

KEY FINDINGS FROM OHSS DATA – 1 OCT 2020 - 31 OCT 2021

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Challenges-business registrations

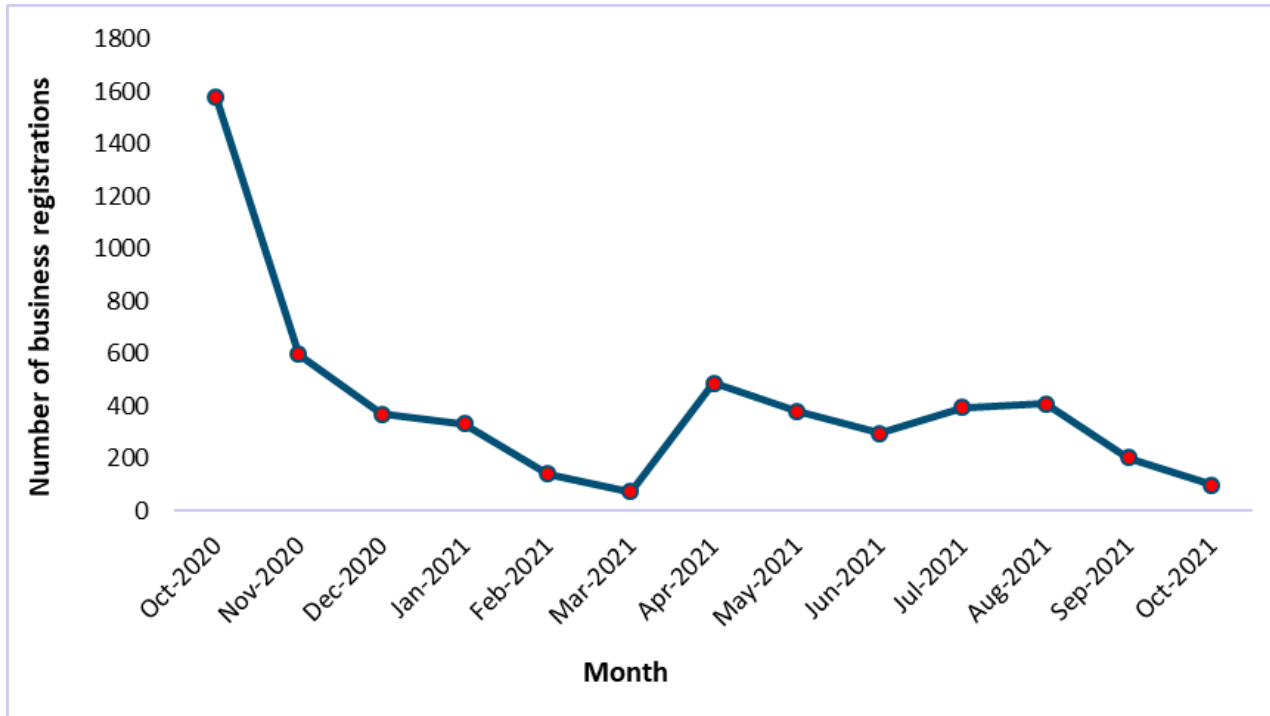


Figure 1: Number of businesses registered on the OHSS platform for the reporting period 1 October 2020- 31 October 2021.

- Businesses were reluctant to register and inconsistent with reporting.
- The Directive from the DOH -legal requirement to submit COVID-19 employee data to NDoH through the NIOH OHSS system.
- DOL submission of data for TERS compensation through the OHSS.
- The DOEL issued legal fee for non-compliance.

