

# Progress on COVID-19: South Africa Public Health Response

Minister of Health South Africa  
*26<sup>th</sup> April 2020*

# COVID-19: Global Situation

Based on SITREP 96 with data as of **24<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

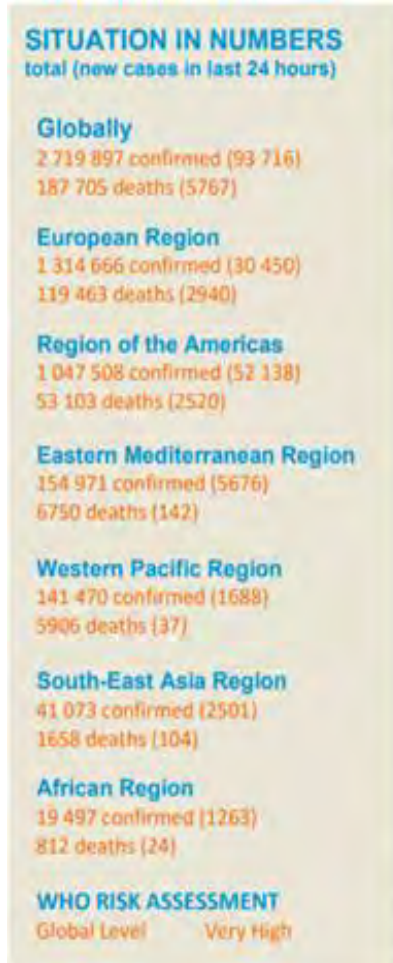
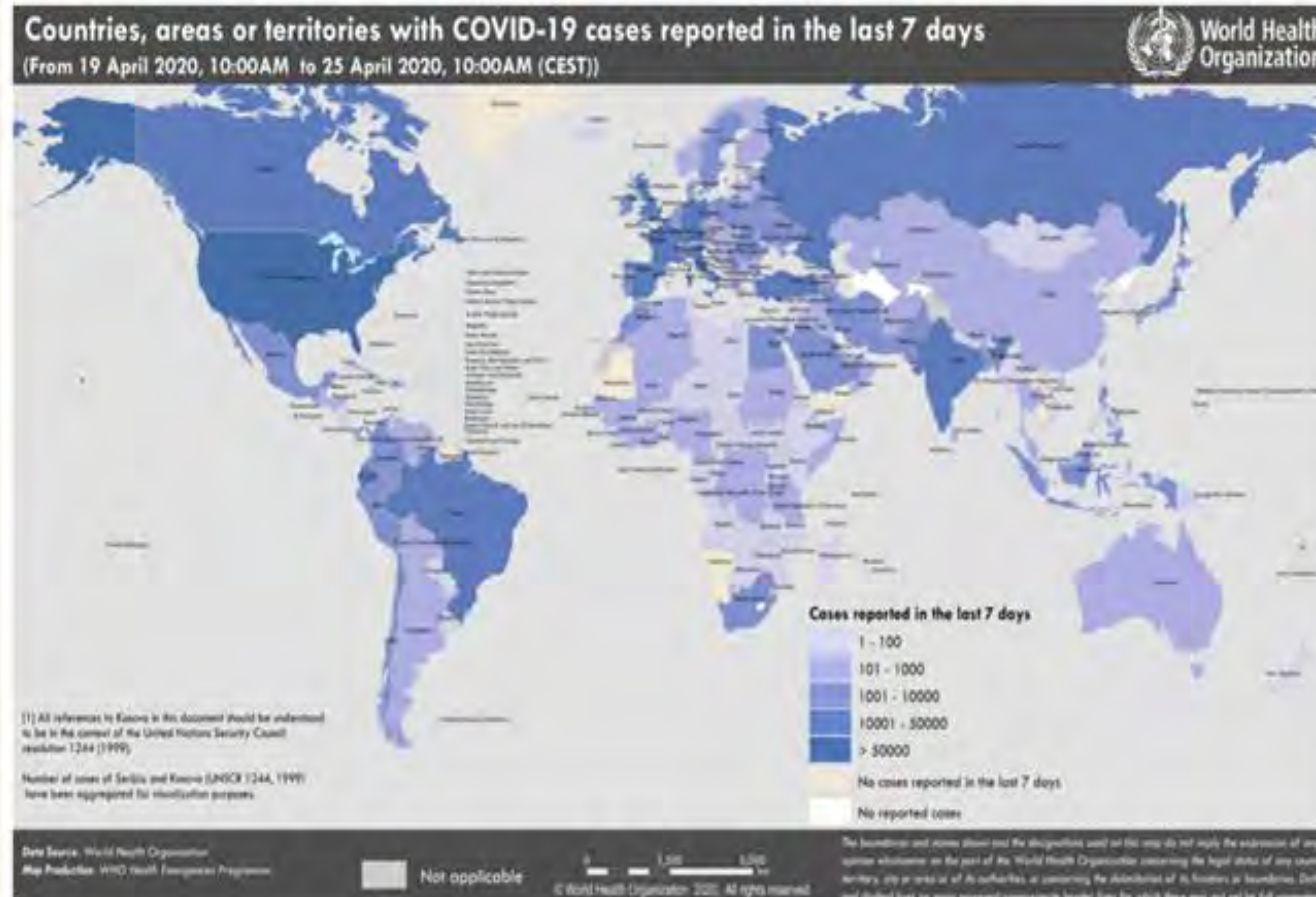


Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, 25 April 2020



- As reported by the WHO, the spread of coronavirus continues to affect more countries, consequently registering an increase in the total number of confirmed global cases which is currently at **2 719 897 with 187 705 deaths (24<sup>th</sup> April 2020)**.
  - This illustrates an increase of more than 93 567 new cases and 6767 new deaths over 24 hours (WHO COVID-19 SITREP 96).*
- The European Region remains the worst affected and the epicentre of the pandemic reporting 1 314 666 confirmed cases with 119 463 deaths (WHO COVID-19 SITREP 96).

Source: WHO

# COVID-19: African Region

Based on SITREP 94 with data as of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

- The African Region also continues to register a steady increase of confirmed cases in 45 countries/territories.
  - In total, the African Region reported 19 497 confirmed cases and 812 fatalities, illustrating more than 1 405 new cases over 24 hours (WHO COVID-19 SITREP 96).
  - South Africa has the highest number of cases followed by Egypt and Algeria; however, both Algeria and Egypt have a higher number of deaths.
- The SADC Region has reported 5 714 confirmed cases and 140 fatalities which is an increase of 347 cases over 24 hours (WHO COVID-19 SITREP 95).
  - Within SADC, South Africa has 74% of the total cases and 56% of the total deaths.

SADC Country	Total Confirmed Cases	% of Confirmed Cases	Deaths	% of Deaths
South Africa	4 220	74%	79	56%
DRC	416	7%	28	20%
Mauritius	331	6%	9	6%
Tanzania	300	5%	10	7%
Madagascar	122	2%	-	0%
Zambia	84	1%	3	2%
Mozambique	65	1%	-	0%
Zimbabwe	29	1%	4	3%
eSwatini	40	1%	1	1%
Angola	25	0%	2	1%
Malawi	33	1%	3	2%
Namibia	16	0%	1	1%
Botswana	22	0%	-	0%
Seychelles	11	0%	-	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 714</b>		<b>140</b>	

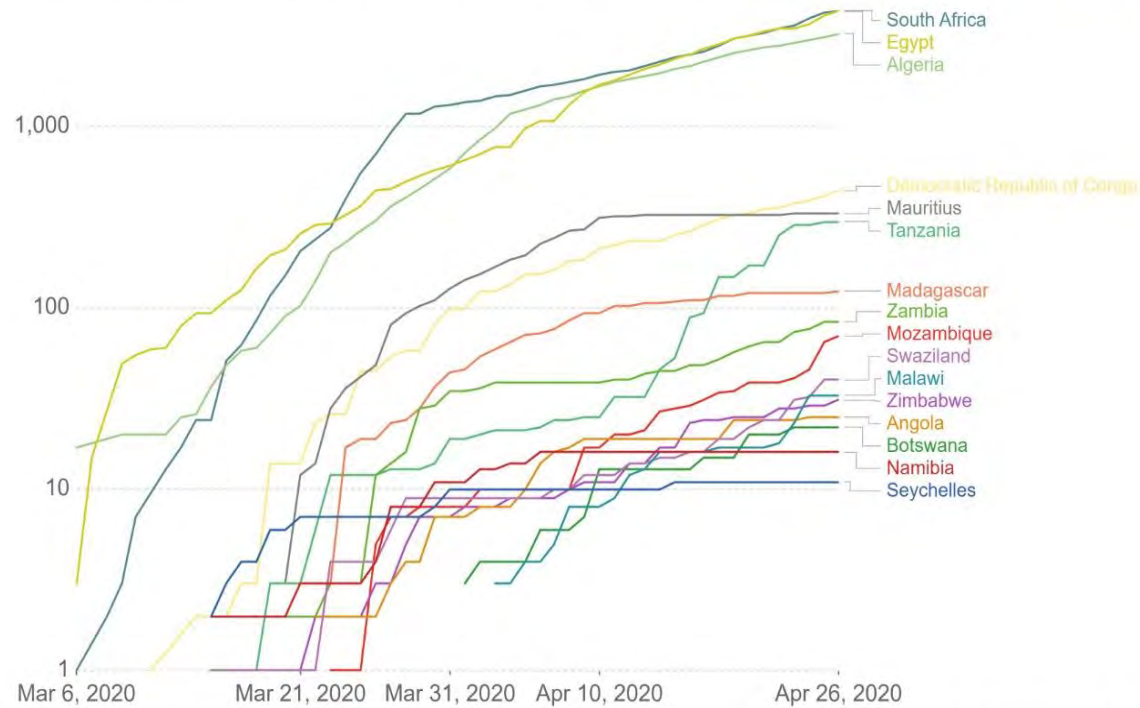


# COVID-19: African Region Comparison Cases and Deaths

## Total confirmed COVID-19 cases

The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of total cases. The main reason for this is limited testing.

