



Weekly Report on the Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland

Week 48, 2021

Health Protection Surveillance Centre, HPSC
COVID-19 Epidemiology Team, 06/12/2021

Please note:

- The epidemiological weeks in this report, run from Sunday to Saturday. Please refer to the [HPSC website](#) for a complete list of epidemiological weeks with start and end dates for 2020/2021.
- Reference dates:
 - Week 10, 2020 (1st to 7th March 2020) – the beginning of the pandemic in Ireland, also the start of the first wave
 - Week 32, 2020 (2nd to 8th August 2020) – the beginning of the 2nd wave
 - Week 48, 2020 (22nd to 28th November 2020) – the beginning of the 3rd wave
 - Week 26, 2021 (27th June to 3rd July 2021) – the beginning of the 4th wave
 - Week 48, 2021 (28th November to 4th December 2021) – most recent epidemiological week
- Data for this report is based on cases notified on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) up to the 4th December
- Data was extracted from CIDR system on 06/12/2021
- Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.

Summary characteristics of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland



	Total (week 10, 2020-week 48, 2021)		Week 48, 2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases	594,211		34,208	
Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population	12478.5		718.4	
Number of cases hospitalised	20,764	3.5	235*	0.7
Number of cases admitted to ICU	2,197	0.4	<5*	
Number of deaths among confirmed cases	5,495	0.9	7*	0.02
Case fatality ratio (CFR %)	0.9		0.02	
Incidence rate of confirmed deaths per 100,000 population	115.4		0.15	
Number of cases in healthcare workers	38535	6.5	214	0.6
% where HCW is known		8.1		2.6
Males	290,896	49.0	16,805	49.1
Females	303,025	51.0	17,360	50.7
M:F ratio	0.96		0.97	
Median (years)	33		31	
Mean age (years)	35		31	
Age range (years)	0-108		0-97	

* The number of cases hospitalised, cases admitted to ICU and deaths described in the above table relate only to COVID-19 cases who were notified during this reporting period, and where the outcome is known at the time of reporting. It does not reflect all hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths related to COVID-19 which occurred during the period covered by the report. It also does not reflect the final number of cases hospitalised, admitted to ICU or deaths for these cases notified during this period as the outcome may not yet have occurred, or is yet to be notified

Epidemic curve of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland

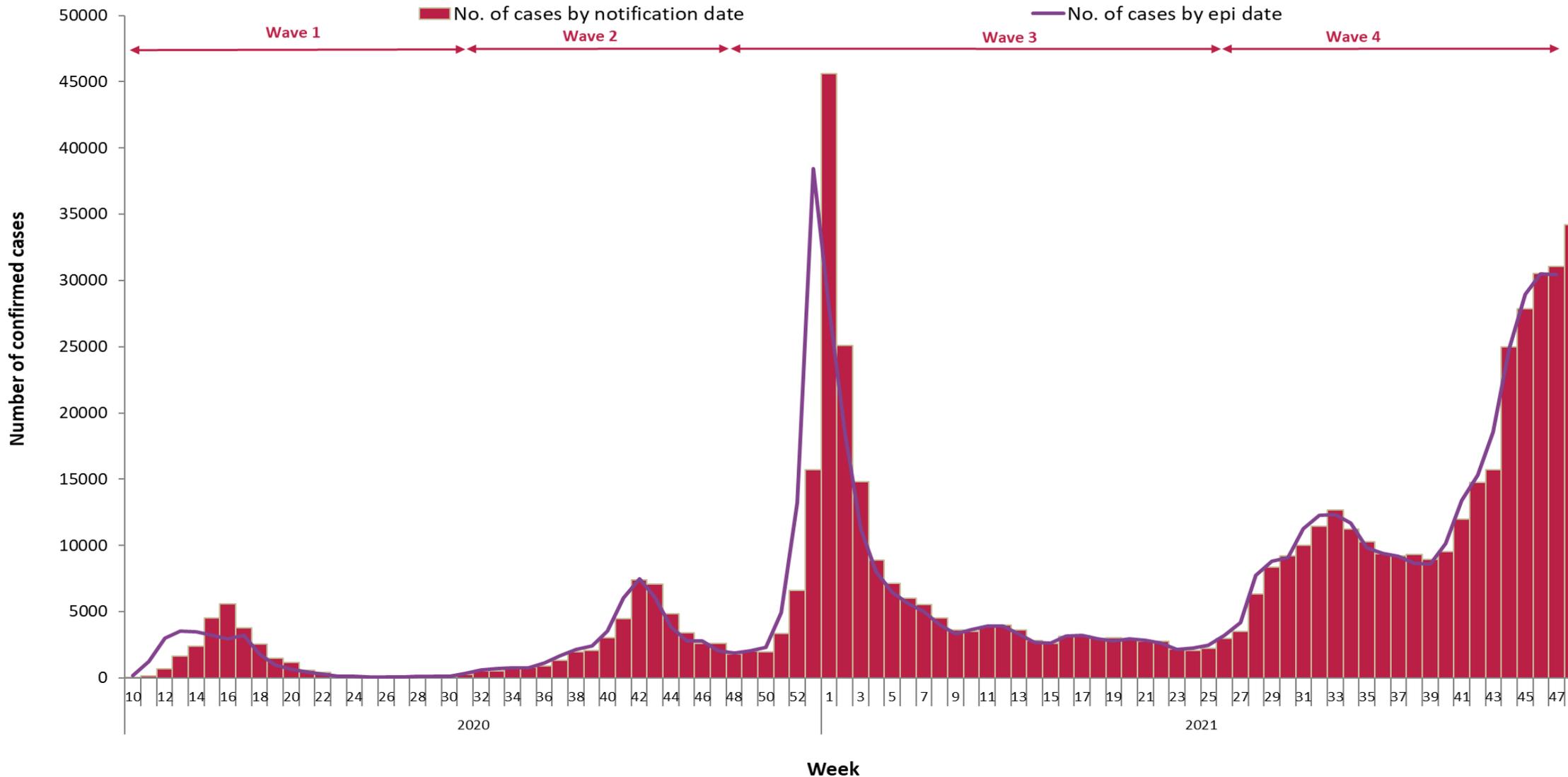


Figure 1: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week and [epidemiological date](#) in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 48, 2021

