



OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

COVID-19 Monthly Review

1 - 31 August 2021

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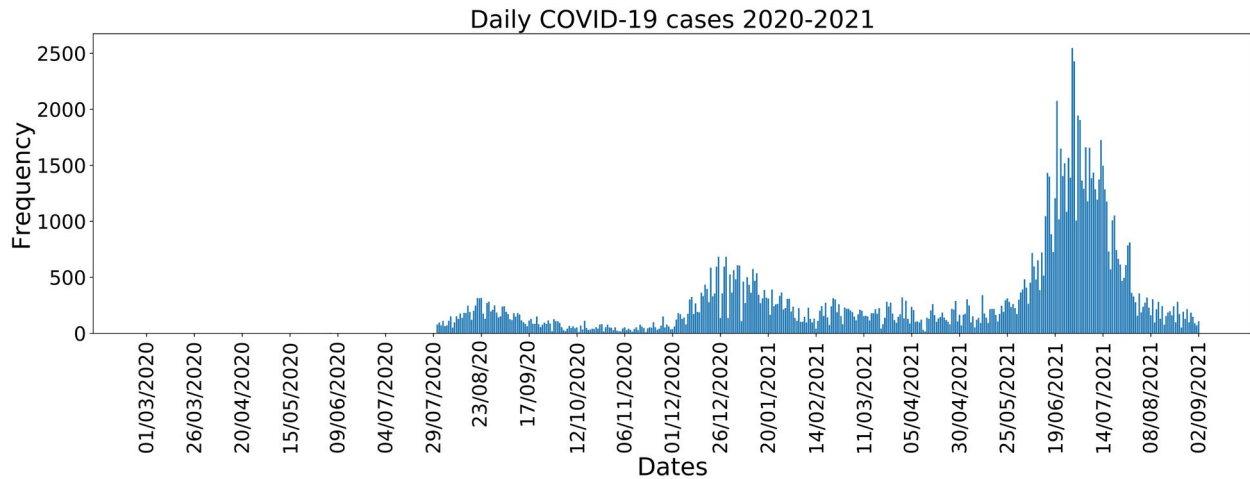


Fig 1: Daily Covid-19 Cases for Namibia 2020-2021

As observed by Fig 1, we note the progressively increasing impact of Covid-19 in Namibia since the first detected cases on 11 March 2020. It is important to note the 3 distinct epidemiological waves as well as the comparable timeframes between waves. This is useful for purposes of planning for the strong likelihood of a future wave.

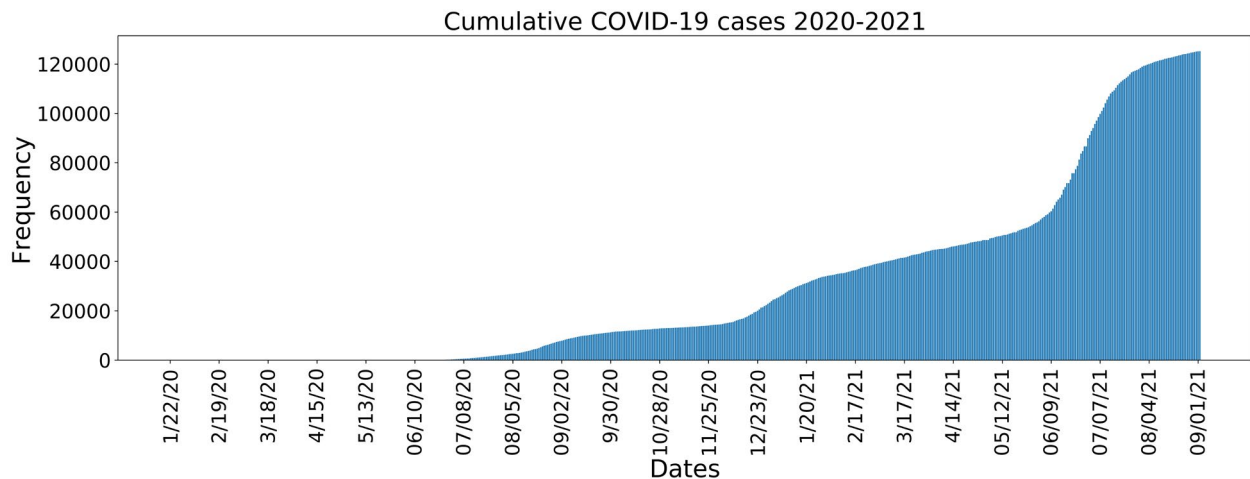


Fig 2: Cumulative Covid-19 Cases for Namibia 2020-2021

When observing the cumulative confirmed Covid-19 cases in Namibia since March 2020, we see marked increases in line with the three distinct waves we have experienced to date.

