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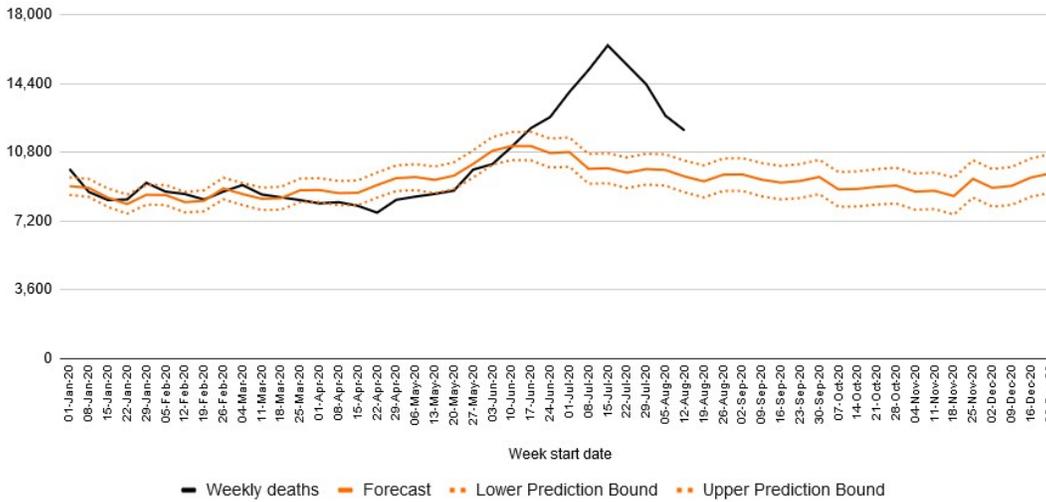
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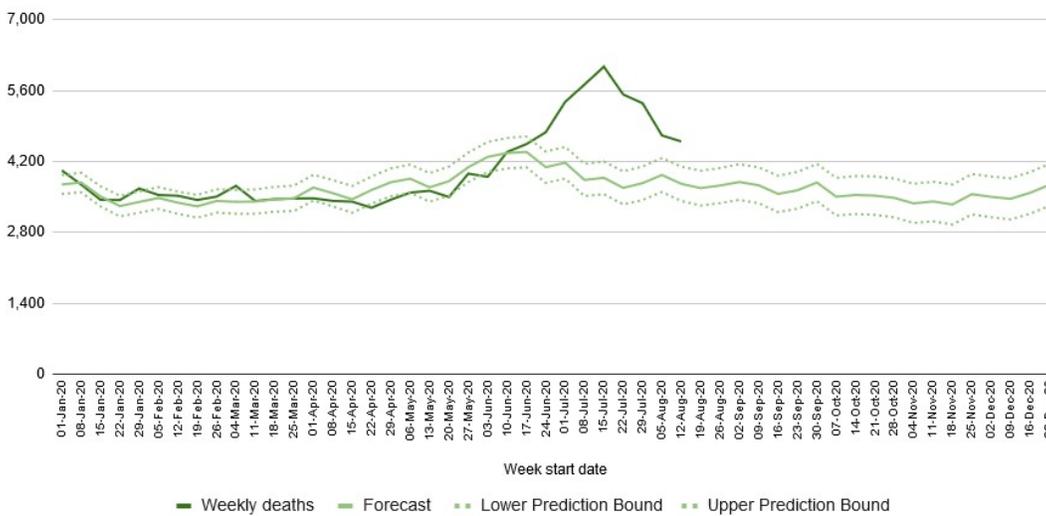
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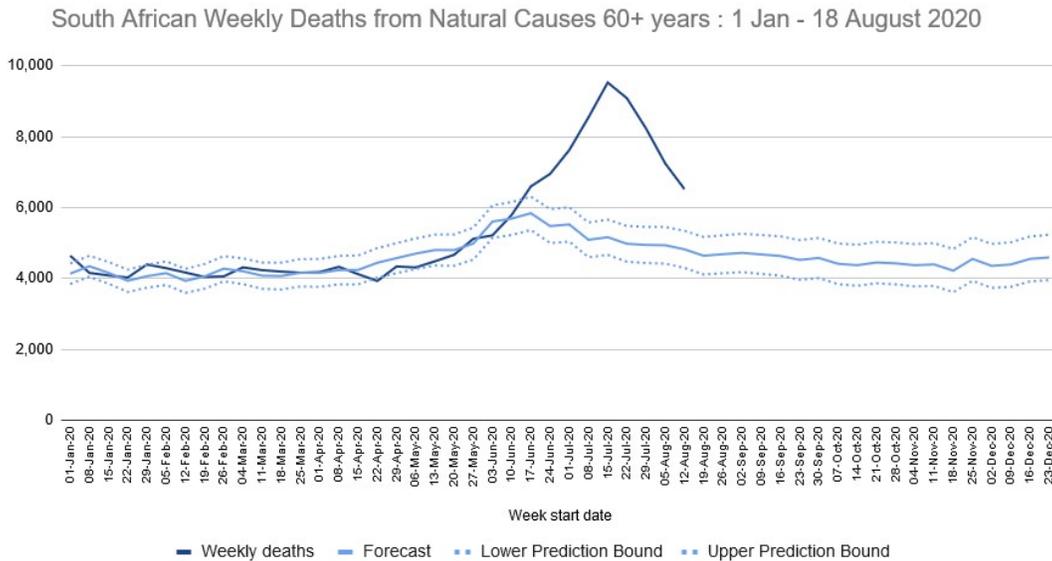
Report on Weekly Deaths in South Africa

