



Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland

Report prepared by HPSC on 17/12/2020 for National Public Health Emergency Team

Summary characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland up to midnight 15/12/2020

	Number	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases	77,193	
National cumulative incidence of confirmed cases per 100,000 population	1,621.07	
Total number of cases hospitalised	5,516	7.15
Total number of cases admitted to ICU	653	0.85
Total number of deaths among confirmed cases	1,883	2.44
Case fatality ratio (CFR, %)	2.44	
National cumulative incidence of confirmed deaths per 100,000 population	39.54	
Total number of outbreaks/clusters	10,245	
Total number of cases associated with clusters	42,883	55.55
Total number of imported cases	688	0.89
Number of cases in healthcare workers	12,644	16.38
Males	36,384	47.13
Females	40,770	52.82
M:F ratio	0.89	
Median age (years)	39	
Mean age (years)	41	
Age range (years)	0 - 108	

Note: Data were extracted from Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system at 09:28 on 17/12/2020 and are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.

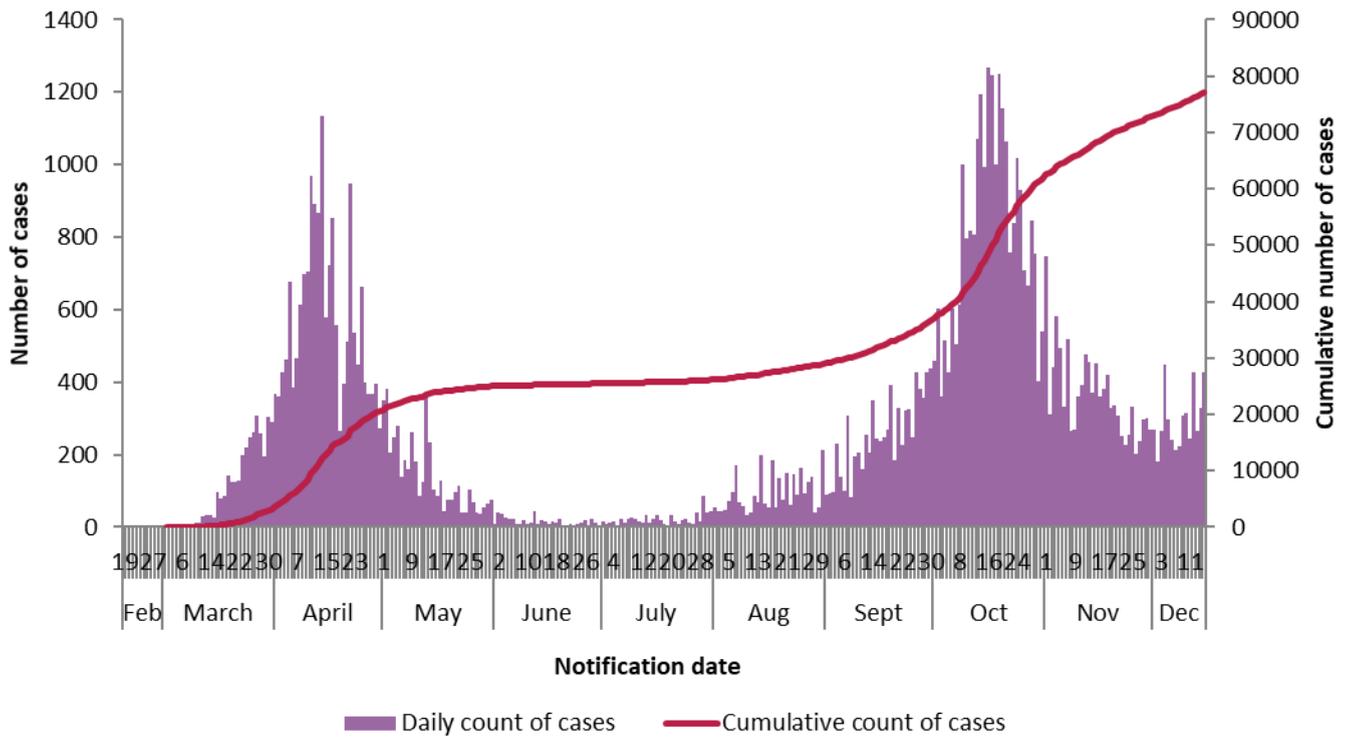


Figure 1a: Number* and cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland by notification date* to midnight 15/12/2020

*Between 05/04/2020 – 19/04/2020, the daily number of COVID-19 events notified in Ireland is inflated due to batch reporting of cases with specimen dates between from 19/03/2020 – 01/04/2020 in addition to real-time reporting of cases with contemporaneous specimen dates

