

REPORT ON WEEKLY DEATHS IN SOUTH AFRICA

1 JANUARY - 21 APRIL 2020

Debbie Bradshaw, Ria Laubscher,
Rob Dorrington, Pam Groenewald, Tom Moultrie

Burden of Disease Research Unit
South African Medical Research Council
28 April 2020



UCT Centre
for Actuarial
Research

Data Source

Basic demographic information for all deaths registered on the National Population Register are provided to the SAMRC on a weekly basis. Since the weekly number of deaths has a seasonal trend, historical data from 2018 and 2019 have been used to predict the number of deaths that could be expected during 2020.

The excel forecast function has been used to predict values for each week of 2020 based on a linear annual trend, allowing for a seasonal effect over the year. In addition, 95% confidence intervals have been estimated for the predicted weekly number of deaths for 2020 to give a basis to assess fluctuations.

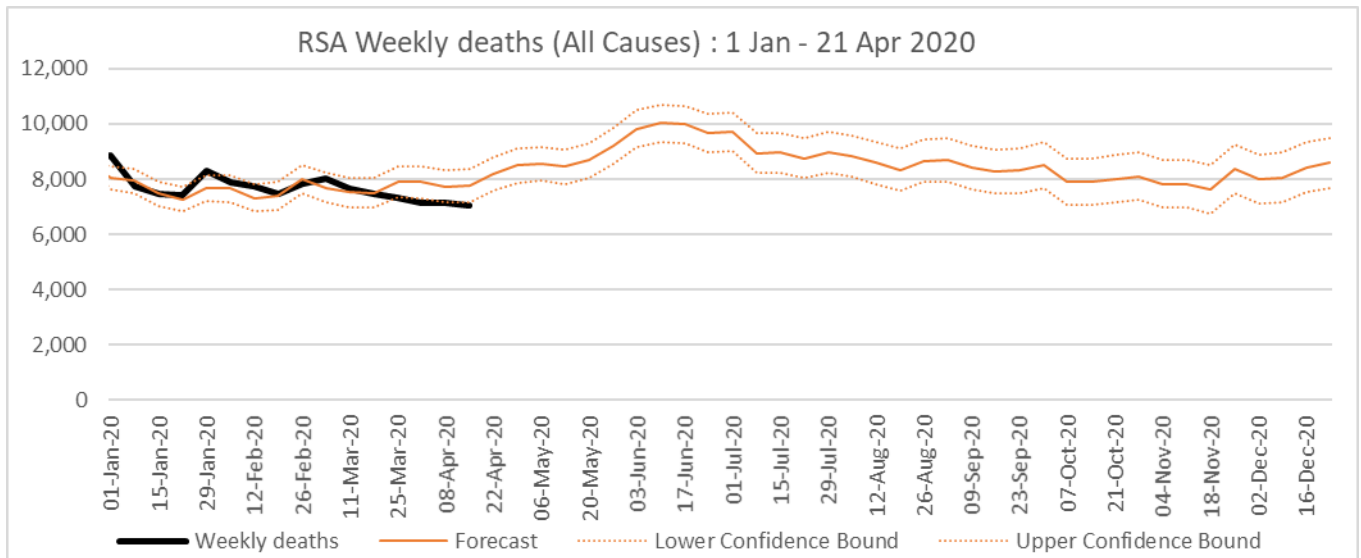
Graphs in this report have been prepared of the weekly number of deaths up till epidemiological **week 16** covering the period from **1 January 2020** till **21 April 2020** based on the data received on 28 April 2020. The start date of each week is represented on the graph.

Data for the most recent week has been scaled up to account for the lag in registrations. Based on previous data, a factor of 1.05 has been applied.

