

# Sentinel Trauma Report Update

WC Department of Health  
Health Impact Assessment



Western Cape  
Government

# Sentinel Trauma Report

This report shows a sample of hospital emergency centres and their trauma patient numbers over time

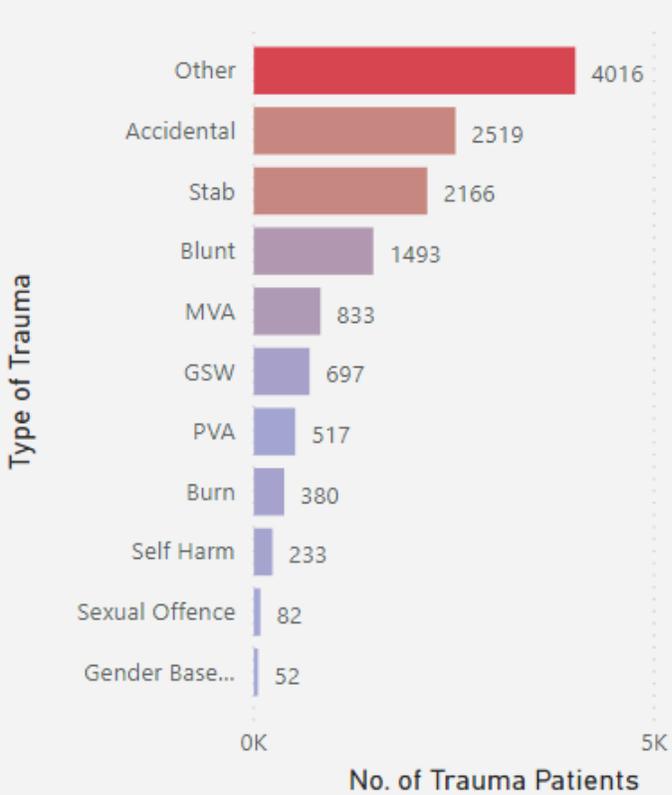
**2020 Year to Date:**

# 13041

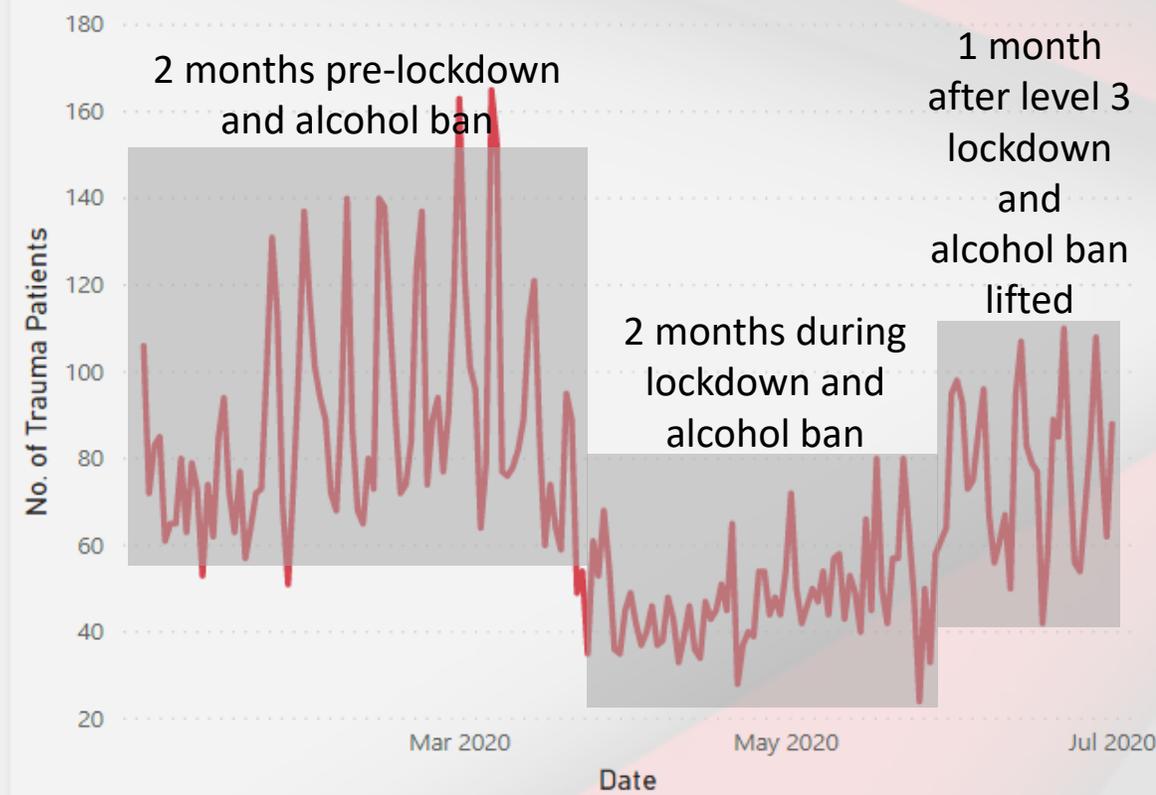
No. of Trauma Patients

The data clearly shows that the lockdown regulations and alcohol ban effectively reduced the number of trauma presentations to the order of 40-50%.

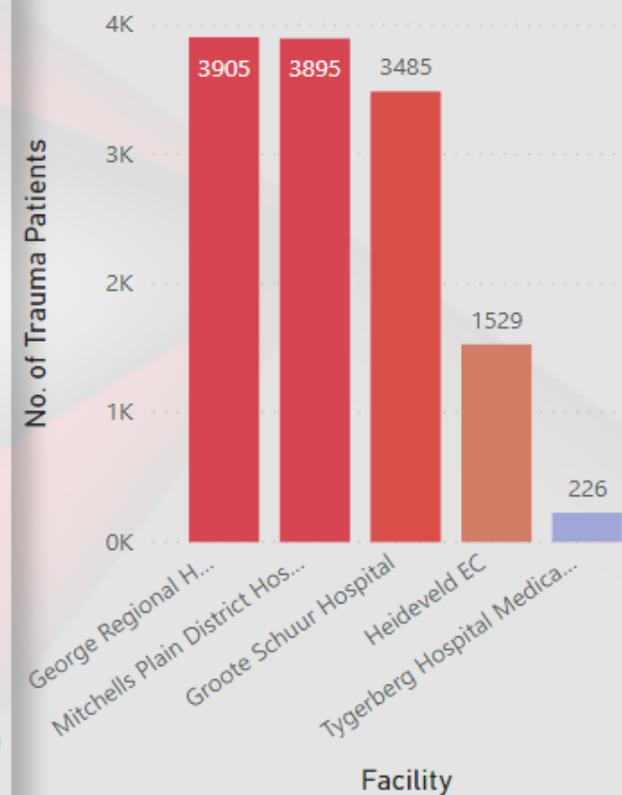
### No. of Trauma Patients by Type of Trauma