Challenges –data reporting

Submission of incorrect data

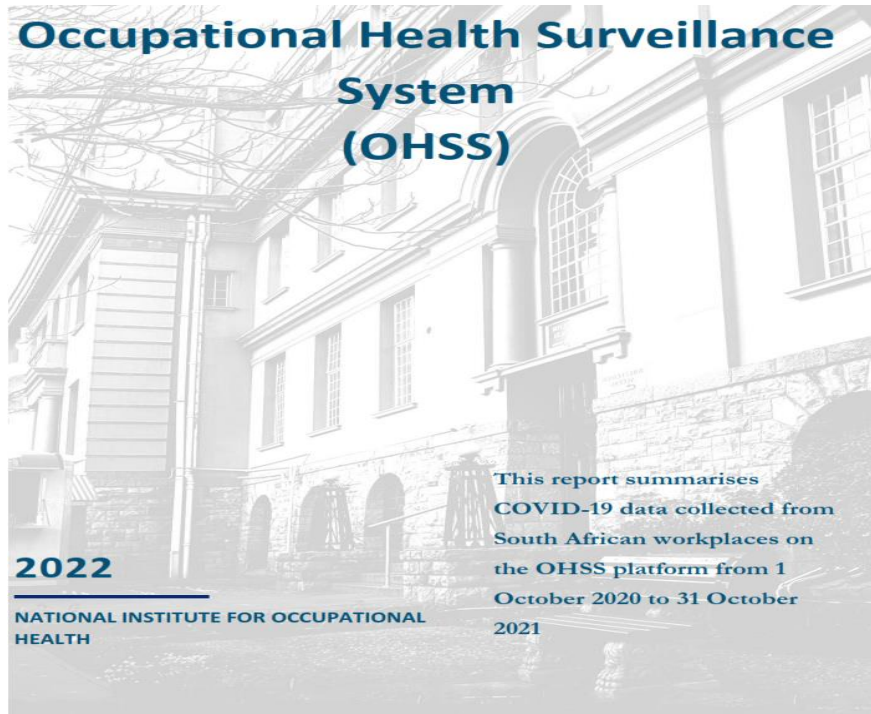
- OHSS is an *active surveillance* whereby businesses submit data to us, we do not collect it ourselves, this then compromised the *data quality due to incorrect submissions and a lot of missing data*. Some *Users are also not consistent with submission of data*.
- Ways to implement *validation of data* on the system from the reporting stage, such as validation checks during data submission -automatically reject data with errors or incorrect information.
- Implementing this required us to build a whole new CSV Upload submission platform to replace the old Nextcloud submission platform.

Difficulty during data submission

- We received a high number of queries relating to how to operate the system and how to submit data.
- Hosted two Webinars in 2021 to fully train all Users on the system.
- Regularly update User Training manuals on OHSS page for better understanding and operate of the system.

Dissemination of OHSS data

- 2021 Bi-Annual Report – Published on the NIOH Website
- 2022 Annual Report – Also now able on the NIOH Website

