

## **Early Impacts of Covid-19 and Government's Intervention and Prevention Actions in South Africa**

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**ABSTRACT** This paper examines the early impacts of Covid-19 and policy response in South Africa. The study employed a scoping meta review of existing literature on the impacts of the pandemic. Current literature on the epidemiology, vulnerability and preparedness as well as socio-economic impacts of Covid-19 and policy response was collected and summarised. The findings reveal that South Africa was affected and the viral incidence was highest in Cape Town. The pandemic affected social interaction and economic activities through lockdown and social distancing policies. There was a reduction in gang violence and alcohol related deaths. Large social relief applications showed how poor households are vulnerable to external shocks. The loopholes in the health care system were also exposed. Corporate financial and operating activities were affected leading to retrenchments or temporary lay-offs. Measures to strengthen health care systems, value chains and social protection as well as build economic resilience must be adopted.