### No. of Trauma Patients by Date



### No. of Trauma Patients by Facility



1/2/2020

7/1/2020



# Sentinel Trauma Report

This report shows a sample of hospital emergency centres and their trauma patient numbers over time

2 months prior to lockdown:

# 5277

No. of Trauma Patients

Prior to lockdown there is a consistent trend of weekend spikes of 140-160 trauma cases across the 5 facilities sampled. The average (median) across the period was 89 daily trauma cases.

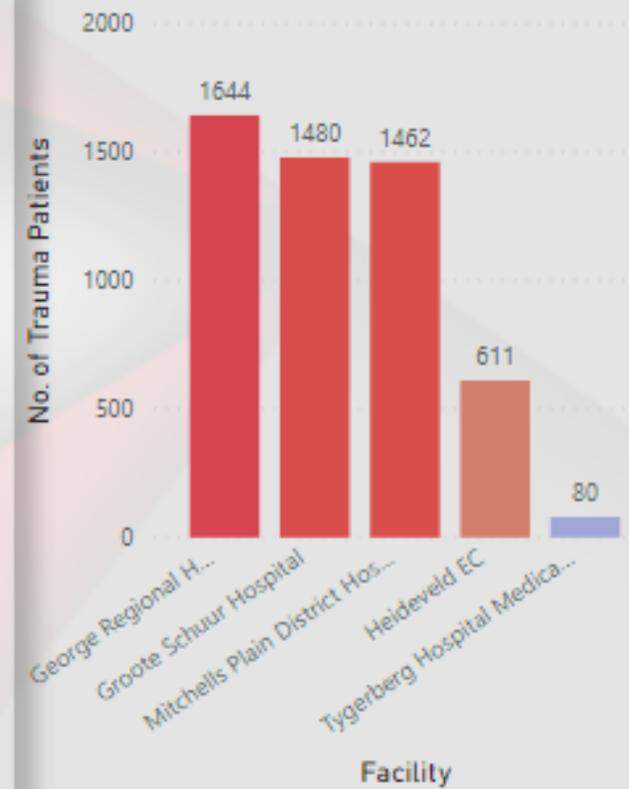
### No. of Trauma Patients by Type of Trauma



### No. of Trauma Patients by Date



### No. of Trauma Patients by Facility



1/30/2020

3/26/2020



# Sentinel Trauma Report

This report shows a sample of hospital emergency centres and their trauma patient numbers over time