Epidemic curve of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4th wave

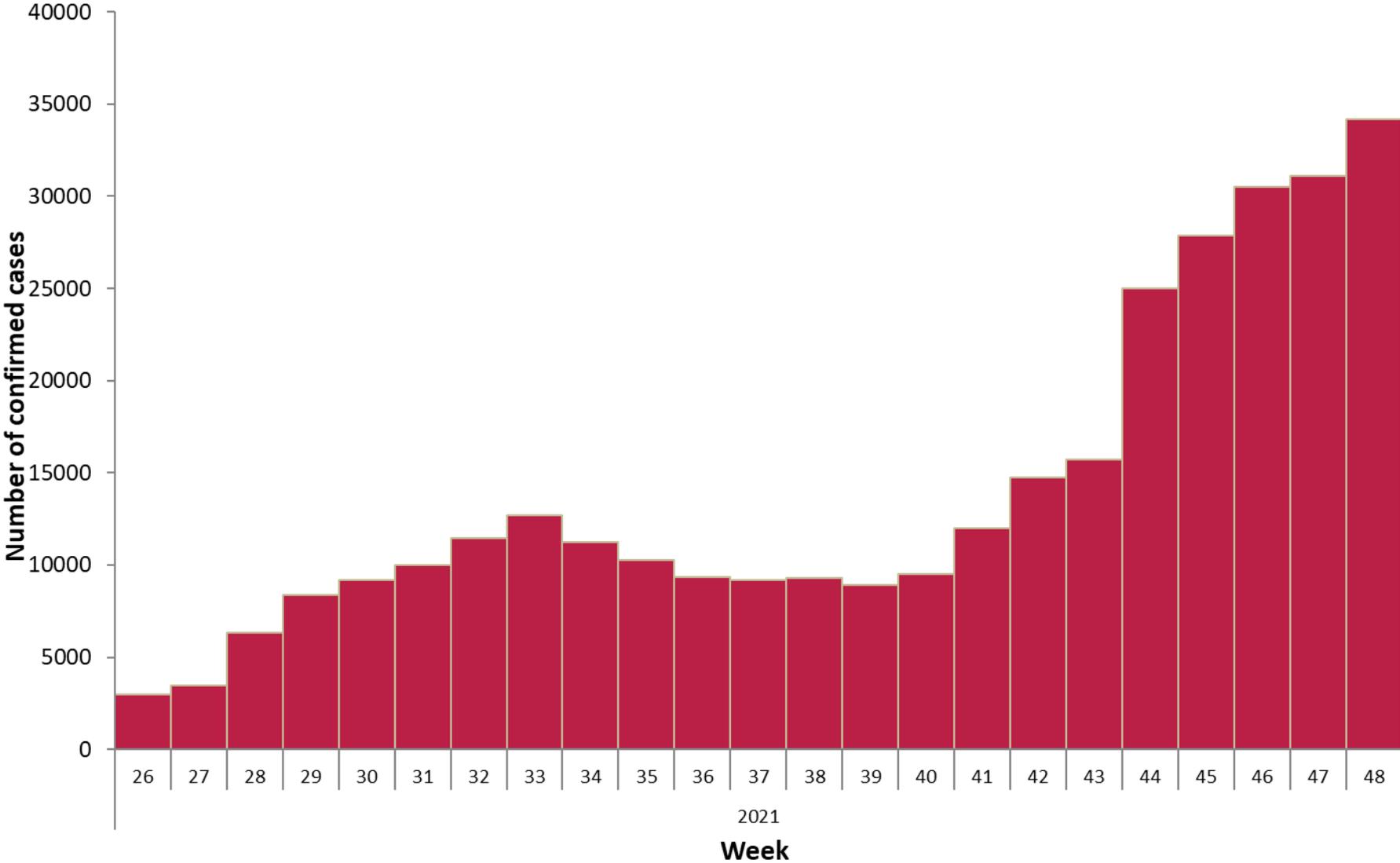


Figure 2: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week in Ireland for the 4th wave from week 26, 2021 to week 48, 2021

Summary characteristics of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the latest epidemiological week



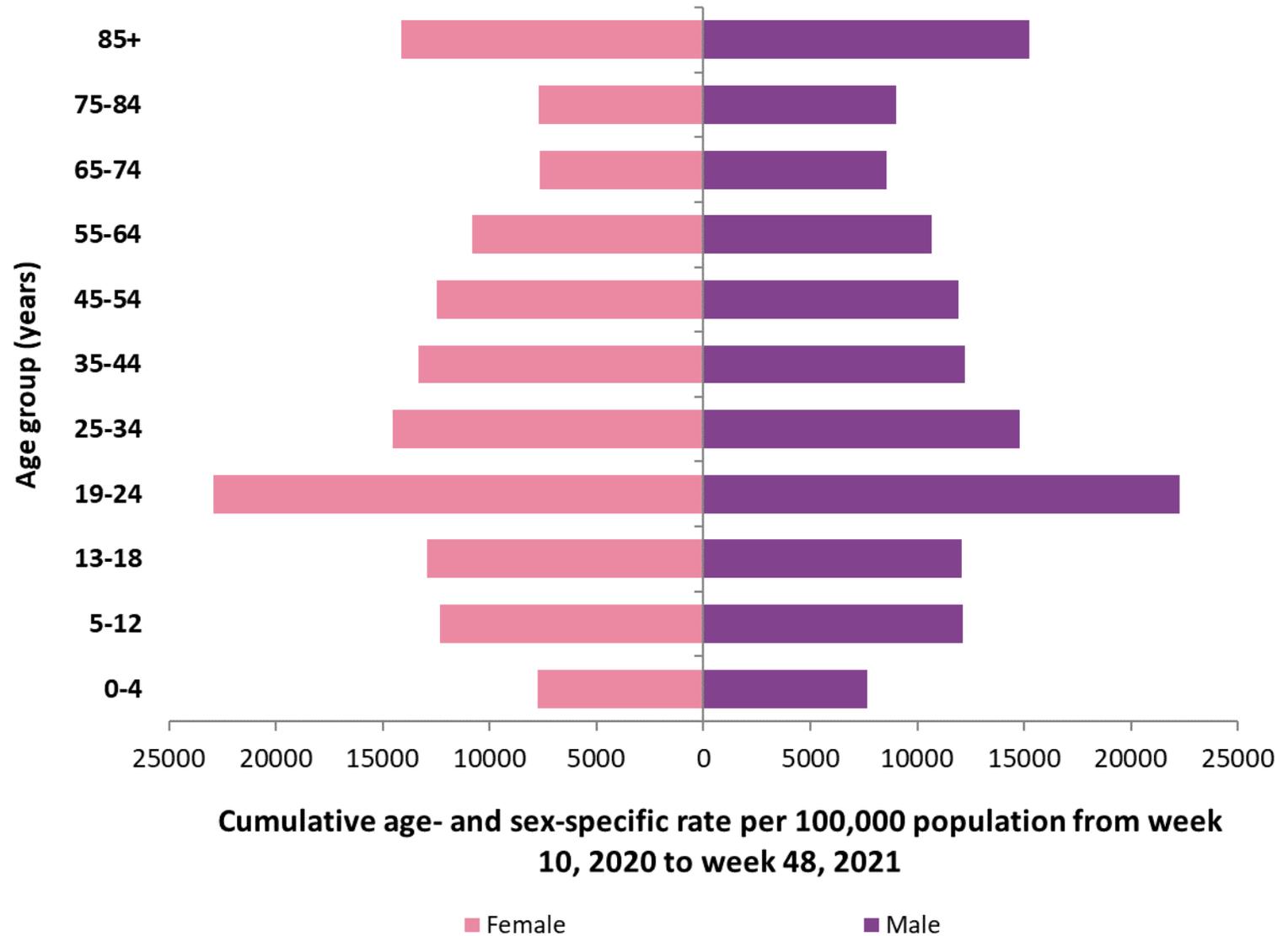
Table 1: Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 48, 2021