Our World  
in Data

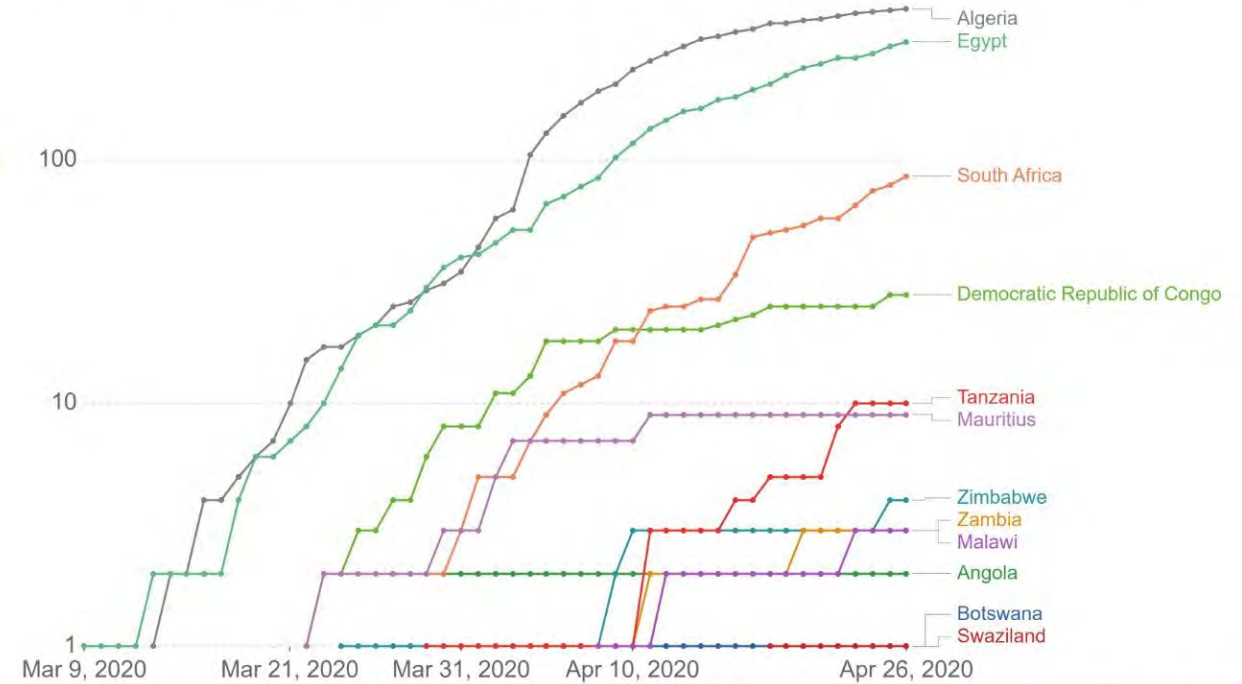


Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 26th April, 10:45 (London time) OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

## Total confirmed COVID-19 deaths

Limited testing and challenges in the attribution of the cause of death means that the number of confirmed deaths may not be an accurate count of the true number of deaths from COVID-19.

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in Data



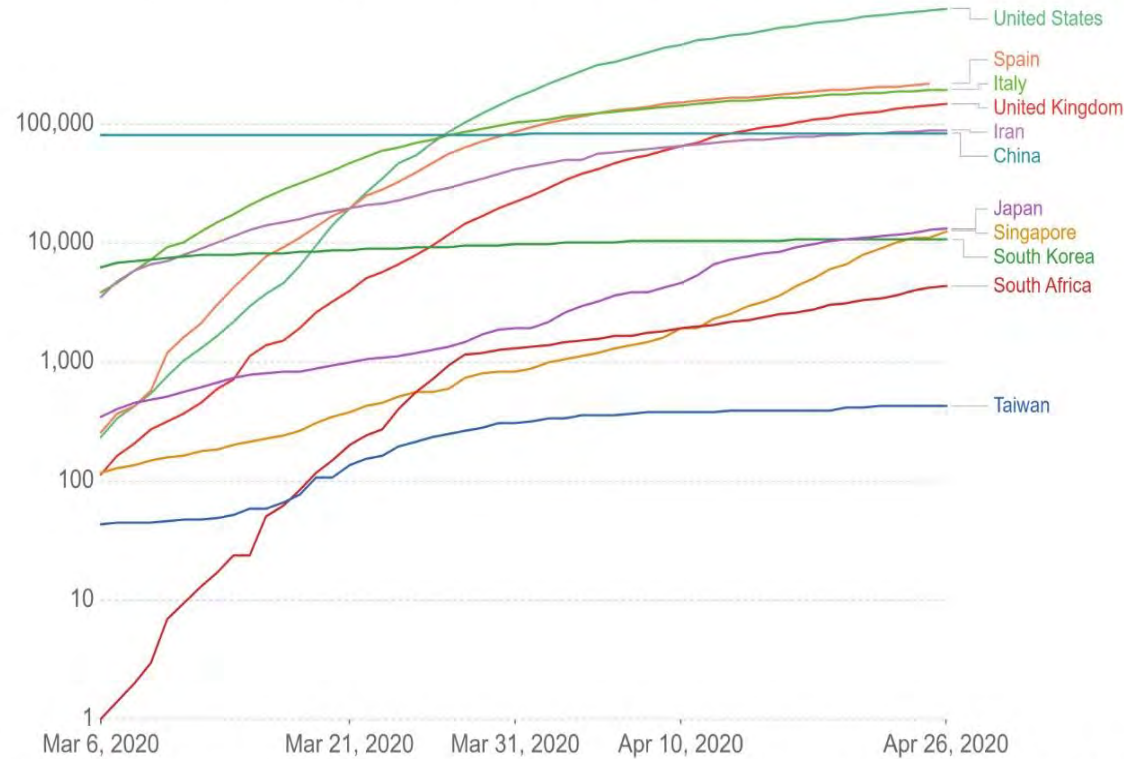
Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 26th April, 10:45 (London time) OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

# COVID-19: Global Comparison Cases and Deaths

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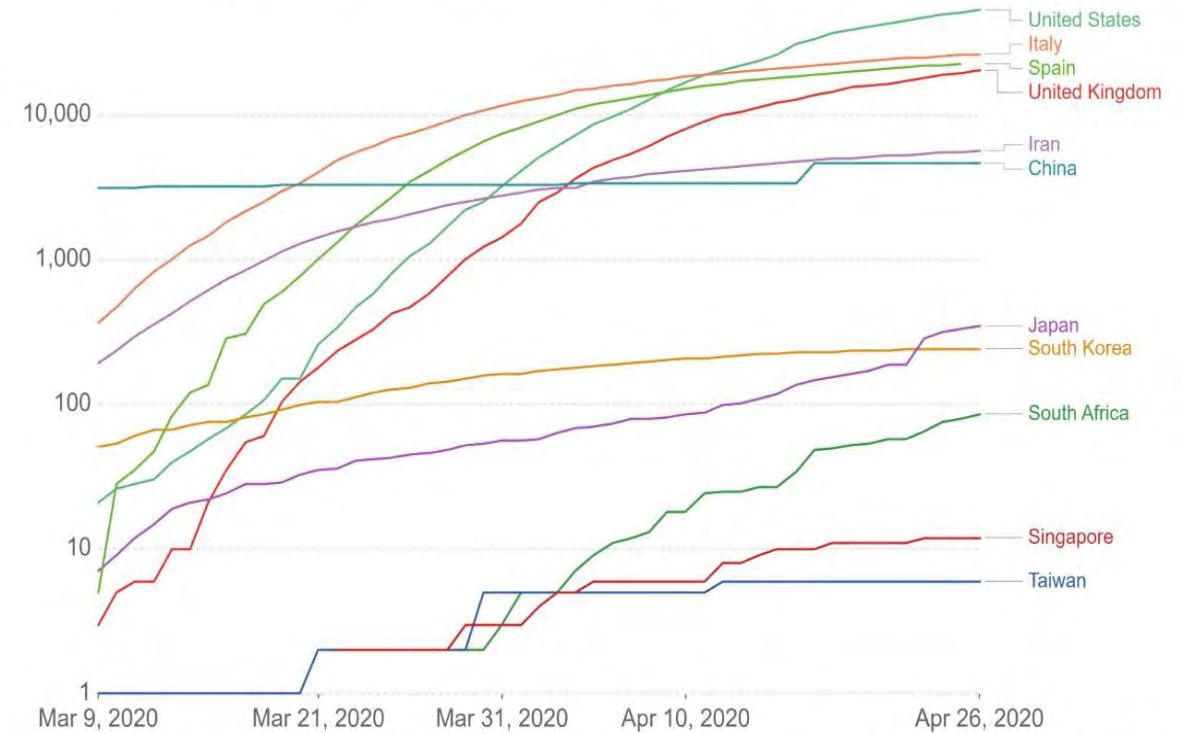


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Limited testing and challenges in the attribution of the cause of death means that the number of confirmed deaths may not be an accurate count of the true number of deaths from COVID-19.

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# Epidemiology and Surveillance

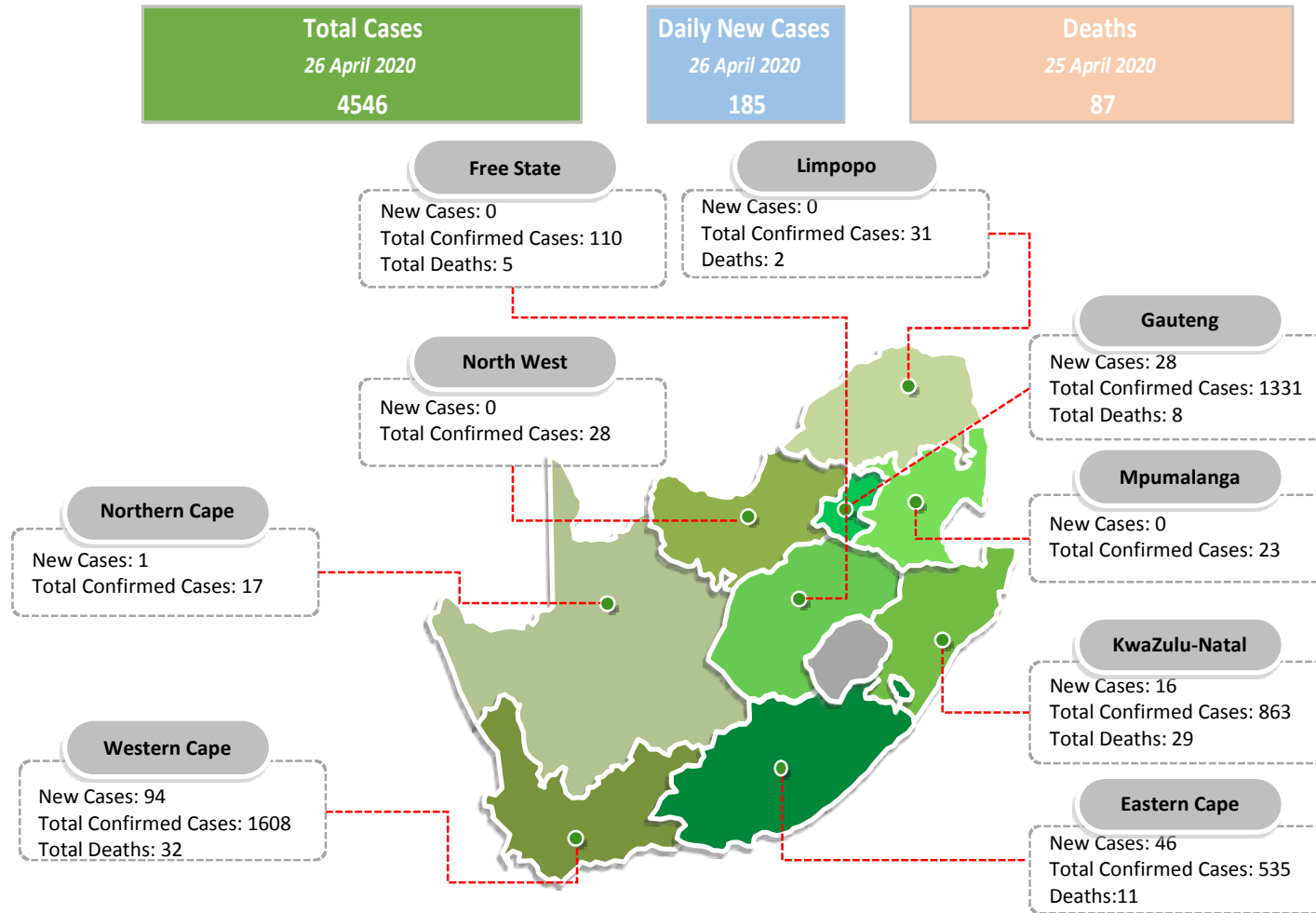
Through and including **cases** through **26<sup>th</sup> of April** and **deaths** through **25<sup>th</sup> of April**