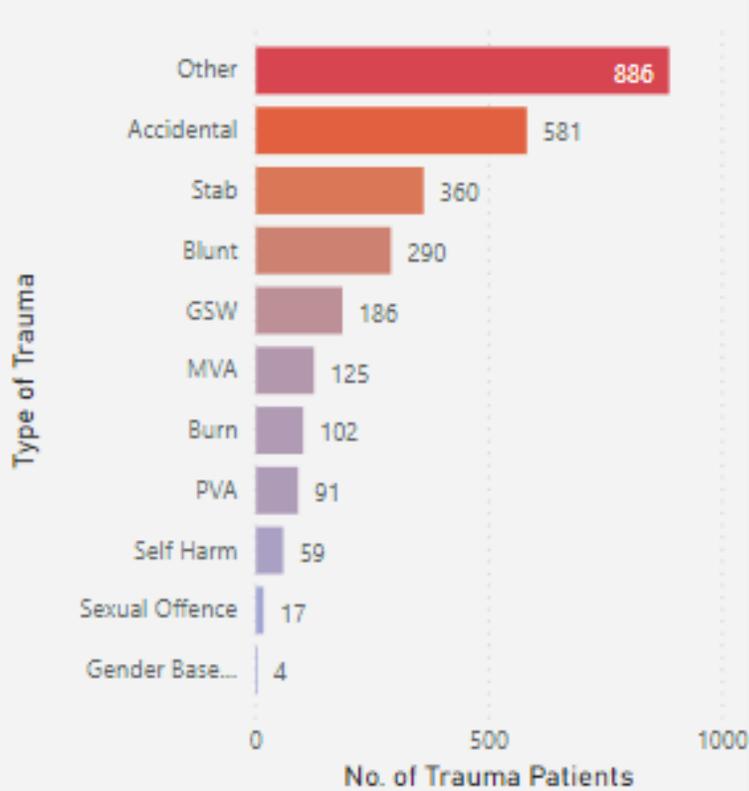
## 2704

No. of Trauma Patients

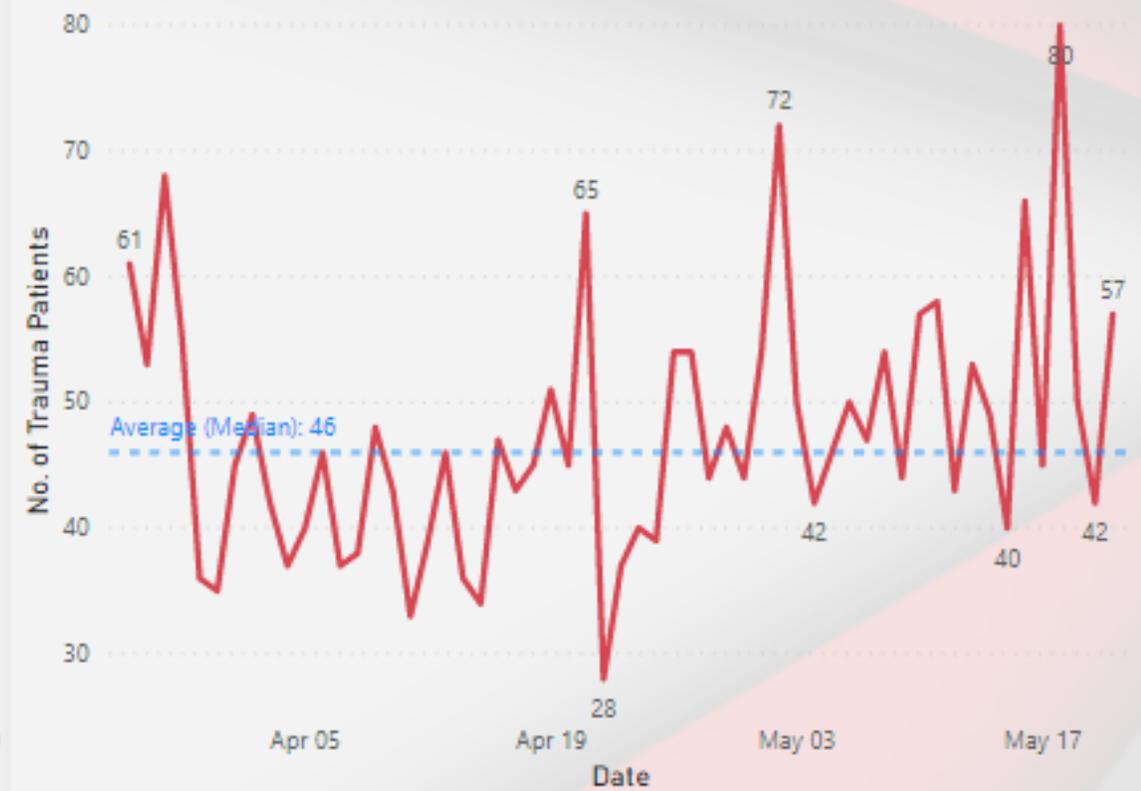
During lockdown and the alcohol ban this reduced to approximately 60-80 trauma cases at the weekend spikes. The average (median) across the period reduced to 46 daily trauma cases.

### 2 months during lockdown:

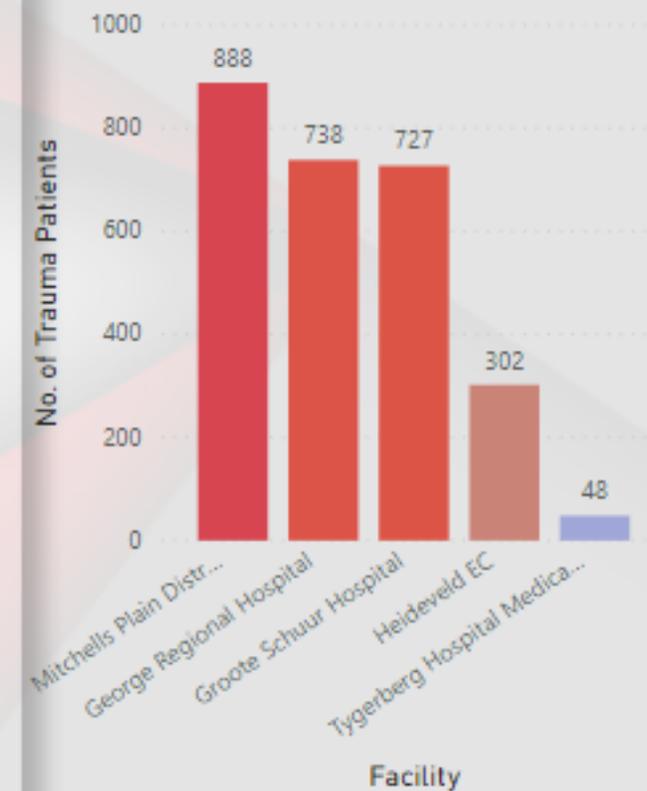
#### No. of Trauma Patients by Type of Trauma



#### No. of Trauma Patients by Date



#### No. of Trauma Patients by Facility



3/26/2020

5/21/2020



# Sentinel Trauma Report

This report shows a sample of hospital emergency centres and their trauma patient numbers over time

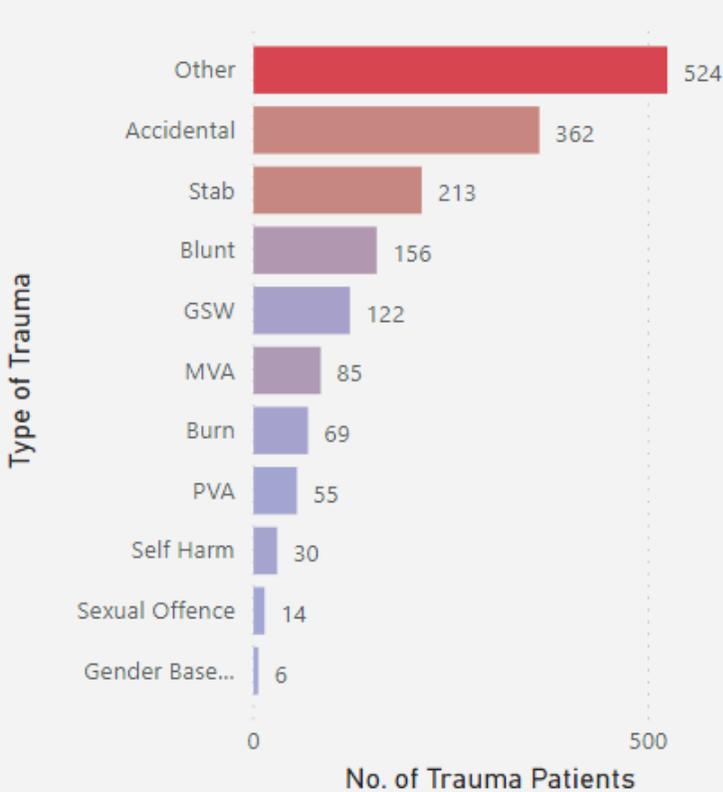
1 month prior to the release of the alcohol ban the average (median) over the period was 50 daily trauma cases.