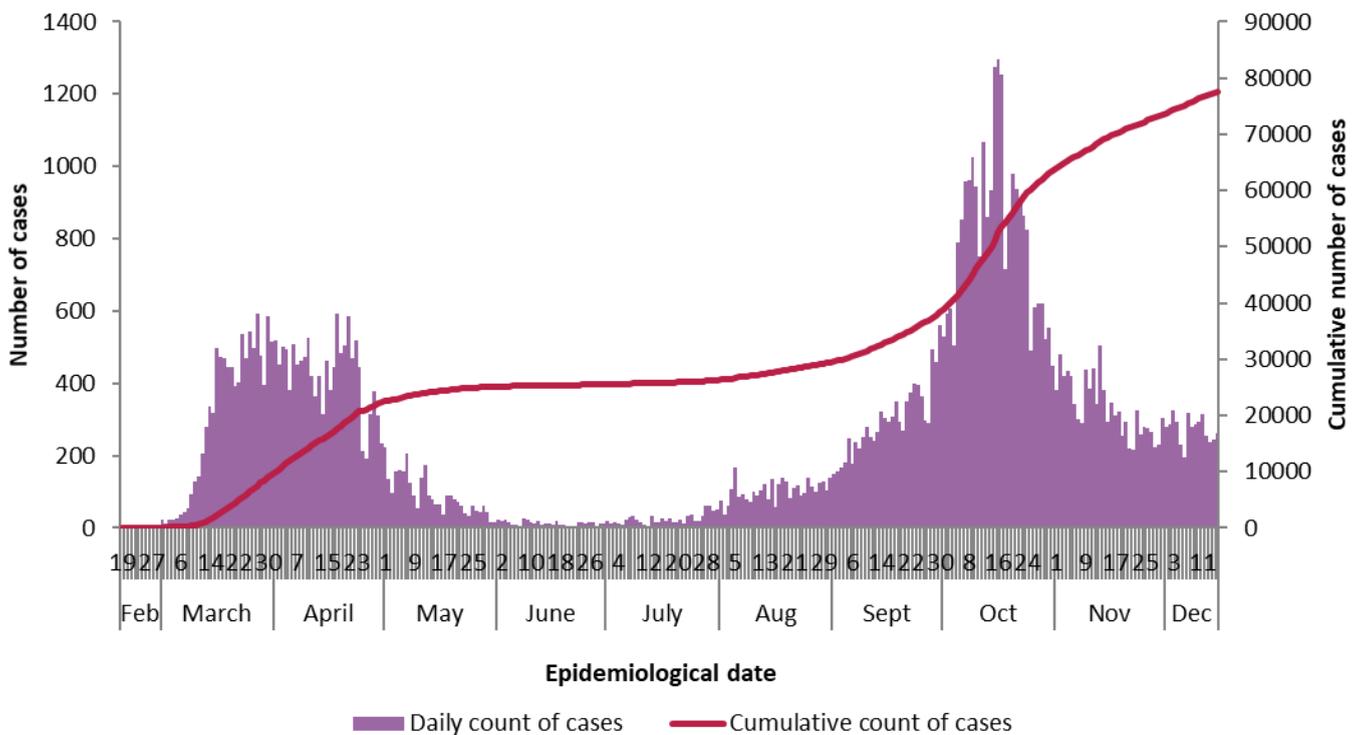


Figure 1b: Number and cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland by epidemiological date to midnight 15/12/2020**

**Epidemiological date is derived from epidemiological date, which is the earliest of onset date, date of diagnosis, laboratory specimen collection date, laboratory received date, laboratory reported date, event creation/notification date.