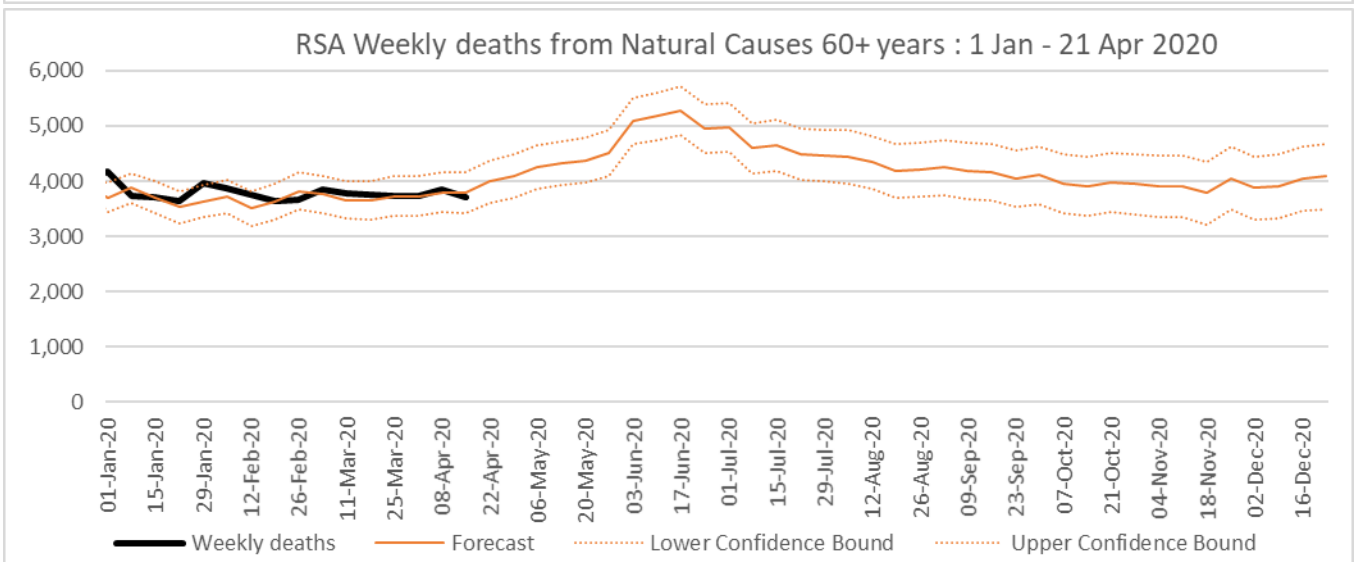
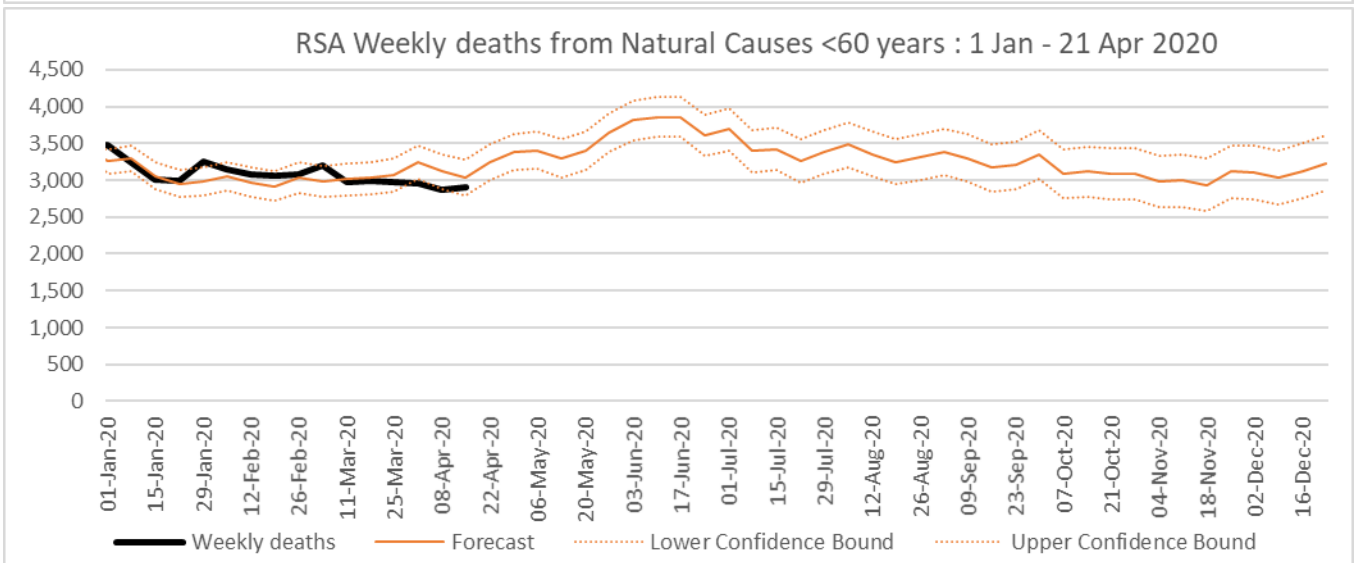
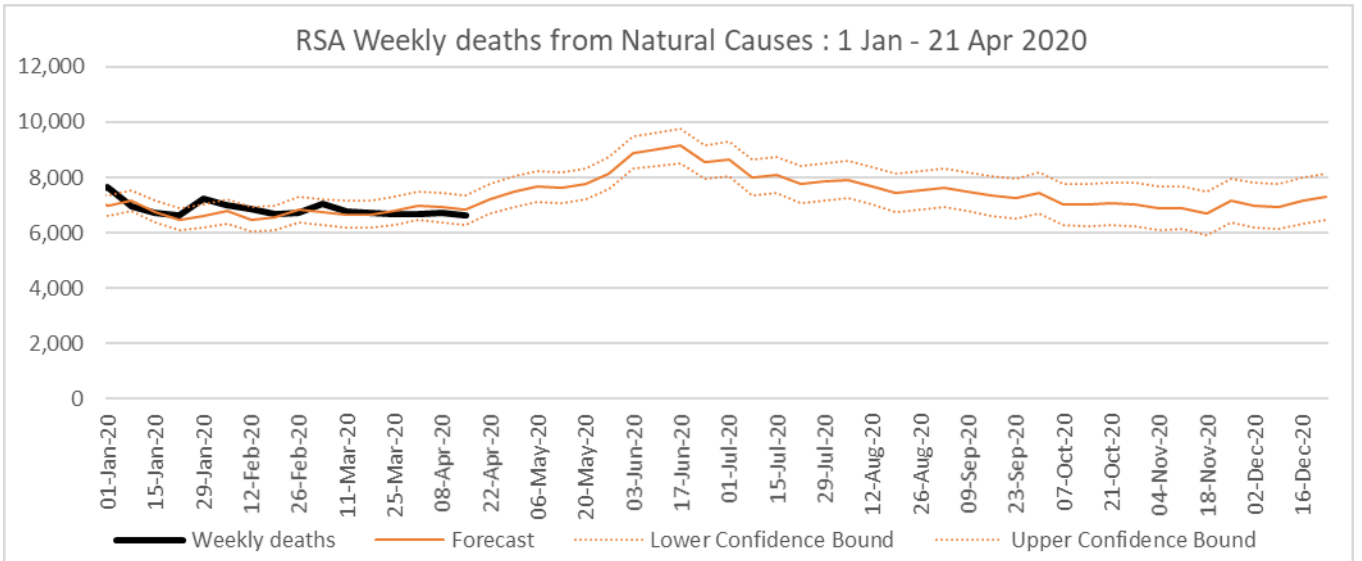
It must be noted that the National Population Register only includes deaths of persons with a national ID number. Unregistered deaths as well as the registered deaths of persons without a national ID number are not recorded.