1 month prior to level 3

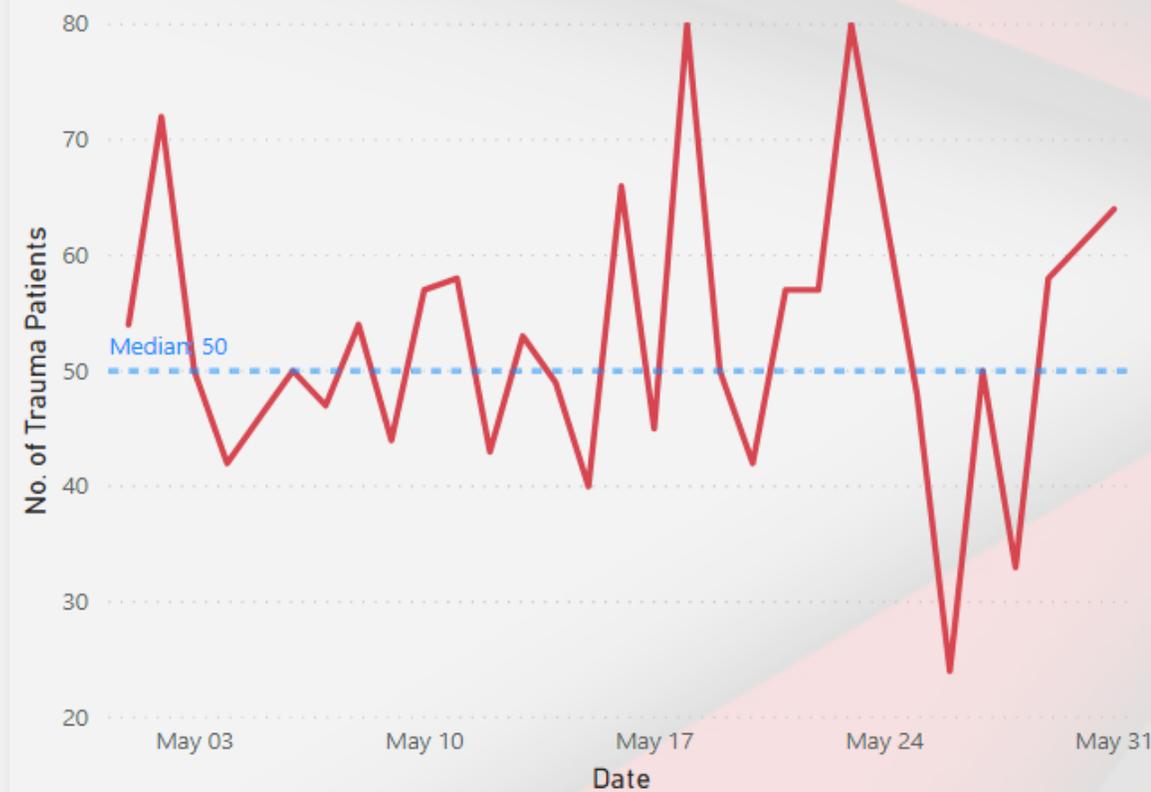
# 1638

No. of Trauma Patients

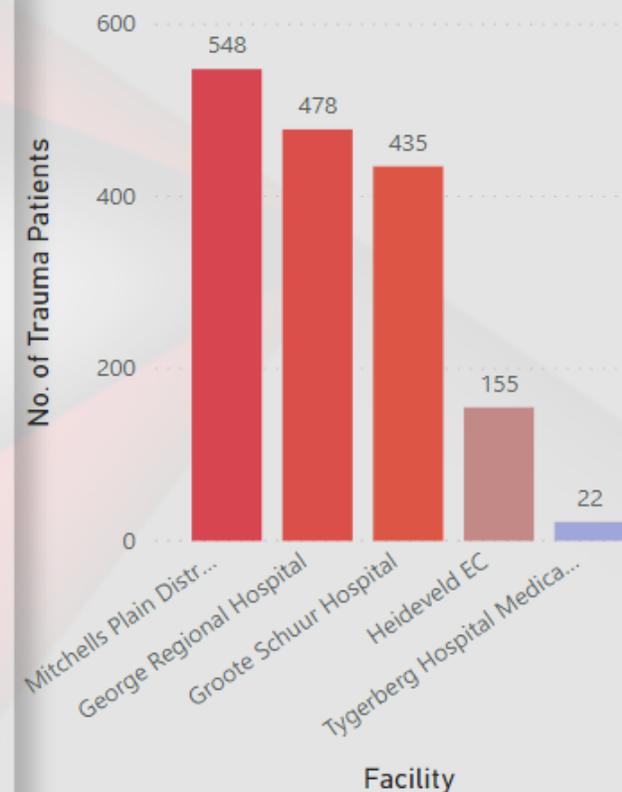
### No. of Trauma Patients by Type of Trauma



### No. of Trauma Patients by Date



### No. of Trauma Patients by Facility



5/1/2020

5/31/2020



# Sentinel Trauma Report

This report shows a sample of hospital emergency centres and their trauma patient numbers over time

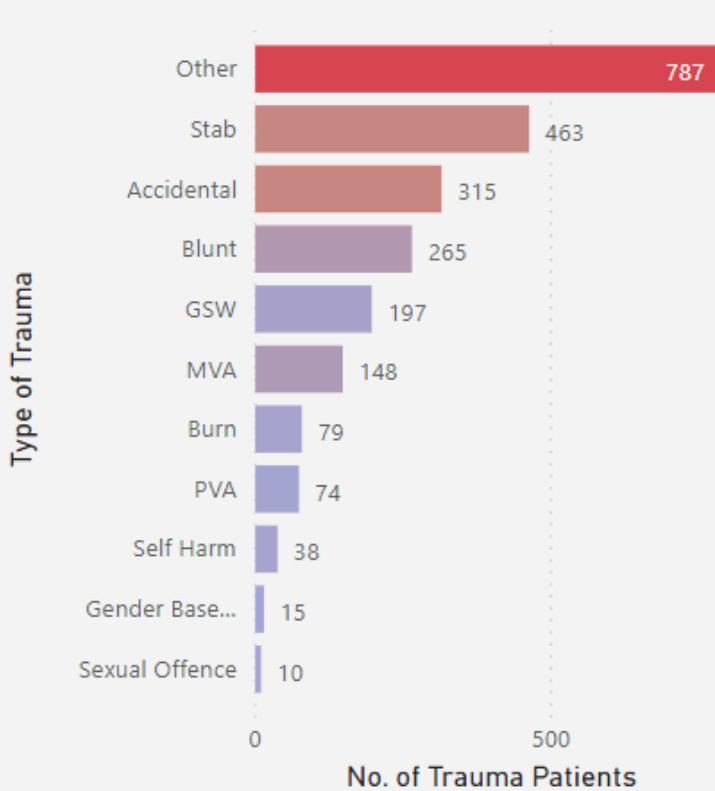
Immediately after the ban is lifted the average (median) during the period increases to 81 trauma cases per day (62% increase)!

