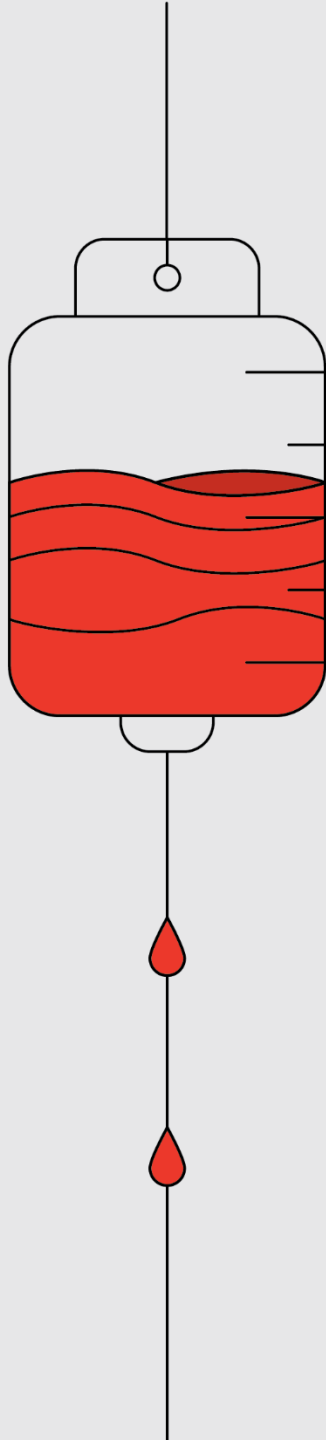




**36th South African
NATIONAL BLOOD
Transfusion Congress**

22 – 25 August 2022 - Durban

SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



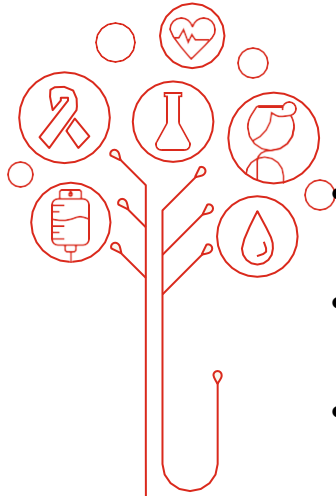
Blood Collection & Donor Recruitment during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Mpumalanga Zone

Presenter:

