

REPORT ON WEEKLY DEATHS IN SOUTH AFRICA

1 JANUARY - 31 MARCH 2020

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

Burden of Disease Research Unit
South African Medical Research Council
6 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. It must be noted that the National Population Register has only the deaths of persons with a national ID number and there are some registered deaths that are not reflected in the data.

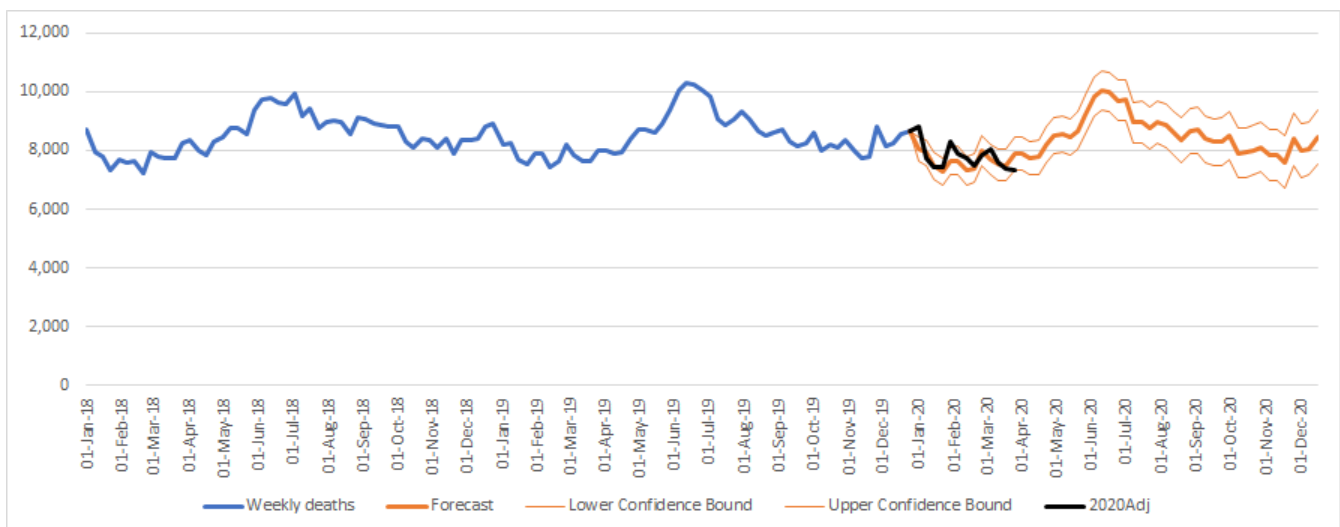
The excel forecast function has been used to predict values for each week of 2020 based on a linear annual trend, allowing for a seasonal effect over the year. In addition, 95% confidence intervals have been estimated for the predicted weekly number of deaths for 2020 to give a basis to assess fluctuations.

Graphs in this report have been prepared of the weekly number of deaths up till **31 March 2020** from the data received on 6 April 2020. Data for the last week has been factored up to account for the lag in registrations. Based on previous data, a factor of 1.056 has been applied.