1 month after level 3

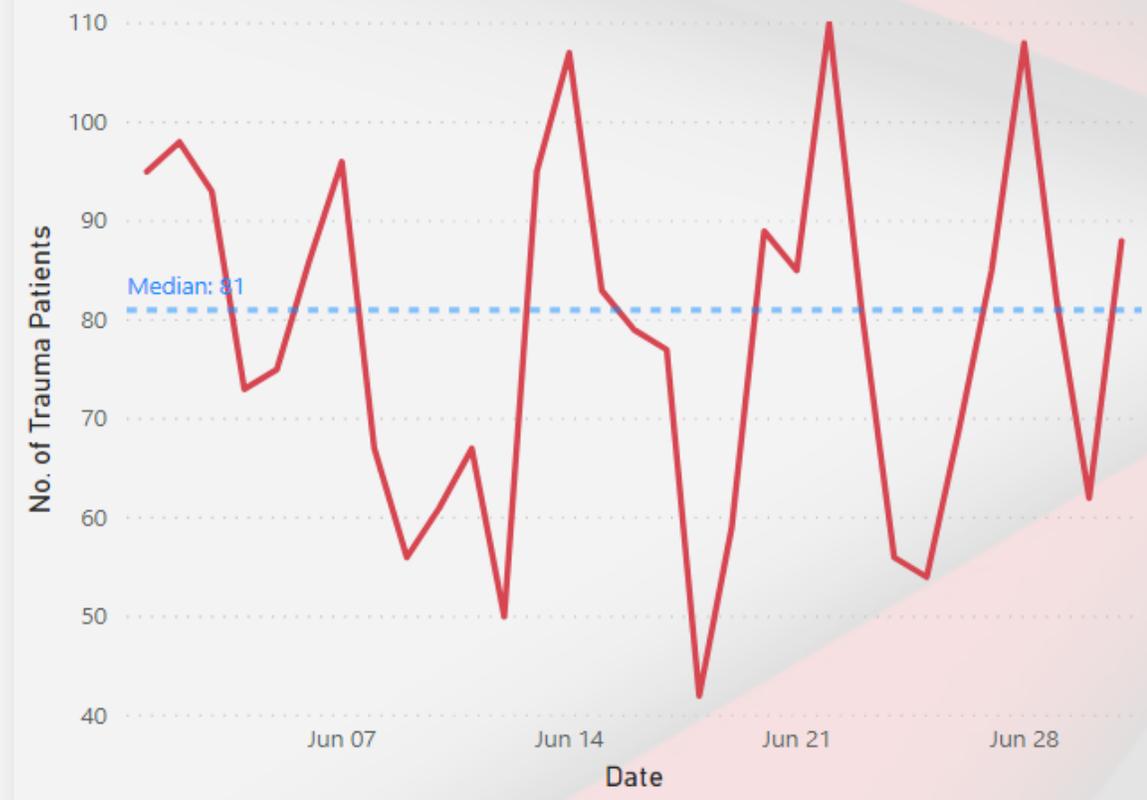
## 2439

No. of Trauma Patients

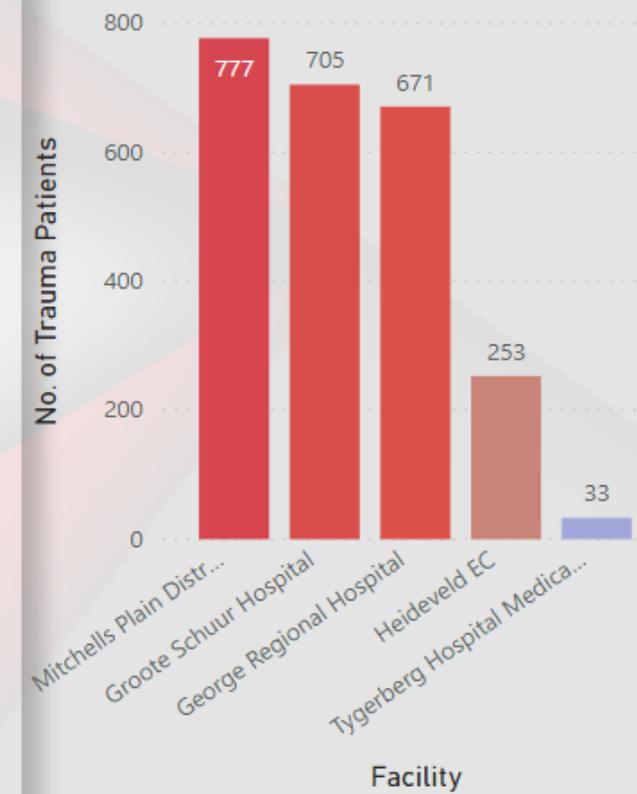
### No. of Trauma Patients by Type of Trauma



