

29 June 2020

Ms S. Jimoh
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By email: sinenhlanhlaj@nicd.ac.za

Dear Ms Jimoh

CORRECTIVE ACTION: DISCREPANCIES IN WEEK 25 COVID-19 WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGY BRIEF

AfriForum is a civil rights organisation with more than 247 000 individual members. The AfriForum Research Institute (ANI) uses the *COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiology Brief* released by the NICD for analysis and to keep our members and the public in general informed and calm. However, when comparing the briefs of week 24 (ending 13 June) and week 25 (ending 20 June), we identified discrepancies that require your urgent correction.

Total number of cases

When comparing the total number of cases for week 24 and week 25, it is evident that there is a decrease in the total number of cases for the age group 55–59 (kindly see the numbers highlighted in red in Table 1.) This is impossible, as the total number of people infected with COVID-19 cannot decrease over time.

Table 1: Cases per age group

Age	Cases week24	Cases week25
0-4	928	1 253
5-9	876	1 787
10-14	1 220	2 544
15-19	1 749	6 041
20-24	4 601	11 242
25-29	8 404	13 219
30-34	9 694	13 164
35-39	9 547	11 082
40-44	7 985	9 794
45-49	6 953	8 227
50-54	5 765	6 495
55-59	4 479	1 246
60-64	2 814	4 017
65-69	1 743	2 453
70-74	1 123	1 606
75-79	739	1 073
80+	1 083	1 516
Unknown	335	543
Total	70 038	97 302

New cases

When calculating the new cases for week 25 (based on the numbers provided in the reports), it does not add up to the same number of new cases as indicated in the week 25 report. For the age groups between 5 and 29 years, the reported new cases are less than the calculated cases. On the other hand, the reported new cases are more than the calculated for the age groups between 30 and 59 years old. There are no differences for the age groups 0–4 and 60+ years old. Kindly refer to

Table 2.

Table 2: New cases

Age	New Cases Report	New Cases Calculated	New cases error
0-4	325	325	0
5-9	370	911	-541
10-14	567	1 324	-757
15-19	795	4 292	-3 497
20-24	1 440	6 641	-5 201
25-29	2 838	4 815	-1 977
30-34	3 525	3 470	55
35-39	3 617	1 535	2 082
40-44	3 097	1 809	1 288
45-49	2 841	1 274	1 567
50-54	2 462	730	1 732
55-59	2 016	-3 233	5 249
60-64	1 203	1 203	0
65-69	710	710	0
70-74	483	483	0
75-79	334	334	0
80+	433	433	0
Unknown	208	208	0
Total	27 264	27 264	0

Percentage of new cases

When comparing the reported percentage new cases with the calculated percentages, the discrepancies are similar to those of the new cases described above. Kindly see Table 3.

Table 3: Percentage new cases

Age	% New Cases Report	% New Cases Calculated	Error in % new cases
0-4	1.2%	1.2%	0.0%
5-9	1.4%	3.3%	-2.0%
10-14	2.1%	4.9%	-2.8%
15-19	2.9%	15.7%	-12.8%
20-24	5.3%	24.4%	-19.1%
25-29	10.4%	17.7%	-7.3%
30-34	12.9%	12.7%	0.2%
35-39	13.3%	5.6%	7.6%
40-44	11.4%	6.6%	4.7%
45-49	10.4%	4.7%	5.7%
50-54	9.0%	2.7%	6.4%
55-59	7.4%	-11.9%	19.3%
60-64	4.4%	4.4%	0.0%
65-69	2.6%	2.6%	0.0%
70-74	1.8%	1.8%	0.0%
75-79	1.2%	1.2%	0.0%
80+	1.6%	1.6%	0.0%
Unknown	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%

The ANI did not evaluate the rest of the report and can therefore not comment on the correctness thereof.

We therefore request that –

1. The week 25 report be withdrawn, and a notice published of the withdrawal;
2. That all discrepancies in the report be identified and corrected, and the report republished;
3. The cause of the discrepancies be identified, and steps taken to prevent a reoccurrence of such an error; and
4. AfriForum be informed of the cause of the discrepancies and the preventative steps taken.

Your urgent attention in this regard is appreciated.

Kind regards

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