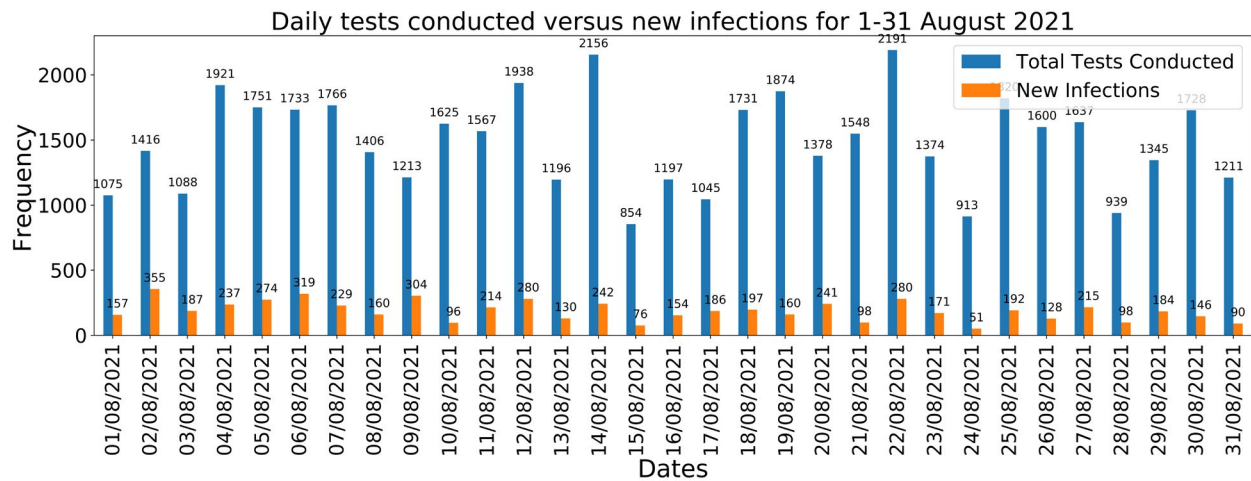


Fig 3: National Daily Tests Conducted vs. New Infections for August, 2021

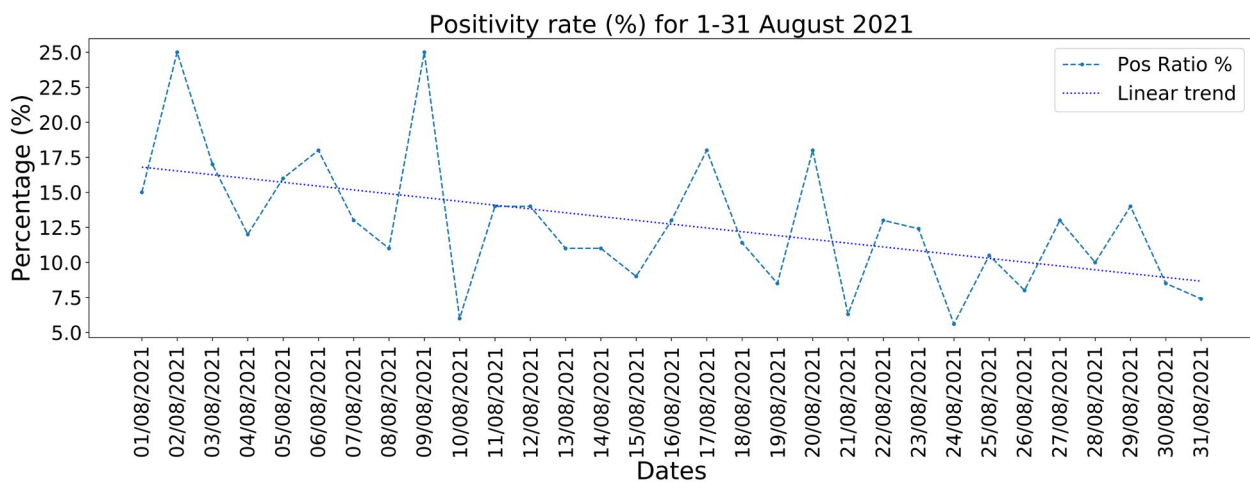


Fig 4: National Positivity Rate for August, 2021

On a national level, during the month in review (1 August - 31 August), we saw a cumulative total of 46,236 people tested across the 14 regions, averaging out at 1,491 tests conducted daily during this reporting period. This represents a 47% decrease in testing as compared to July 2021 when 82,244 tests were conducted. This is indicative of reduced demand for testing across the country.

We observed 5,851 new infections across 14 regions during this reporting period, representing a 79% decrease in number of new infections as compared to July 2021, when the total number of new infections was 28,032.

The average positivity rate during August was 12.7%, representing a 19.3% reduction in average positivity rate as compared to July 2021. The highest positivity rate in August was recorded on both the 9th and 22nd of August (25%) and the lowest was recorded on 24th August (5.6%), reflective of the continuing reductions in new infections, as the trend in Fig 2 shows.