Msimelelo Lose

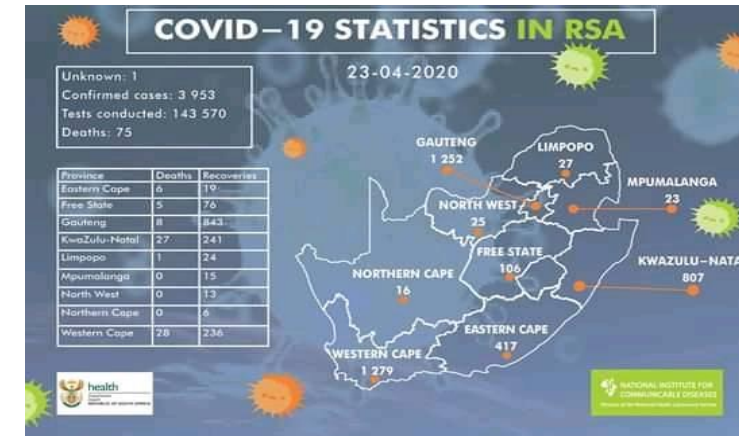
Donor Recruiter- Middelburg Mpumalanga

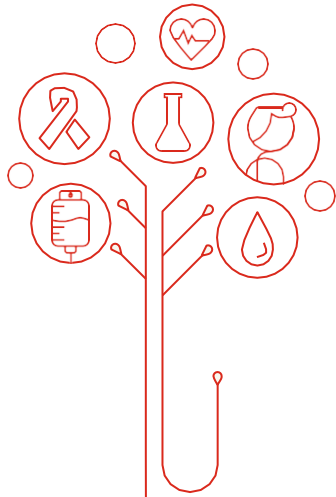




BACKGROUND

- On 23 March 2020, the South African government declared a National State of Disaster and announced a National Lockdown
- This resulted in suspension of all non-essential services, with COVID-19 regulations and restriction being introduced
- This impacted the operations of the blood service, affecting our ability to collect blood
- Mobile clinics had to be cancelled, affecting the forecasted blood collections
- Blood drive had to adhere to COVID-19 regulations (e.g. social distancing, wearing of PPE by staff, screening of donors and regular sanitizing of stations) while managing staff shortages due to sick staff and loss of donors due to Covid
- Many regular donors who were still healthy at time were still able to come in and donate as they were home due to national lockdown





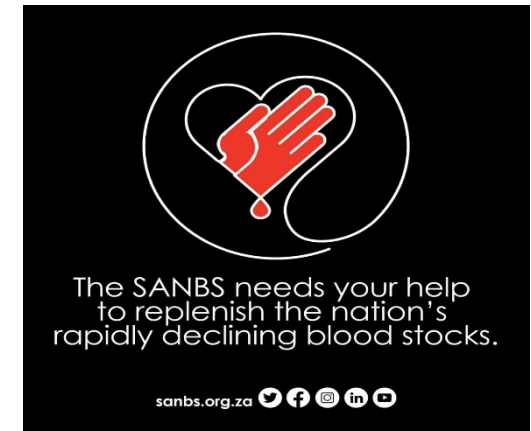
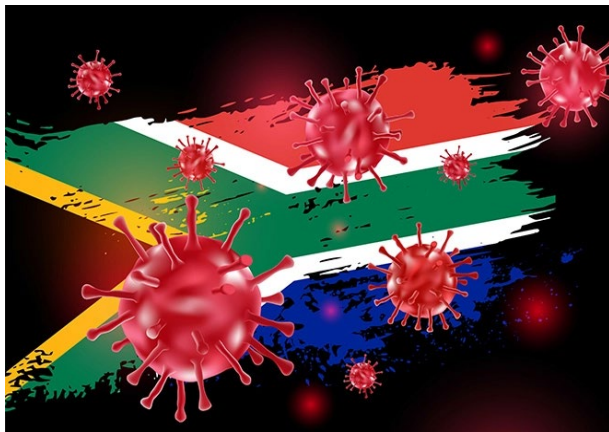
BACKGROUND CONTINUED.....

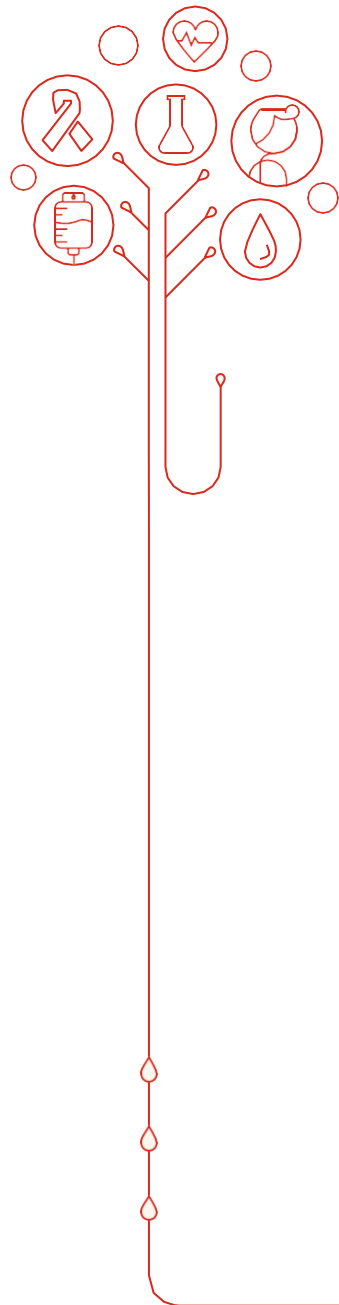
- SANBS was fortunately able to recruit an increasing number of lapsed donors
- Staff shortages became a factor affecting operations
- Donor Services staff are mostly frontline workers in contact with people most of the day, putting them at risk of contracting the virus
- Staff who contracted Covid-19 or were close contacts had to go into quarantine
- Despite this, SANBS still needed to collect blood daily to meet the demands from hospitals and reach operational targets