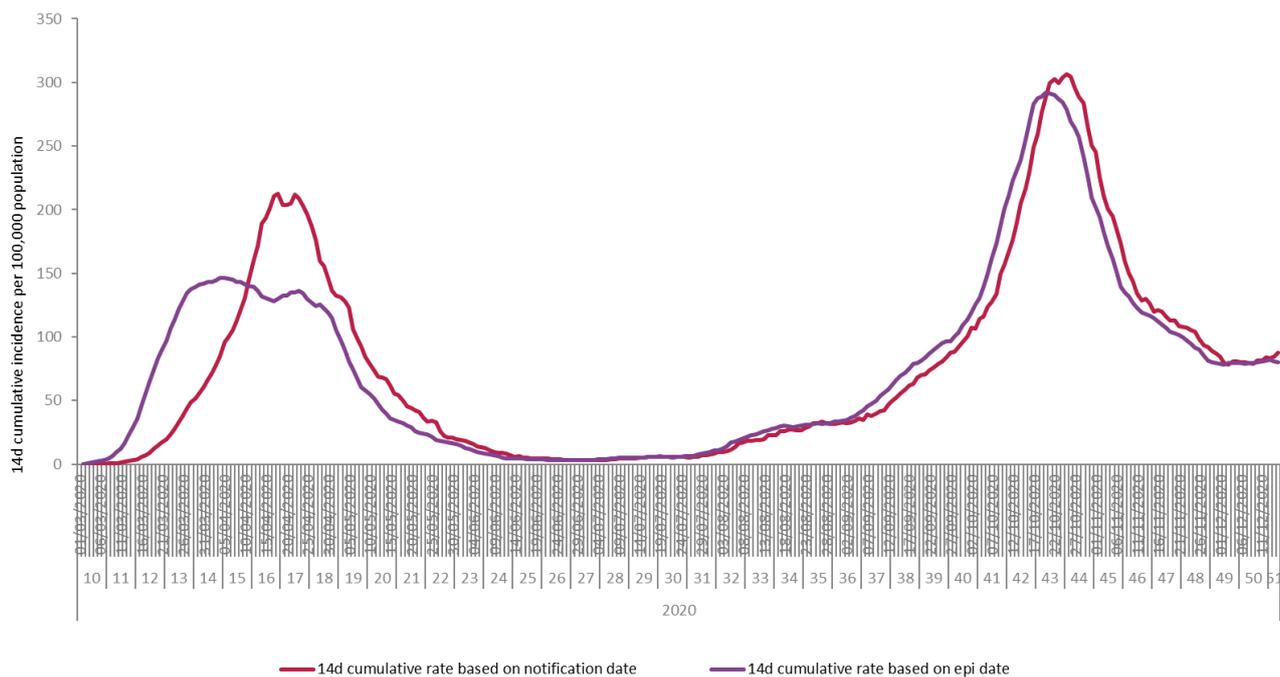


Figure 2: Cumulative 14 day incidence rate of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population notified in Ireland by notification* and epidemiological date to midnight 15/12/2020**

* Between 05/04/2020 – 19/04/2020, the daily number of COVID-19 events notified in Ireland is inflated due to batch reporting of cases with specimen dates between from 19/03/2020 – 01/04/2020 in addition to real-time reporting of cases with contemporaneous specimen dates

**Epidemiological date is derived from epidemiological date, which is the earliest of onset date, date of diagnosis, laboratory specimen collection date, laboratory received date, laboratory reported date, event creation/notification date.

Table 1: Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland up to midnight on 15/12/2020

Characteristic		Number of cases	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases		77,193	100
Sex	Male:Female ratio	0.89	
	Male	36,384	47.13
	Female	40,770	52.82
	Unknown	39	0.05
Age	Median age (years)	39	
	Mean age (years)	41	
	Age range (years)	0 - 108	
	0-4 yrs	2,064	2.67
	5-14 yrs	5,196	6.73
	15-24 yrs	13,410	17.37
	25-34 yrs	12,943	16.77
	35-44 yrs	12,126	15.71
	45-54 yrs	11,633	15.07
	55-64 yrs	8,206	10.63
	65-74 yrs	4,396	5.69
	75-84 yrs	3,852	4.99
	85+ yrs	3,339	4.33
	Unknown	28	0.04