- The total cumulative cases reported on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020 is **4 546** reflecting a **4,24% increase** or **185 new cases** from the 25th of April 2020.
- The national **case fatality rate**, based on deaths from 25th April is **1,9%**, with the total number of deaths as of the 25th of April at 87.

Province	Reported Cases 25 April 2020	Updated Cases Post Harmonisation 25 April 2020	New Cases 26 April 2020	Total Cases 26 April 2020	% Total Cases	Deaths 25 April 2020	Case Fatality Rate
Eastern Cape	488	489	46	535	11,8%	11	2,1%
Free State	111	110	0	110	2,4%	5	4,5%
Gauteng	1304	1303	28	1331	29,3%	8	0,6%
KwaZulu-Natal	847	847	16	863	19,0%	29	3,4%
Limpopo	30	31	0	31	0,7%	2	6,5%
Mpumalanga	23	23	0	23	0,5%	0	0,0%
North West	28	28	0	28	0,6%	0	0,0%
Northern Cape	16	16	1	17	0,4%	0	0,0%
Western Cape	1514	1514	94	1608	35,4%	32	2,0%
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0,0%	0	0,0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4361</b>	<b>4361</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>4546</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>1,9%</b>

# Epidemiology and Surveillance

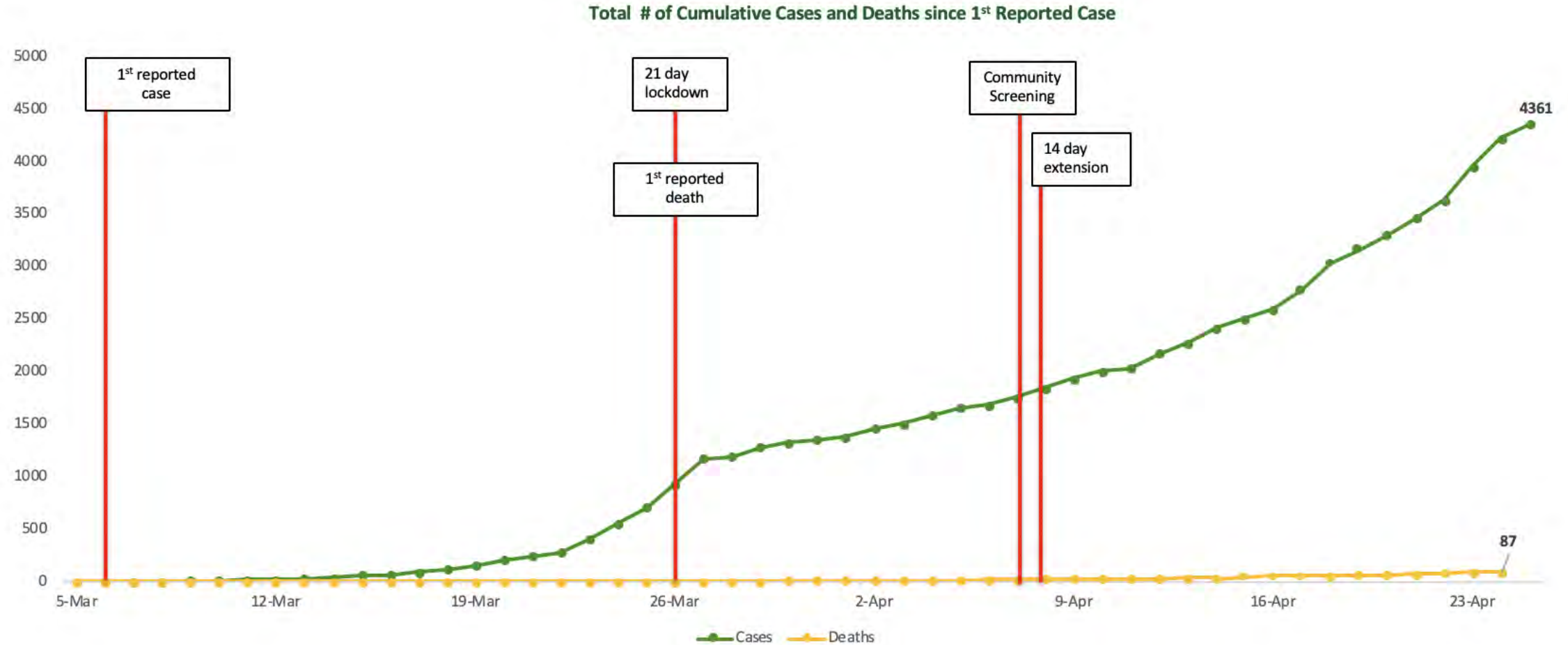
Through and including **cases** through 26<sup>th</sup> of April and **deaths** through 25<sup>th</sup> of April





# COVID-19 Cases and Deaths since 1<sup>st</sup> reported case

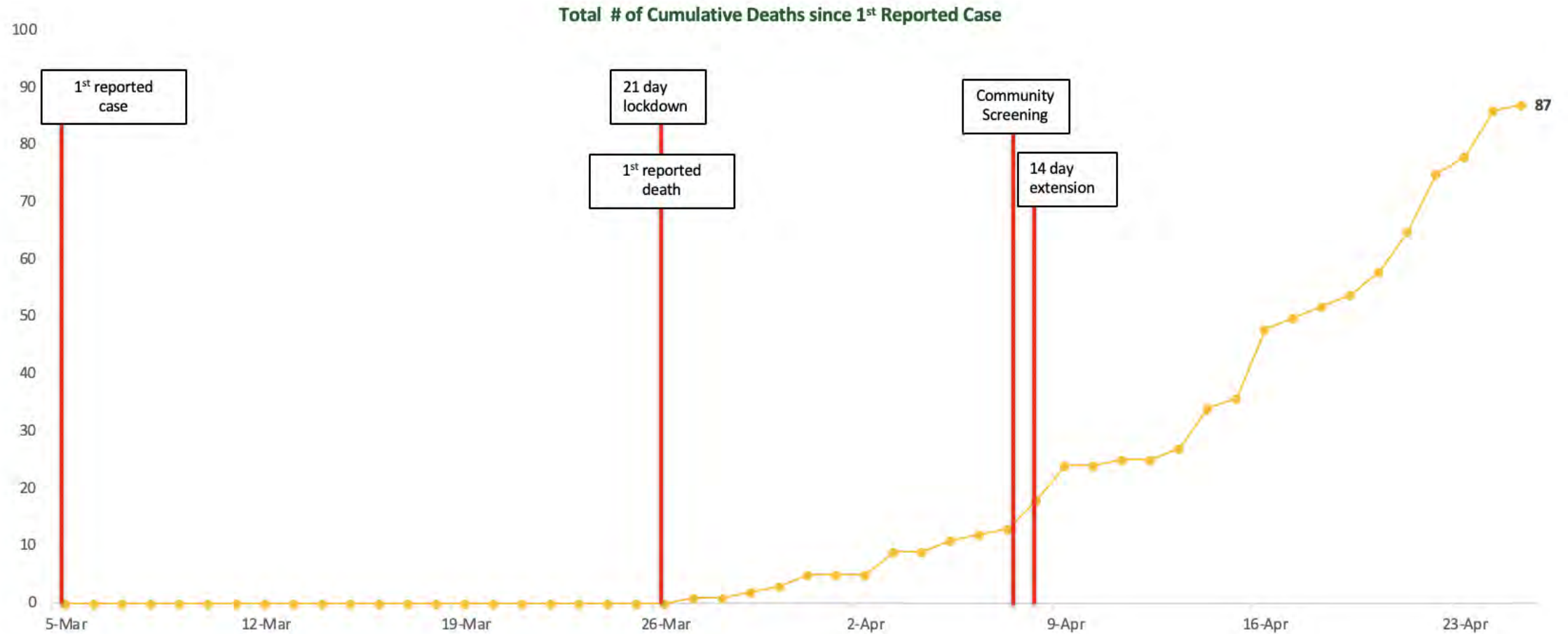
Through and including *cases* through 26<sup>th</sup> of April and *deaths* through 25<sup>th</sup> of April





# COVID-19 Deaths since 1<sup>st</sup> reported case

Through and including *cases* through 26<sup>th</sup> of April and *deaths* through 25<sup>th</sup> of April



# Number of Daily New COVID-19 Cases and Deaths

Through and including **cases** through 26<sup>th</sup> of April and **deaths** through 25<sup>th</sup> of April