METHODS

- This research took a Cross-sectional design using historical data from SANBS business intelligence (BI) systems, Meditech and yearly business plans
- The Aim was to establish if there was a significant difference in whole blood collections in the Mpumalanga Zone before (01 April 2019 – 30 March 2020) and during the Covid-19 pandemic (01 April 2020 – 30 March 2021) by different donor demographics
 - Age Group
 - Donor Gender
 - Donor Types
 - Deferrals

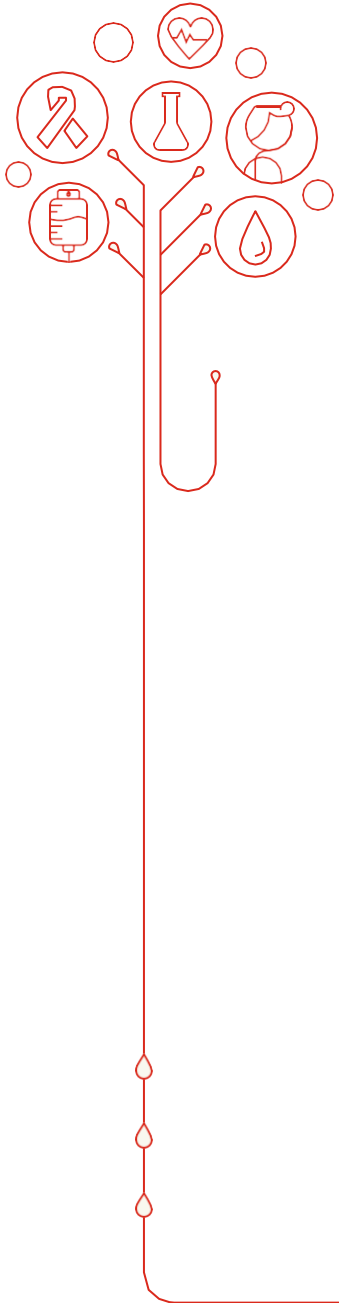




Results

- The Mpumalanga zone managed collect over 100% of target for both fiscal years (2019-2020 & 2020-2021).
- There was a drop in donations for age groups 19-25 and an increase in age group 26-80 in the 2020 fiscal year.
- Deferrals dropped by 6% between the two financial years (2019-2020 & 2020-2021), while an increase in repeat donors was seen with a decrease in new donors.
- Lapsed donors remained the same during the two years.