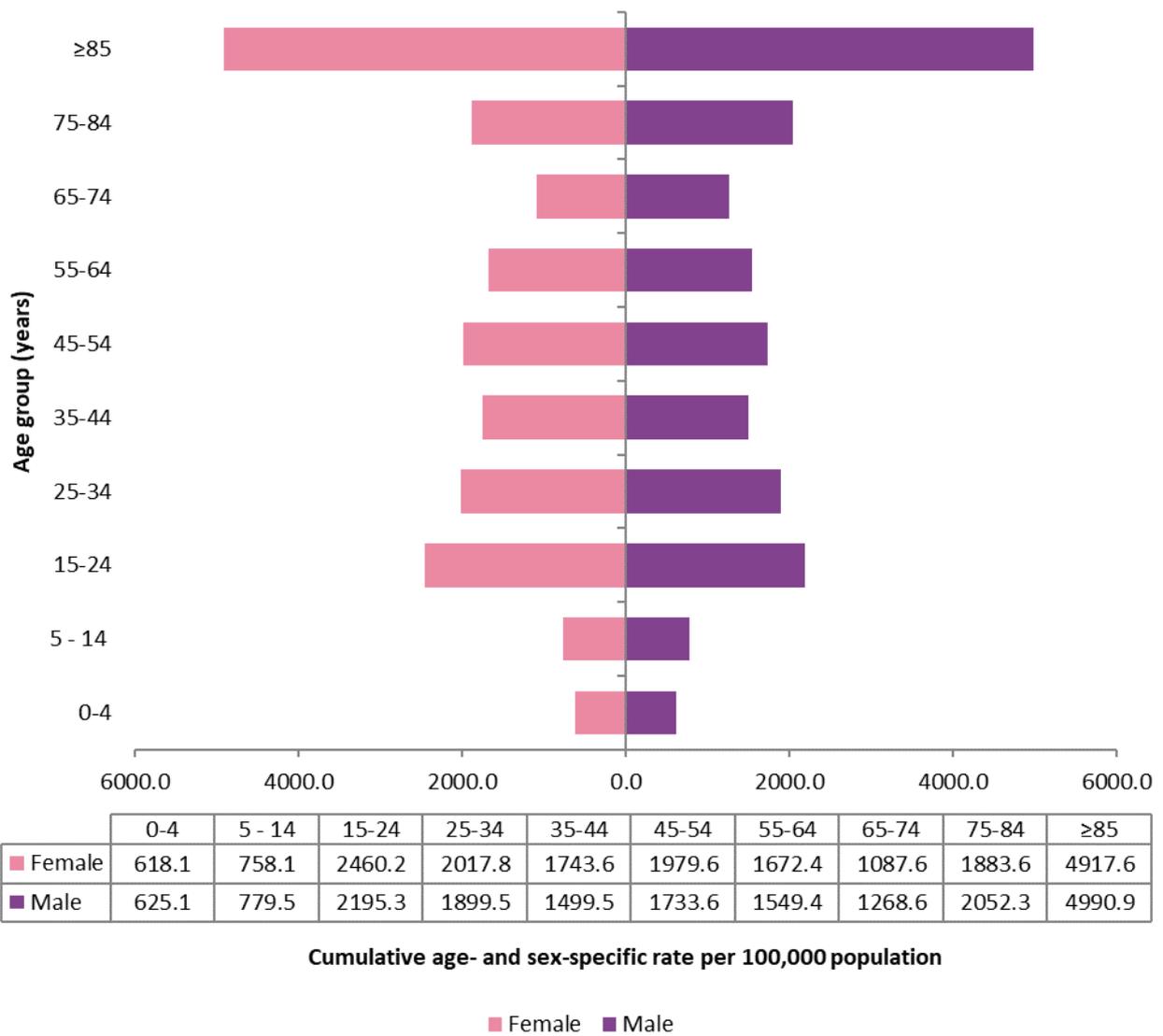


Figure 3: Cumulative age- and sex-specific incidence rates of confirmed cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population notified in Ireland to midnight 15/12/2020 (excluding 27 cases for whom age is unknown, 38 cases for whom sex is unknown and 1 case for whom both are unknown)