Interpretation

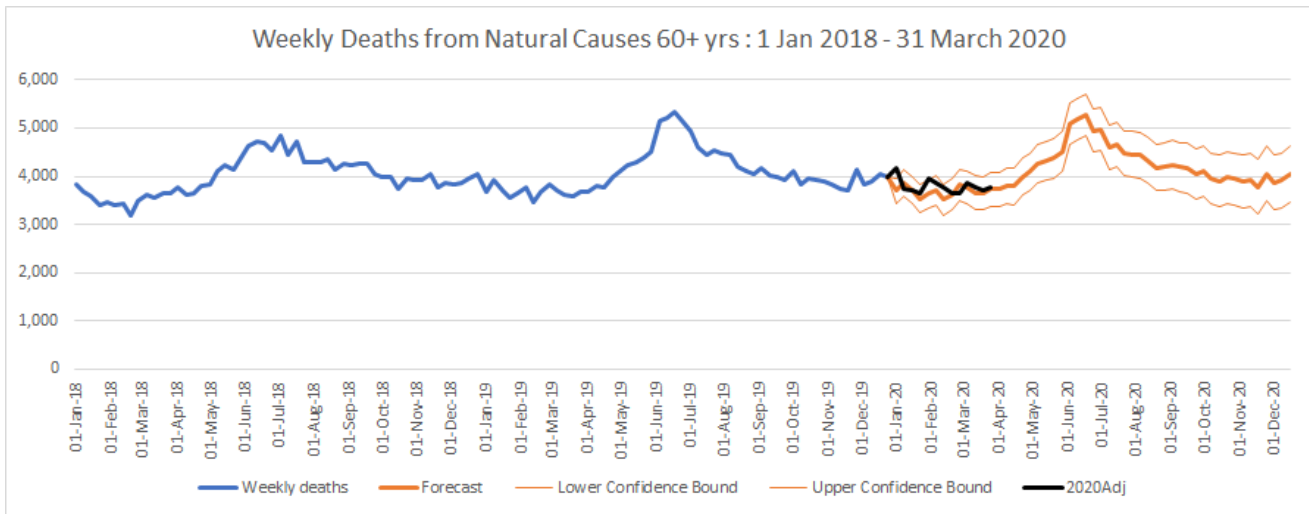
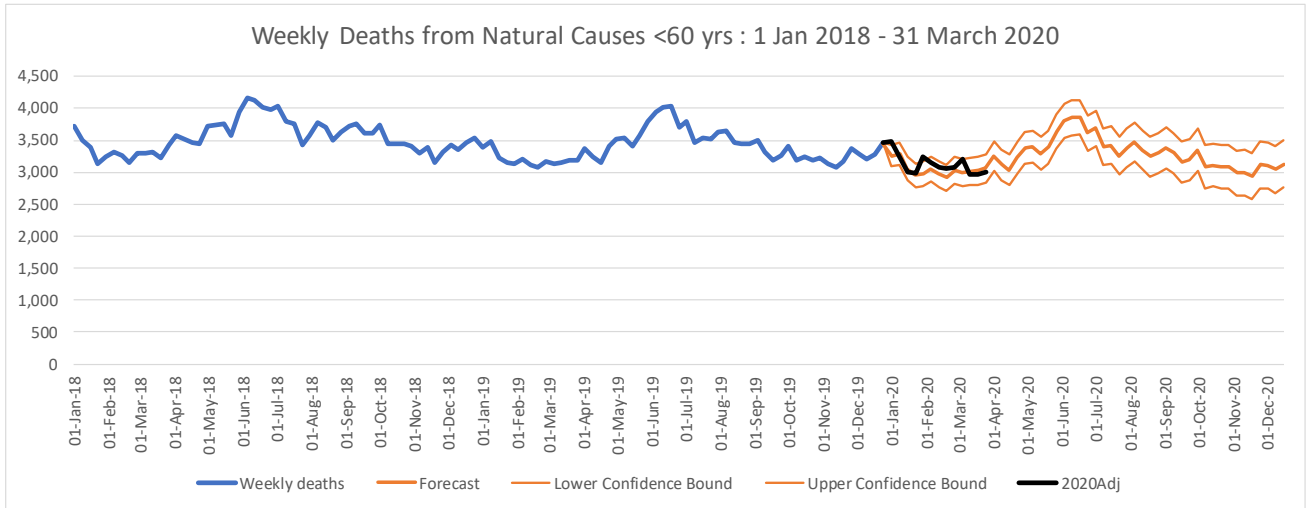
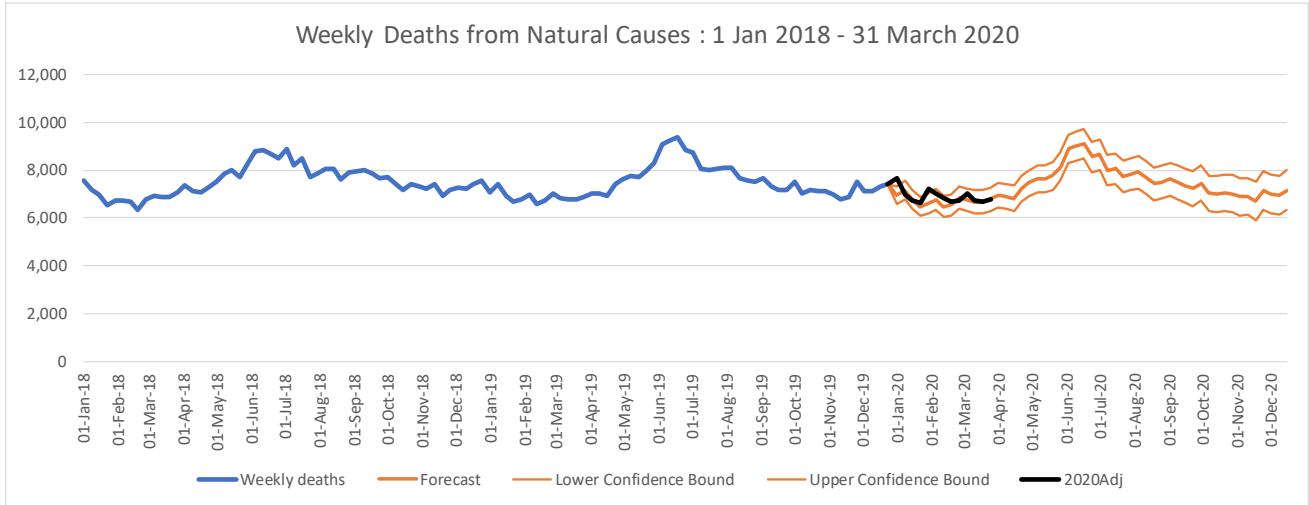
- The weekly number of deaths up till **31 March 2020** are generally within the bounds of expectation based on the historical data.
- Deaths from natural causes show no unusual sign of increase by **31 March 2020** among people less than 60 years or those over 60 years.