Trends

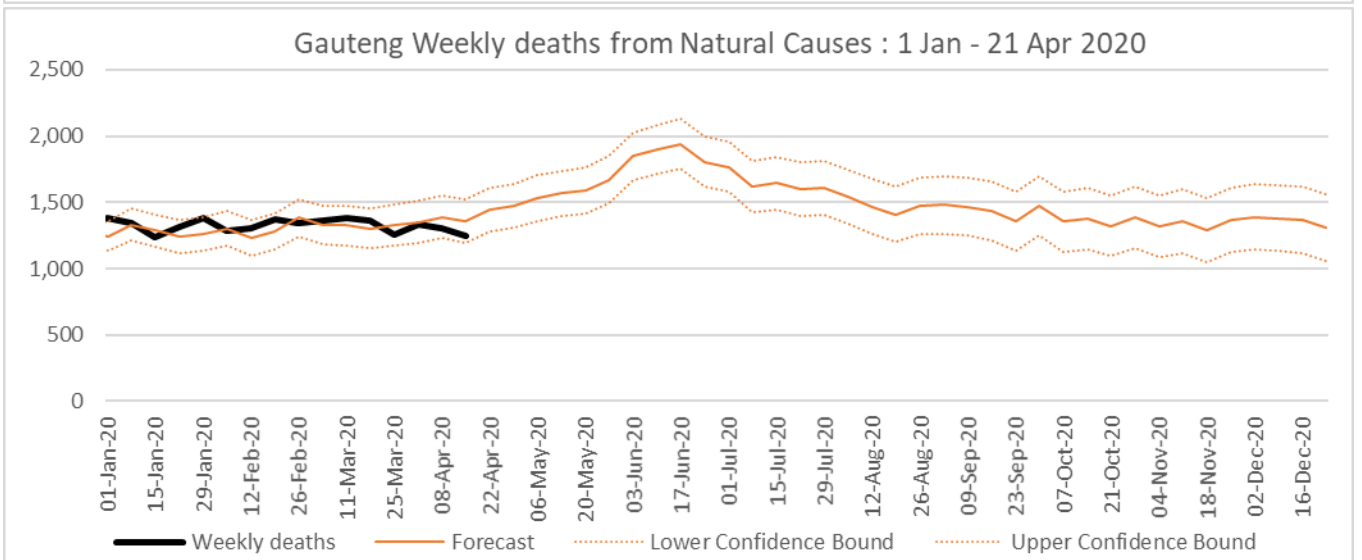
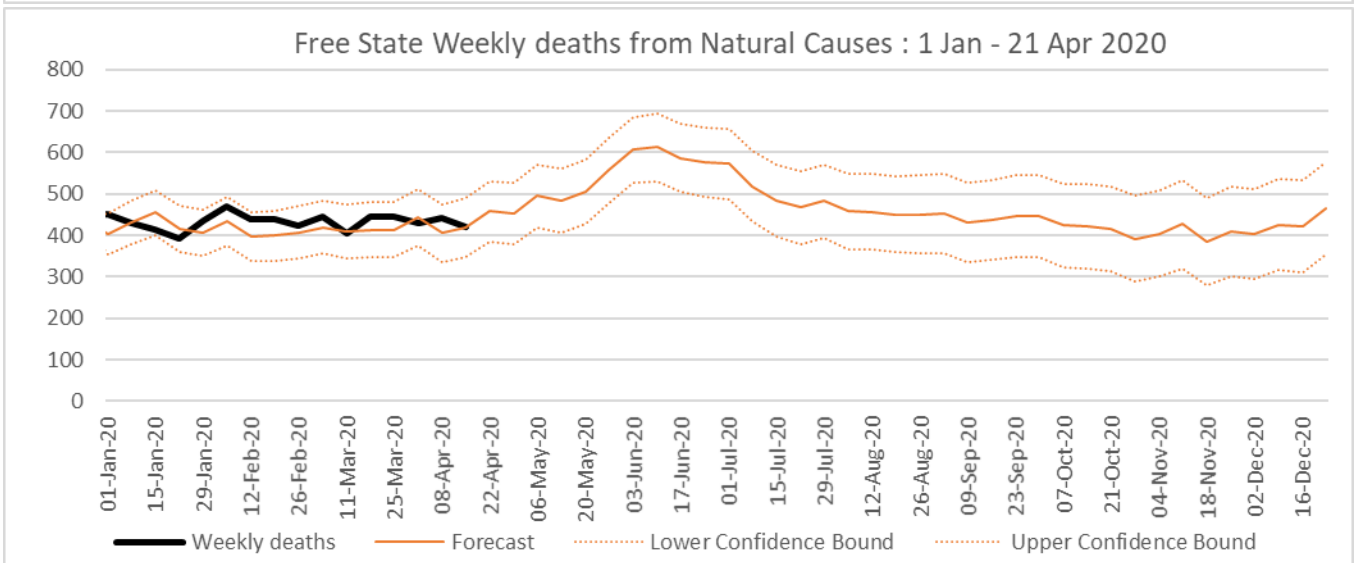
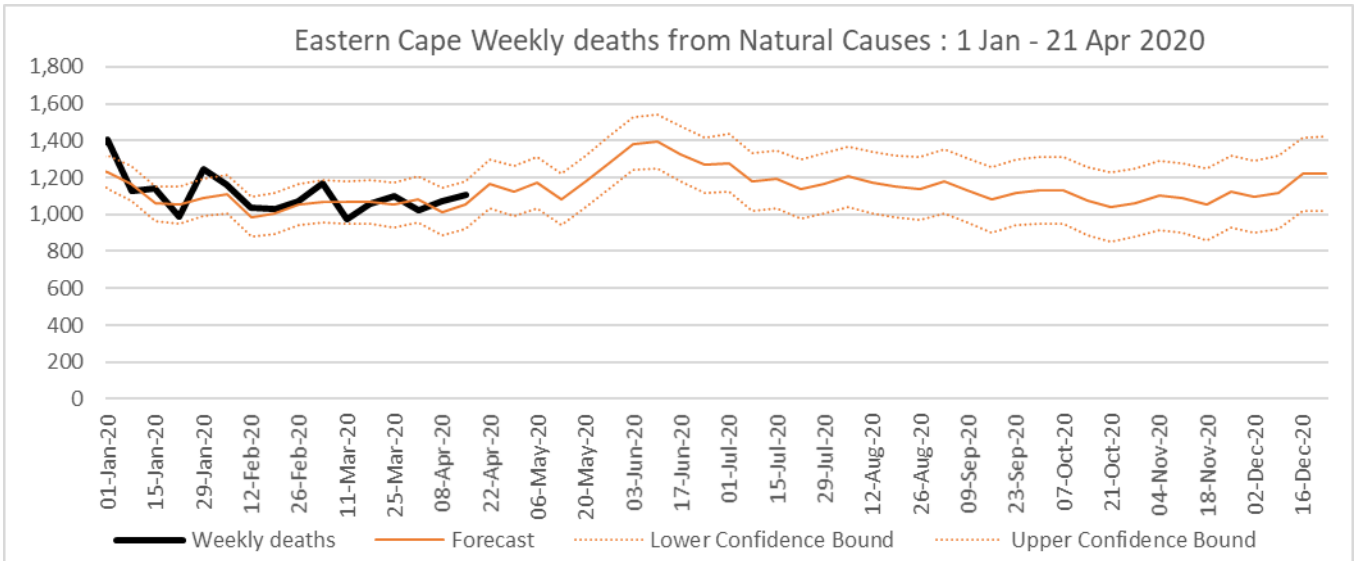
- The weekly number of deaths up till **21 April 2020** are generally within the bounds of expectation based on the historical data.
- The number of deaths in the most recent five weeks are lower than predicted as a result of a decline in the number of deaths from non-natural causes (e.g. road traffic fatalities and homicide). See graph at end of report. The decline has been experienced for both males and females.
- Deaths from natural causes show no unusual sign of increase by **21 April 2020** among people less than 60 years nor those 60 years and over.