Total # of New Cases since 1<sup>st</sup> Reported Case

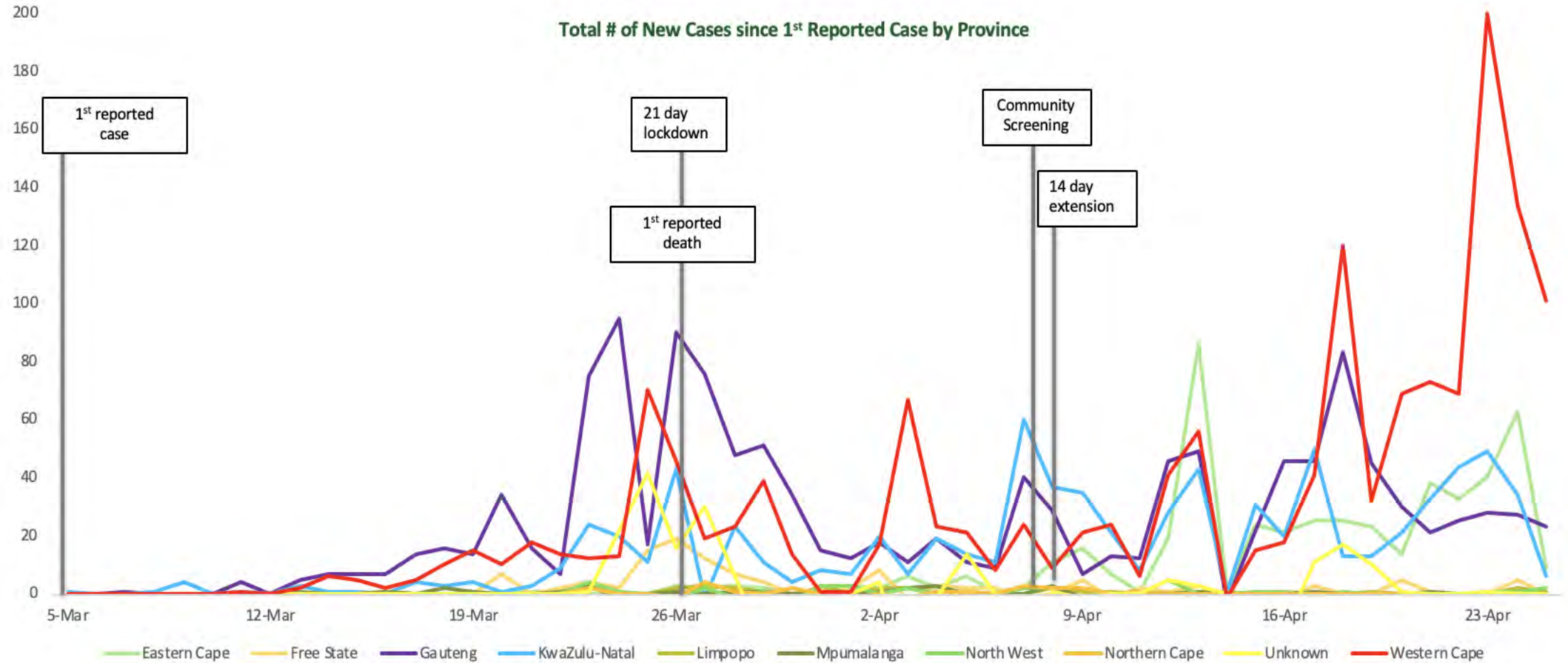


Total # of New Deaths since 1<sup>st</sup> Reported Case



# Number of Daily New COVID-19 Cases by Province

Through and including **cases** through 26<sup>th</sup> of April and **deaths** through 25<sup>th</sup> of April



# Laboratory Service

Through and including the 25<sup>th</sup> of April

## All tests

Sector	Total tested		New tested	
PRIVATE	101 099	60%	3 367	44%
PUBLIC	67 544	40%	4 272	56%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>168 643</b>		<b>7 639</b>	

## Community Screen and Test

Case-finding method	Total tested		New tested	
Community screen and test (CST)	22 906	14%	1 854	24%
Passive case-finding	145 737	86%	5 785	76%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>168 643</b>		<b>7 639</b>	

Province	Total Tests		New tests	
Eastern Cape	14054	8.3%	1115	14.6%
Free State	6317	3.7%	354	4.6%
Gauteng	61830	36.7%	2103	27.5%
KwaZulu-Natal	28265	16.8%	1978	25.9%
Limpopo	3691	2.2%	207	2.7%
Mpumalanga	4385	2.6%	155	2.0%
North West	2544	1.5%	64	0.8%
Northern Cape	1314	0.8%	40	0.5%
Western Cape	33335	19.8%	1211	15.9%
Unkown	12908	7.7%	412	5.4%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>168,643</b>		<b>7,639</b>	

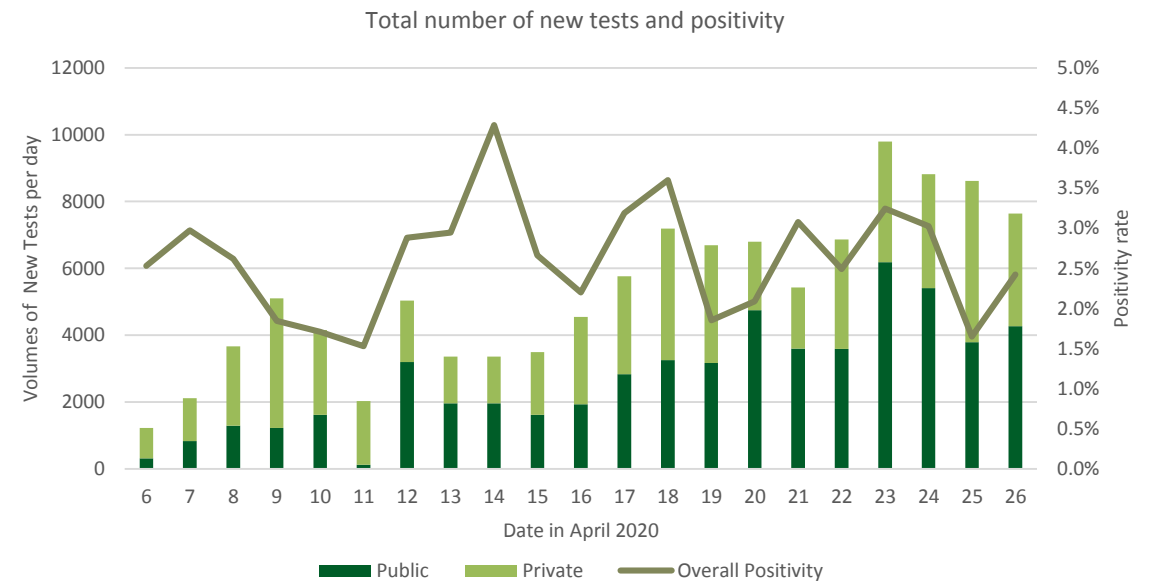
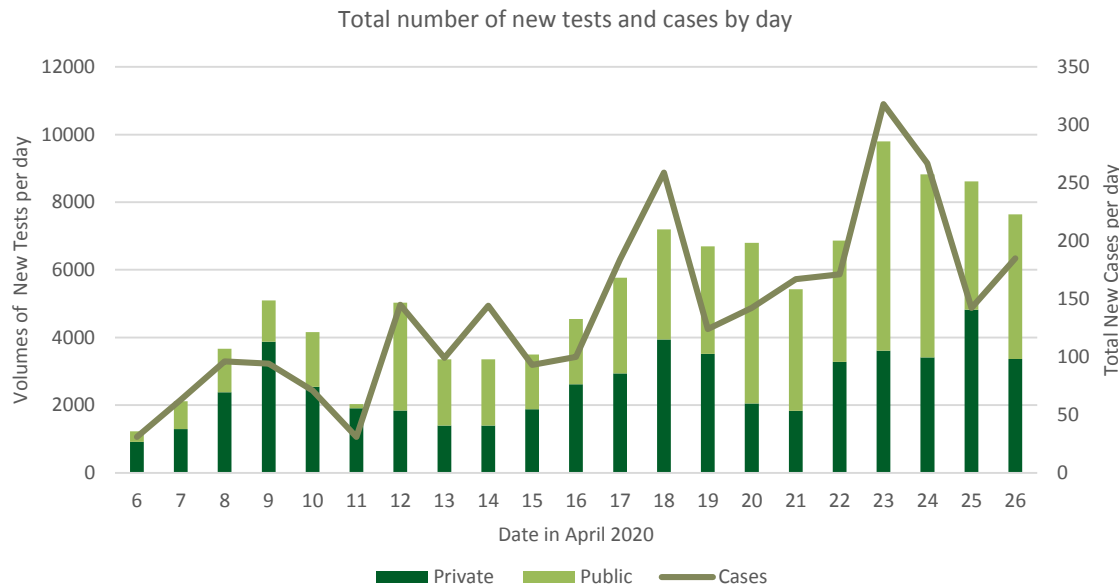
- A total of 168 643 tests have been conducted as of 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- Of the total number of tests conducted, 7 639 new tests were performed (a decline of 975 tests from the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2020) and of those 1 854 tests came from community screen and test (CST).
- The number of tests performed in the public sector continues to improve and accounts for 40% of overall tests.



# Number of COVID-19 tests performed by date reported

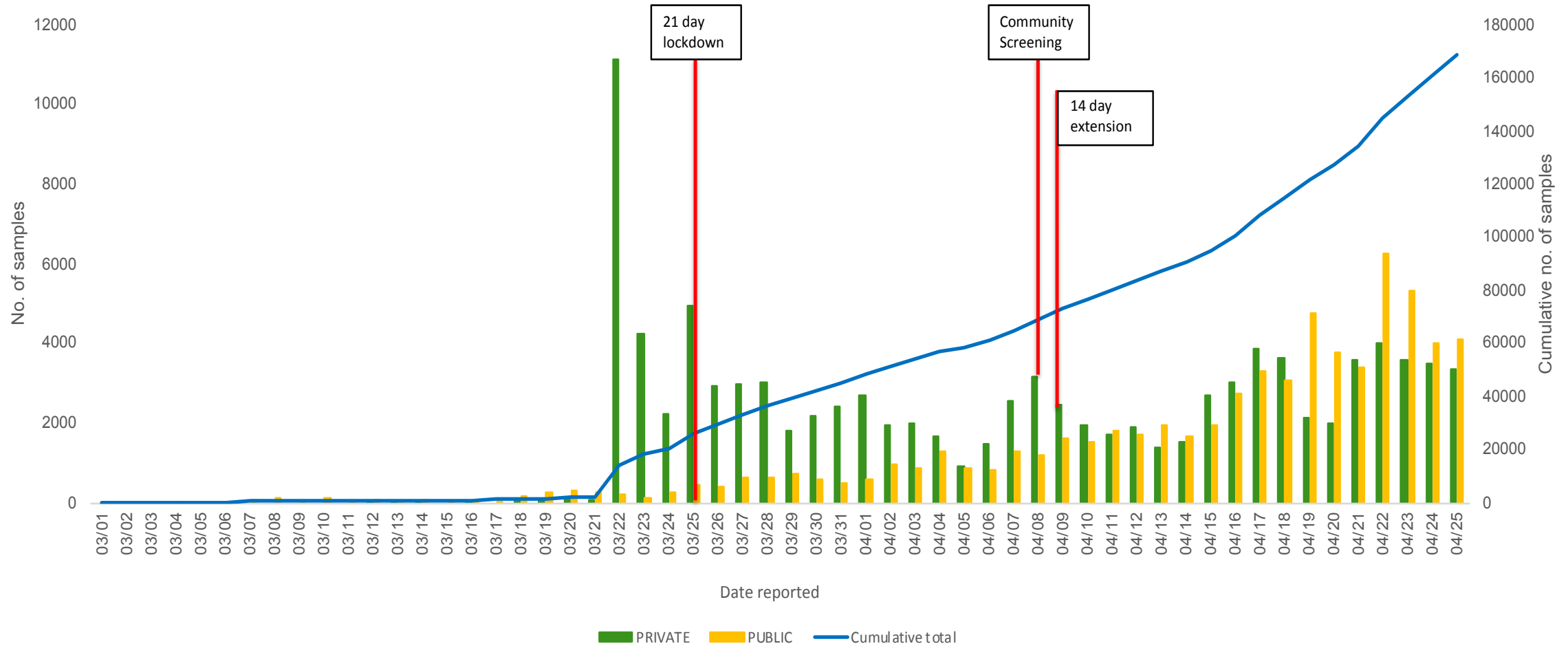
Through and including testing through 25<sup>th</sup> April