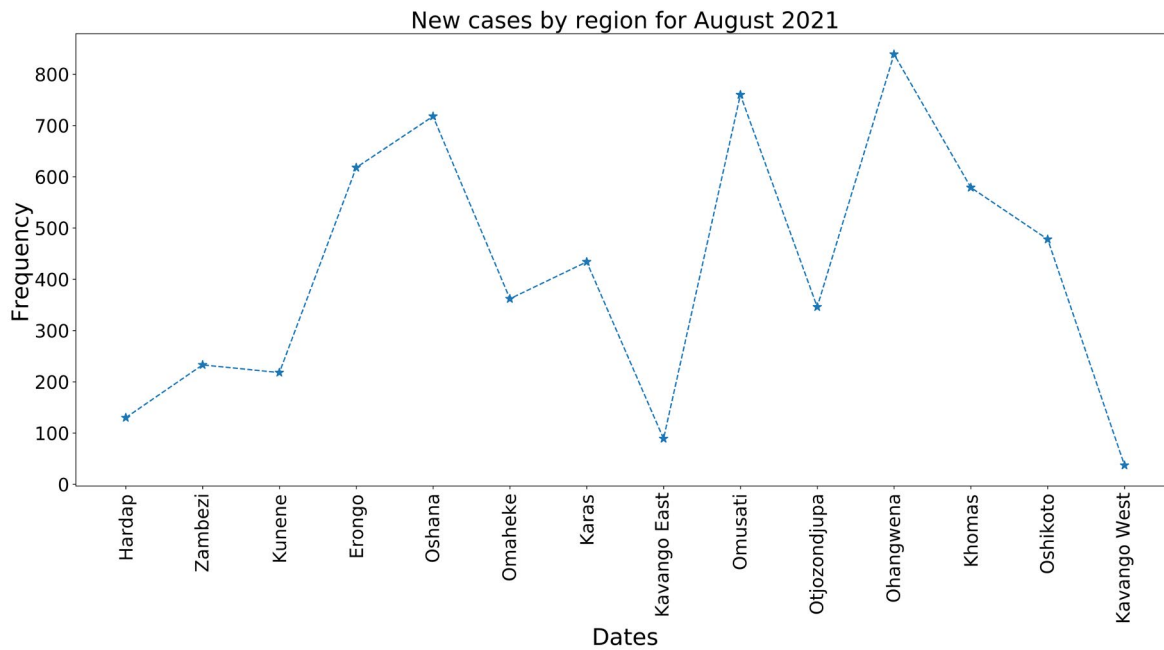


Fig 5: Regional New Infections for August, 2021

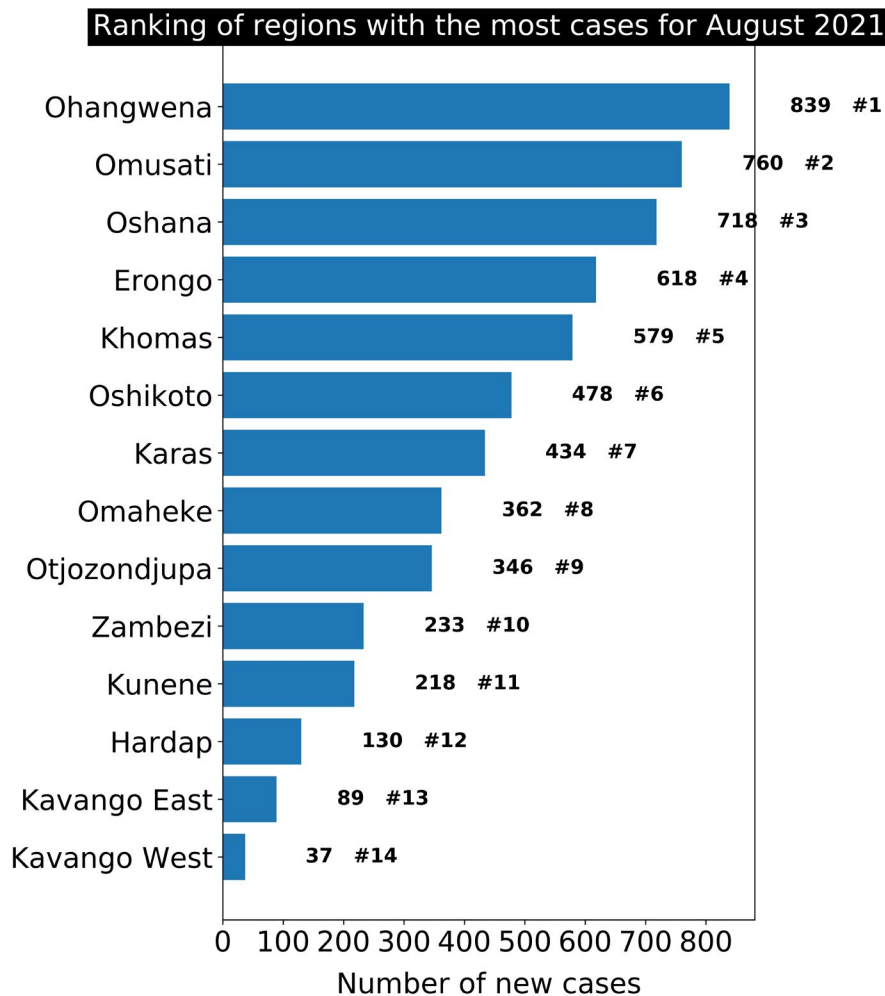


Fig 6: Regional Ranking for New Infections August, 2021

As depicted by Fig. 4 and Fig. 5, Ohangwena and Omusati recorded the highest number of cases in August, with Oshana still placing 3rd in the country for number of new infections. Kavango East and Kavango West recorded the lowest number of cases, coming in at 13th and 14th in the regional ranks. Challenges affecting access to testing must be considered in tandem with this data.

It should be noted that despite these rankings, all fourteen regions observed significant reductions in their total number of cases when compared to July 2021, as observed in the table below:

REGION	# OF NEW INFECTIONS JULY 2021	# OF NEW INFECTIONS AUGUST 2021	% REDUCTION
Karas	1779	434	75.6
Hardap	1077	130	87.9
Omaheke	597	362	39.4
Khomas	4955	579	88.3
Erongo	4002	618	84.6
Kunene	1137	218	80.8
Omusati	2141	760	64.5
Oshana	2682	718	73.2
Ohangwena	1499	839	44.0
Oshikoto	2033	478	76.5
Kavango East	1902	89	95.3
Kavango West	230	37	83.9
Zambezi	1437	233	83.8
Otjozondjupa	2566	346	86.5

