

THE COVID-19 SEX-DISAGGREGATED DATA TRACKER

African Region Data Update

ABOUT THIS BRIEF

This brief presents regional findings from the COVID-19 Sex-Disaggregated Data Tracker. The Data Tracker is the world's most comprehensive source of sex-disaggregated data on the direct health impacts of COVID-19 along the clinical pathway, collecting and reporting national data from 205 countries on vaccinations, testing, confirmed cases (including among healthcare workers), hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths. It also reports data on sex and age on key indicators.

Since early in the novel coronavirus pandemic, sex differences have been noted in diagnosis and outcomes. Despite known sex differences in COVID-19 and known sex differences in access to care and treatment in many countries, sex-disaggregated data is not uniformly or universally integrated into COVID-19 data reporting.

Tracking 205 countries worldwide for sex-disaggregated COVID-19 data, we have found consistent global gender differences as well as substantial cross-country variation both in the availability of sex-disaggregated data and in the measured sex differences in clinical indicators. Monitoring these sex differences can help guide the development of COVID-19 policies that address gender-specific needs in a population and help monitor gender equitable access to COVID-19 care and services.

This brief presents sex-disaggregated data for the WHO Africa Region, which consists of 50 countries (47 of which are included in the Tracker, see Table 1) in Africa, providing comparison between this AFRO region and global sex-disaggregated data availability and sex differences in key clinical indicators.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

DATA AVAILABILITY

- 1 The sex of over 1.5 million cases and 46,000 deaths from COVID-19 in the AFRO region is currently unknown. This equates to roughly one in four of all confirmed cases and three in ten of all deaths.
- 2 Data availability is slightly better than the global picture for cases, but worse for deaths.
- 3 94% (44 of 47) of countries in the region have ever reported sex-disaggregated (SD) data on cases or deaths, but only 38% (18 of 47 countries) reported SD data on cases or deaths in the past month.

OUTCOMES

- 4 Fewer men have been vaccinated and tested than women, and make up a smaller share of confirmed cases, hospitalisations, ICU admissions, and deaths. However when South Africa is excluded, regionally men receive more vaccinations (56%), are tested more (74%), and comprise more confirmed cases (56%), hospitalisations (60%) and deaths (63%) than women regionally.

National data availability for sex-disaggregated case and death data

At a minimum, countries should report sex-disaggregated data on COVID-19 cases and deaths. Yet across 47 countries in the AFRO region, just six (13%) reported sex-disaggregated data on both cases and deaths in the past month, with an additional 12 countries (25%) reporting on just one of these indicators in the past month.

11 countries (23%) have previously reported either or both of these indicators but are no longer doing so. Three countries (6%) in the region have never reported sex-disaggregated data on cases or deaths that we could locate.

Table 1 lists the countries from the AFRO region currently included in the tracker with the date of the most recent data available for sex-disaggregated data on cases and deaths.

Table 1. Latest Reporting Date of Sex-Disaggregated Case and Death Data across AFRO Countries

Country	SD Cases Data Available	SD Death Data Available	Country	SD Cases Data Available	SD Death Data Available
Algeria	May 2021	Never	Kenya	Nov 2021	Nov 2021
Angola	Nov 2021	Nov 2021	Lesotho	Never	Never
Benin	Mar 2021	Never	Liberia	Jul 2021	Jul 2021
Botswana	Mar 2021	Sep 2020	Madagascar	Never	Never
Burkina Faso	Nov 2021	Aug 2020	Malawi	Feb 2021	Jan 2021
Burundi	Nov 2021	Never	Mali	Nov 2021	Never
Cabo Verde	Nov 2021	Jul 2021	Mauritania	Jul 2021	Never
Cameroon	Mar 2021	Never	Mauritius	Mar 2021	Never
Central African Republic	May 2021	Never	Mozambique	Nov 2021	Never
Chad	Oct 2021	May 2021	Namibia	Apr 2021	Never
Comoros	Never	Never	Niger	Nov 2021	Never
Congo	Nov 2021	Nov 2021	Nigeria	Aug 2021	Nov 2021
Cote d'Ivoire	Oct 2021	Never	Rwanda	Nov 2021	Nov 2021
DRC	Jun 2021	Never	Sao Tome and Principe	May 2021	Never
Equatorial Guinea	Nov 2021	Jun 2021	Senegal	Jun 2021	Never
Eritrea	Mar 2021	Never	Seychelles	May 2021	Never
Eswatini	Aug 2021	Apr 2021	Sierra Leone	Nov 2021	Never
Ethiopia	Jun 2020	Never	South Africa	Nov 2021	Nov 2021
Gabon	Aug 2020	Never	South Sudan	Dec 2020	Never
Gambia	Nov 2021	Never	Tanzania	May 2021	Never
Ghana	Nov 2021	Never	Togo	Mar 2021	Never
Guinea	Mar 2021	Never	Uganda	Nov 2021	Nov 2021
Guinea-Bissau	Jun 2021	Jun 2021	Zambia	Apr 2021	Never
			Zimbabwe	Dec 2020	Dec 2020