- The number of new cases has increased despite a decline in test volumes over the past 4 days: 9796, 8820, 8614 and today 7639
- Day-to-day fluctuations in new case numbers are difficult to interpret due to testing practices in the field and delays in testing samples.
- The overall positivity (new cases/total new tested) increased from 1,6% the day before to 2,4%. Note, this also explains the increase in cases despite the small drop in total test volumes.
  - ♦ Weekends are often associated with lower test volumes and cases and this is another factor.
  - ♦ Note, the trend over time is more reliable and valuable compared to daily numbers.
- The trends in positivity rates are shown below and have been relatively stable.



# Number of COVID-19 tests performed by date reported

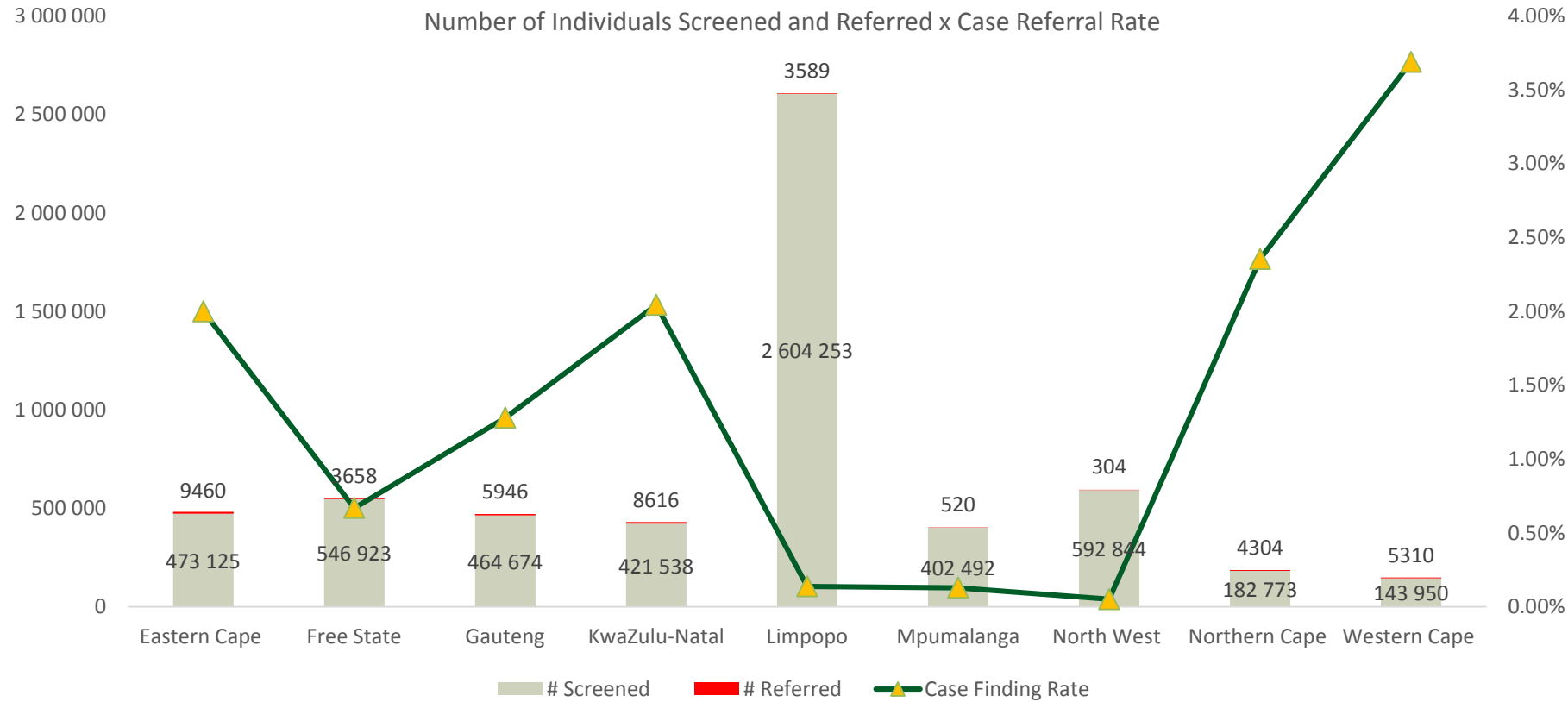
Through and including **testing through 25<sup>th</sup> April**



# Community Screening

Through and including the 24<sup>th</sup> of April

- As of 24<sup>th</sup> April, 5 832 572 individuals have been screened nationally and 41 707 have been referred for testing .



Province	Case Referral Rate
Eastern Cape	2,00%
Free State	0,67%
Gauteng	1,28%
KwaZulu-Natal	2,04%
Limpopo	0,14%
Mpumalanga	0,13%
North West	0,05%
Northern Cape	2,35%
Western Cape	3,69%
<b>National</b>	<b>0,72%</b>

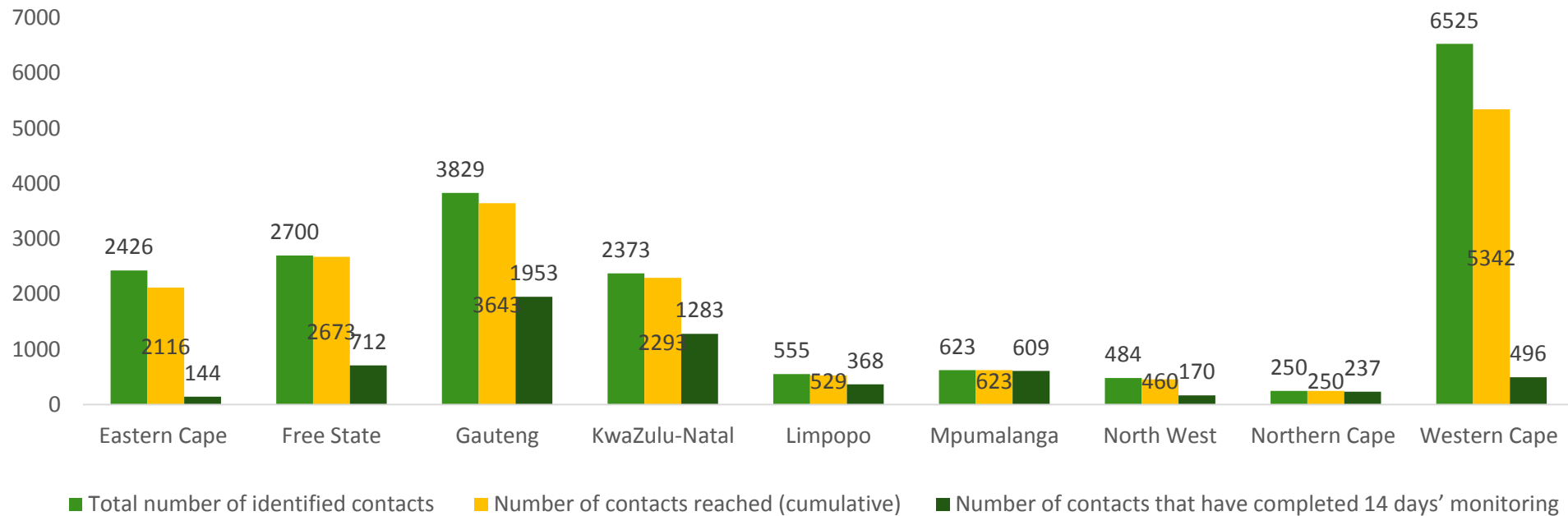
	National Total
<b>Screened</b>	<b>5 832 572</b>
<b>Referred</b>	<b>41 707</b>

# Contact Tracing

Through and including the 25<sup>th</sup> of April

- As of 25<sup>th</sup> April, a total of **19 765 contacts have been identified** through contact tracing, which shows an increase of 8% from the previous day (18 299).
- The national coverage rate has increased from 89% to 91% with the Eastern Cape (87%) and the Western Cape (82%) below the overall coverage rate.