Table 1: Regional Comparison of New Infections for July and August, 2021

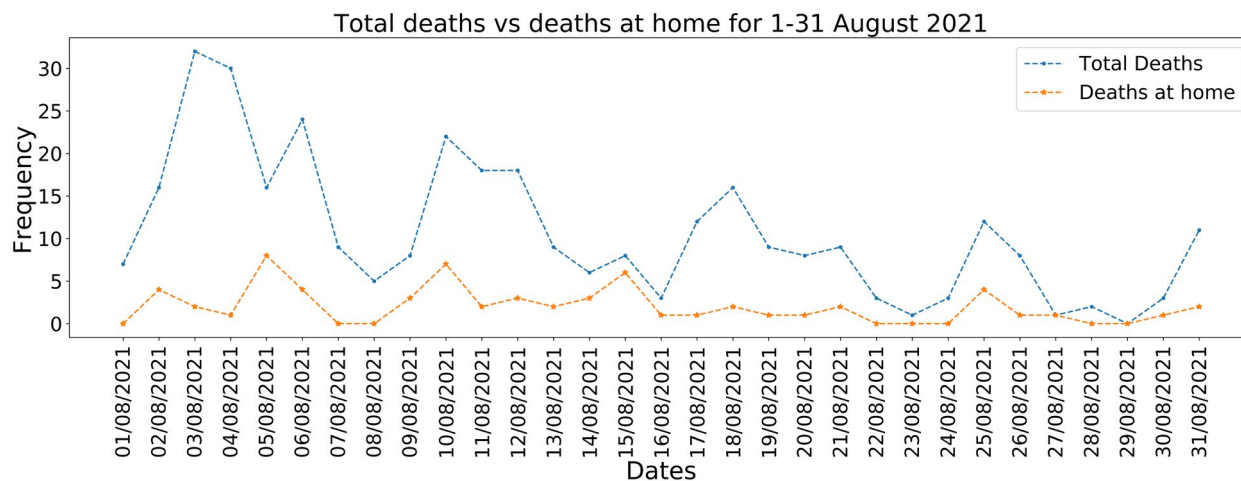


Fig 7: Total Covid-19 deaths vs Deaths at Home for August, 2021

The total number of reported deaths for Namibia in August was 329, representing a 78% decrease in recorded Covid-19 and Covid-19-related deaths, when compared to July 2021 (1,509 deaths).

Of all reported deaths, the 62 deaths that occurred in the home represented 18.8% of these. This represents a 78% reduction in the total number of deaths occurring in the home as compared to July 2021 (n=280).

As a proportion of total deaths, however, this represents a similar percentage to that reported in July, when 19% (n=280) of all reported deaths were deaths that occurred in the home. This requires the public's attention as this suggests that close to 1/5 (one-fifth) of all deaths are in people who are not managing to reach a health facility in time for life-saving treatments to be administered.

It should be noted that all fourteen regions observed notable reductions in their total number of deaths when compared to July 2021, as observed in the table below:

REGION	# OF DEATHS JULY 2021	# OF DEATHS AUGUST 2021	% REDUCTION
Karas	47	2	95.7
Hardap	106	5	95.3
Omaheke	140	14	90.0
Khomas	274	45	83.6
Erongo	145	22	84.8
Kunene	40	29	27.5
Omusati	113	64	43.4
Oshana	183	47	74.3
Ohangwena	63	25	60.3
Oshikoto	78	23	70.5
Kavango East	127	18	85.8
Kavango West	7	3	57.1
Zambezi	51	18	64.7
Otjozondjupa	113	9	92.0

Table 2: Regional Comparison of Deaths for July and August, 2021

Deaths by Vaccination Status for 1-31 August 2021

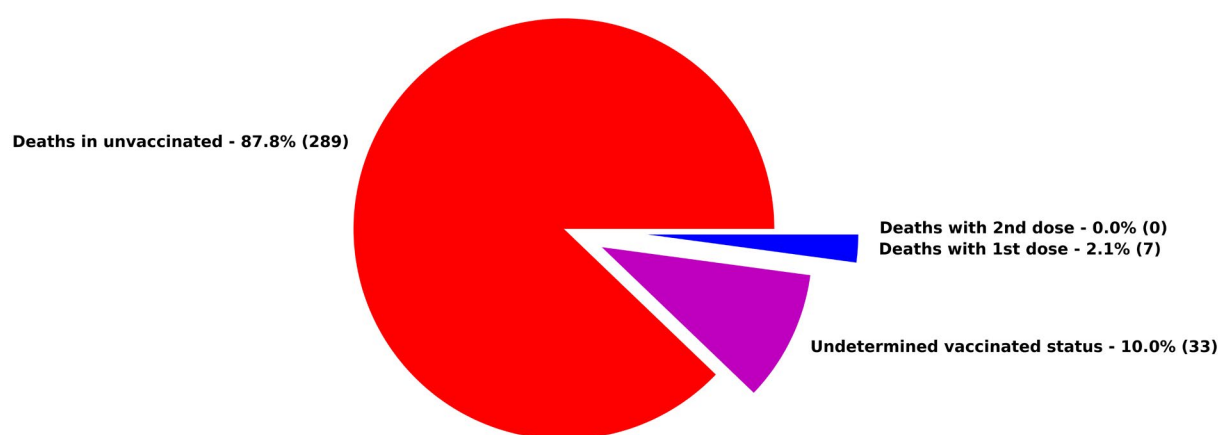


Fig 8: Deaths by Vaccination Status for August, 2021

In August we observed that of all reported deaths, 87.8% (n=289) of people who died, were confirmed to be unvaccinated. This represents an 8.8% increase in deaths in unvaccinated individuals, when compared to July 2021.