### No. of Trauma Patients by Date



### No. of Trauma Patients by Facility



6/1/2020

7/1/2020



# Sentinel Trauma Report

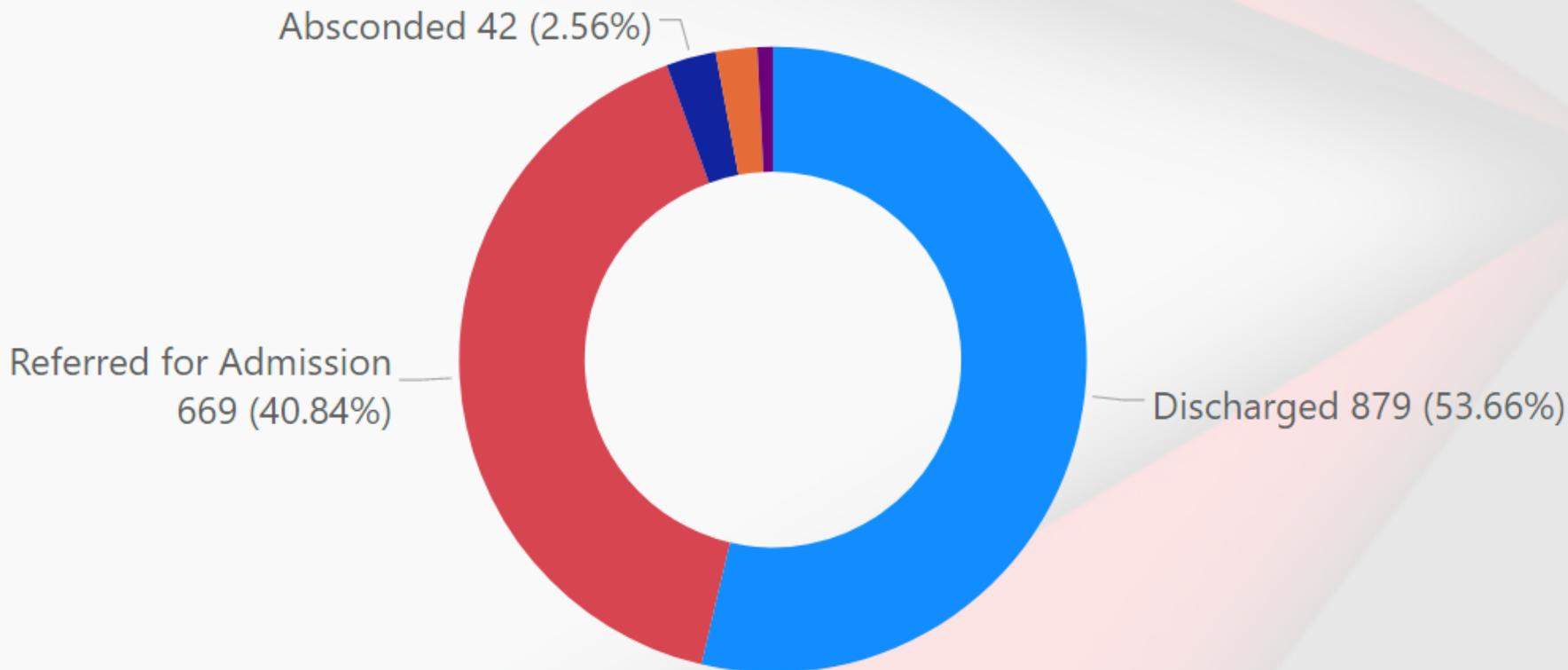
This report shows a sample of 5 hospital emergency centres and their trauma patient numbers over time

Of the total number of trauma patients seen in EC, 40.8% become admitted

1 month prior to level 3

## What proportion of trauma patients get admitted?

● Discharged ● Referred for Admission ● Absconded ● Referred to Clinic ● Deceased in EC



5/1/2020

5/31/2020



# Sentinel Trauma Report

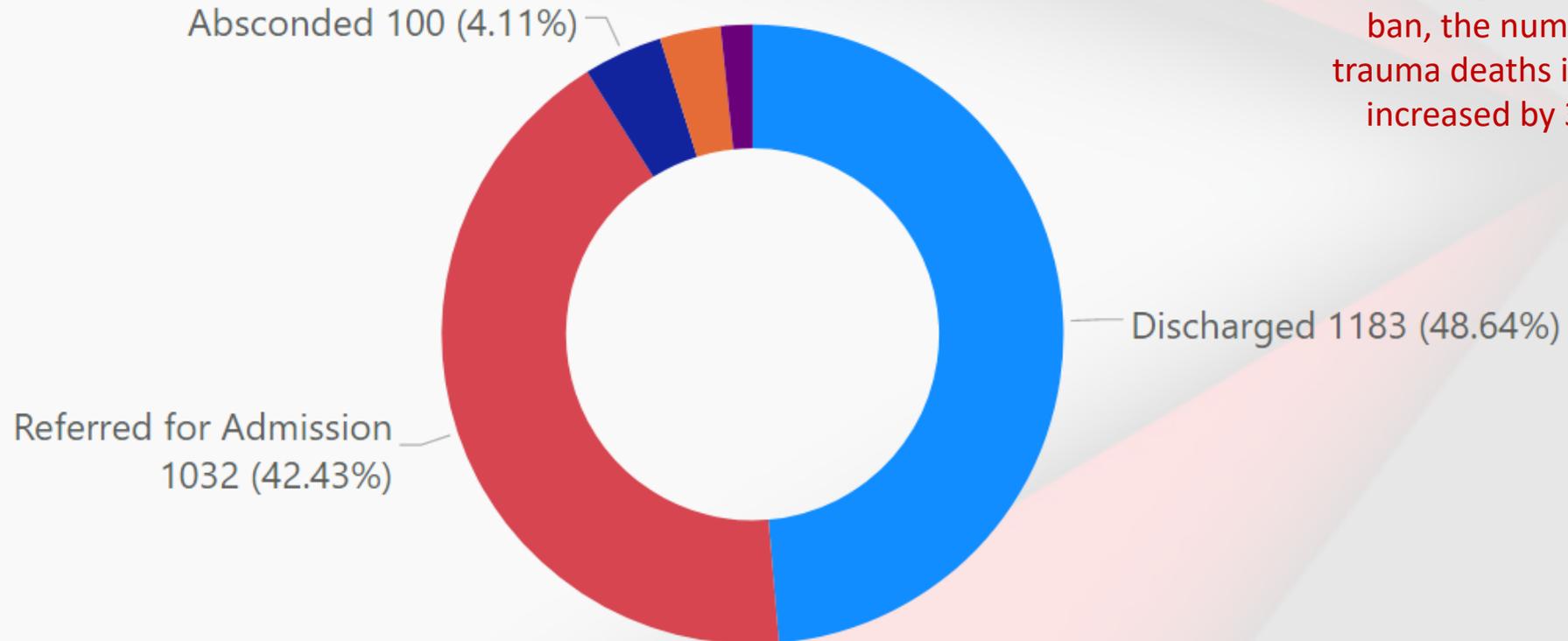
This report shows a sample of 5 hospital emergency centres and their trauma patient numbers over time

After lifting of the alcohol ban, the absolute number of trauma cases requiring admission in the 5 hospitals sampled over 1 month were 363 additional admissions (54.2% increase in admissions)!