Weekly deaths in South Africa (All Causes): 1 Jan 2018 – 31 March 2020



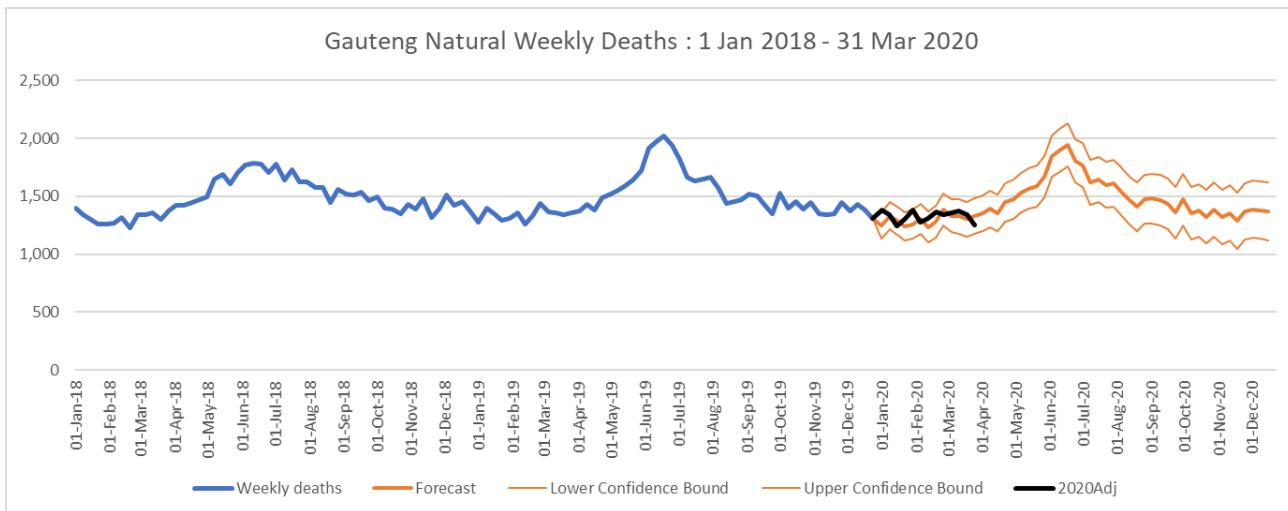
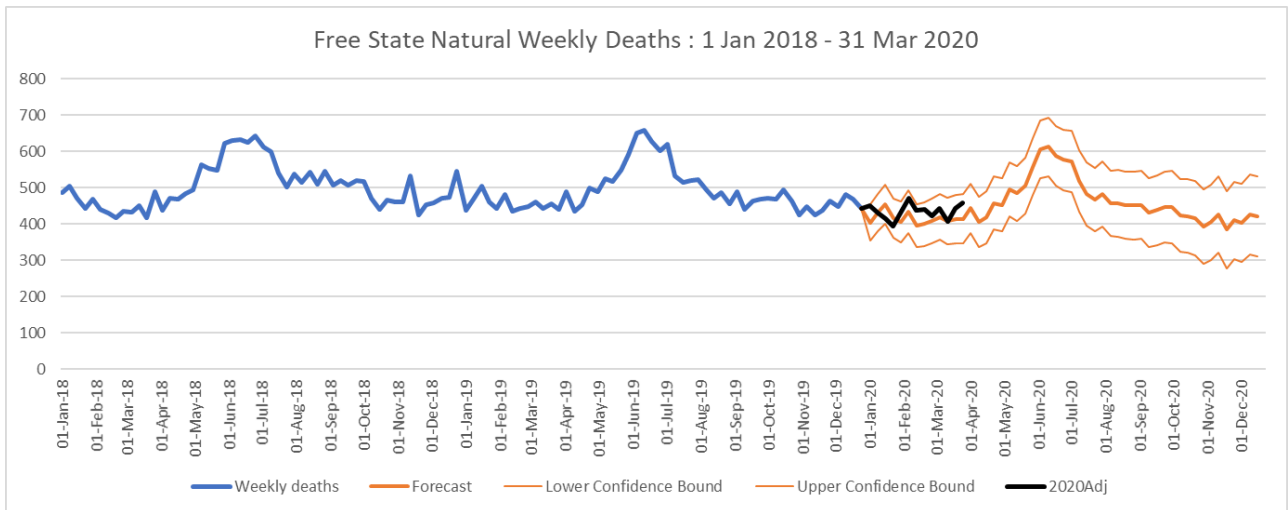
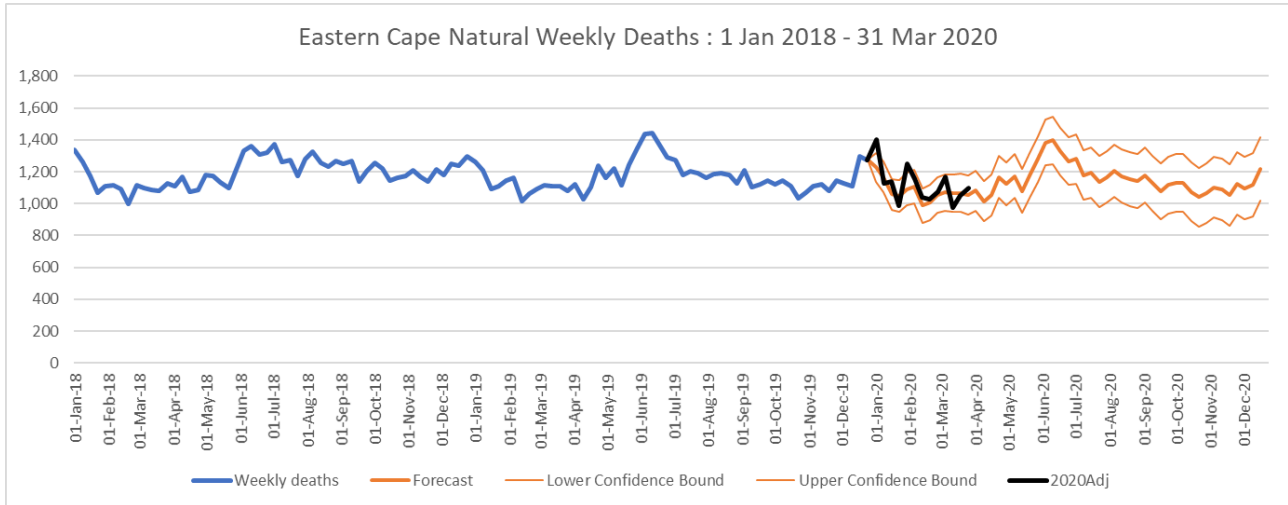
Number for the last week has been adjusted for delayed registrations