Reported in past month
 Last reported over a month ago
 Never reported

Availability of sex-disaggregated data in the AFRO Region

Of roughly 6.2 million cases and over 151,000 deaths reported to the WHO by 16 November 2021 in Africa, the sex of approximately 1 in 4 confirmed cases and 3 in 10 deaths from COVID-19 is currently unknown. In the AFRO region the availability of sex-disaggregated case data is slightly higher than at the global level - the sex of 75% of cases is known, compared to 72% globally. However the availability of sex-disaggregated death data is lower than globally; the sex of 69% of deaths is known, compared to 72% globally.

Fig 1. Availability of Sex Data for Cases in Africa and Globally, November 2021

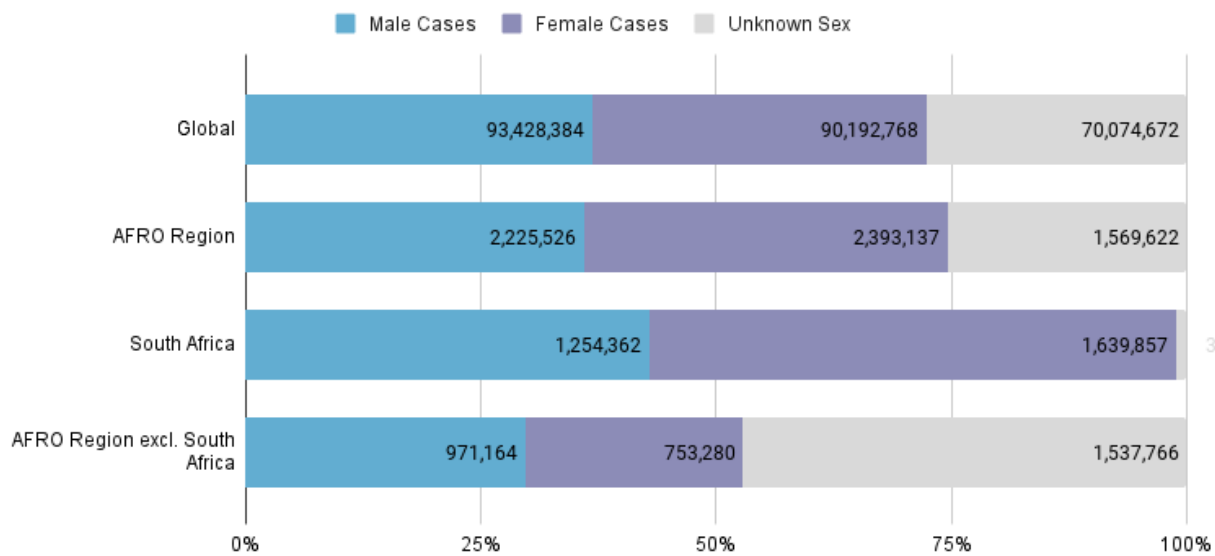
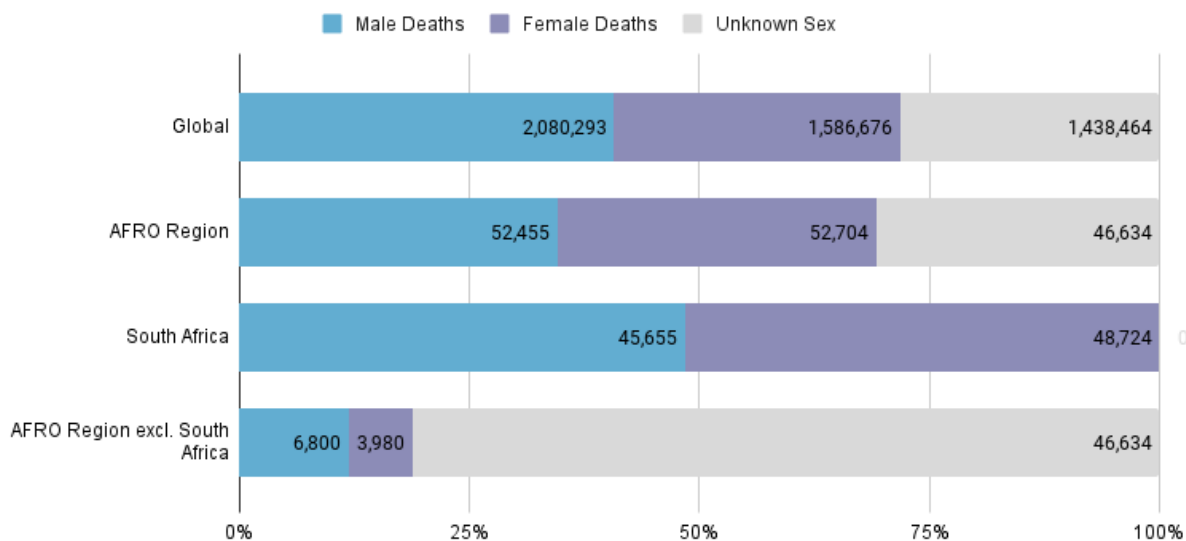