Number of Contacts Reached vs Not Yet Reached



Province	% Reached vs not yet reached	% Completed 14 day monitoring
Eastern Cape	87%	6%
Free State	99%	26%
Gauteng	95%	51%
KwaZulu-Natal	95%	54%
Limpopo	95%	66%
Mpumalanga	100%	98%
North West	95%	35%
Northern Cape	100%	95%
Western Cape	82%	*
<b>National</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>30%</b>

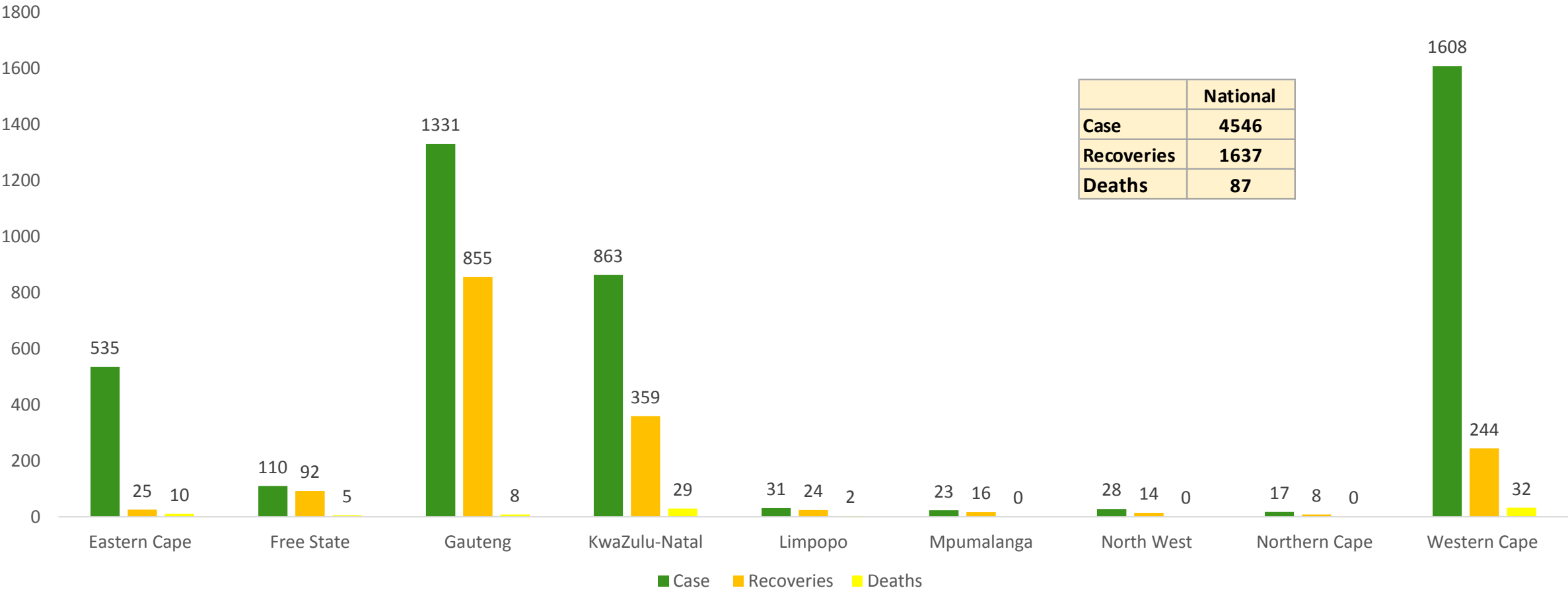
<b>National # Identified</b>	<b>19,765</b>
<b>National Total Reached</b>	<b>17,929</b>
<b>National Total Not yet Reached</b>	<b>1,836</b>
<b>Total Complete 14 days monitoring</b>	<b>5,972</b>