1 month after level 3

## What proportion of trauma patients get admitted?

● Discharged ● Referred for Admission ● Absconded ● Referred to Clinic ● Deceased in EC



After lifting of the alcohol ban, the number of trauma deaths in the EC increased by 307%!

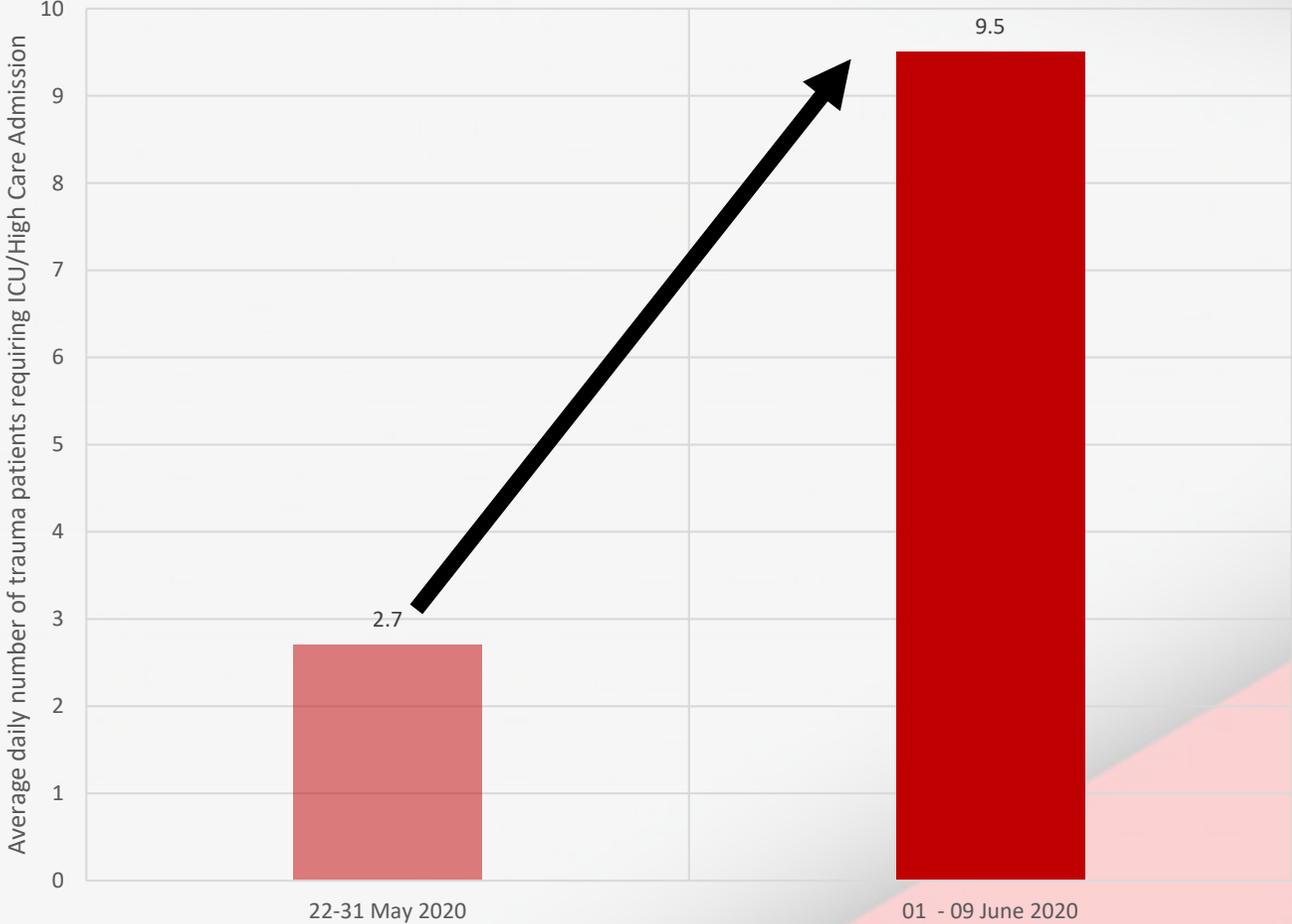
6/1/2020

7/1/2020



# Impact on ICU Capacity at a Tertiary Hospital

Daily average of trauma cases requiring ICU/High Care Admission pre and post lifting of the alcohol ban and level 3 restrictions