Weekly deaths in South Africa (Natural Causes): 1 Jan 2018 – 31 March 2020

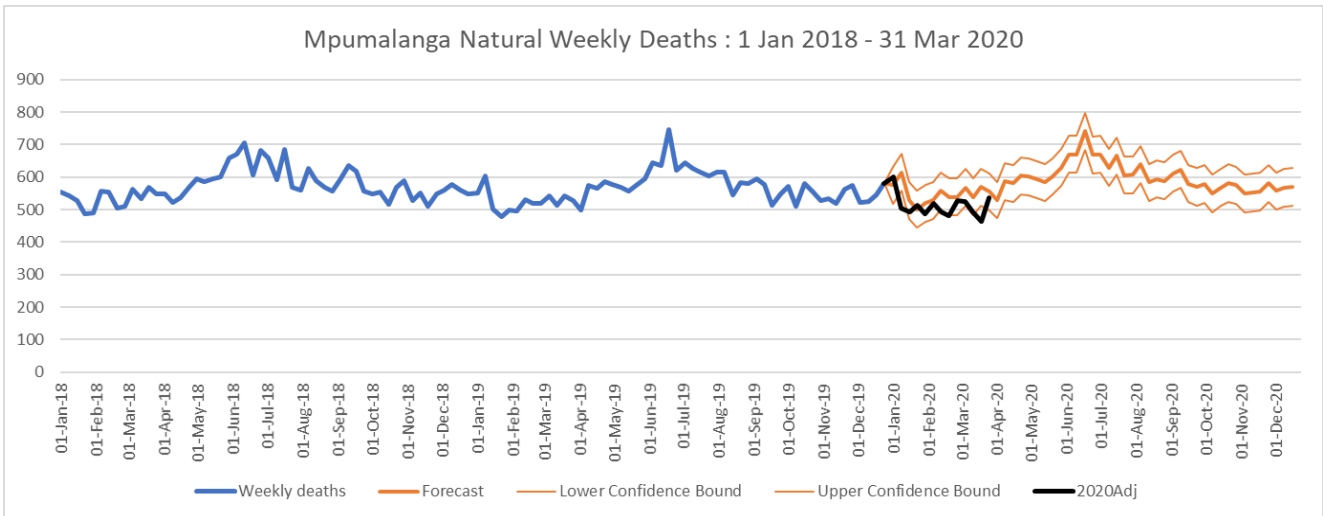