10% of deaths occurred in people where vaccination status could not be confirmed. This represents an 8.5% reduction in deaths in people with “unknown/undetermined vaccination” status, indicating a strong improvement in the collection of this important information. We commend the Ministry of Health and Social Services for this improvement.

2.1% of people who died had received their first dose (n=7) and none (n=0) had received their second dose. This is a notable observation in support of accepting that vaccination is, in fact, protective against severe illness and death as a result of Covid-19.

As this data specifically reflects the Namibian situation, we are pleased to observe this level of protection that vaccination provides as a result of our national vaccination campaign.

COVID-19 deaths by Comorbidities in Namibia 2020-2021

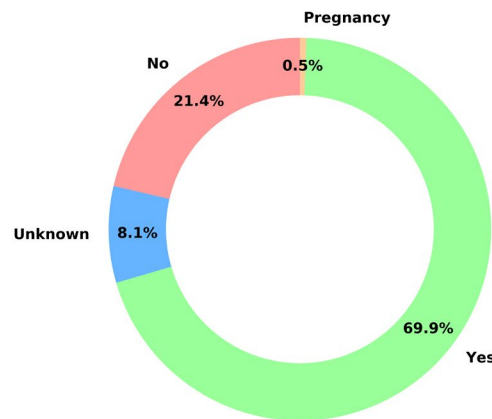


Fig 9: Deaths by Comorbidities for August, 2021

In August 2021, we observed that of all reported deaths, 69.9% of people were known to have comorbidities. This result is significant and strongly suggests that those with comorbidities are at greater risk of severe illness and death as a result of Covid-19. People with comorbidities should make it a priority to get vaccinated in order to reduce their risk of severe illness and death in the event that they contract Covid-19.

Hospitalisation versus ICU for 1-31 August 2021

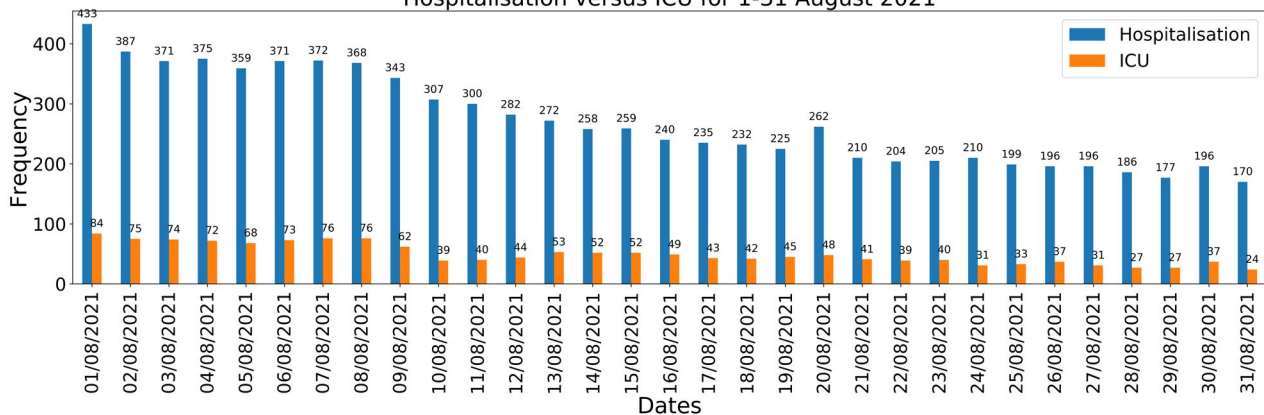


Fig 10: Hospitalisation and ICU for August, 2021

The daily average for hospitalizations across the period was 271 hospitalizations/day, representing a reduction of 49.4% when compared to the daily average for July 2021 (n=536). In ICU in August, there was a daily average of 49 people, across the 14 regions. This represents a 52.9% reduction in ICU cases when compared to July 2021 (n=104). When looking at the general trend through August, we observe a continued downward trend in hospitalization and ICU cases.