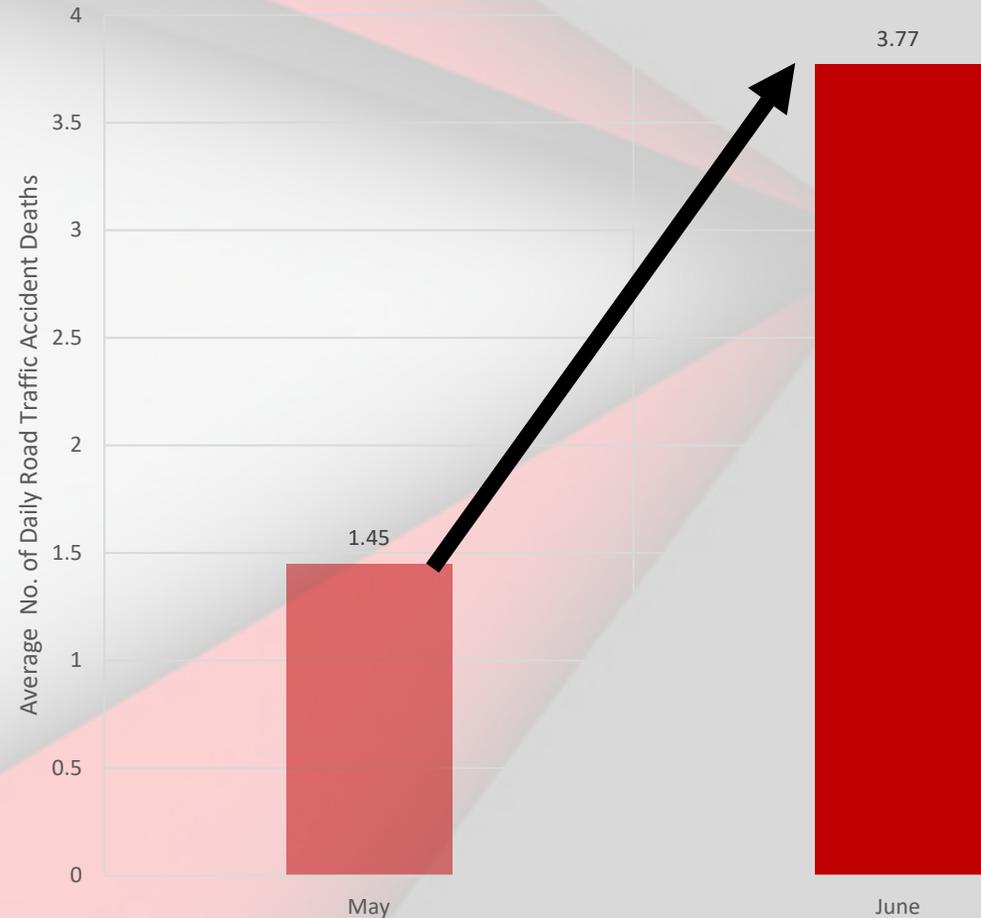


After lifting of the alcohol ban, the number of trauma patients requiring ICU or High care admission at a tertiary hospital (TBH) in the Western Cape increased from a daily average of 2.7 to a daily average of 9.5 admissions per day (350% increase in trauma patients requiring ICU/High Care admission!)

# Impact on Deaths from Road Traffic Accidents

After lifting of the alcohol ban, the average number of daily deaths from Road Traffic Accidents increased from 1.44 to 3.77 (an increase of 260%!)

Average Number of Daily Deaths by Road Traffic Accidents



# How does this align to previous work done in the province?

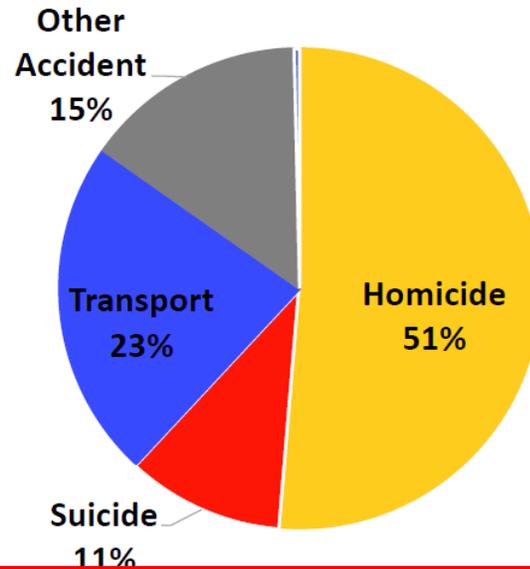
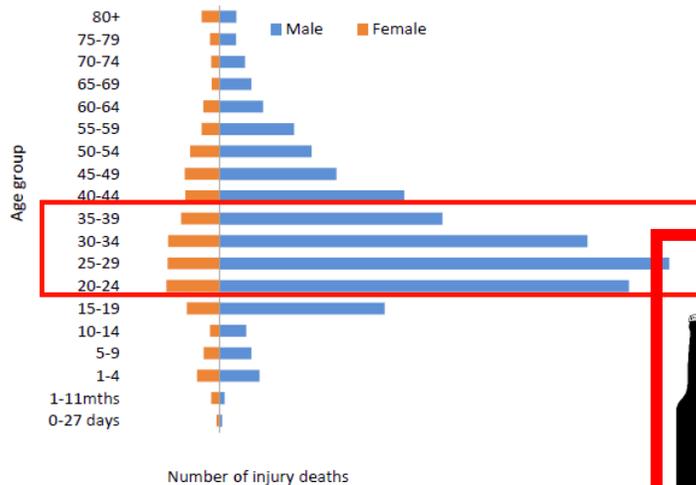
## Demographic and broad cause profile of all injury deaths, Western Cape 2016:

**~6 770 INJURY DEATHS in 2016**

**80%** all injury deaths occur in MALES



**60%** in 20-39 year olds



When comparing the current data to previous analysis done in the province the picture is not surprising.

**In 2016 alcohol tested positive in:**

- 50% of homicide victims**
- 60% pedestrian fatalities**
- 47% motor vehicle accidents**
- 65% fire fatalities**
- 47% drownings**



50% of homicide victims  
60% pedestrian fatalities  
47% motor vehicle fatalities  
65% fire fatalities  
47% drownings  
tested positive for alcohol

# Recommendation

**As we approach the peak of the COVID-19 epidemic our hospital Emergency Centres (EC) are being inundated with severely ill COVID-19 patients requiring stabilization, emergency management and admission for further care.**

**The lifting of the alcohol ban has effectively resulted in a 62% increase in daily trauma cases presenting to emergency centres. In addition, we have seen trauma admissions increase by 54%, trauma ICU admissions increase by 350% and trauma deaths in the EC increase by 308%!**

**This increase currently has and will continue to stretch EC capacity; it has increased the number of admissions to wards; and it is depleting our ability to effectively manage and prevent the mortality from the double burden of COVID-19 and trauma deaths as we approach peak.**

**We would like maintain the firm recommendation that the alcohol ban be reinstated to minimize the impact on our health services in their ability to manage COVID-19 in the Western Cape.**