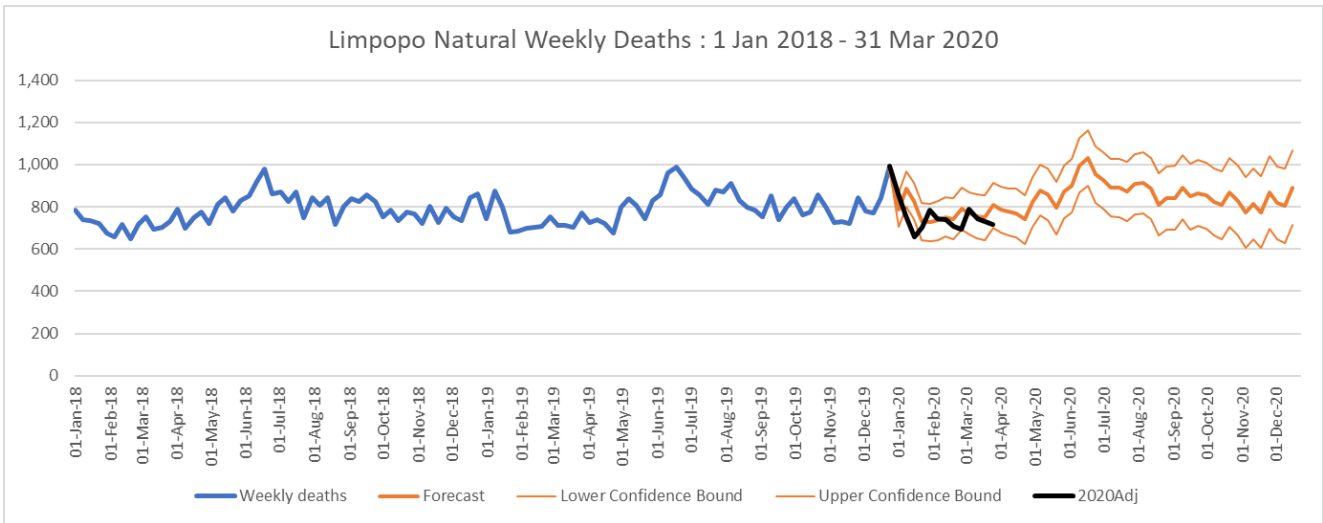
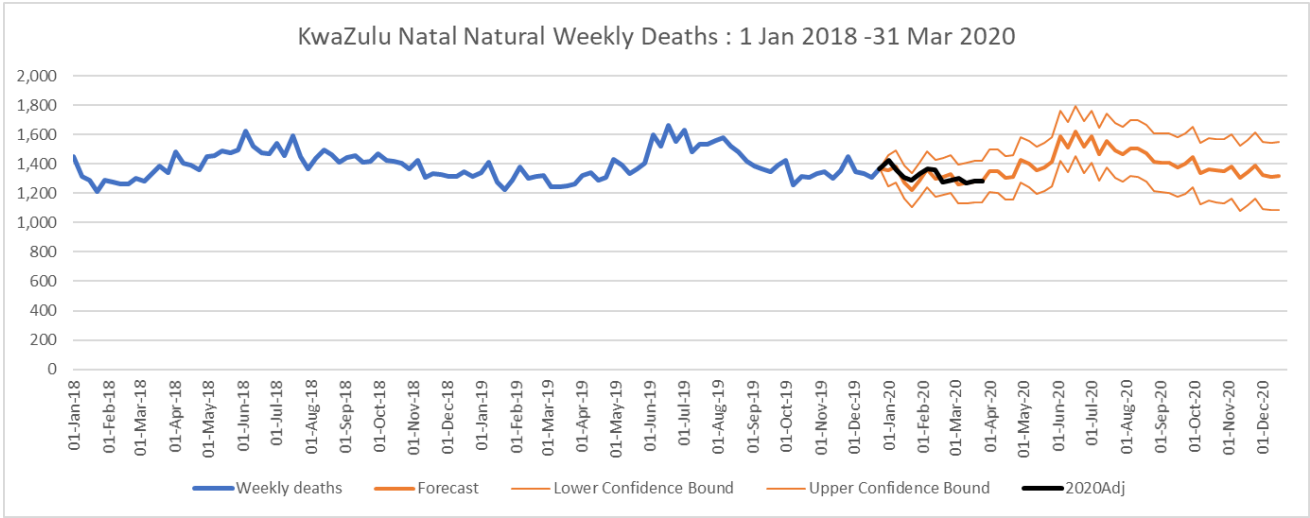