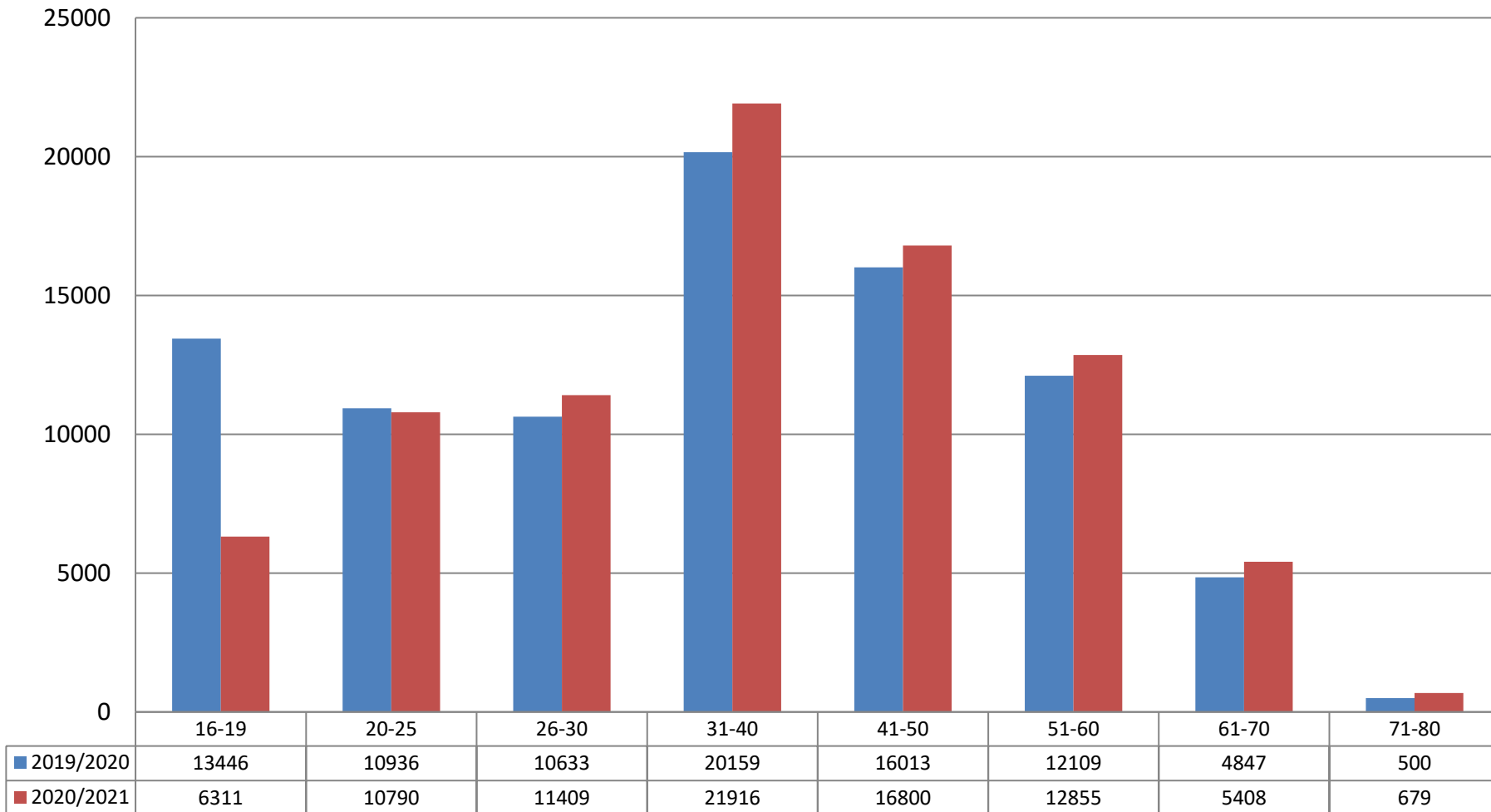


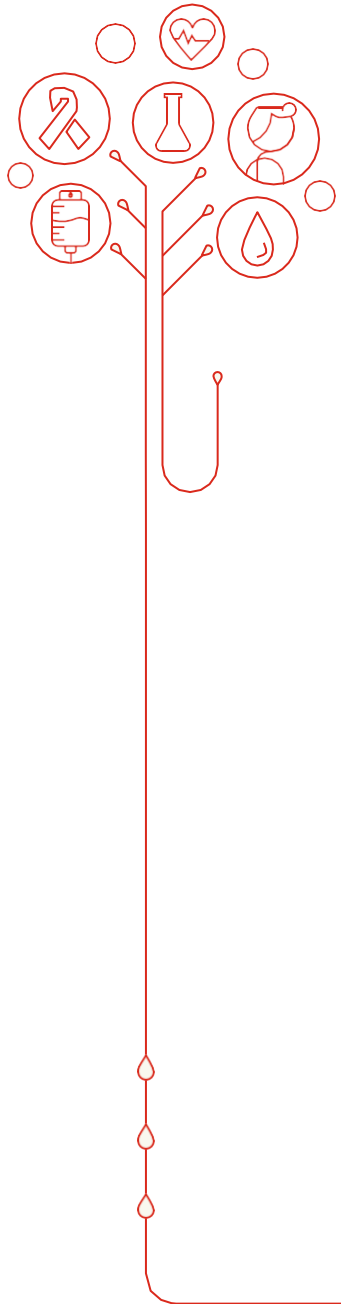


RESULTS



Whole blood collections by Age Group

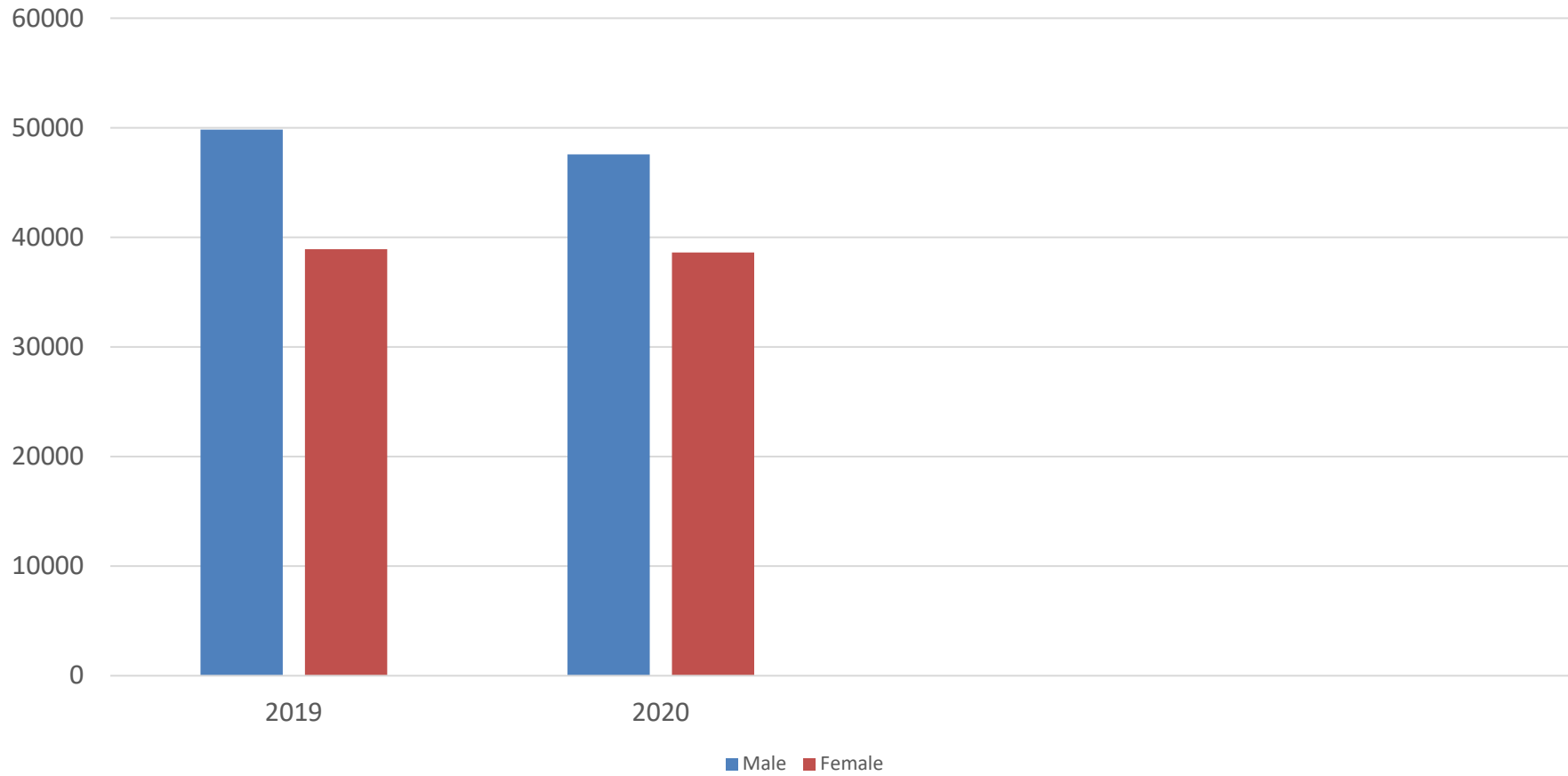


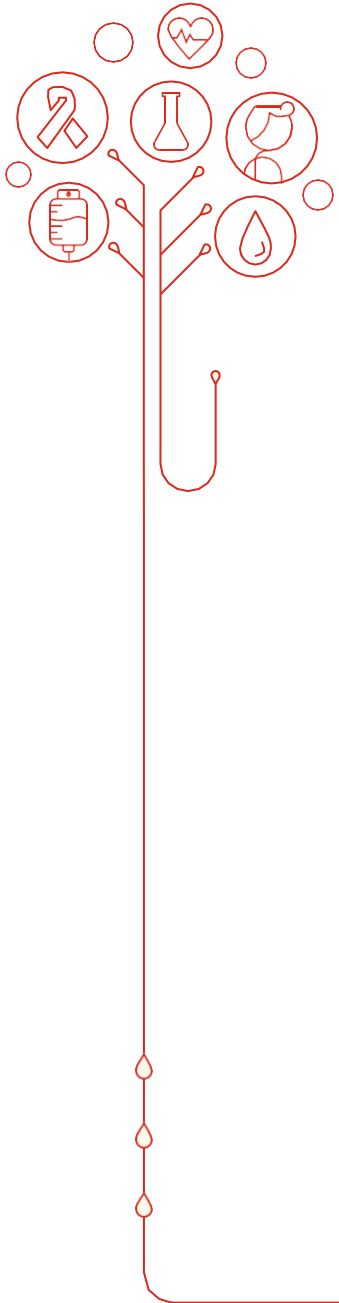


RESULTS