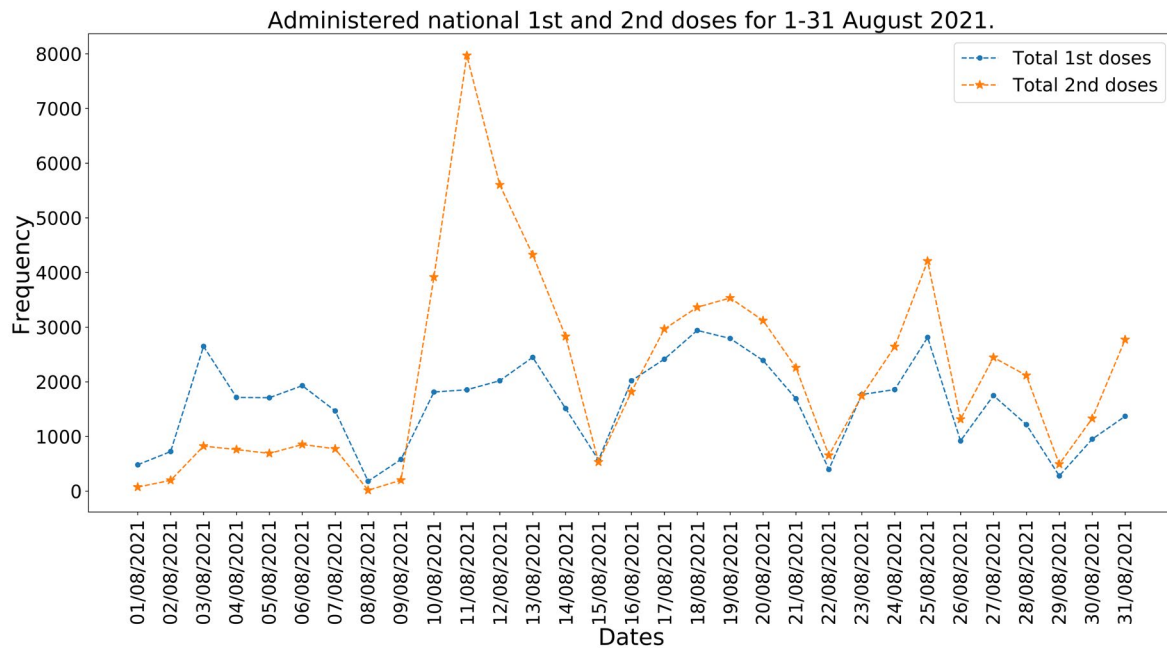


Fig 11: National Daily First vs. Second Vaccination Dose Administration for August, 2021

A total of 49,217 of 1st dose and 66,342 of 2nd dose vaccinations were administered across 14 regions during July 2021. When compared to administered doses in July 2021, we note that 1st dose vaccinations increased by 14.6% (from 42,934) and 2nd dose vaccinations increased by a notable 172.5% (from 24,345).

Highest uptake of both doses was observed in Khomas with a total of 9,196 1st and 7,501 2nd doses being administered in the period. Uptake was much higher from mid-July when 250,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine arrived in Namibia. Many of the significant dips in vaccine uptake appear to have happened over weekends, when vaccine delivery is often not widely available.

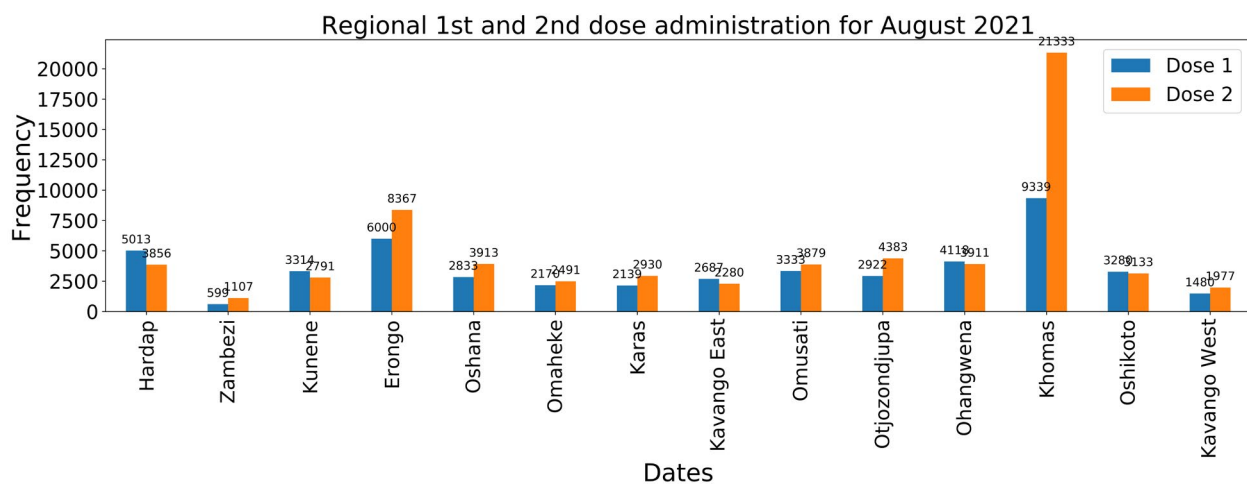


Fig 12: Regional Total First vs. Second Vaccination Dose Administration for August, 2021

Region	# of 1 st doses July 2021	# of 1 st doses August 2021	% change	# of 1 st doses July 2021	# of 1 st doses August 2021	% change
Karas	2295	2139	↓ 6.8	1497	2930	↑ 95.7
Hardap	3360	5013	↑ 49.2	884	3856	↑ 336.2
Omaheke	2036	2170	↑ 6.6	715	2491	↑ 248.4
Khomas	8697	9339	↑ 7.4	7284	21333	↑ 192.9
Erongo	4502	6000	↑ 33.3	1616	8367	↑ 417.8
Kunene	2092	3314	↑ 58.4	500	2791	↑ 458.2
Omusati	3562	3333	↓ 6.4	2079	3879	↑ 86.6
Oshana	3641	2833	↓ 22.2	1872	3913	↑ 109.0
Ohangwena	3187	4118	↑ 29.2	1287	3911	↑ 203.9
Oshikoto	3100	3280	↑ 5.8	1997	3133	↑ 56.9
Kavango East	1944	2687	↑ 38.2	854	2280	↑ 167.0
Kavango West	527	1480	↑ 180.8	153	1977	↑ 1192.2
Zambezi	877	599	↓ 31.7	921	1107	↑ 20.2
Otjozondjupa	3129	2922	↓ 6.6	2771	4383	↑ 58.2

Table 3: Regional Comparison of 1st and 2nd Dose Administration for July and August, 2021

As observed in Table 3, all 14 regions experienced increases in their 2nd dose administration in August when compared to July 2021. 1st dose administration has slowed down in Zambezi, Oshana, Otjozondjupa, Omusati and ||Karas during August, as compared to July 2021.