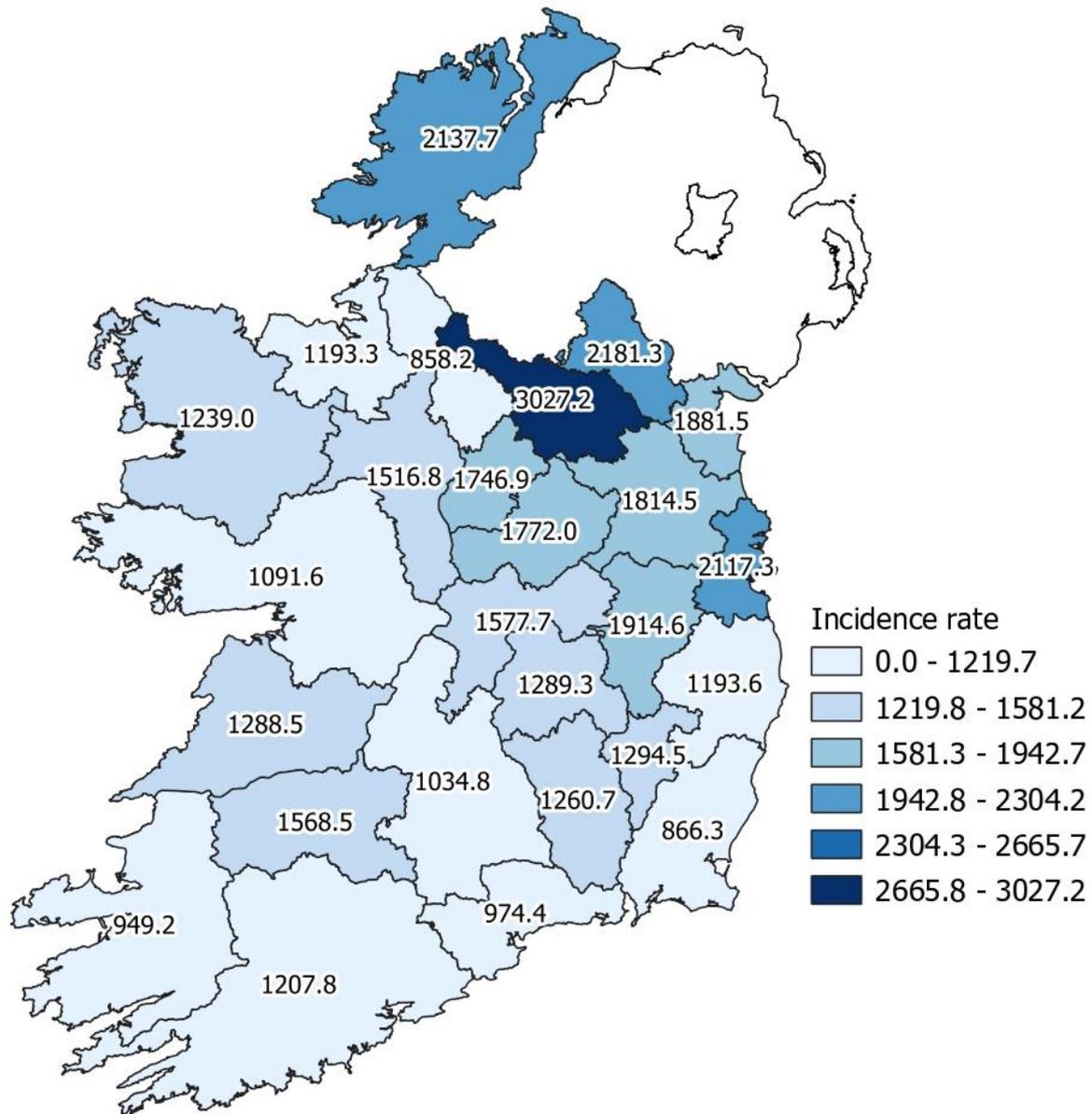


Figure 4: Cumulative incidence rates of confirmed cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population notified in Ireland to midnight 15/12/2020

Please do not directly compare county shades to previous maps. The numbers of cases by county are increasing and as such the categories listed will broaden which may result in changes to the map shading.

Table 2: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by county notified to midnight 15/12/2020

County Name	Number of cases	Percent
Carlow	737	0.95
Cavan	2,306	2.99
Clare	1,531	1.98
Cork	6,557	8.49
Donegal	3,403	4.41
Dublin	28,527	36.96
Galway	2,817	3.65
Kerry	1,402	1.82
Kildare	4,260	5.52
Kilkenny	1,251	1.62
Laois	1,092	1.41
Leitrim	275	0.36
Limerick	3,057	3.96
Longford	714	0.92
Louth	2,425	3.14
Mayo	1,617	2.09
Meath	3,539	4.58
Monaghan	1,339	1.73
Offaly	1,230	1.59
Roscommon	979	1.27
Sligo	782	1.01
Tipperary	1,651	2.14
Waterford	1,132	1.47
Westmeath	1,573	2.04
Wexford	1,297	1.68
Wicklow	1,700	2.2
Total	77,193	100

Table 3: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by WHO transmission classification notified to midnight 15/12/2020

Transmission classification*	Count of Events	%
Community transmission, incl. possible community transmission	23,117	29.95%
Local transmission, incl. possible local transmission	52,256	67.70%
Travel abroad, incl. possible travel abroad	1,052	1.36%
Unknown	768	0.99%
Total	77,193	100.00%

*See technical note 3 for definition of WHO transmission classification

Cases which were notified more than 2 weeks ago and have not yet been reported as imported or linked to an outbreak are classified as possible community transmission.

Table 4: Cumulative number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Ireland by age group and hospitalisation and ICU admission as of midnight 15/12/2020

Age Group (years)	Number of cases (n)	Cases hospitalised (n)	Cases hospitalised (%)	Cases admitted to ICU (n)	Cases admitted to ICU (%)
0-4 yrs	2064	58	1.05	2	0.31
5-14 yrs	5196	52	0.94	4	0.61
15-24 yrs	13410	183	3.32	8	1.23
25-34 yrs	12943	343	6.22	18	2.76
35-44 yrs	12126	432	7.83	57	8.73
45-54 yrs	11633	688	12.47	117	17.92
55-64 yrs	8206	794	14.39	169	25.88
65-74 yrs	4396	1,000	18.13	187	28.64
75-84 yrs	3852	1,222	22.15	82	12.56
85+ yrs	3339	742	13.45	9	1.38
Unknown	28	2	0.04	0	0
Total	77,193	5,516	100	653	100

Table 5: Number and proportion of confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Ireland by age-group, hospitalisation, ICU admission and vital status 15/12/2020

	0-4 yrs	5-14 yrs	15-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65-74 yrs	75-84 yrs	85+ yrs	Unknown
Number of cases (n)	2064	5196	13410	12943	12126	11633	8206	4396	3852	3339	28
Cases hospitalised (n)	58	52	183	343	432	688	794	1000	1222	742	2
Cases hospitalised (%)	2.81	1.00	1.36	2.65	3.56	5.91	9.68	22.75	31.72	22.22	7.14
Cases admitted to ICU (n)	2	4	8	18	57	117	169	187	82	9	0
Cases admitted to ICU (%)	0.10	0.08	0.06	0.14	0.47	1.01	2.06	4.25	2.13	0.27	0
Deaths (n)	0	0	2	6	12	35	83	288	647	810	0
Case fatality ratio (%)	0	0	0.01	0.05	0.10	0.30	1.01	6.55	16.80	24.26	0

Outbreaks of COVID-19

Table 6: Number of clusters/outbreaks COVID-19 by location and HSE area notified to midnight 15/12/2020

Outbreak Location	E	M	MW	NE	NW	S	SE	W	HPSC**	Total
Private house	4581	175	200	521	444	631	638	601		7791
Other*	266	78	162	89	143	259	68	153	2	1220
Nursing home	173	18	20	50	12	24	24	46		367
Workplace	113	20	23	54	37	27	31	27		332
Residential institution	154	16	18	36	9	30	17	10		290
Hospital	117	8	10	23	15	17	8	7		205
Comm. Hosp/Long-stay unit	8	4	3		5	7	6	5		38
Unknown					2					2
Total	5412	319	436	773	667	995	792	849	2	10245

*Other outbreak location includes community, extended family, hotel, public house, retail outlet, travel related and all other locations.