Characteristic		Week 48	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases		34,208	100
Sex	Male:Female ratio	0.97	
	Male	16,805	49.1
	Female	17,360	50.7
	Unknown	43	0.2
Age	Mean age (years)	31	
	Median age (years)	31	
	Age range (years)	0-97	
	0-4 yrs	1810	5.3
	5-12 yrs	7,359	21.5
	13-18 yrs	2,035	5.9
	19-24 yrs	2,762	8.1
	25-34 yrs	4,739	13.9
	35-44 yrs	6,467	18.9
	45-54 yrs	4,320	12.6
	55-64 yrs	2,807	8.2
	65-74 yrs	1,475	4.3
	75-84 yrs	352	1.0
	85+ yrs	76	0.2
	Unknown	6	0.0

Age and sex pyramid for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland

Figure 3a: Cumulative age and sex-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population notified in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 48, 2021

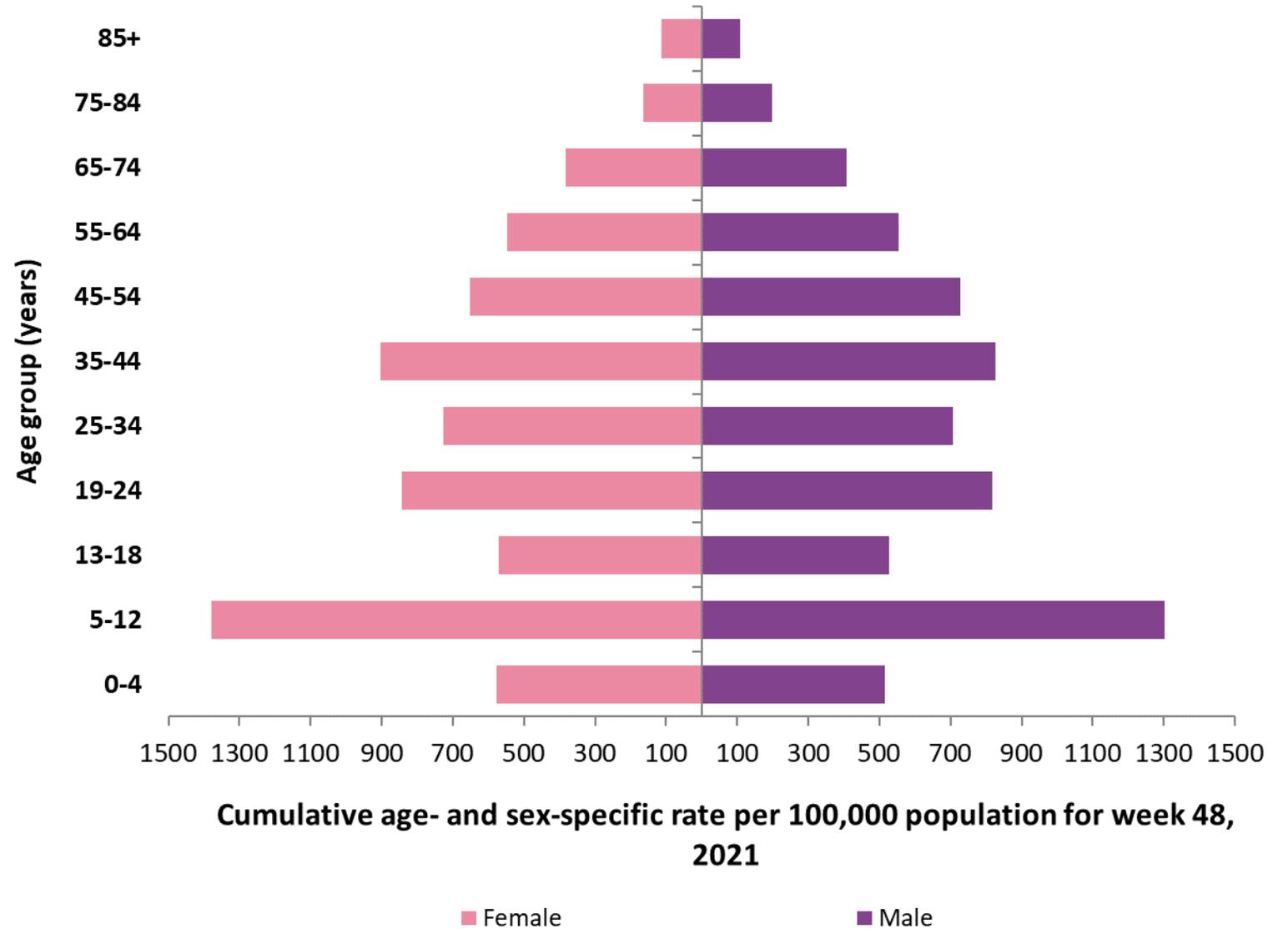
(excluding 80 cases for whom age is unknown, 289 cases for whom sex is unknown and one case for whom both are unknown)



Age and sex pyramid for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland for the latest epidemiological week

Figure 3b: Cumulative age and sex-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population notified in Ireland during week 48, 2021

(excluding 6 cases for whom age is unknown and 43 cases for whom sex is unknown)



Incidence rates by age group for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4th wave