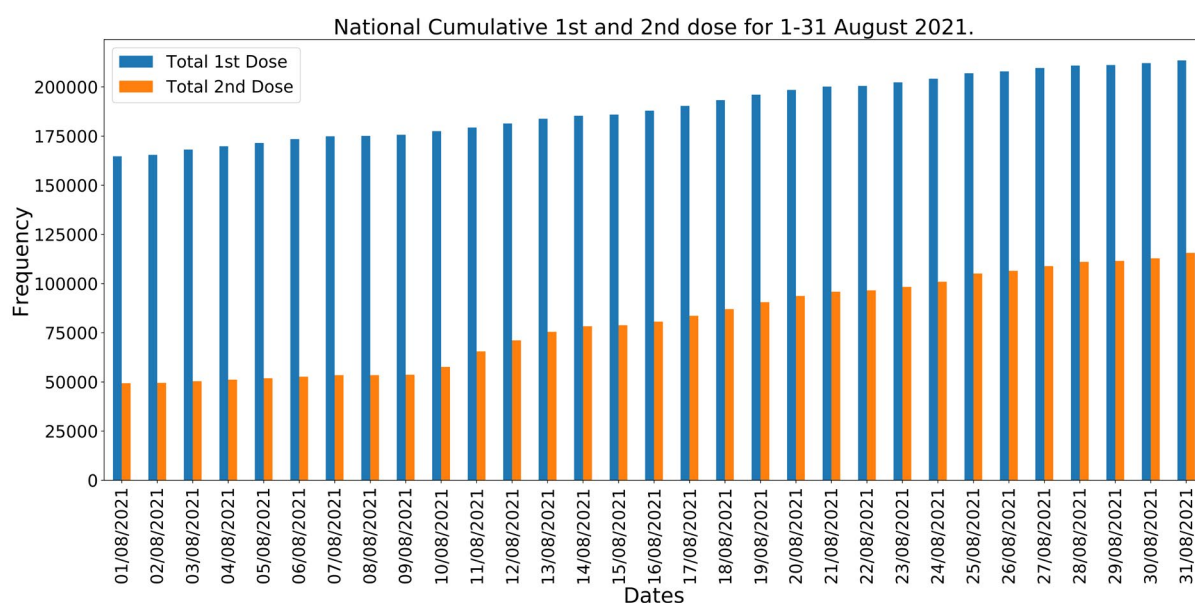


Fig 13: National Cumulative First vs. Second Vaccination Dose for August, 2021

At a national level, the cumulative 1st dose delivery for the period ended at 213,438 vaccinations administered, which represents 14.2% of the **target** population. This suggests that 3.3% of the target population was vaccinated with a 1st dose in August, an increase from the reported 10.9% of 1st doses administered in July.

2nd dose vaccination delivery for the period stood at 115,624 cumulative vaccinations, which represents 7.7% of the **target** population. This suggests that 4.4% of the target population was vaccinated with a 2nd dose in August, an increase from the reported 3.3% of 2nd doses administered in July. The National Vaccination Deployment Plan (NVDP) has set the target population for vaccination at 1,501,042.

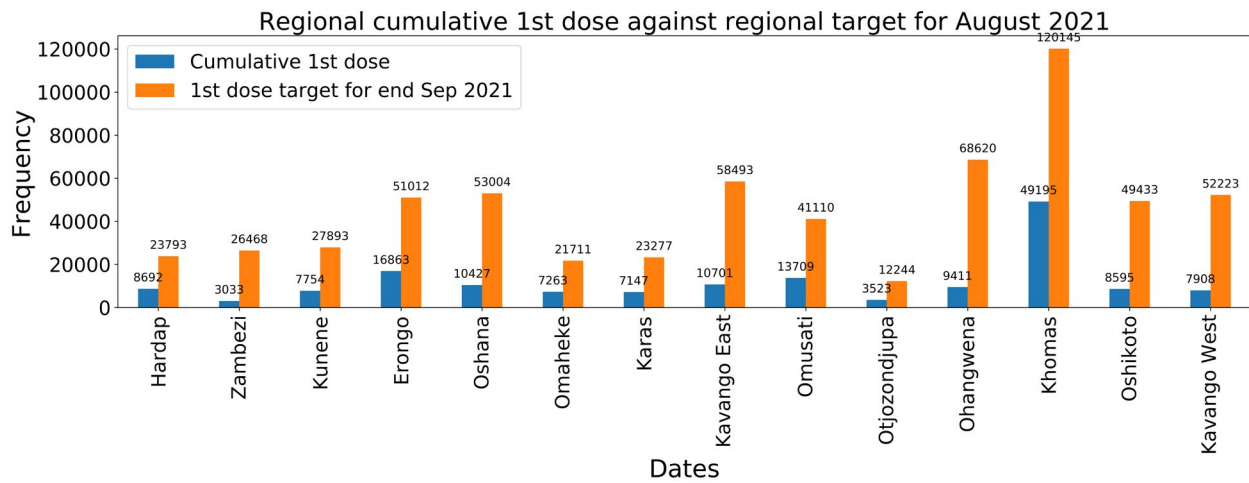


Fig 14: Regional 1st Dose Vaccination Targets vs Regional 1st Dose Vaccination Actuals on 31 August

As observed in Table 3, all 14 regions experienced increases in their 2nd dose administration in August when compared to July 2021. 1st dose administration has slowed down in Zambezi, Oshana, Otjozondjupa, Omusati and Karas during August, as compared to July 2021.