**Outbreaks/clusters notified with a location of 'HPSC' are those with cases in three or more HSE areas. These are considered national outbreaks.

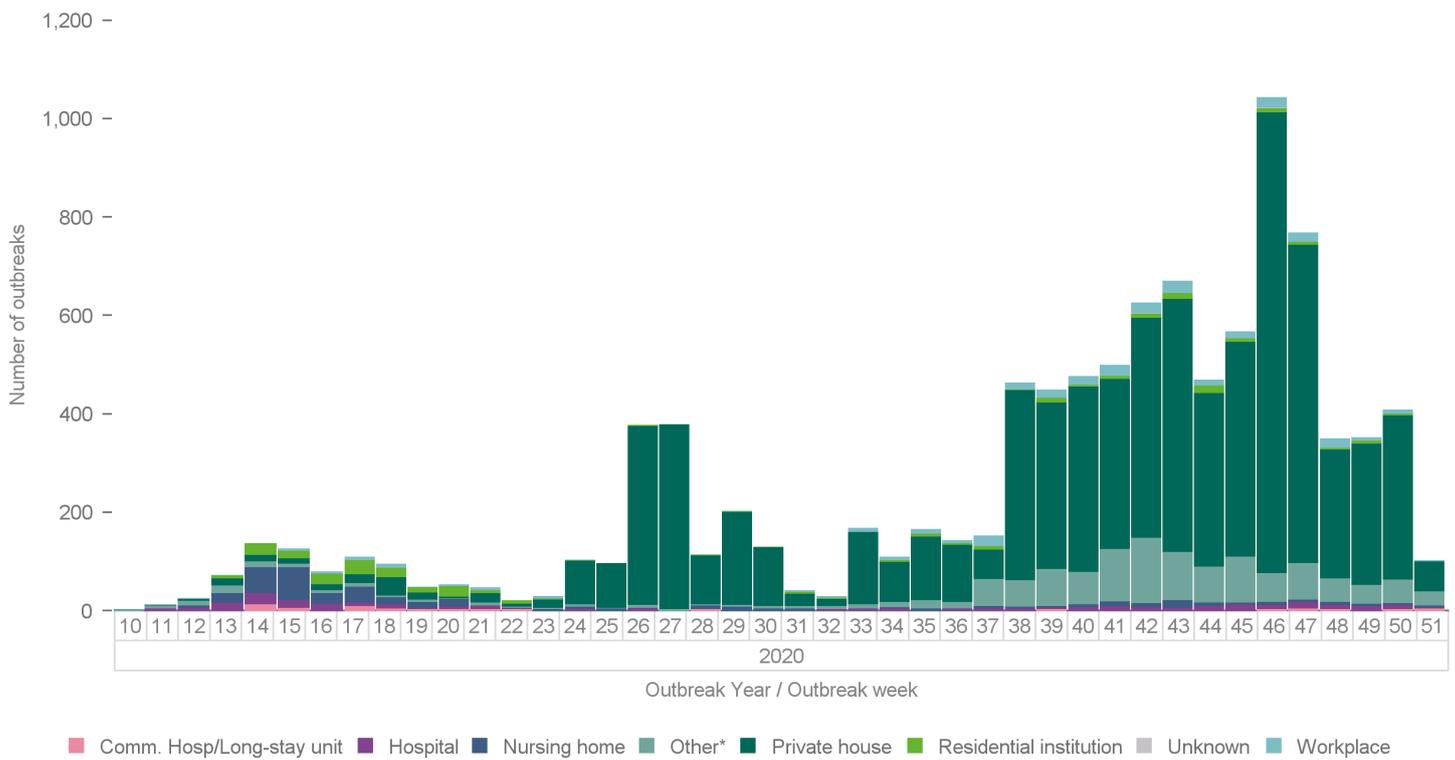


Figure 5: Trend in number of COVID-19 clusters by location and week notified to midnight 15/12/2020

*Other outbreak location includes community, extended family, hotel, public house, retail outlet, travel related and all other locations.

Note: 9,409 COVID-19 outbreaks were reported on CIDR between week 24 and week 51 2020 (9th June to 15th December). Of these, 7,517 were family outbreaks. Based on the earliest date associated with each outbreak, some of these family outbreaks occurred earlier and were reported in subsequent weeks as a result of data validation: 1 occurred in February, 636 in March, 475 in April, 94 in May, 126 in June, 128 in July, 533 in August, 1,513 in September, 2,630 in October, 1,194 in November and 187 to date in December.