South Africa Weekly Deaths from All Causes 1+ years : 1 Jan - 18 August 2020



South African Weekly Deaths from Natural Causes 1-59 years : 1 Jan - 18 August 2020





In the context of the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, it has become essential to track the weekly number of deaths that occur. Deaths recorded on the National Population Register are provided to the SAMRC on a weekly basis. These have been scaled up to estimate the actual number of deaths by accounting for the people who are not on the population register and the under-registration of deaths. The estimated numbers are compared with the number that would be expected based on the historical data from 2018 and 2019. The number of deaths of persons 1-year and older are reported because birth registration was put on hold during lockdown stage 5 affecting the number of infant deaths recorded on this system. The start date of each week is represented on the graph.

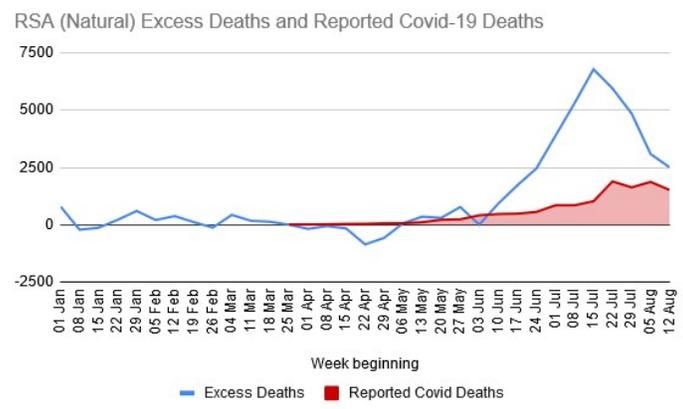
View the latest report

- [Weekly Report for 1 Jan – 18 August 2020](#)
- [Weekly death report - 18 August 2020 - presentation](#)
- [Estimated Natural Deaths of Persons 1+ Years](#) (Excel spreadsheet)