Fig 2. Availability of Sex Data for Deaths in Africa and Globally, November 2021



Data availability along the clinical pathway in the AFRO Region and Globally

The Tracker collects sex-disaggregated data for indicators along the clinical pathway, from vaccinations to testing, cases, hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths. For all variables tracked, a smaller proportion of countries in the AFRO region reported sex-disaggregated data in the past month than globally (Figure 3). In the AFRO region, the most common indicators reported on by countries in the past month are confirmed cases (36%, 17/47) followed by deaths (15%, 7/47). The least common indicators were ICU admissions and cases among healthcare workers, with no countries reporting sex-disaggregated data on these (Figure 3).

Fig 3. Proportion of countries reporting sex-disaggregated data by Indicator in the past month, Globally and for AFRO Region, November 2021

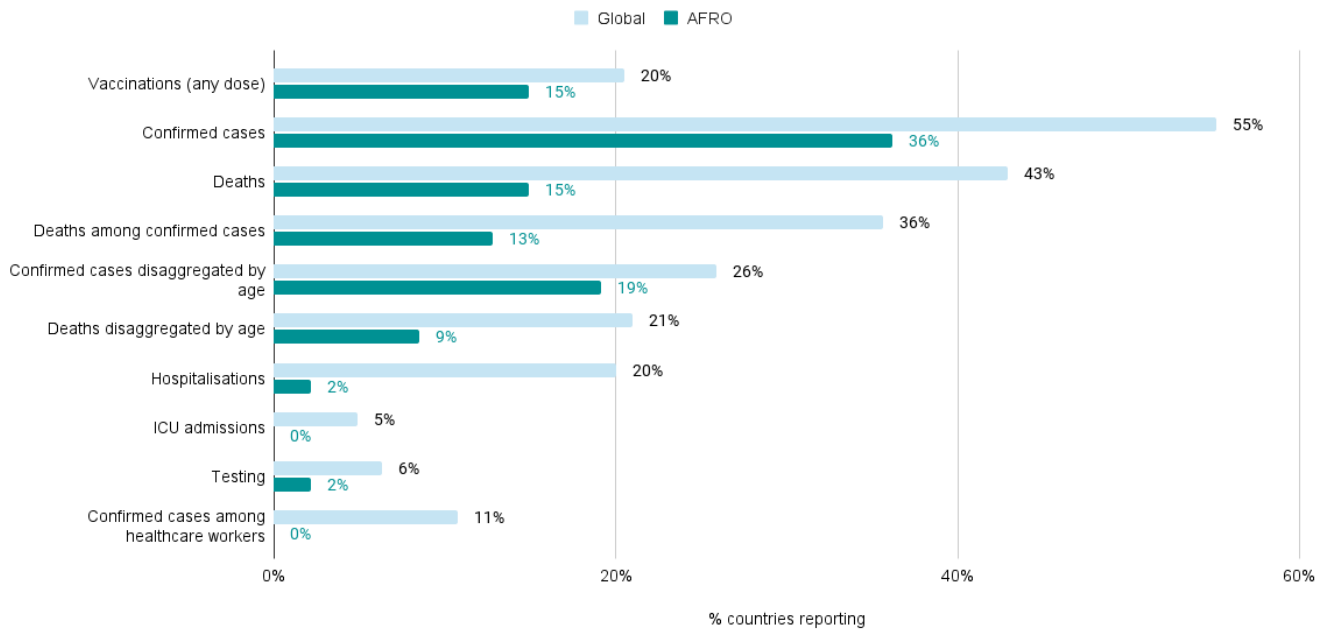
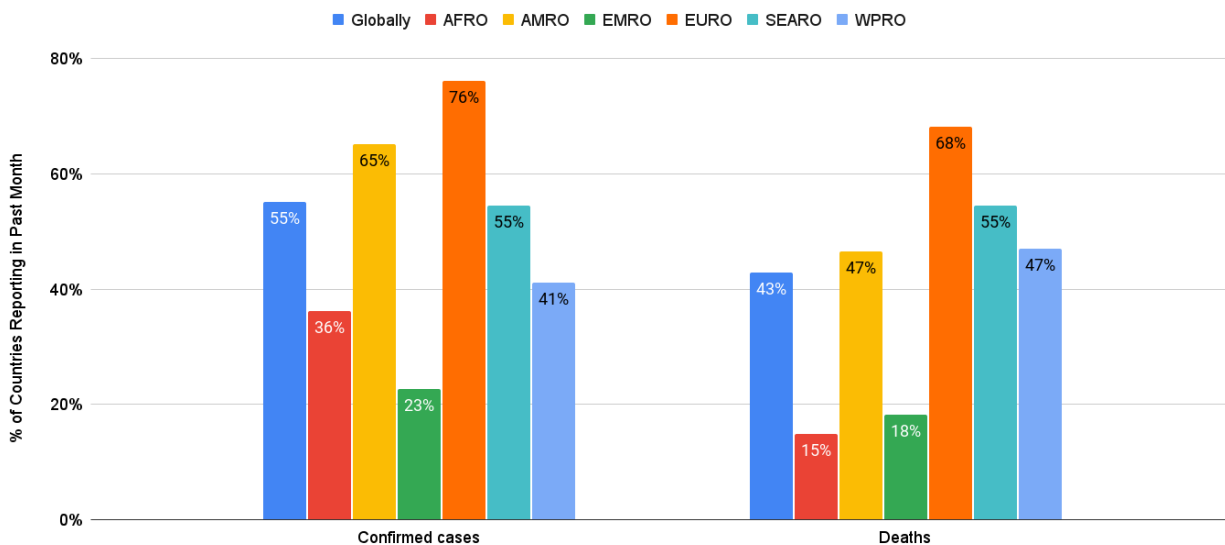