Number for the last week has been adjusted for delayed registrations

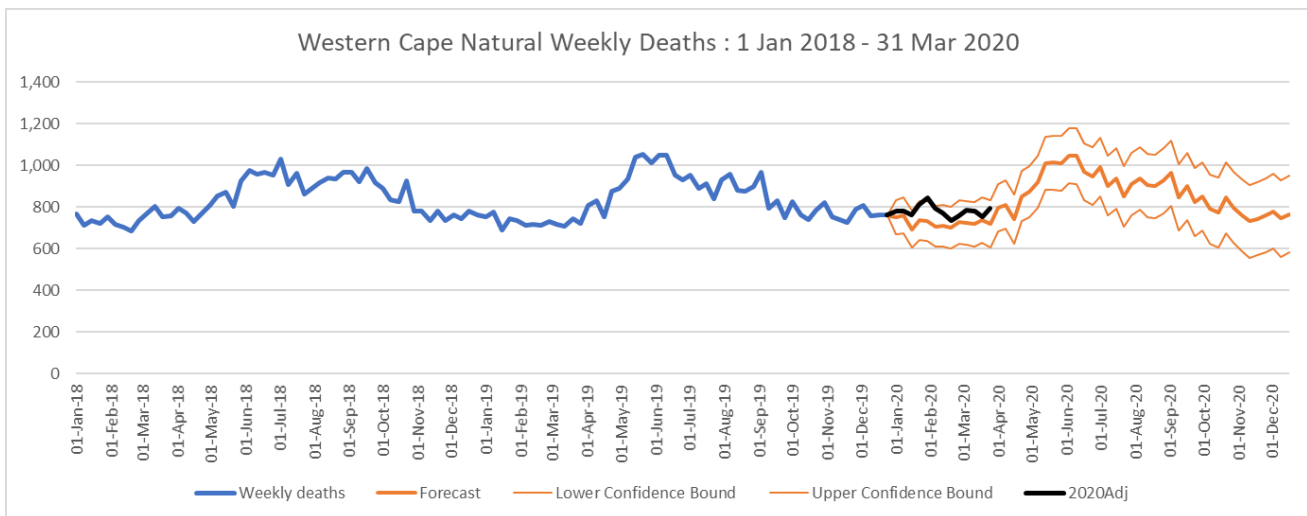
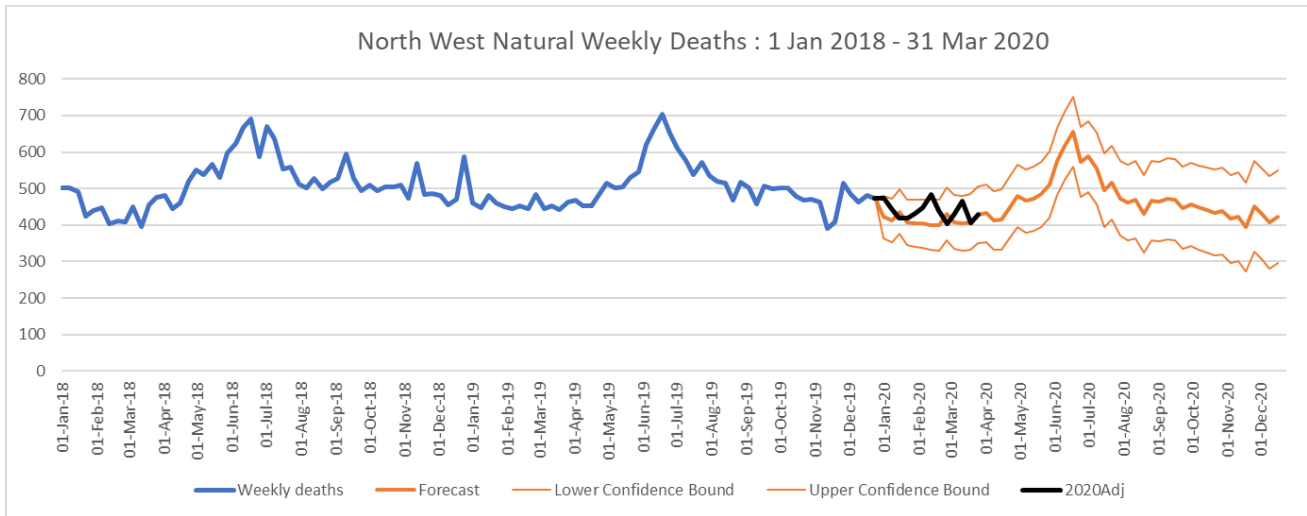
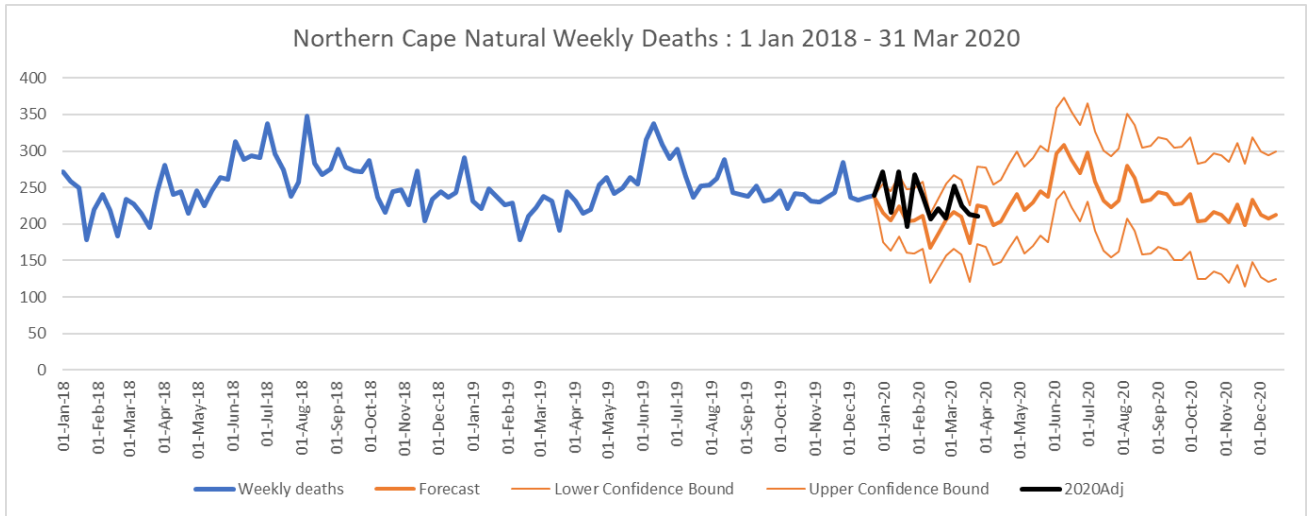
Weekly deaths by province (Natural Causes), 1 Jan 2018 – 31 March 2020



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