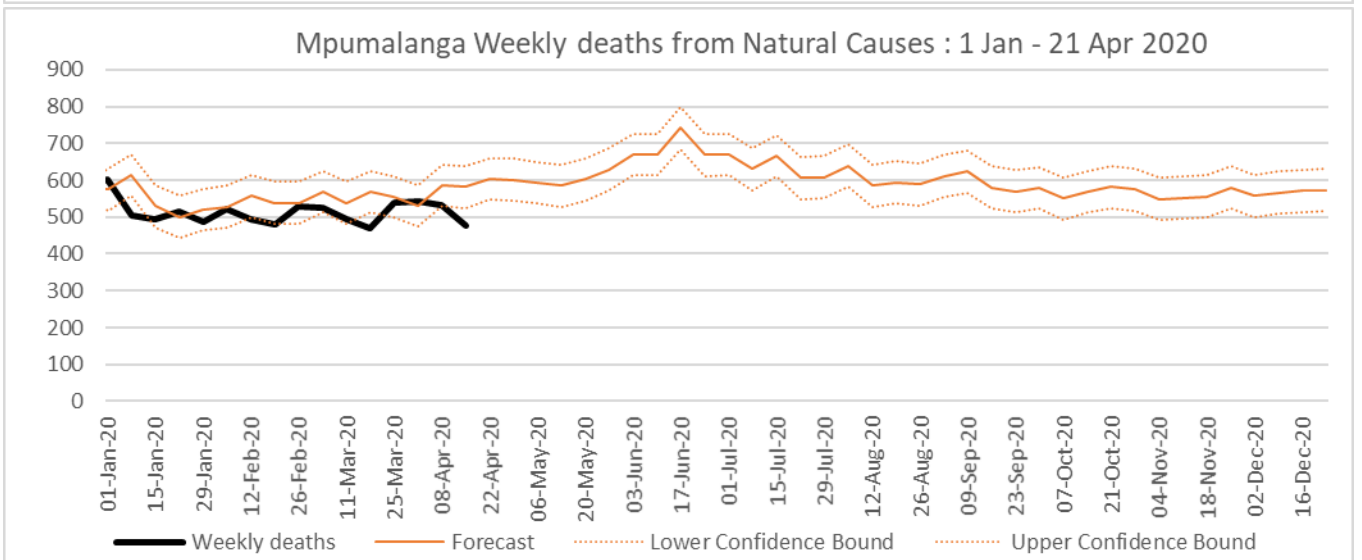
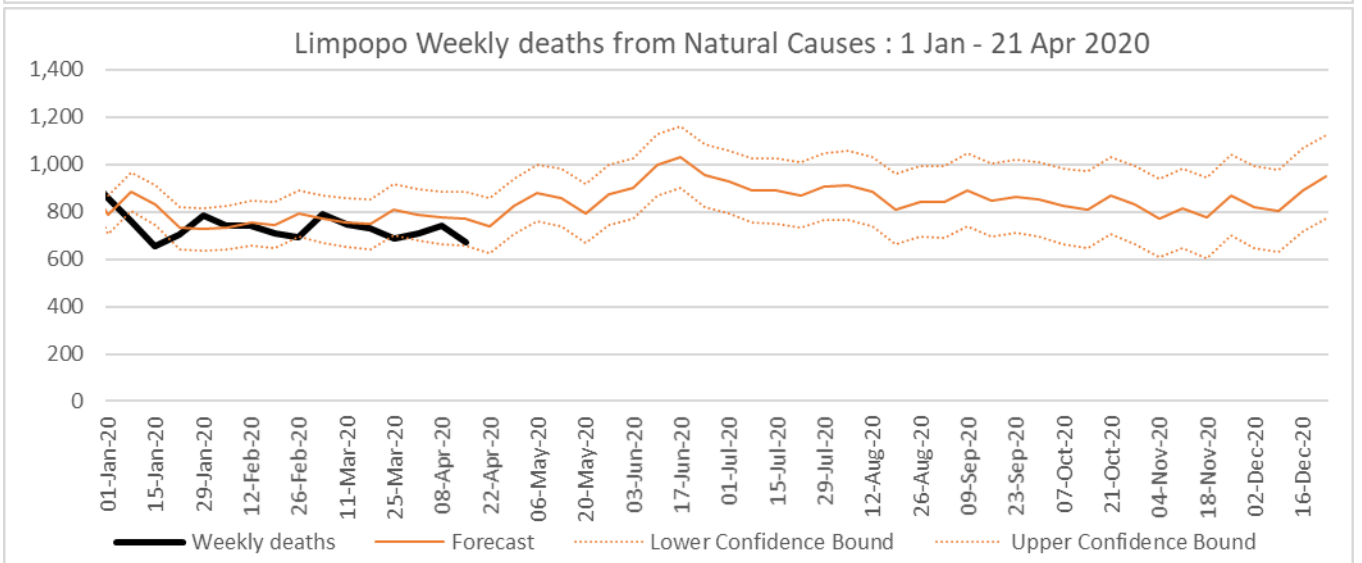
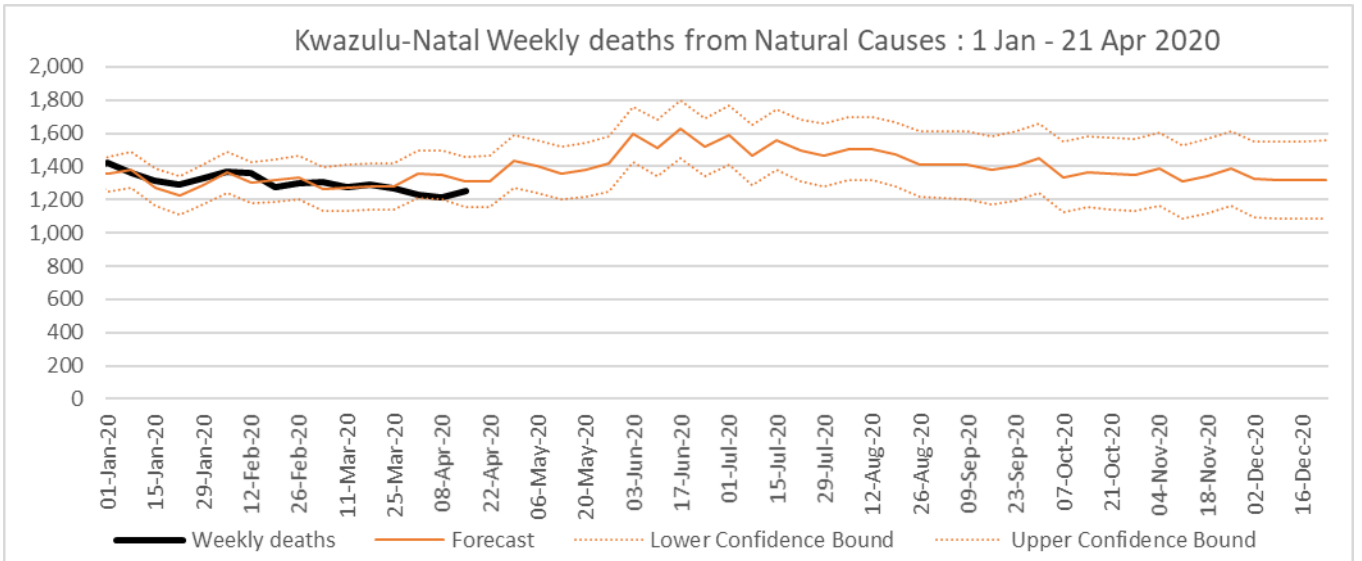
Number for the last week has been adjusted for delayed registrations.