Fig 4. Proportion of countries reporting sex-disaggregated case and death data across WHO regions and globally, November 2021



A look along the Clinical Pathway

Figure 5 shows the percentage male reported along the clinical pathway indicators for the AFRO Region overall, the AFRO region excluding South Africa, and globally. Data across all reporting AFRO countries show that fewer men have been vaccinated and tested than women and make up a smaller share of cases and hospitalisations, but a similar share of deaths. However this picture changes when South Africa is excluded from the analysis, which contributes to half (47%) of all cases and two thirds (62%) of all deaths in the region. In South Africa, men account for a smaller proportion of cases (43%) than women but a similar proportion of deaths (48%).

Regionally, excluding South Africa, men account for 56% of cases and 63% of deaths, much higher than at the global level at 51% and 57%, respectively. Men also account for a larger proportion of testing (74%), hospitalisations (60%) and vaccinations (56%) than globally.

Figure 6 compares the percentage of male outcomes along the clinical pathway indicators all WHO regions.

Fig. 5. Percent of Males Reported for Clinical Pathway Indicators in AFRO Region and Globally, November 2021

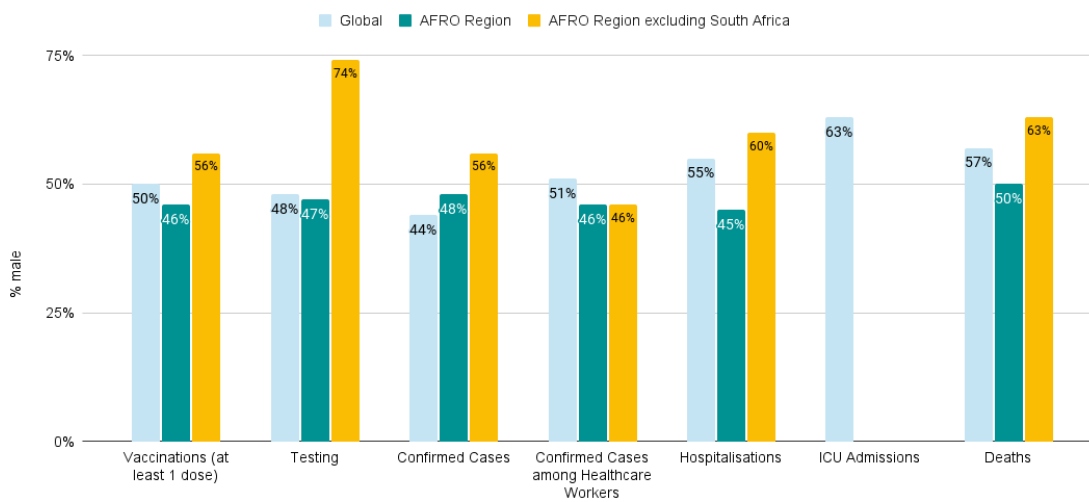
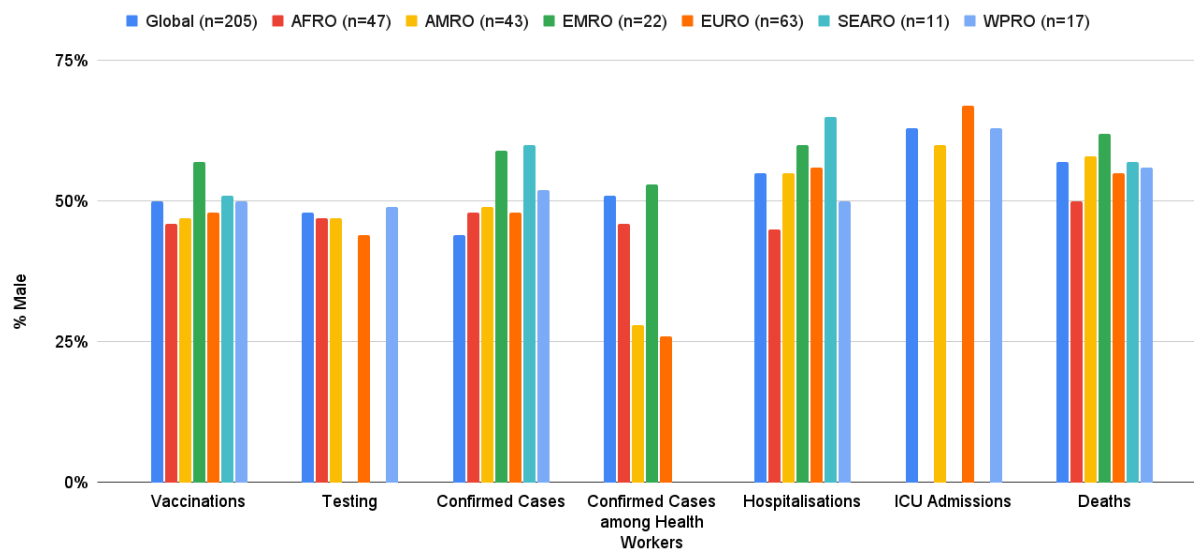


Fig. 6. Percent of Males Reported for Clinical Pathway Indicators by WHO Region, November 2021



About the COVID-19 Sex-Disaggregated Data Tracker