Deaths among COVID-19 cases

Table 7: Summary of deaths in all COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland up to midnight 15/12/2020

	Number	Percent
Total number of deaths	2,143	
Confirmed	1,883	87.87
Probable	95	4.43
Possible	165	7.7
Total number of cases hospitalised	985	45.96
Cases admitted to ICU	152	7.09
Cases not admitted to ICU	833	38.87
Total number of imported cases	5	0.23
Number of cases in healthcare workers	8	0.37
Number with underlying clinical conditions	1,994	93.05
Total number of male cases	1,088	50.77
M:F ratio	1.03	
Median age (years)	83	
Mean age (years)	81	
Age range (years)	17 - 105	

Table 8: Number of deaths in all COVID-19 cases by sex and age group notified in Ireland up to midnight 15/12/2020

Age group (years)	Female	Male	Total	Percent
15-24 yrs	<5	<5	2	0.09
25-34 yrs	<5	<5	6	0.28
35-44 yrs	6	7	13	0.61
45-54 yrs	15	22	37	1.73
55-64 yrs	30	59	89	4.15
65-74 yrs	111	205	316	14.75
75-84 yrs	329	400	729	34.02
85+ yrs	558	391	949	44.28
Unknown	<5	<5	2	0.09
Total	1,055	1,088	2,143	100
Percent	49.23	50.77		

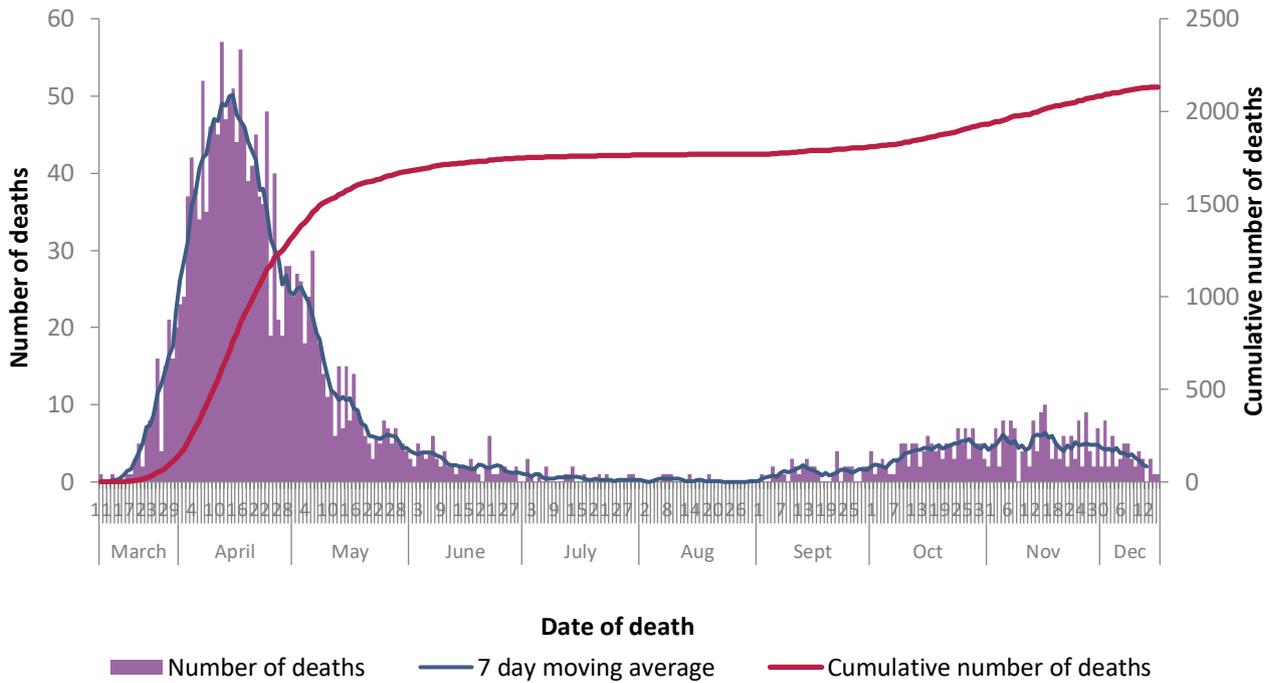


Figure 6a: Daily and 7 day moving average number of deaths among COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland by date of death and cumulative total to midnight 15/12/2020