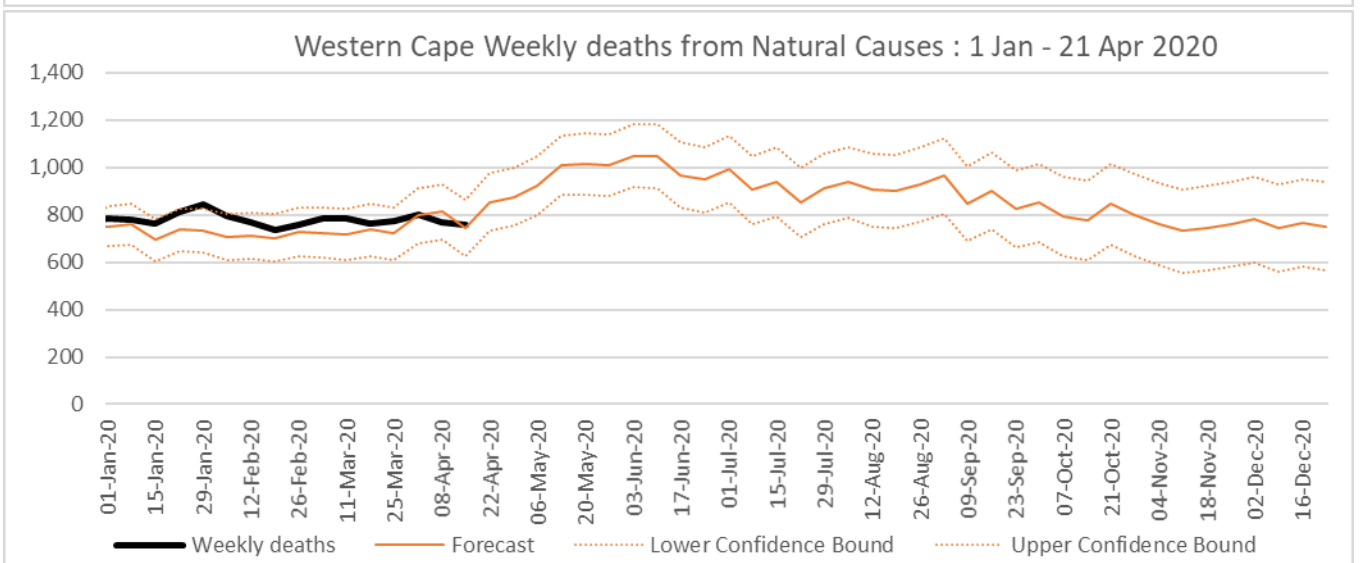
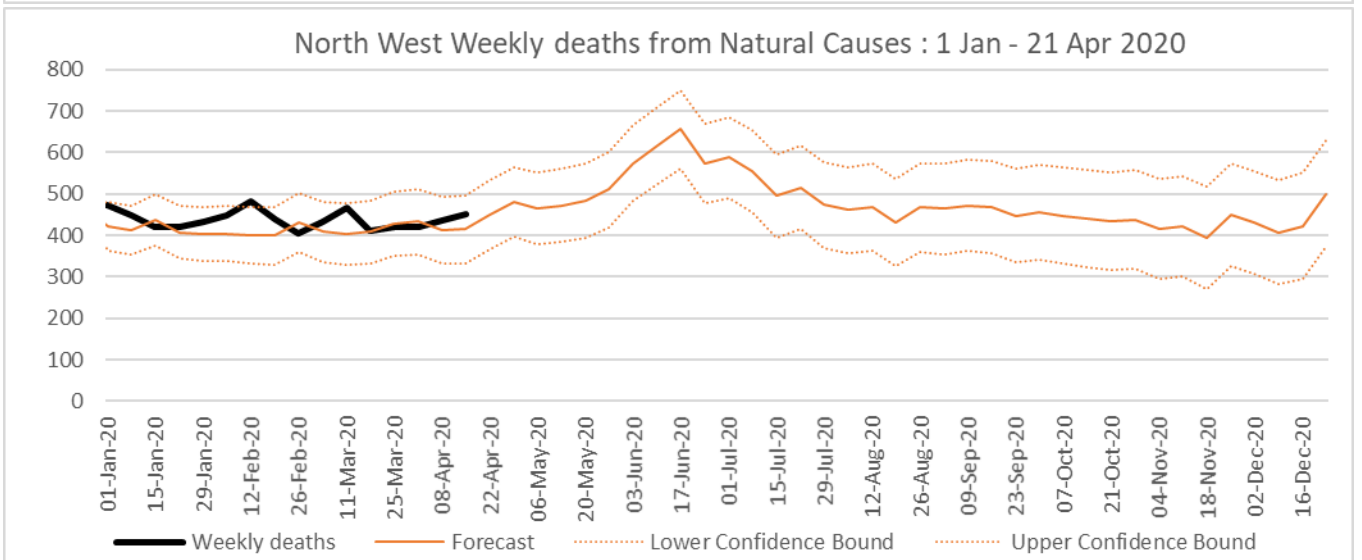
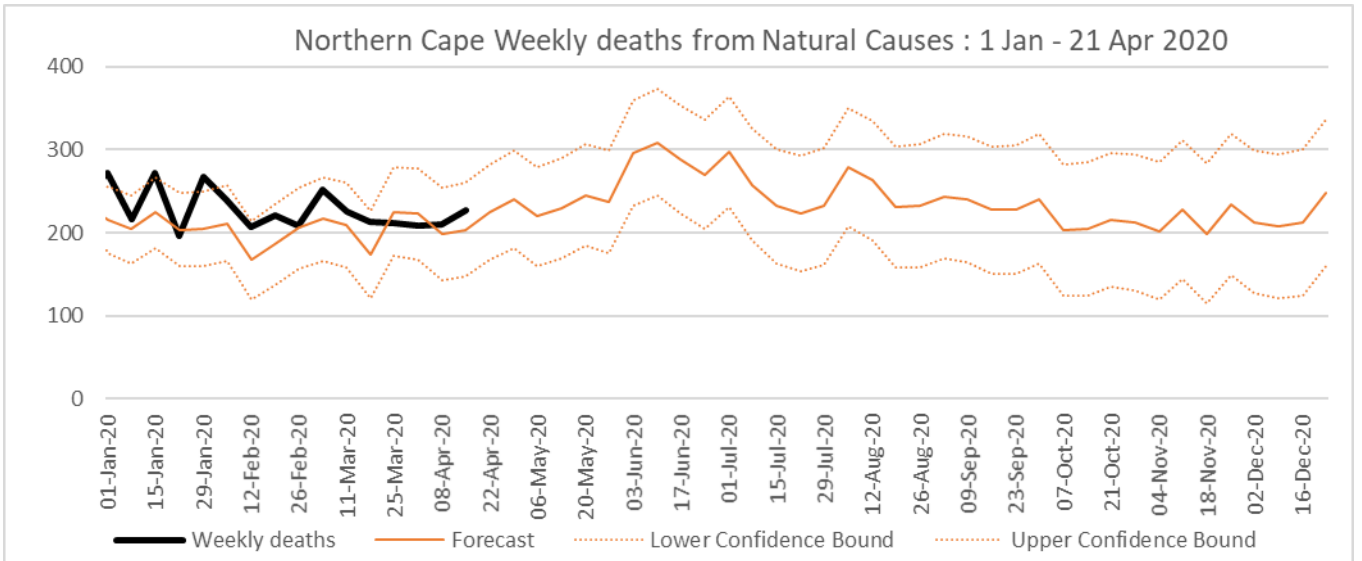
Number for the last week has been adjusted for delayed registrations