The COVID-19 Sex-Disaggregated Data Tracker is the world's largest database of sex-disaggregated data on COVID-19 health outcomes. The tracker currently collects data from 200+ countries on testing, confirmed cases (including among health workers), hospitalisations, intensive care unit (ICU) admissions, and deaths among women and men. It is also tracking the availability of data disaggregated by other social and demographic characteristics as well as data on pre-existing comorbidities. Data is collected directly from official national sources, including ministry of health websites, national statistics sites, death registers and government social media accounts. The Tracker is updated once a month.

About the Sex, Gender and COVID-19 Project

The Sex, Gender and COVID-19 Project is a partnership of Global Health 50/50, the International Center for Research on Women and the African Population and Health Research Center. Together, these partners are investigating the roles sex and gender are playing in the outbreak, building the evidence base of what works to tackle gender disparities in COVID-19 health outcomes, and advocating for effective gender-responsive approaches to COVID-19.

Learn more about sex, gender and COVID-19 and explore the Sex-Disaggregated Data Tracker here: <https://globalhealth5050.org/the-sex-gender-and-covid-19-project/>

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If you are aware of countries that are reporting data that we have not been able to locate or collect, we would be grateful if you could make us aware by emailing us at info@globalhealth5050.org and sharing a link to where the data can be found.

Engage with us: [@GlobalHlth5050](#) [@APHRC](#) [@ICRW](#)