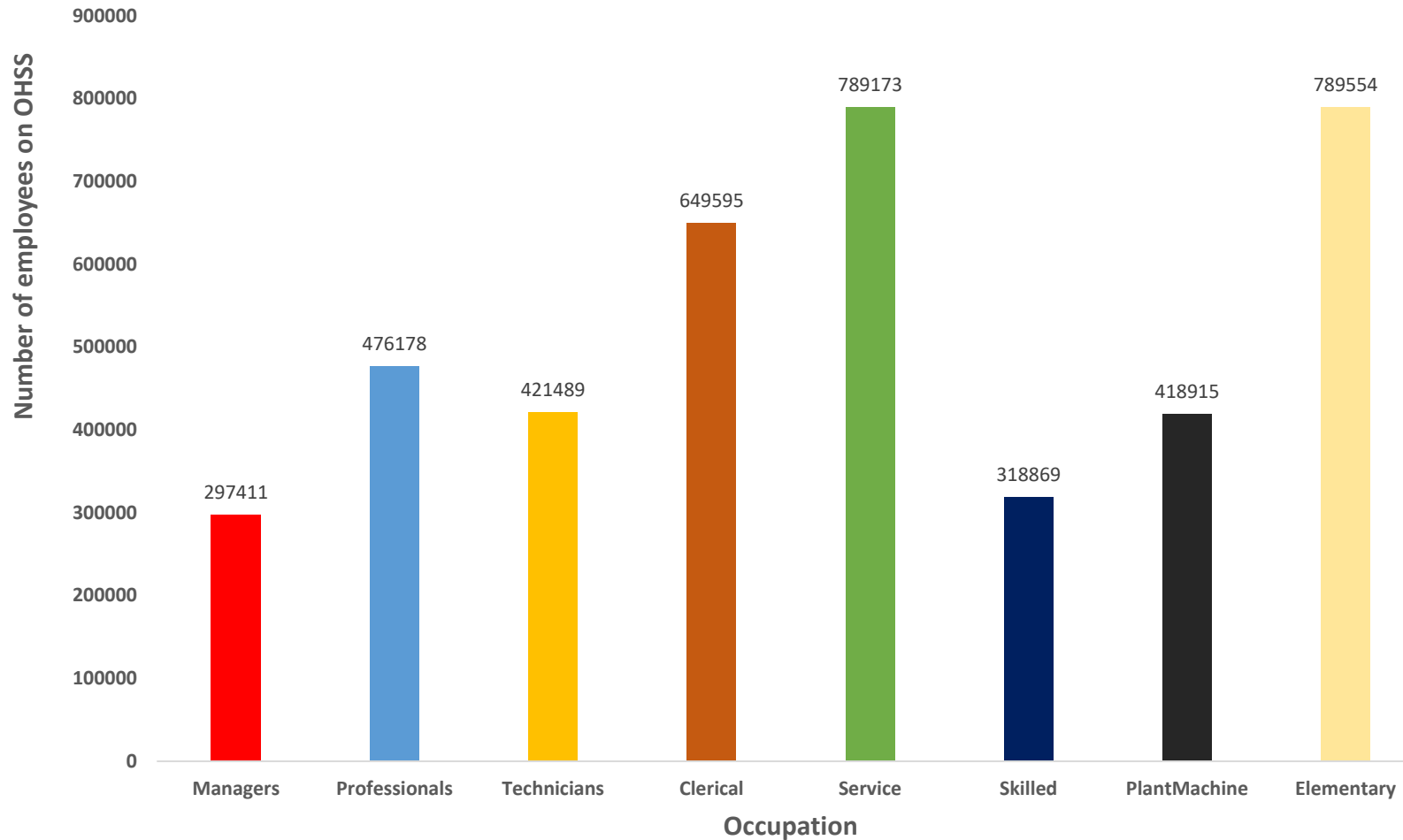


COVID-19 OHSS Annual Report – 1/10/2020 – 31/10/2021

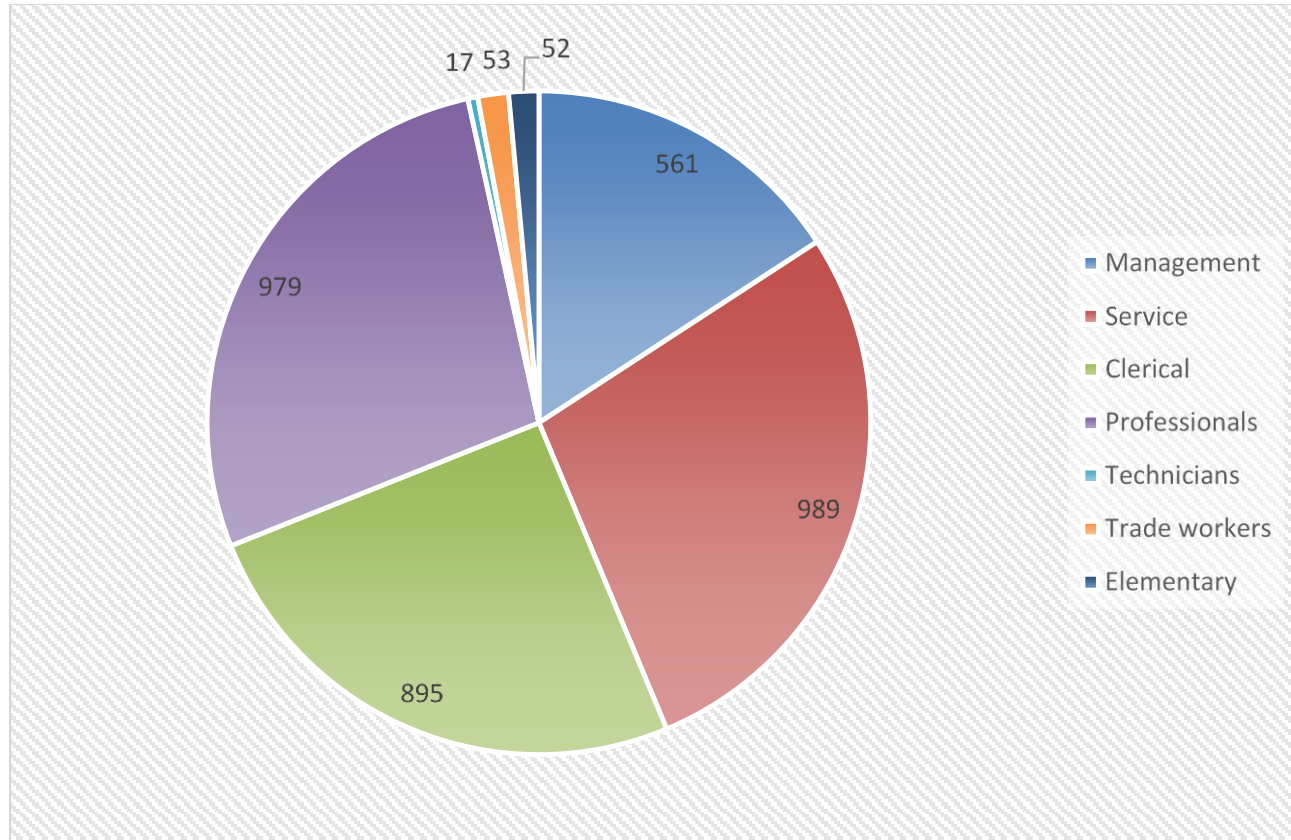
KEY FINDINGS

- In the one-year period, **5 363 companies registered** on the Occupational Health Surveillance System (OHSS), an increase of **2 252 companies since** the last report in March 2021. This represented data of **2,025,675 employees**. The majority of the businesses registered on the OHS platform were **in Gauteng (n=2198 (42.8%))**, followed by **Western Cape (n=1156 (22.5%))** and **Kwa-Zulu Natal (n=760 (14.8%))**.
- Employees in **elementary occupations (cleaners, mining, construction manufacturing, transportation, agriculture, forestry and fishery) (20%)** comprised the largest proportion of jobs registered followed by **sales and service workers (18%)** and **clerical and support workers (16%)**.
- A total of **4403 (0.2%) COVID-19 positive** cases were reported on the OHSS platform in this period.
- **Service workers (989/3724 (27%))**, **professionals (979/3724 (26%))** and **clerical and support workers (895/3724 (24%))** were the common occupational groups reporting COVID-19 positive cases.
- Reflecting the provincial distribution in registration, majority of **COVID-19 positive cases (2579 (59%))** were reported in three provinces, with the **highest number reported from Gauteng (1494/3657 (41%))**; **Western Cape (639/3657; 17%)** and **Kwa-Zulu Natal (446/3657 (12%))**.

Number of employees per occupational group registered on the OHSS platform



COVID-19 cases by job category



Service workers (989/3724; 27%), Professionals (979/3724; 26%) and clerical and support workers (895/3724; 24%) were the most common occupational group reporting COVID-19 positive cases.