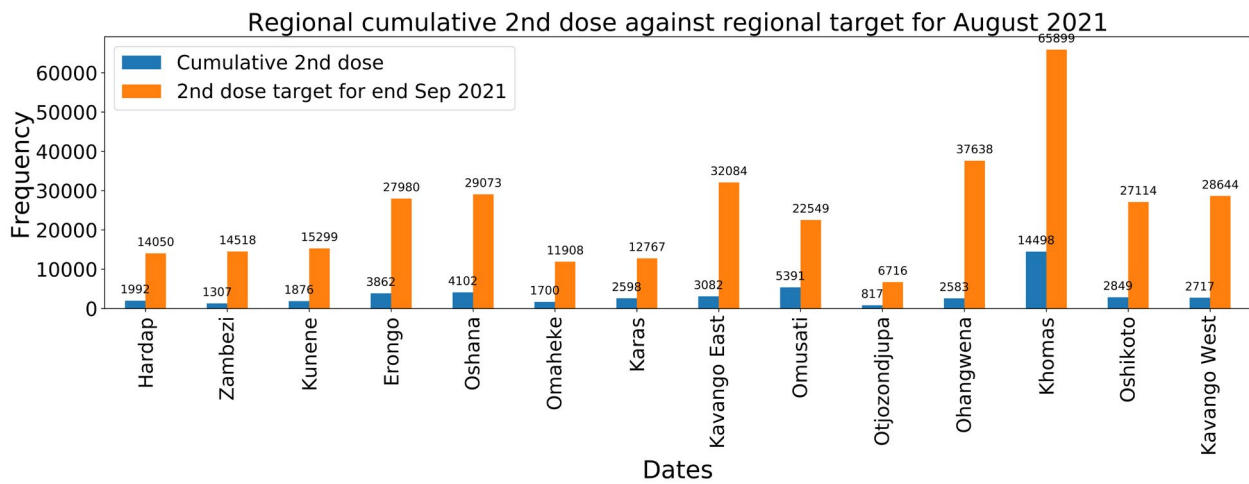


Fig 15: Regional 2nd Dose Vaccination Targets vs Regional 2nd Dose Vaccination Actuals on 31 August 2021

While regional vaccination efforts are well underway with the delivery of 1st and 2nd doses, overall rates of vaccination are still marginal compared to the regional targets that have been set out in Namibia's Vaccination Deployment Plan.

Report Sources:

Daily Reports 1 August – 31 August, 2021
 Daily Situation Reports
 Regional and Districts COVID-19 Vaccination Targets
 Updated MoHSS Covid-19 Data Worksheets for 2020-2021

Disclaimer:

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1 - 31 August 2021

During August 2021, we observed significant changes in all of the important Covid-19 indicators, with new infections, hospitalisations and ICU admissions all on the decrease. The notable efforts by various public and private entities have proven effective, as observed by the vaccination increases nationwide in both 1st and 2nd doses, bringing the country closer to its vaccination targets and, thus, national herd immunity.

Namibia has continued to see an overall reduction in new infections. Testing was down 47% from the previous month and we observed a 79% reduction in new infections for the same period. The average positivity ratio was 12.7%, representing a 19.3% reduction from July.

In comparison to July 2021, hospitalisations and ICU admissions experienced a decline across the country, with a daily average of 271 hospitalisations and 49 patients in the ICU. This represents a 49% reduction in hospitalisations and a 52.9% reduction in ICU admissions from the previous month.

COVID-19 deaths reported by the MoHSS were down by 78% from the previous month, dropping from 1504 to 329. 62 (18.8%) of all COVID-19 deaths for the reporting period were home deaths. This represents a 0.2% decrease in home deaths from the previous month, highlighting the importance of encouraging those displaying worsening symptoms of Covid-19 to proceed to their nearest health facility for necessary care.

In August, 87.8% of deaths that occurred in the reporting period were in unvaccinated individuals. 2.1% of deaths occurred in people who had received their 1st dose, and 0 deaths were recorded in people who had received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. 10% of deaths occurred in people whose vaccination status was undetermined at the time of verification. We note that the MoHSS has addressed the "undetermined" vaccination status in their mortality reporting and therefore expect to understand vaccination status in deaths more definitively in the report for September 2021. The observed death statistics by vaccination status continue to demonstrate the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines in preventing severe illness, hospitalisation and death.

In August, Namibia's COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign administered 49,217 1st doses and 66,342 2nd doses, representing a 14.6% increase in 1st dose delivery and a 172.5% increase in 2nd dose delivery.

We now have 14.2% of our target population (1,501,041) vaccinated with their 1st dose and 7.7% with their 2nd dose.

It is important to note that despite these positive shifts observed in this review, we must continue to be vigilant as a nation. We all need to continue to focus on the proper wearing of masks, appropriate social distancing, good ventilation indoors and the importance of being fully vaccinated to prevent serious illness, hospitalisation and death.

#DoYourPart and #GetVaccinated



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1 - 31 August 2021

AUGUST'S OBSERVATIONS

TESTING

↓ 47.4%

NEW INFECTIONS

↓ 79%

POSITIVITY RATIO

↓ 19.3%

HOSPITALISATIONS

↓ 49.4%

ICU ADMISSIONS

↓ 52.9%

DEATHS

↓ 78%

**1ST DOSE VACCINATIONS
ADMINISTERED**

↑ 14.6%

**2ND DOSE VACCINATIONS
ADMINISTERED**

↑ 173.5%