The effect of Covid-19 on the use of maternal and reproductive health services and maternal deaths in South Africa

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2021
Figure 2. South African iMMR 2005-2019
BIRTHS

Comparison of all births in facilities 2020 and 2019

Difference in all births in facility 2020 and 2019

Increase in live births in 2020 compared with 2019 but increase was less in Q2 and Q3
Migration back to rural areas during pandemic

Figure 27. Difference in number of live births in facility: 2020-2019
Overall increase in antenatal care first visit attendance but dip in April and July
Increase in antenatal care first visit in rural provinces. Metropolitan areas had marked decrease in first antenatal visit
Figure 3. Contraceptive use

Decline in all areas in Q2 and Q3
Figure 4. Termination of pregnancy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total deaths Jan - Mar 2019</td>
<td>270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total deaths Jan - Mar 2020</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>-35</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-13,0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total deaths - April to Sep 2019</td>
<td>441</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total deaths - April to Sep 2020</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>132</td>
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<td>30,0%</td>
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CONCLUSION

• 30% increase in Maternal deaths most likely due to indirect effects of covid on maternal and reproductive services

• There has been 2 markedly different effects of covid-19 on maternal care:
  - Rural provinces experiencing pressure on services due to women migrating from metropolitan areas back to their homes - increased burden in already under-resourced facilities
  - Metropolitan areas inundated with severe covid-19 specific conditions resulting in difficulty in managing routine emergencies
Thank You