Despatch, Fernglen Port, Gelvandale, Govan Mbeki, Heath Park, Helenvale, Jacksonville, Joe Slovo, Kabega Park, Kamama 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	103 183	23 556	21 784	1442	330	Gomora, Lutatweni, Machibi, Majola, Mandilini ,New Payne Ngqeteni, Ntsimbini, Old Payne, Libode, Lusikisiki, Mganduli, Tombo, Marhewini, Mpikwana,Bhongweni,Cibeni, Flagstaff,Magcakeni,Ngangelizwe, Ngqanda,Tyebelana, Pollar Park, Tabase Mission, Slovo Park, Southernwood, Waterfall Park, Zandukwana,Zimbane, Ziphuzana
SARAH BAARTMAN	288 877	120 365	26 405	24 143	933	1 329	Aberdeen, Alexandria, Graaf-Reinet, Grahamstown, Jeffrey's Bay, Jourbertina, Humansdorp, Parson, St. Francis Bay, Kirkwood, Lotusville, Bergendal, Bratenfet, Joza, Santaville, Somerset East, Thornhill, Willomore
IMPORTED*	-	0	760	689	0	71	Bloemfontein, Ceres, Cape Town, Dunoon, Fishoek, George, Green Point, Gugulethu, Hout Bay, Langa, Khayelitsha, Knysna, Phillipi, Stellenbosch, Strand
PENDING	-	219 427	1309	1237	0	72	
GRAND TOTALS	3 577 773	1 126 333	224 708	205 915	12 656	6 137	

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.