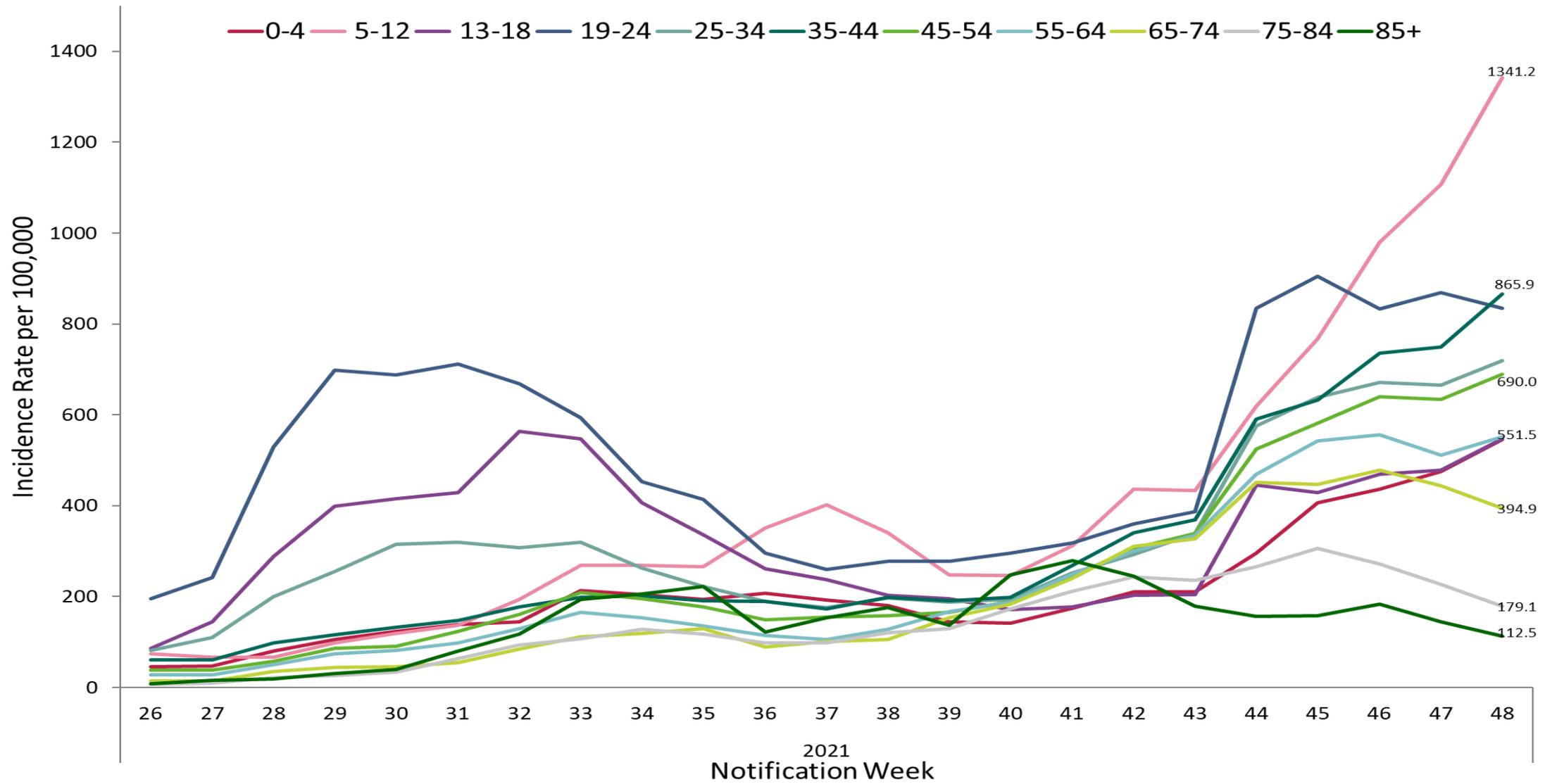


Figure 4: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland for the 4th wave from week 26, 2021 to week 48, 2021

Incidence by age groups for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4th wave