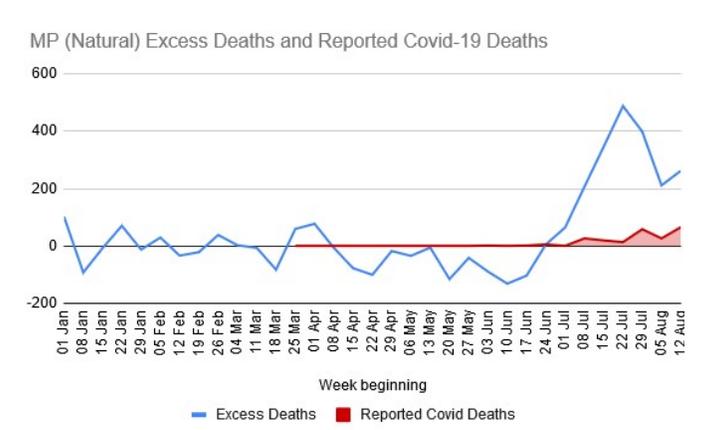
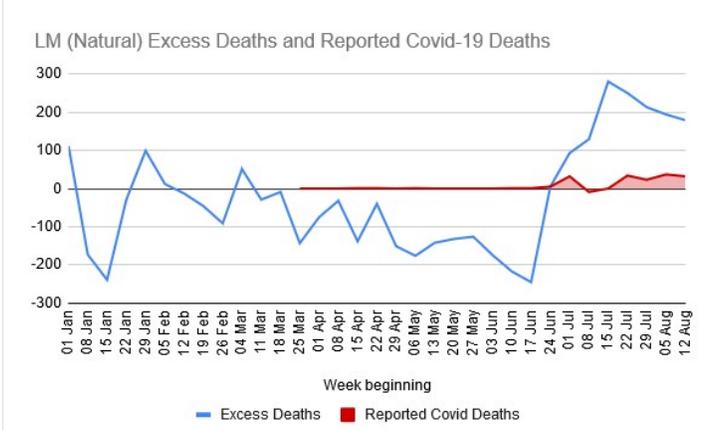
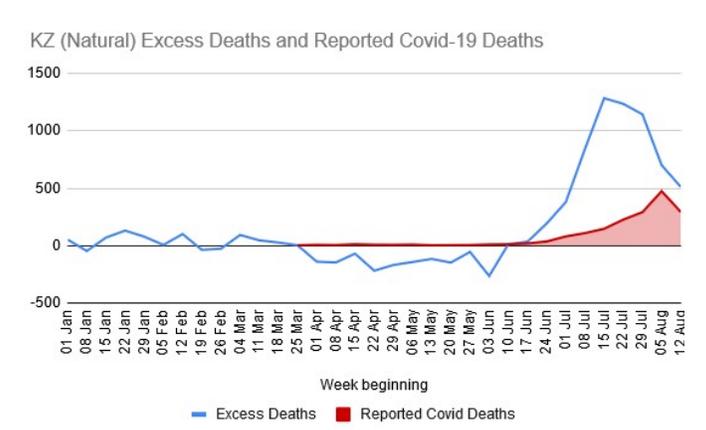
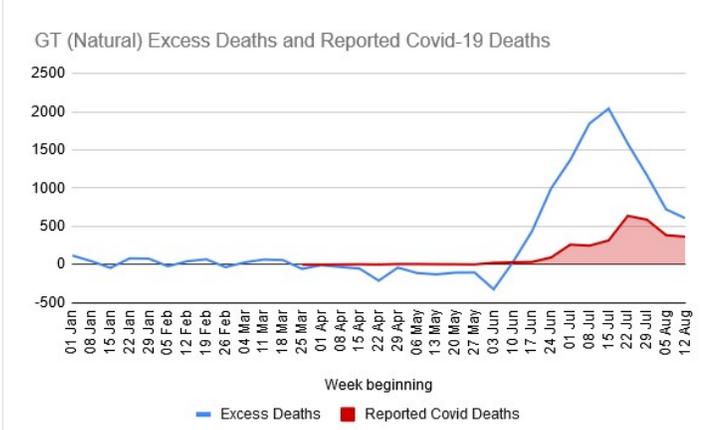
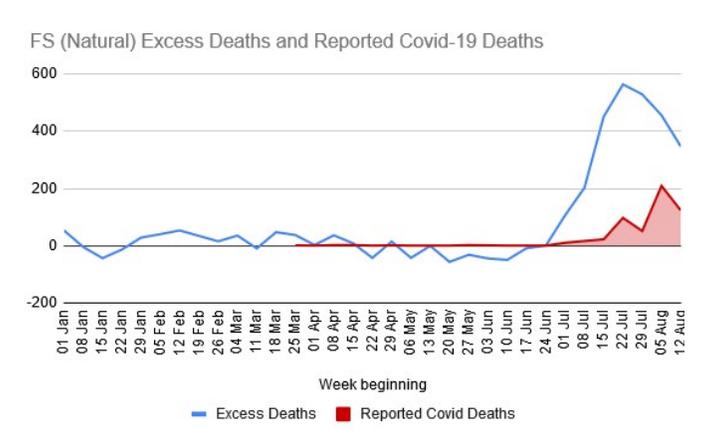
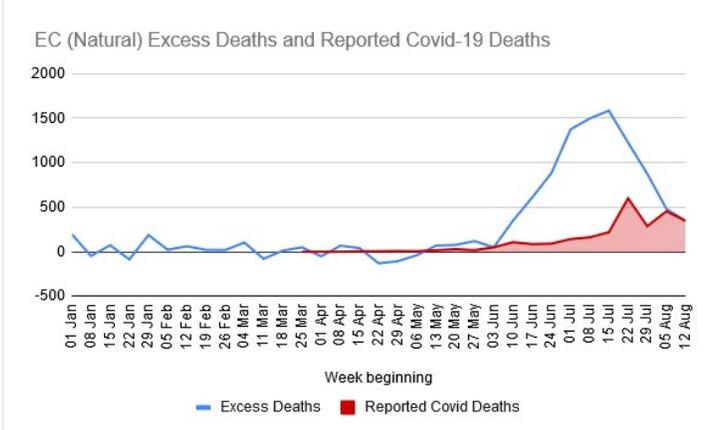
Estimated number of excess natural deaths of persons 1+ years by province and metro, South Africa 2020