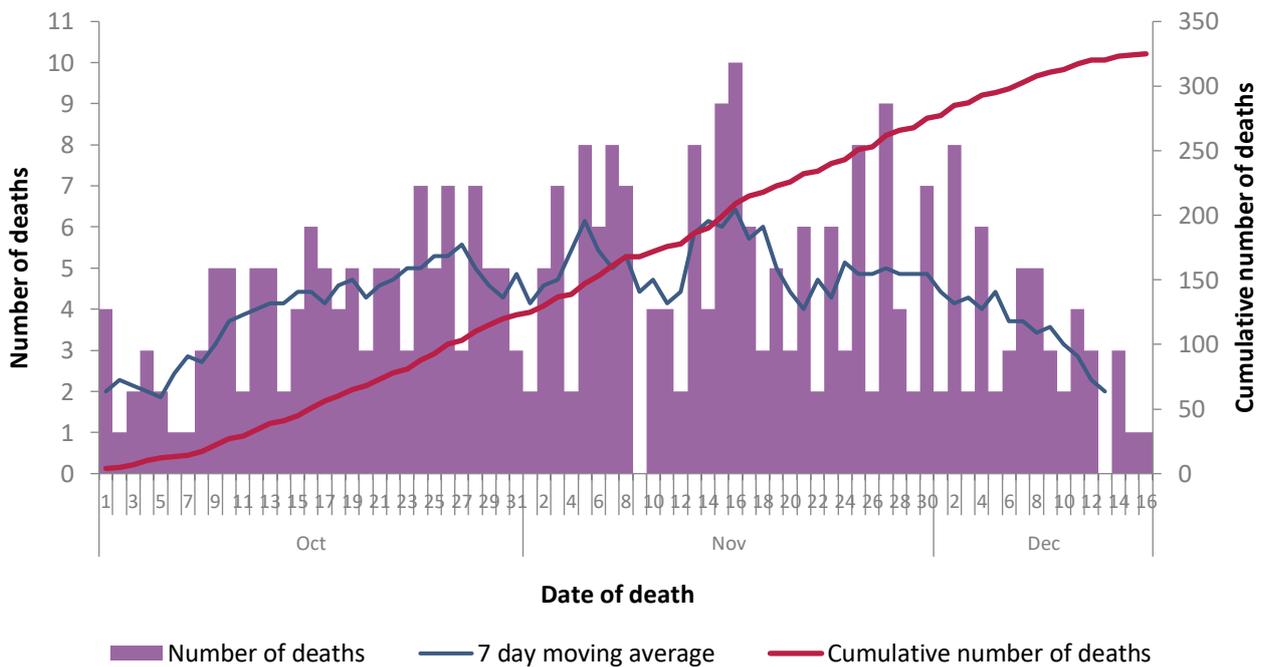


Figure 6b: Daily and 7 day moving average number of deaths among COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland by date of death and cumulative total from 01/10/2020 to midnight 15/12/2020

* Date of death is not yet available for twelve cases

Please note: a lag in time between reporting of deaths and data extraction is expected and as such the most recent dates will not yet reflect all deaths on that date

Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are extended to all those who are participating in the collection of data and reporting of data used in these reports. This includes the HSE COVID-19 Contact Management Programme (CMP), staff in ICU units, notifying clinicians, laboratory staff, public health doctors, nurses, surveillance scientists, microbiologists and administrative staff.

Report prepared by COVID-19 Epidemiology Team, HPSC

Technical Notes

1. Data Source

Data are based on statutory notifications and were extracted from Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system at 09:28 on 17/12/2020. Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.

2. Epidemiological date

Epidemiological date is derived from the earliest of onset date, date of diagnosis, laboratory specimen collection date, laboratory received date, laboratory reported date, event creation/notification date.

3. Population data

Population data were taken from Census 2016. Data were aggregated into the following age groups for the analysis: 0-4 years, 5-14 years, 15-24 years, 25-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years, 55-64 years, 65-74 years, 75-84 years and ≥ 85 years.

3. Transmission classification

Transmission classification is based on country of infection as well as enhanced exposure data (international travel; close contact of a case) recorded in CIDR. Transmission is classified as 'unknown' due to incomplete data on CIDR.

WHO definition of transmission classification is specified below:

- Community transmission is evidenced by the inability to relate confirmed cases through chains of transmission for a large number of cases, or by increasing positive tests through routine screening of sentinel samples.
- Local transmission indicates locations where the source of infection is within the reporting location.
- Imported cases only indicates locations where all cases have been acquired outside the location of reporting.

4. HSE areas

The counties covered by each HSE area are as follows:

- HSE East (E): Dublin, Kildare & Wicklow;
- HSE Midlands (M): Laois, Longford, Offaly & Westmeath;
- HSE Midwest (MW): Clare, Limerick & N. Tipperary;
- HSE Northeast (NE): Cavan, Louth, Meath & Monaghan;
- HSE Northwest (NW): Donegal, Leitrim & Sligo;
- HSE South (S): Kerry & Cork;
- HSE Southeast (SE): Carlow, Kilkenny, S. Tipperary, Waterford & Wexford;
- HSE West (W): Galway, Mayo & Roscommon.

5. Outbreak location

Where an outbreak location is reported as a residential facility (RF) this includes nursing homes, community hospitals, long-stay units and residential institutions including mental health facilities, prisons and direct provision centres.

Other outbreak location includes community, extended family, hotel, public house, retail outlet, travel related and all other locations.