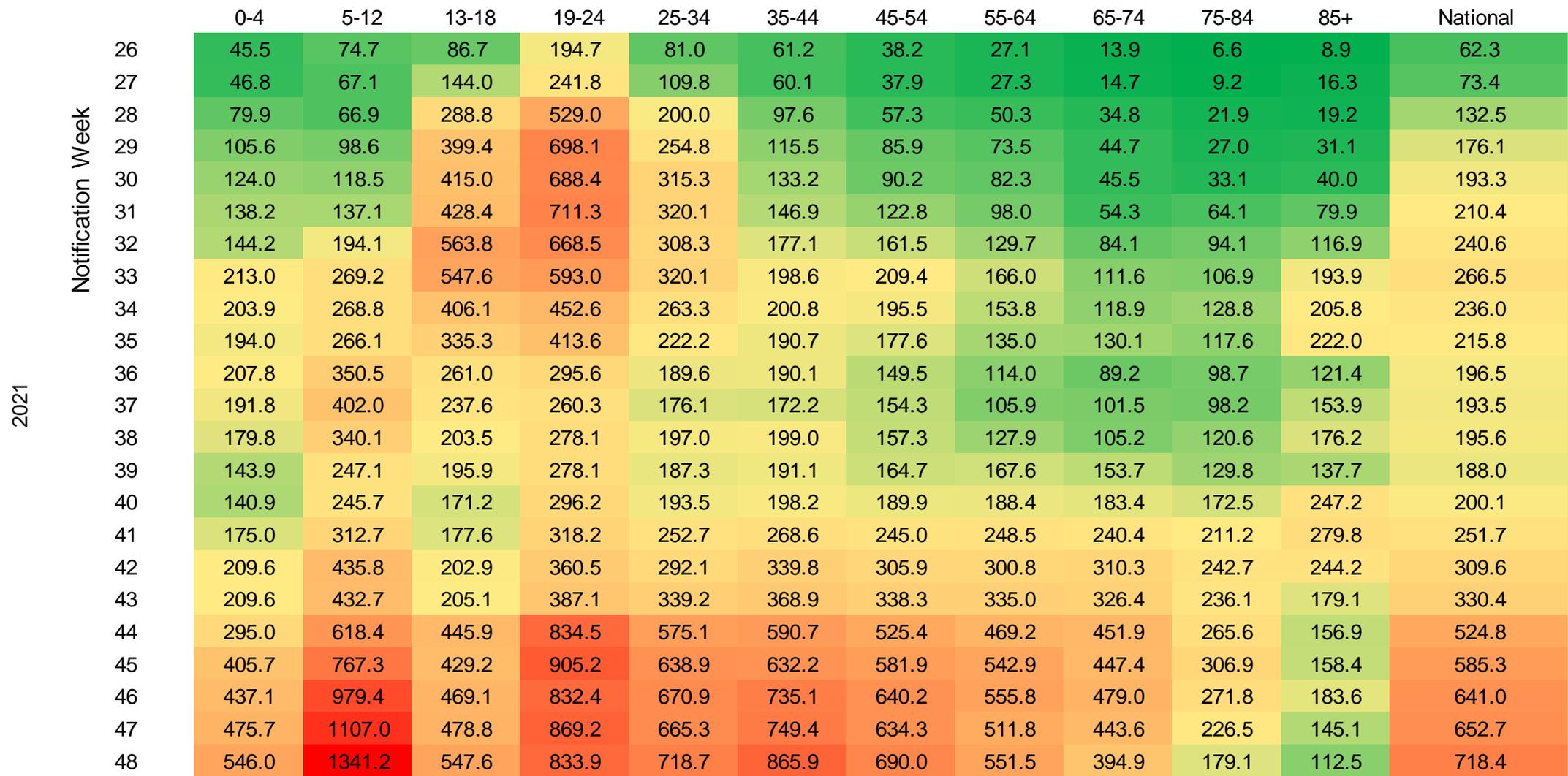


Figure 5: Heat map of weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland for the 4th wave between week 26, 2021 and week 48, 2021

COVID-19 cases in children 18 years and under by notification date

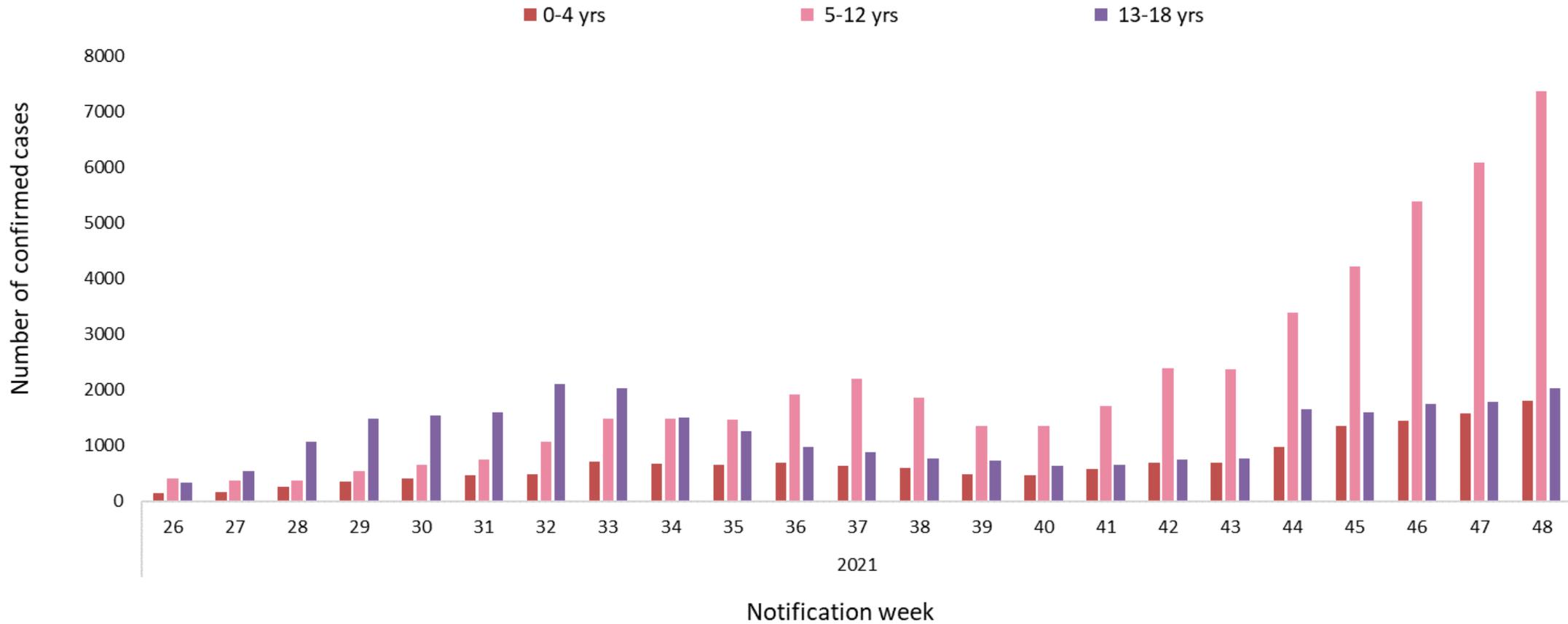


Figure 6a: Weekly number of age-specific confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week in Ireland for the 4th wave between week 26, 2021 and week 48, 2021