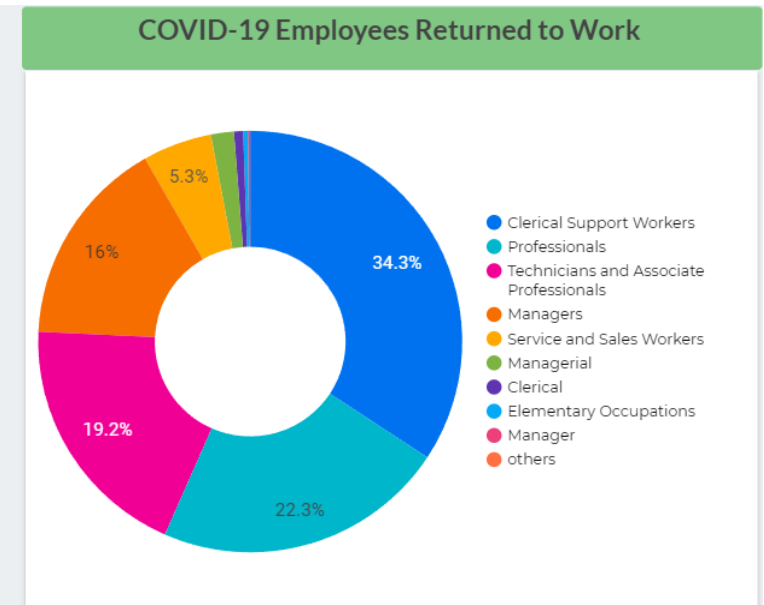
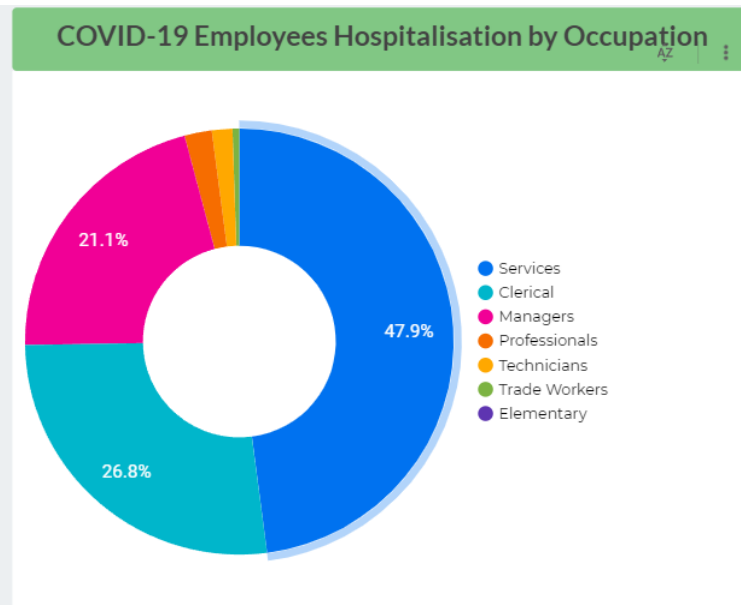
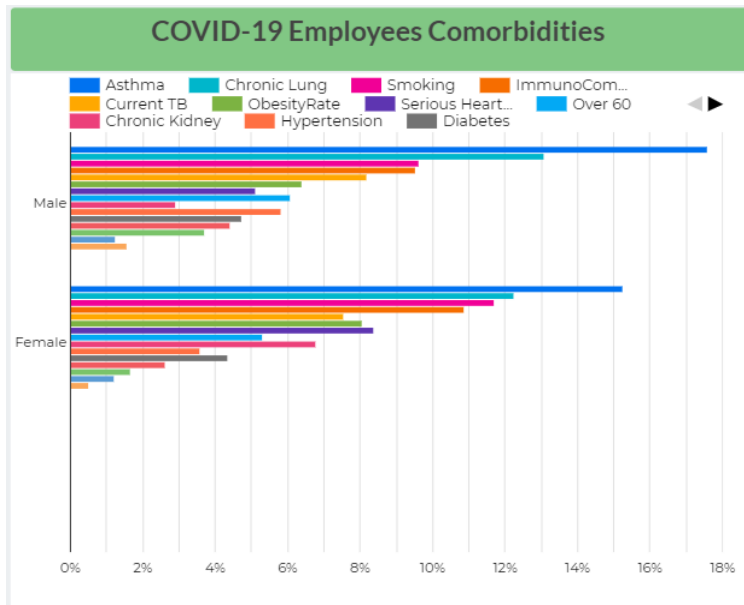
Figure 3: Number of COVID-19 positive cases reported on the OHSS in different job categories.

Snapshot of indicators investigated

- COVID-19 cases per industry (private and public), job category, sex and age-monthly , annual reports
- Identification of **high-risk employees** (sex, age-group and co-morbidity)
- Identification of **high-risk areas** (province, municipality/district based on business address data)
- Identification of **high-risk industries and occupations**

OHSS Live Dashboard

- The system has an online dashboard which is accessible on the OHSS webpage, this dashboard showcase and updates the analysis of data collected. This data is presented in real-time.
- Everyone including businesses have access to this dashboard and can be accessed anytime on the webpage.
- This dashboard gives cumulative reports of the analysis done on the data submitted.



Conclusions

- It was a challenge to get workplaces to comply with the Department of Employment and Labor OHS directive in registering the companies and submitting COVID-19 data- the OHSS as a COVID-19 surveillance system was able to provide insight into the COVID-19 infection spectrum in South African workplaces.
- *Service workers, professionals and clerical and support workers* were common occupational groups reporting COVID-19 positive cases. These occupations may be prone to higher transmission of infection due to the nature of their work that required close interaction with others.
- With the collected data, we were not able to determine the impact of COVID-19 on the various industrial sectors due to poor registration and data submission by workplaces during the 13-month reporting period.

Thank you for listening...



COVID-19

COVID-19 Workplace Preparedness & Prevention
HEALTHY, SAFE & SUSTAINABLE WORKPLACES

Workplace Hotline: 0800 2121 75

Occupational Health Surveillance System [OHSS]
General queries for data submission:
0723215503 | 0713981169 | OHSWorkplace@nioh.ac.za
OPERATING HOURS for the OHSS hotline: Mon-Fri: 08h00 - 17h00, Sundays and public holidays: Closed.

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