# Hospitalisation

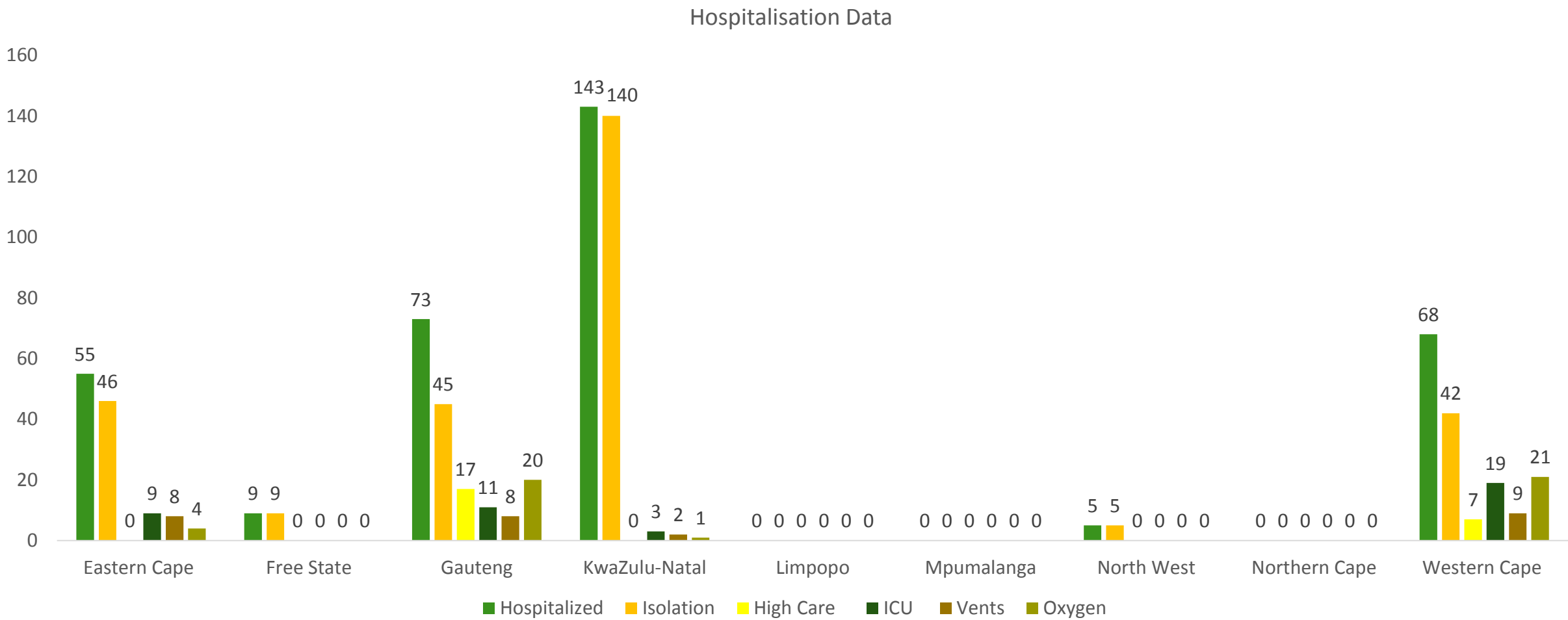
Updated as of 25<sup>th</sup> of April

Number of Cases, Recoveries and Deaths



# Hospitalisation

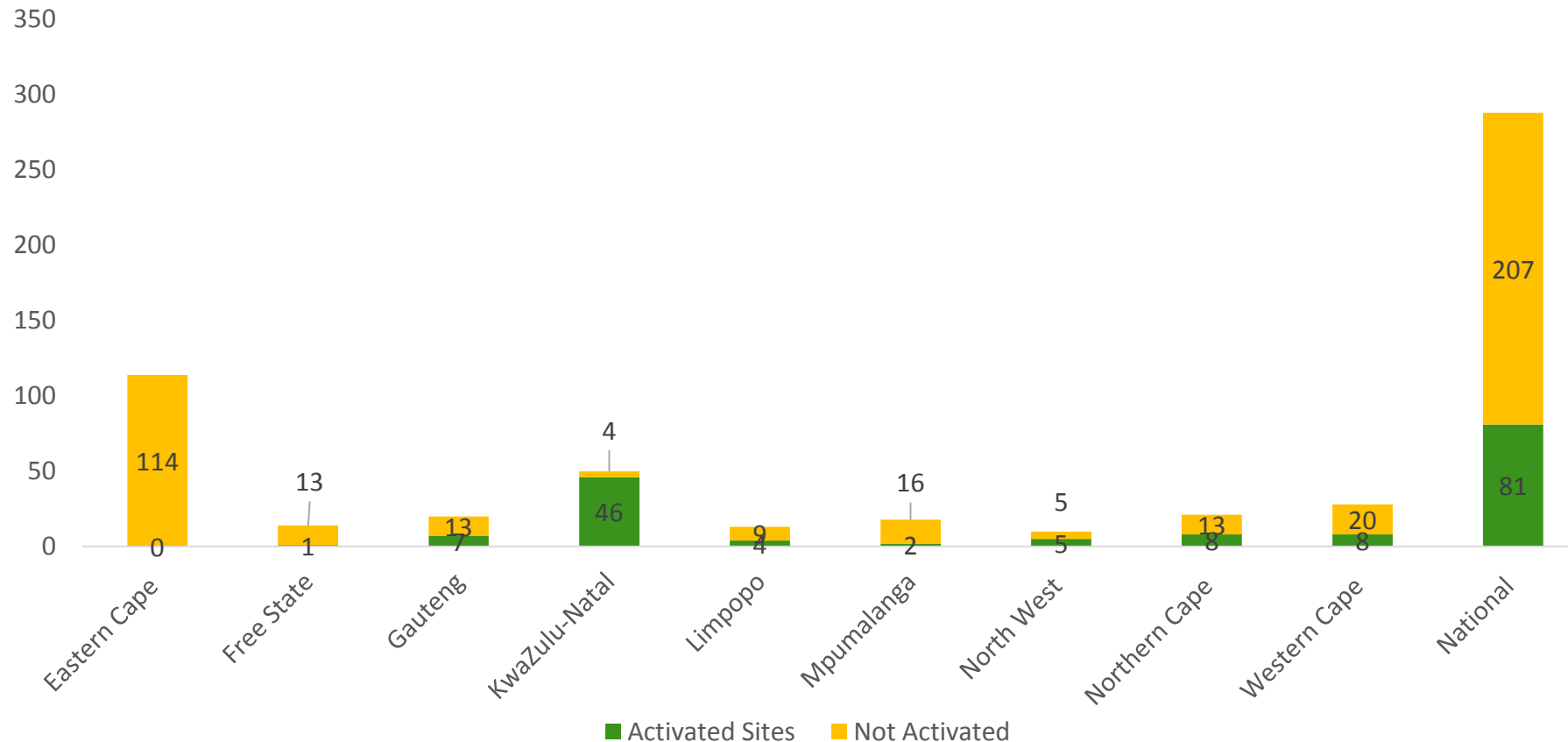
Updated as of 25<sup>th</sup> of April



# Quarantine – Sites

Activated and Non Activated Quarantine Sites *as of 25<sup>th</sup> April*

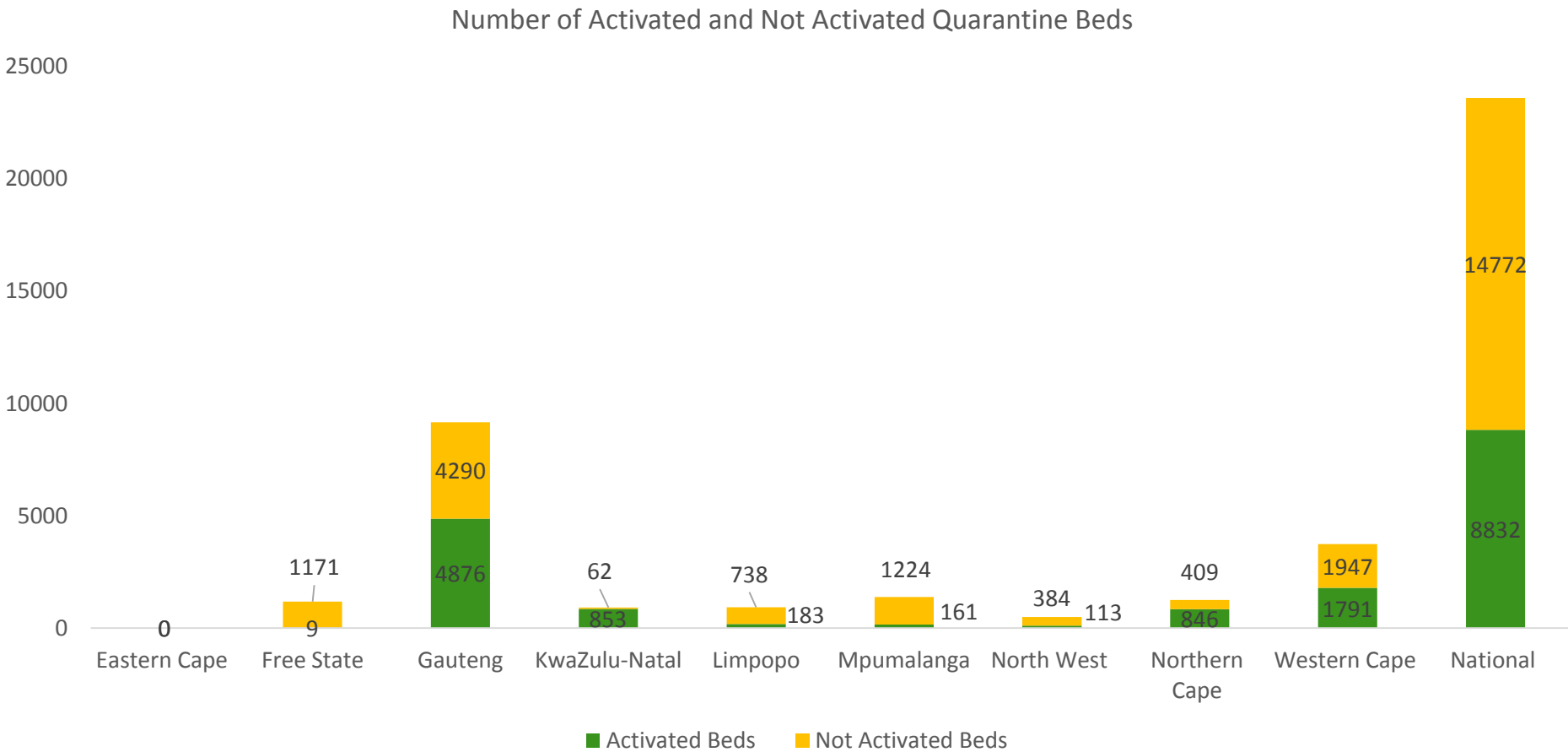
Number of Activated and Not Activated Quarantine Sites



Province	Total Sites Planned	% Activated
Eastern Cape	114	0,00%
Free State	14	7,14%
Gauteng	20	38,89%
KwaZulu-Natal	50	93,75%
Limpopo	13	30,77%
Mpumalanga	18	11,11%
North West	10	50,00%
Northern Cape	21	38,10%
Western Cape	28	28,57%
<b>National</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>28,13%</b>

# Quarantine – Beds

Activated and Non Activated Quarantine Beds *as of 25<sup>th</sup> April*



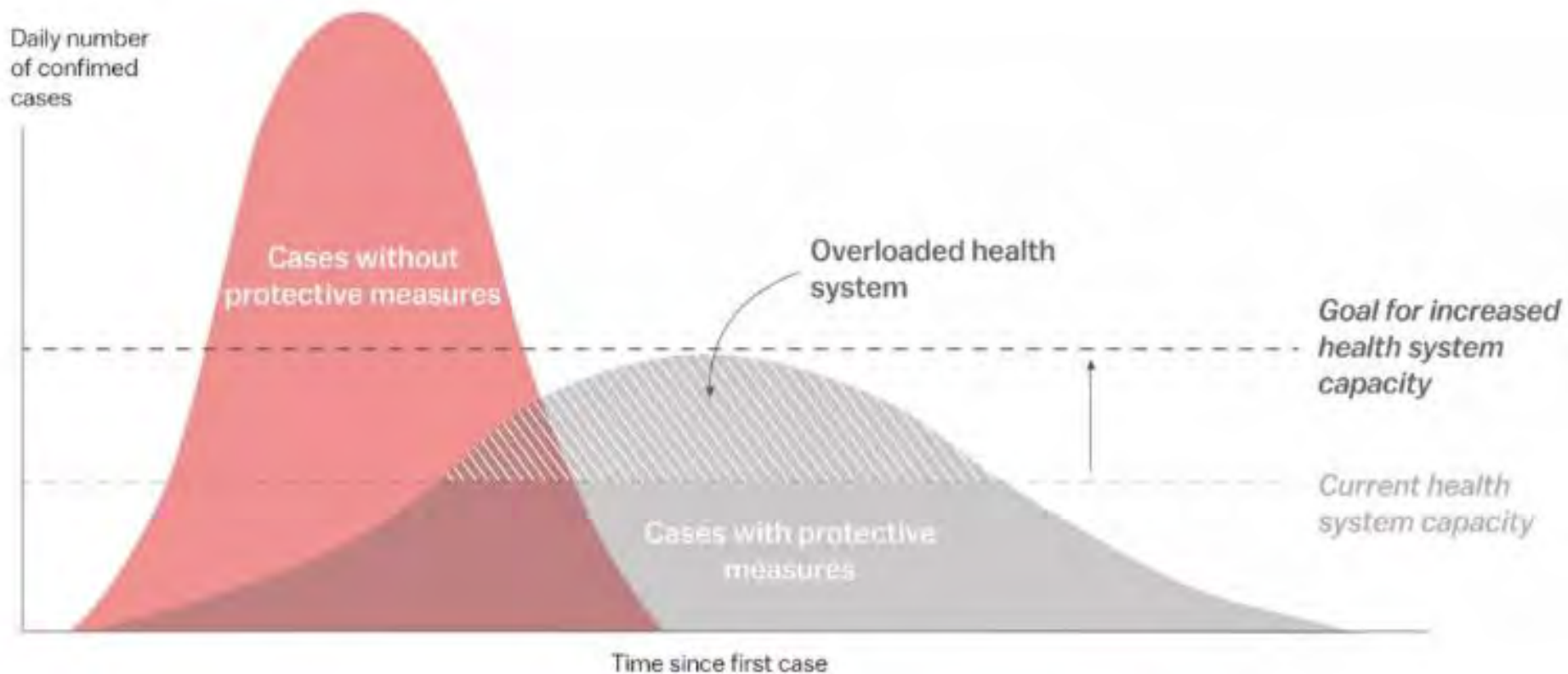
Province	Total Planned Beds	% Activated
Eastern Cape	4547	0,00%
Free State	1180	0,76%
Gauteng	9166	64,50%
KwaZulu-Natal	915	93,41%
Limpopo	921	19,87%
Mpumalanga	1385	11,62%
North West	497	28,46%
Northern Cape	1255	61,23%
Western Cape	3738	48,88%
National	23604	37,42%





# Risk-adjusted strategy for economic activity

There is early evidence that the full national lockdown imposed since 26 March 2020 has successfully limited the spread of the coronavirus. However, there are serious risks associated with lifting lockdown restrictions too soon, or in an unsystematic and disorderly manner.





# Risk-adjusted strategy for economic activity

Evidence from the Spanish Influenza pandemic of 1918 shows that the long-run economic consequences for cities experiencing a rapid infection rate and high cumulative infections were significantly worse than those for cities enduring temporary restrictions on economic activity.

"On the one hand, NPIs constrain social interactions while they are in place, and thus necessarily depress any type of economic activity that relies on such interactions. On the other hand, because the pandemic itself has severe economic consequences, by reducing the severity of the pandemic, NPIs can mitigate the most severe economic disruptions. While an interruption of economic activity may be inevitable, this interruption can be shorter-lived and less extensive with NPIs in place that solve coordination problems." (p. 17)

## Pandemics Depress the Economy, Public Health Interventions Do Not: Evidence from the 1918 Flu

Sergio Correia, Stephan Luck, and Emil Verner\*



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# Risk-adjusted strategy for economic activity

Restrictions on economic activity need to be adapted to epidemiological trends, and may need to be relaxed and tightened in different periods. An alert system should be created with clearly defined levels of restriction that can be imposed by the National Command Council as necessary.

- If lockdown regulations are amended to allow some economic activity to resume, it is possible that the infection rate will accelerate and that the virus will resurge. In this scenario, it would be necessary to quickly revert to more stringent restrictions in order to arrest further transmission.
- An “alert system” with four to five levels would allow for flexibility and responsiveness, and would reduce the need to amend regulations in future.
- At each level restrictions would be more or less severe, and sectors and companies would know what activity is permitted depending on the level imposed at any time.
- Government would be able to switch between levels with far greater speed, and could use mass communications platforms (such as an SMS notification system) to signal this to the public.
- Different levels could be imposed in specific provinces and areas based on the risk of transmission.
- **NB: A gradual transition between alert levels can be implemented where necessary.**
- Detailed health protocols should be imposed at all levels of alert.



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# Risk-adjusted strategy for economic activity

Ongoing feedback loop informs decision to remain at a particular level, relax restrictions further, or return to a higher level of restriction.



<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Low virus spread, high health system readiness</b>
<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Moderate virus spread, with high readiness</b>
<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Moderate virus spread, with moderate readiness</b>
<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Moderate to high virus spread, with low to moderate readiness</b>
<b>Level 5</b>	<b>High virus spread, and/or low readiness</b>







# Risk-adjusted strategy for economic activity

To determine which sectors should be allowed gradually to resume activity, three criteria should be used:

1. *Risk of transmission (including the ease of implementing mitigation measures)*
2. *Expected impact on the sector of continued lockdown (including prior vulnerability)*
3. *Value of the sector to the economy (e.g. contribution to GDP, multiplier effects, export earnings)*

Sectors that have a low risk of transmission (or where this risk can easily be mitigated), that would suffer most acutely from a continued lockdown in terms of retrenchments, company failures, or loss of productive capacity and international market share, and that have a high value to the economy should be prioritised.