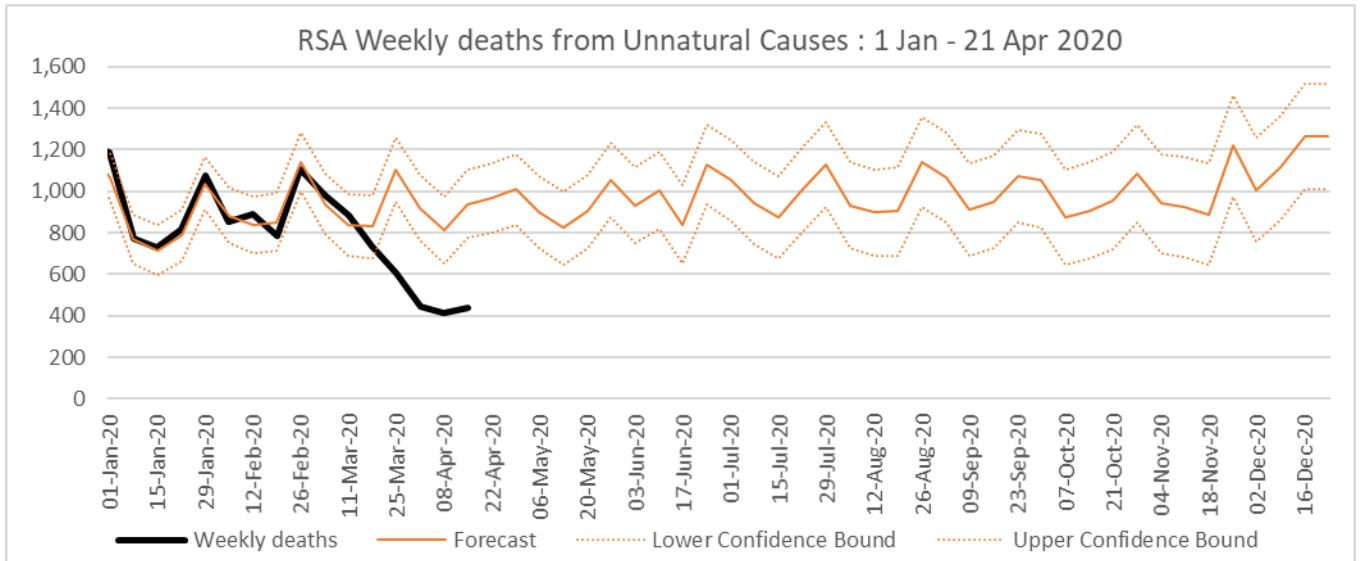
Number for the last week has been adjusted for delayed registrations



umber for the last week has been adjusted for delayed registrations



Number for the last week has been adjusted for delayed registrations



Number for the last week has been adjusted for delayed registrations