COVID-19 incidence rate by HSE area in children 18 years and under

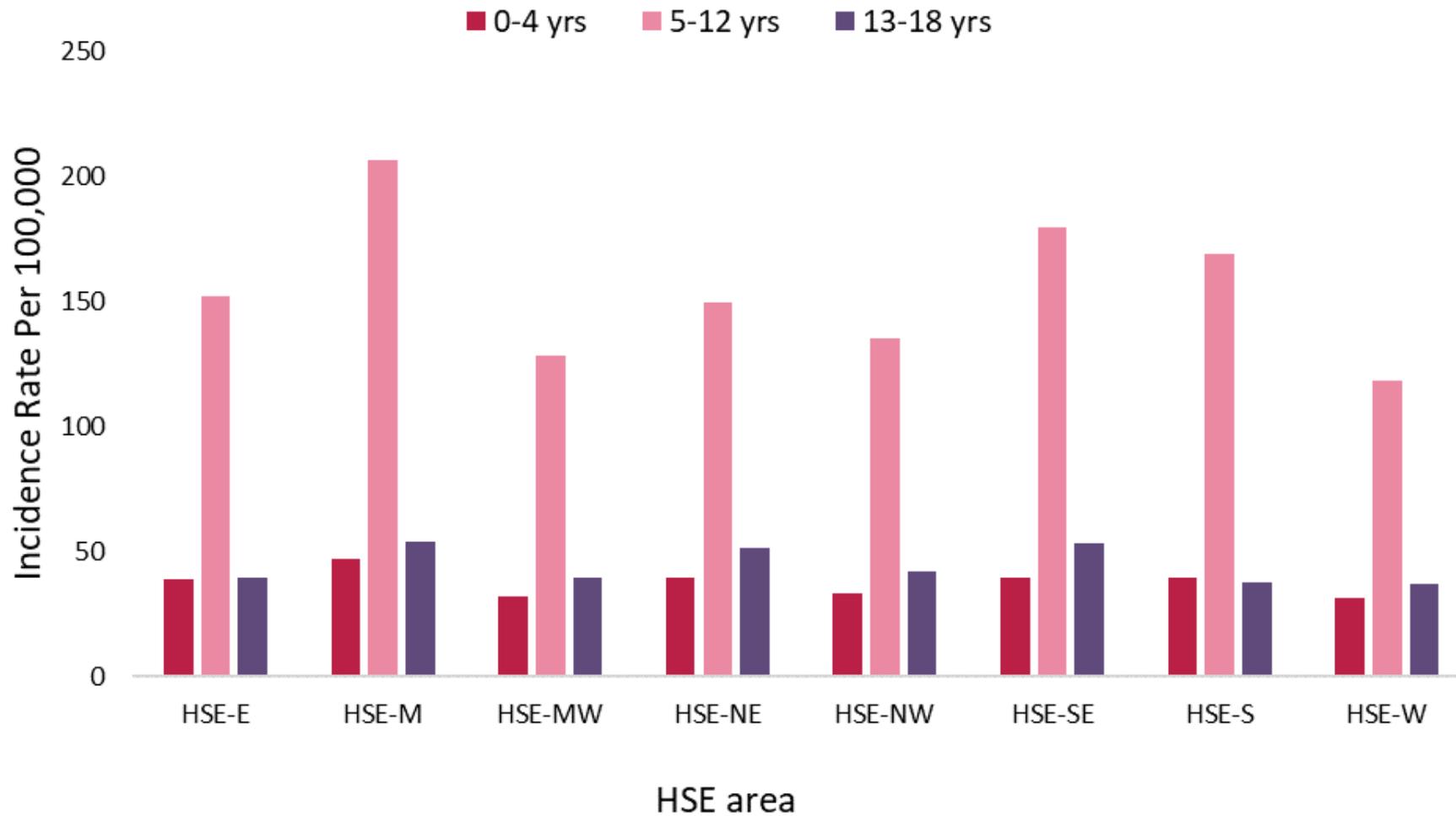


Figure 6b: Age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population, by HSE area, notified in Ireland during week 48, 2021

Characteristics for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland by county for the latest epidemiological week

Table 2: Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases by county notified in Ireland, during week 48, 2021

County	Cases		M:F ratio	Median age	Incidence Rate per 100,000
	N	%		(years)	
Carlow	775	2.3	1.1	32	1361.3
Westmeath	905	2.6	0.9	31	1019.5
Louth	1142	3.3	1.0	32	886.1
Laois	720	2.1	1.0	29	850.1
Longford	346	1.0	1.1	28.5	846.5
Tipperary	1337	3.9	1.0	30	838.0
Kildare	1757	5.1	1.1	33	789.6
Cork	4092	12.0	1.0	30	753.8
Kilkenny	747	2.2	0.9	33	752.8
Waterford	870	2.5	1.1	32	748.9
Dublin	10058	29.4	0.9	32	746.5
Meath	1391	4.1	1.0	33	713.2
Wicklow	1003	2.9	0.8	31	704.2
Sligo	432	1.3	0.9	27	659.2
Offaly	510	1.5	0.9	31	654.2
Wexford	962	2.8	1.0	33	642.5
Roscommon	404	1.2	0.8	30	625.9
Monaghan	383	1.1	1.1	35	623.9
Galway	1585	4.6	1.0	28	614.2
Kerry	895	2.6	1.0	34	605.9
Clare	719	2.1	1.0	28	605.1
Leitrim	181	0.5	1.1	34	564.8
Donegal	876	2.6	1.0	29	550.3
Cavan	415	1.2	1.0	35	544.8
Mayo	706	2.1	0.9	27	541.0
Limerick	997	2.9	0.9	31	511.5

Incidence rates by county for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4th wave