**These criteria should themselves be subject to an ordinal ranking of priority.** Thus, sectors with a high risk of transmission should not be allowed to resume activity until this risk is reduced, regardless of the potential impact on their sector or their value to the economy. Among those sectors with a low or manageable risk of transmission, considerations of impact and value can be used to attribute priority.

**Low transmission risk AND severe impact OR high value**



# Risk-adjusted strategy for economic activity

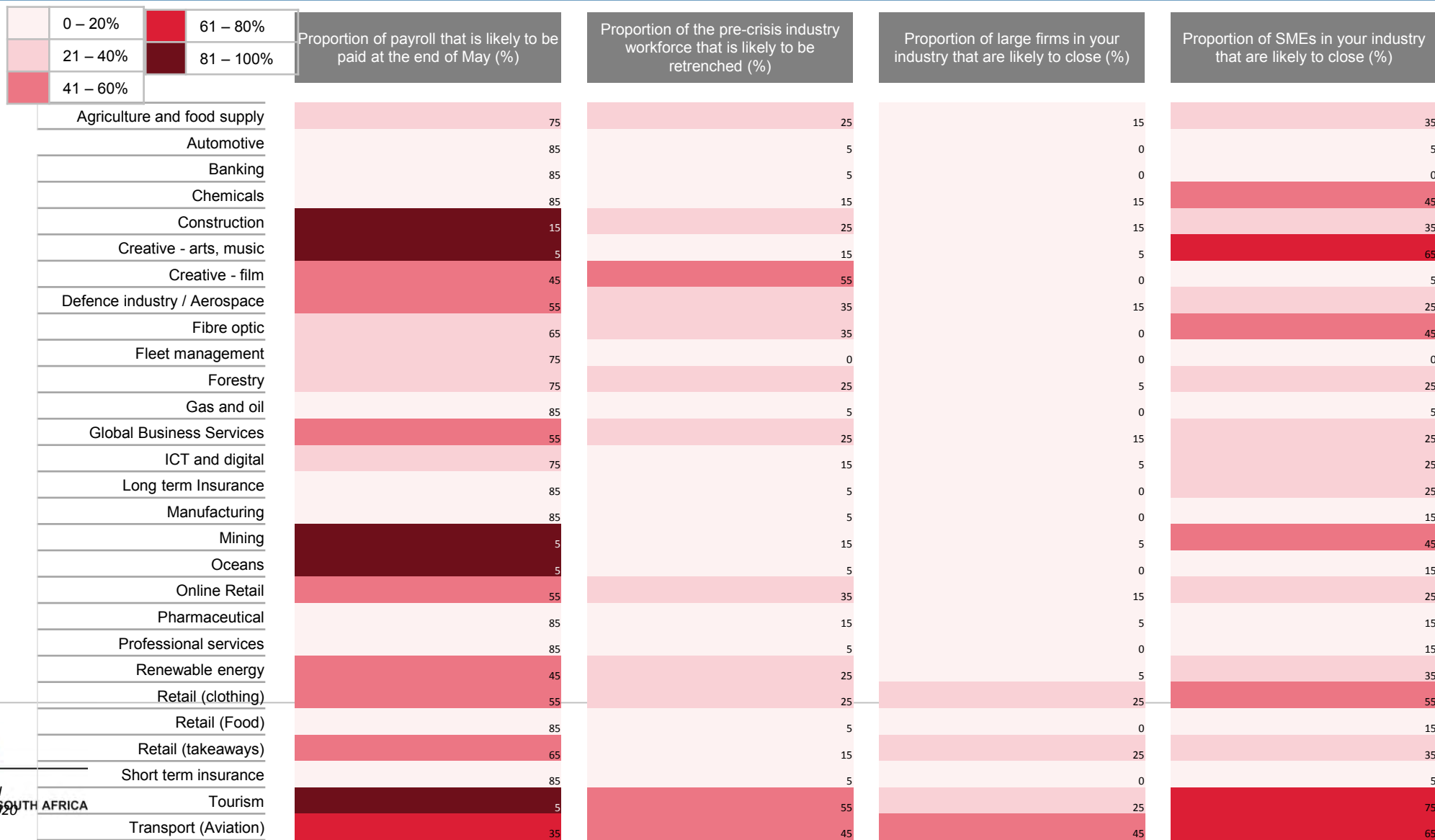
Sectors	GDP contribution (%) <sup>1</sup>	Employment contribution (%) <sup>2</sup>	MSME intensity <sup>3</sup>	Economic linkage intensity <sup>4</sup>	Export exposure <sup>4</sup>	% operational <sup>5</sup>
Other manufacturing	11.1%	7.4%	Medium	Medium	Medium	
Wholesale & retail (includes home deliveries)	7.9%	10.8%	High	High	Low	
Agriculture & food services	7.6%	4.4%	Medium	High	Medium	
Mining	6.9%	7%	Low	High	High	
Transport	6.2%	4.6%	Medium	High	Medium	Unknown
Financial intermediation	5.5%	6.9%	Low	Low	Low	
Construction (includes electrical & plumbing services)	5.0%	3.1%	Medium	High	Low	
Professional services	4.9%	5.6%	Medium	High	Low	Unknown
Real estate	4.7%	0.8%	Medium	High	Low	
Automotive	4.0%	6.1%	Low	Medium	Medium	
Post & telecommunications	2.5%	1.5%	Medium	Low	Low	
Electricity	2.3%	1.6%	Low	Medium		
Health & social work	2.2%	1.9%	Medium	High	Low	Unknown
Insurance	2.1%	2.6%	Low	Low	Low	
Petroleum refineries	1.9%	1.3%	Low	Low	Medium	
Pharmaceuticals	1.6%	1.1%	Medium	Medium	Low	
Chemicals	1.3%	0.9%	Medium	Medium	High	
Hotels & restaurants	1.0%	0.8%	Medium	Medium	Medium	
Water	0.8%	0.4%	Low	Medium		Unknown
Recreation, cultural & sporting	0.5%	0.5%	High	High	Low	
Forestry	0.2%	0.2%	Medium	Medium	Low	
Radio, TV, communication equipment & apparatus	0.2%	0.2%	High	Medium	Medium	Unknown
Fishing	0.1%	0.1%	Low	Medium	Medium	
Sewerage & waste disposal	0.03%	0.03%	Medium	Medium		Unknown

50%

1. GDP output at basic prices. StatsSA, Supply and Use Table, 2017. 2. StatsSA, Quarterly Labour Force Survey, 2017. 3. IFC, 2018. *The Unseen Sector: A Report on the MSME Opportunity in South Africa*. PPGI Industry Survey. 4. StatsSA, Supply and Use Table, 2017. 5. Self reported data from PPGI industry survey. 6. ILO. Accessed from <https://www.singaporepost.com/world/1819629/south-africa-hobbled-by-abusive-leadership-domestic-work>



# Risk-adjusted strategy for economic activity





# Risk-adjusted strategy for economic activity

Consideration	Description
<b>Low transmission risk</b>	Economic activity can resume with low transmission risk <i>or</i> Economic activity can resume under conditions whereby transmission risks can be effectively managed
<b>Regulated and organised</b>	Precedent of good compliance and enforcement of regulations in sector <i>and/or</i> Industry bodies / unions / lead firms can support coordination of sector response
<b>Localised / low movement of people</b>	Economic activity can resume with no/minimal movement across provincial borders and between rural and urban areas, <i>and</i> movement is limited to low risk geographies
<b>Enabling of other sectors or essential services</b>	Resumption of economic activity is crucial for the effective functioning of a sector that produces, distributes or sells goods / services designated as essential or other sectors prioritised for opening



# Risk-adjusted strategy for economic activity

**The following restrictions will remain in place after the national lockdown, and regardless of the level of alert at any given time:**

- Sit-in restaurants and hotels
- Bars and shebeens
- Conference and convention centres
- Entertainment venues, including cinemas, theatres, and concerts
- Sporting events
- Religious, cultural and social gatherings

**No gatherings of more than 10 people outside of a workplace will be permitted.**

**Passengers on all modes of transport must wear a cloth mask to be allowed entry into the vehicle. Hand sanitisers must be made available, and all passengers must sanitise their hands before entering. Public transport vehicles must be sanitised on a daily basis.**



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# Risk-adjusted strategy for economic activity

**The following rules will be imposed across all sectors and alert levels:**

- Industries are encouraged to adopt a work-from-home strategy where possible, and all staff who can work remotely must be allowed to do so.
- Workers above the age of 60, as well as workers with comorbidities identified by the Department of Health should be offered a work-from-home option or allowed to remain on leave with full pay.
- There should be workplace protocols in place that would include disease surveillance and prevention of the spread of infection.
- All employers to screen staff on a daily basis for symptoms of COVID-19, including a symptom check as well as temperature assessment.
- All employees to use a cloth mask especially where social distancing is not possible.
- Work environment to have sanitisers available or hand washing facilities with soap.
- Stringent social distancing measures should be implemented in the workplace.

**The Department of Health will issue a comprehensive guidance note stipulating health and safety practices for returning to work.**



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# Risk-adjusted strategy for economic activity

**Before any sector resumes activity, the following conditions must be in place:**

- In addition to generally applicable health and safety protocols, each sector must agree upon a COVID-19 prevention and mitigation plan with the Minister of Employment and Labour, the Minister of Health and any other Minister relevant to the sector.
- Individual businesses or workplaces must have COVID-19 risk assessments and plans in place, and must conduct worker education on COVID-19 and protection measures:
  - Identification and protection of vulnerable employees
  - Safe transport of employees
  - Screening of employees on entering the workplace
  - Prevention of viral spread in the workplace:
  - Cleaning of surfaces and shared equipment
  - Good ventilation
  - Managing sick employees
- Monitoring systems must be in place to (1) ensure compliance with safety protocols and (2) identify infections among employees



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# Risk-adjusted strategy for economic activity

- Levels of alert (1-5) will be determined by the National Command Council at each meeting, upon a recommendation from the Minister of Health and the Minister of Trade and Industry. **A single national alert level may be determined, or an alert level may be determined for each province.**
- The highest burden of the disease is currently concentrated in Gauteng, Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape. The remaining provinces have a limited number of cases.
- Within the provinces the infection is concentrated largely in the metro areas.
- Given the disproportionate distribution of infections there is an opportunity to have a differentiated approach to the lockdown based on the geographic distribution.
- The initial plan is to determine alert levels at a provincial level based on the number of cases in each province.
- **Individual Ministers, upon consultation with and approval from the Minister of Health, may provide for exceptions and additional directions in sectors within their domain.**
- A working committee should be established comprising officials from the Department of Health and the Department of Trade and Industry to consider changes to the sector restrictions as they are required.



health

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