Whole blood collections by Gender

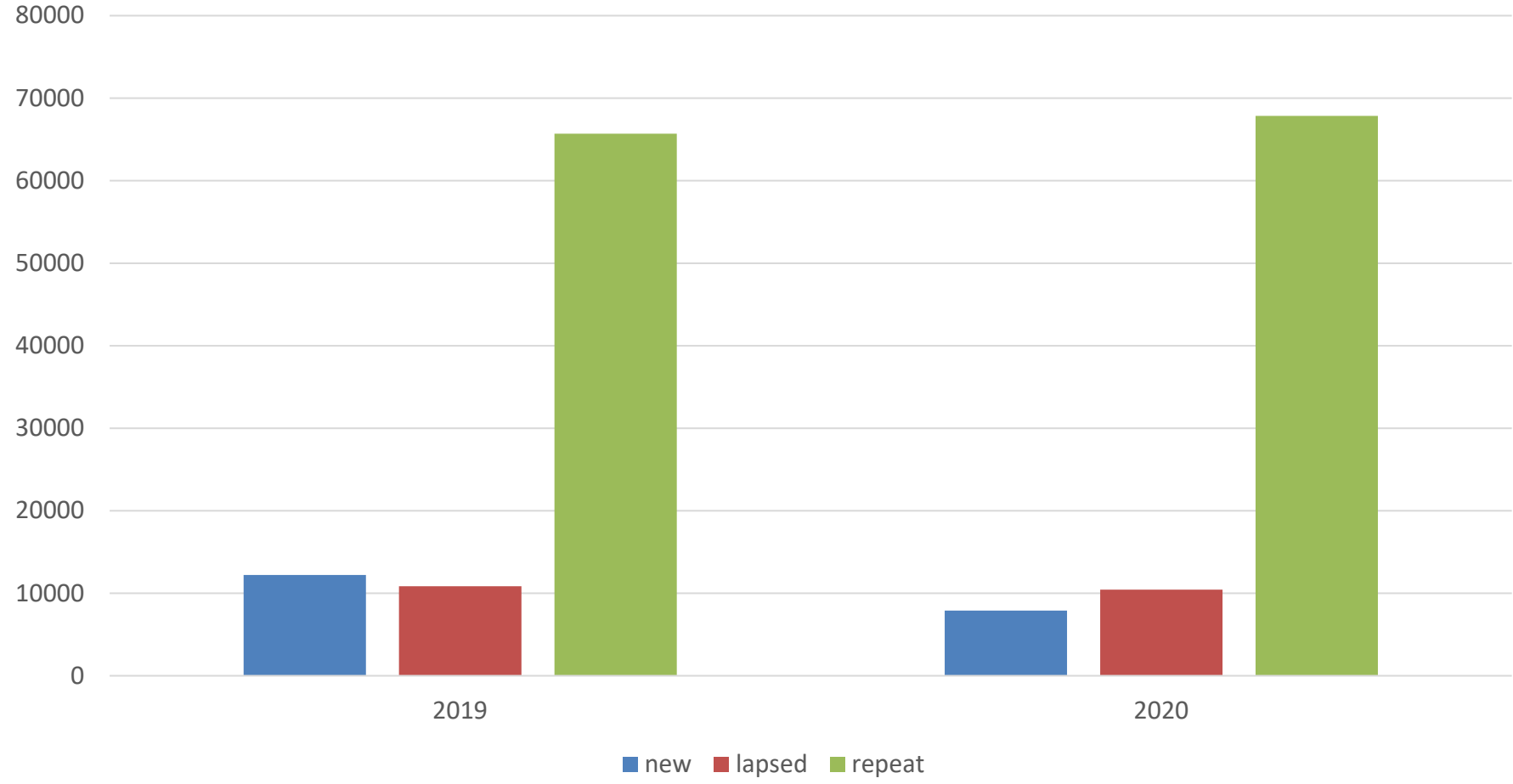




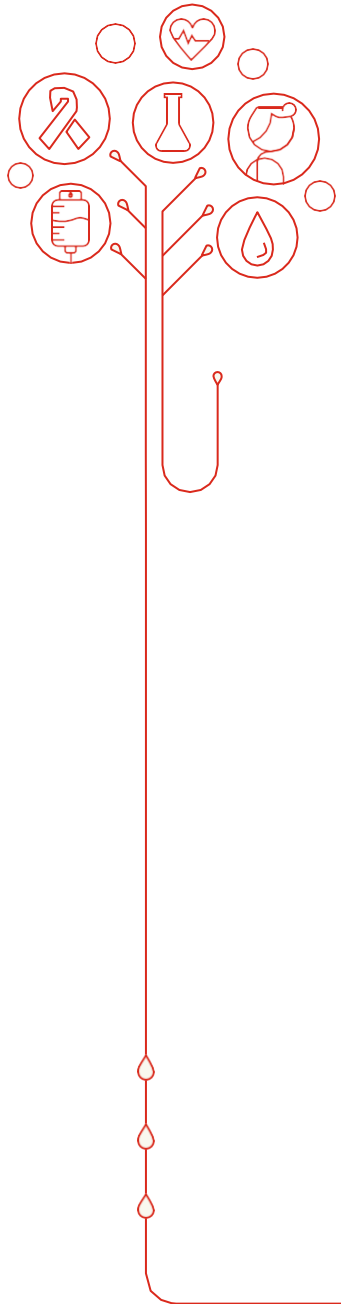
RESULTS



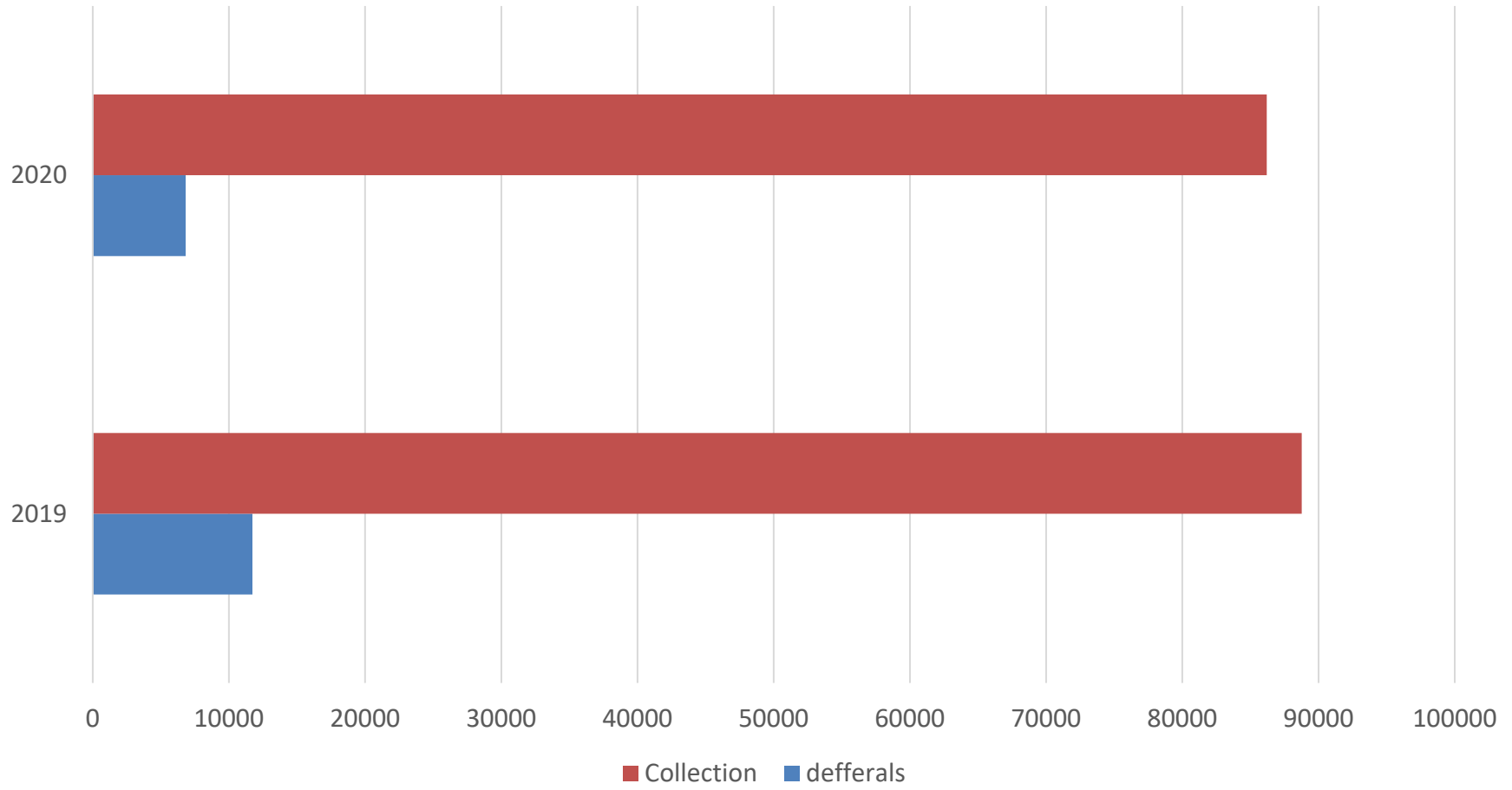
Whole blood collections by Donor Type



RESULTS



Deferrals

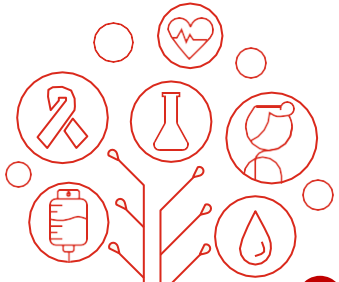




DISCUSSION

- Blood Collection targets during both fiscal years were met by the Mpumalanga zone (110% & 126% respectively) with adjustment made due to the pandemic
- Introduction of the COVID-19 screening form has helped reduce deferrals as compared to pre COVID-19 pandemic
- The increase in repeat donors showed their commitment and reliability in saving lives
- The decrease in the number of new donors presenting could be due to lack of access, awareness, education, fear and restrictions during lockdown





CONCLUSION

- SANBS and the donors adapted well to the new 'normal'
- Donor recruitment plans & marketing strategies, ensured that the country's need for blood or blood products were met



Thank you