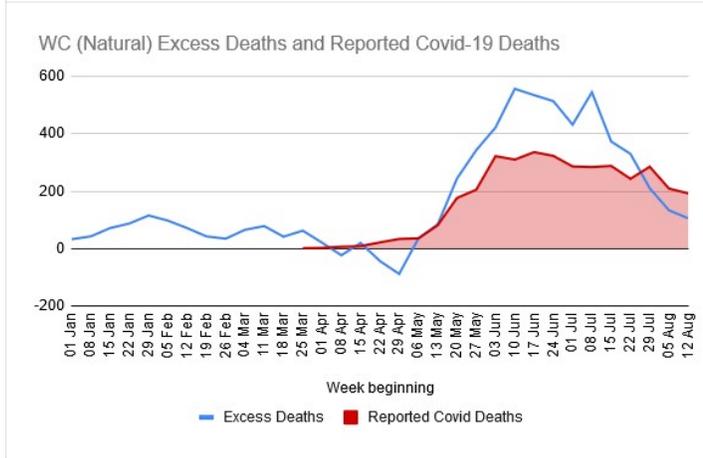
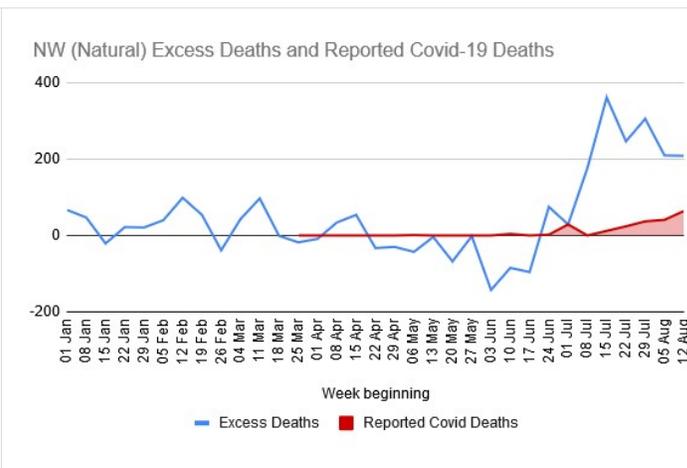
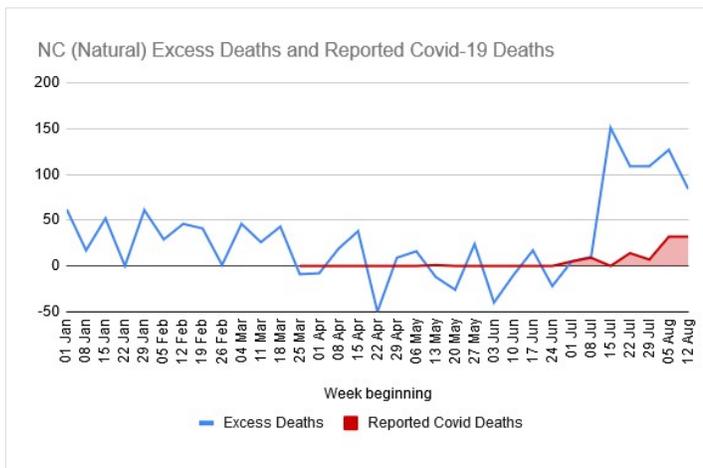
Weekly deaths : Excess deaths	
Region	Excess deaths 6 May - 18 August
South Africa	39,087
Province	
Eastern Cape	9,354
Free State	2,664
Gauteng	10,860
KwaZulu-Natal	6,396
Limpopo	1,349
Mpumalanga	1,982
Northern Cape	596
North West	1,546
Western Cape	4,933
Metropolitan Municipality	
Buffalo City	1,148
City of Cape Town	3,741
Ekhuruleni	3,200
eThekweni	1,464
Johannesburg	3,665
Mangaung	545
Nelson Mandela Bay	1,765
City of Tshwane	1,778

One approach to aid understanding of the emerging COVID-19 mortality is to compare the estimated weekly excess deaths with the number of COVID-19 deaths reported by the Minister of Health as shown in the figure below. This comparison is hampered to some degree by the fact that the excess deaths are classified by week in which the death occurred; the reported COVID-19 deaths are classified by date the numbers are reported to the Department. If all excess natural deaths were due to COVID-19, and all COVID-19 deaths were perfectly identified and reported, the two series would be identical. The number of estimated excess deaths has begun to decrease, consistent with the trend in the number of confirmed COVID-19 deaths. Although more data are needed on the underlying causes of death, this observation is strongly supportive that a significant proportion of the current excess mortality being observed in South Africa is likely to be attributable to COVID-19.



Provinces

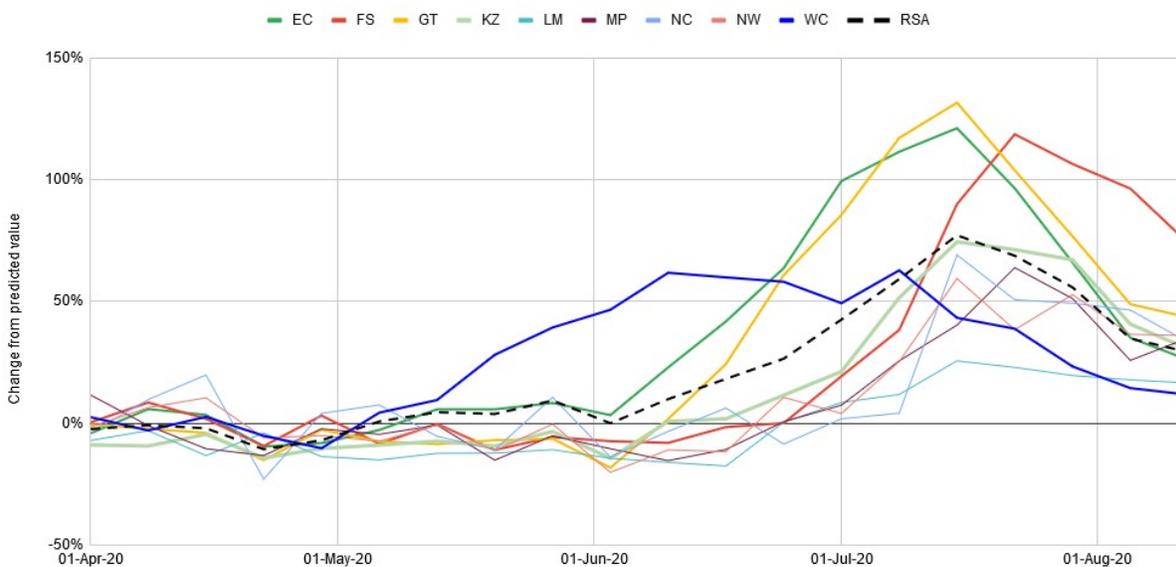




The **P-Score** is another measure frequently used to describe excess mortality on a weekly basis. It is the percentage change in the number of deaths from the expected number for that week. Negative values below 0% reflect a deficit in deaths while positive values reflect an increase. This graph shows the percentage change between the estimated number of deaths from natural causes and the predicted number based on the historical data.

Provincial change from predicted weekly deaths (p-scores), 1 April - 11 August 2020

Estimates based on weekly numbers of deaths from natural causes of persons 1+ years registered on the National Population Register vs 2018-2019 data



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SA's Mortality Data



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