		Carlow	Cavan	Clare	Cork	Donegal	Dublin	Galway	Kerry	Kildare	Kilkenny	Laois	Leitrim	Limerick	Longford	Louth	Mayo	Meath	Monaghan	Offaly	Roscommon	Sligo	Tipperary	Waterford	Westmeath	Wexford	Wicklow	National
2021	Notification Week																											
	26	14.1	40.7	48.0	19.7	215.5	89.5	29.1	33.9	51.2	23.2	57.9	18.7	82.1	34.3	66.0	37.5	60.0	31.0	42.3	91.4	76.3	21.9	104.2	72.1	28.7	35.1	62.3
	27	49.2	51.2	38.7	29.3	212.3	96.1	50.8	63.0	79.1	40.3	42.5	34.3	121.6	29.4	94.7	76.6	72.3	58.6	55.2	85.2	125.1	23.2	36.2	66.5	48.8	43.5	73.4
	28	131.7	114.2	70.7	75.5	392.0	166.0	129.8	94.1	135.7	48.4	129.9	93.6	125.7	46.5	296.4	117.2	129.2	107.5	115.4	128.6	91.6	48.9	57.7	90.1	56.1	118.7	132.5
	29	202.0	152.3	70.7	118.4	533.3	191.5	259.2	124.6	165.4	69.5	278.6	246.5	140.6	127.2	249.8	196.2	160.0	236.2	114.2	170.4	145.0	99.7	80.9	118.3	90.2	171.3	176.1
	30	130.0	181.2	104.4	120.5	378.2	220.3	283.7	199.7	137.1	99.8	178.3	230.9	191.4	124.8	377.9	301.1	178.9	252.5	94.9	232.4	212.1	127.9	105.0	143.1	92.8	157.3	193.3
	31	172.1	236.3	143.9	163.0	321.0	238.7	303.4	205.1	152.4	105.8	181.8	152.9	179.6	181.0	269.2	314.2	189.7	351.9	170.6	292.8	175.5	129.1	125.7	149.8	173.0	193.8	210.4
	32	205.5	468.7	137.2	149.2	578.5	247.6	295.7	203.1	202.7	145.1	194.8	187.2	190.4	156.6	245.2	315.7	213.8	650.0	201.4	444.7	286.9	168.0	171.3	287.3	187.0	181.1	240.6
	33	226.6	740.4	155.7	191.0	598.6	253.2	256.1	286.4	204.5	135.0	230.2	215.3	296.6	208.0	373.2	272.8	240.5	829.2	202.7	379.6	196.8	296.5	218.6	252.3	167.6	183.3	266.5
	34	175.6	504.1	131.3	163.4	557.2	214.9	239.9	305.3	181.1	199.5	126.3	330.8	254.0	327.8	236.6	287.3	231.7	775.4	238.6	350.1	273.1	246.9	158.4	210.7	146.3	163.6	236.0
	35	230.1	340.0	196.1	185.3	498.1	207.7	193.8	225.4	151.5	166.3	211.3	402.6	228.8	259.3	262.3	245.2	196.4	495.2	225.8	311.4	172.4	185.5	99.0	167.8	156.3	161.5	215.8
	36	216.0	292.7	149.8	130.6	410.2	223.3	171.7	142.2	171.2	168.3	263.3	218.4	181.1	305.8	240.5	212.2	193.8	478.9	219.3	233.9	148.0	137.3	127.4	152.1	108.9	102.5	196.5
	37	242.4	217.9	140.6	144.2	389.5	211.0	119.7	173.3	196.4	163.3	229.1	137.3	193.9	215.3	323.5	185.4	233.8	430.1	160.3	159.6	135.8	162.3	148.9	201.6	145.6	74.4	193.5
	38	254.7	246.8	109.4	146.4	321.6	234.2	144.5	146.2	247.6	140.1	186.5	221.6	203.7	249.6	242.9	252.9	206.6	296.5	136.0	141.0	151.1	145.4	169.6	187.0	82.8	95.5	195.6
	39	274.0	262.5	186.0	142.2	282.0	200.8	156.6	257.3	163.6	108.8	165.3	215.3	224.7	393.9	161.4	113.4	212.3	255.8	144.9	198.3	174.0	155.4	327.1	143.1	124.2	113.0	188.0
	40	328.5	206.1	163.3	182.5	285.8	195.0	220.5	266.7	168.1	182.4	222.0	171.6	244.7	313.2	208.7	160.9	182.0	259.0	151.4	164.2	152.6	146.7	357.2	164.5	142.3	159.4	200.1
	41	354.8	274.4	291.2	221.2	302.8	236.5	194.5	427.2	229.2	198.5	321.1	309.0	285.3	494.2	292.5	187.7	289.2	268.8	144.9	257.2	221.3	209.3	461.4	272.6	162.3	181.9	251.7
	42	511.1	303.2	367.8	291.6	328.5	280.2	277.8	561.2	255.3	273.1	418.0	330.8	364.3	606.8	343.7	180.8	316.3	259.0	274.5	303.7	221.3	259.5	643.9	341.3	193.7	236.6	309.6
	43	372.4	304.6	375.4	372.5	329.8	294.1	288.3	490.8	294.8	312.4	388.4	483.7	362.2	508.9	400.4	241.4	308.6	236.2	239.9	255.6	242.6	299.6	642.1	306.4	307.9	320.2	330.4
	44	671.0	480.5	448.6	562.8	593.6	518.1	496.8	531.5	417.1	422.2	649.4	802.0	517.7	528.5	663.4	497.3	589.1	407.3	375.8	361.0	456.2	487.0	684.3	566.6	514.3	498.5	524.8
	45	764.1	624.9	543.7	579.5	569.8	594.1	574.3	563.3	541.1	623.8	686.0	789.5	504.9	645.9	884.5	514.9	660.4	373.0	609.3	435.4	622.6	541.5	589.6	802.1	402.1	478.1	585.3
	46	895.8	723.3	608.5	630.5	592.4	685.9	537.1	591.0	599.5	795.1	473.5	574.2	528.0	743.8	751.1	639.0	690.1	550.6	579.8	571.7	546.3	667.5	713.6	878.7	533.7	485.9	641.0
	47	902.8	543.5	574.8	655.2	522.6	761.3	551.0	462.4	654.4	723.6	606.9	511.8	502.3	836.7	761.9	498.1	589.1	461.0	469.5	480.3	505.1	745.8	738.5	900.1	619.1	492.2	652.7
48	1361.3	544.8	605.1	753.8	550.3	746.5	614.2	605.9	789.6	752.8	850.1	564.8	511.5	846.5	886.1	541.0	713.2	623.9	654.2	625.9	659.2	838.0	748.9	1019.5	642.5	704.2	718.4	

Figure 7: Heat map of weekly incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population, by county, notified in Ireland for the 4th wave between week 26, 2021 and week 48, 2021

Most likely transmission source of COVID-19 cases

Table 3: Most likely transmission source for cases notified in week 48, 2021.

Most likely transmission source for 48, 2021	Number of cases	Percent
Close contact with a known confirmed case	4492	13.1
Travel related	82	0.2
Community transmission	3298	9.6
Healthcare setting acquired: patient	21	0.1
Healthcare setting acquired: staff	25	0.1
Under investigation*	26290	76.9
Total	34208	100

*Data for the most recent week were not complete at the time of data extraction

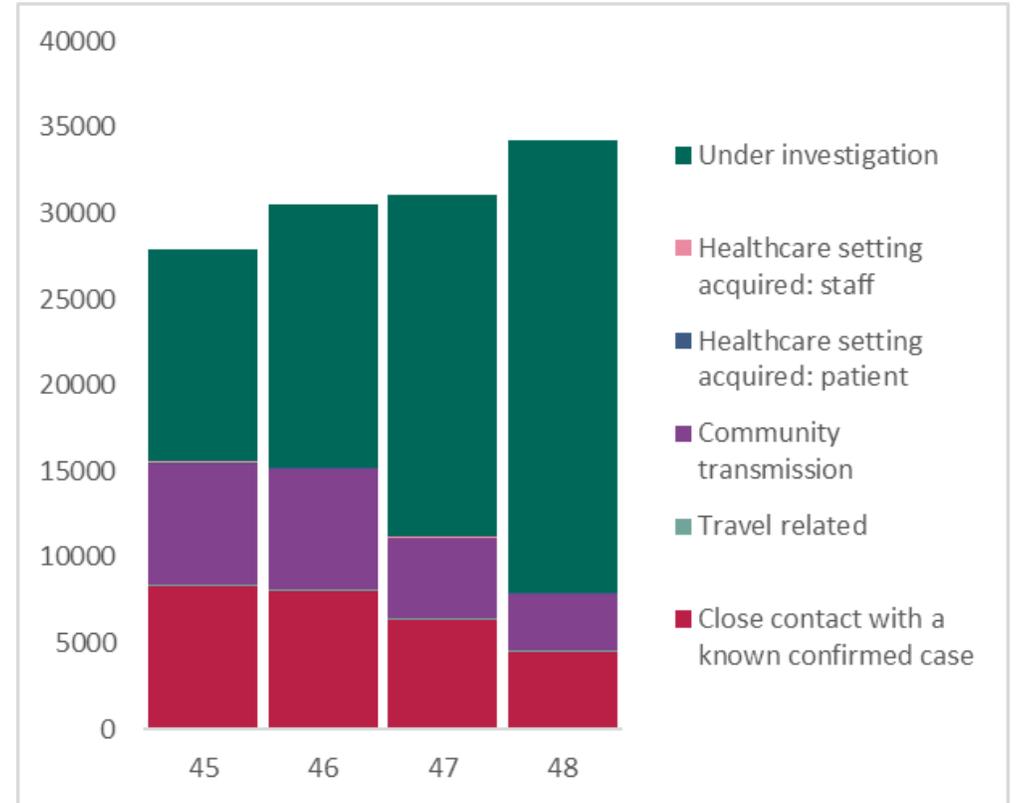


Figure 8: Most likely transmission source by week, from week 45 - week 48, 2021.

Hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths during waves 1 - 4

Table 4: Summary of hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths by age group and wave.

(This does not include 6 hospitalised cases for whom the age is unknown and 1 case who died for whom the age is also unknown)

Age group	Wave	Number of cases	Number of cases hospitalised	% hospitalised	Number of cases admitted to ICU	% admitted to ICU	Number of cases who died*	% deaths
<65 yrs	1	19612	1522	7.8	277	1.4	110	0.6
	2	39954	873	2.2	79	0.2	29	0.1
	3	179388	4612	2.6	570	0.3	272	0.2
	4	298728	3464	1.2	379	0.1	123**	0.04
	Total	537682	10471	1.9	1305	0.2	534	0.1
65+ yrs	1	6524	1803	27.6	161	2.5	1420	21.8
	2	4229	962	22.7	104	2.5	360	8.5
	3	20928	5067	24.2	401	1.9	2602	12.4
	4	24767	2455	9.9	226	0.9	578**	2.3
	Total	56448	10287	18.2	892	1.6	4960	8.8

* Deaths in confirmed cases only

**Hospitalisations, ICU admissions, and deaths may be underestimated for recent weeks as the outcome may not yet have occurred or may not yet have been reported to CIDR.

Hospitalisations among COVID-19 cases during waves 3 and 4

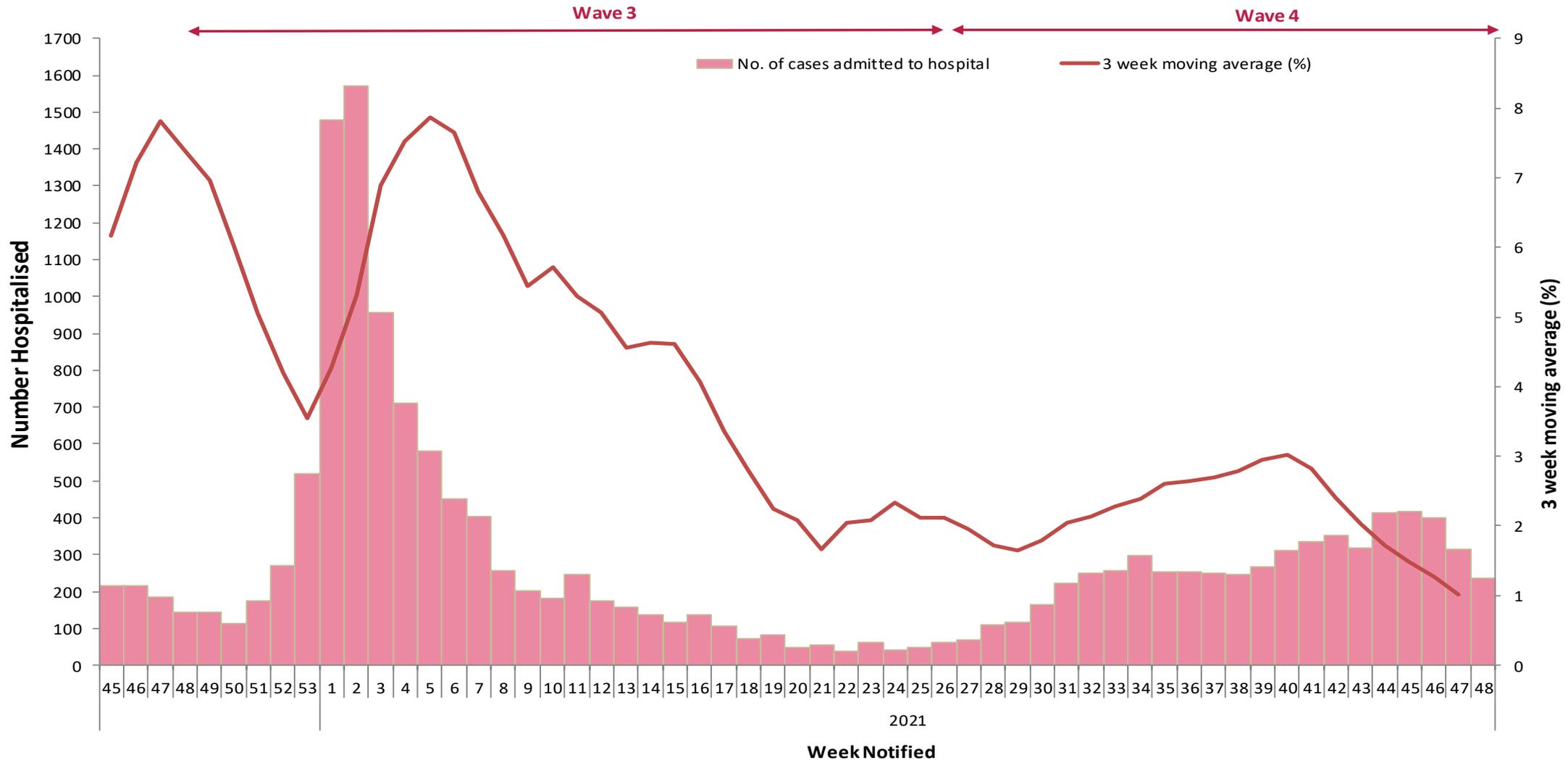


Figure 9: Number of hospitalised COVID-19 cases and 3 week moving average (%) of overall cases hospitalised in Ireland between week 45, 2020 and week 48, 2021 based on week of notification

*Hospitalisations may be underestimated for recent weeks as the outcome may not yet have occurred or may not yet have been reported to CIDR.

ICU admissions among COVID-19 cases during waves 3 and 4

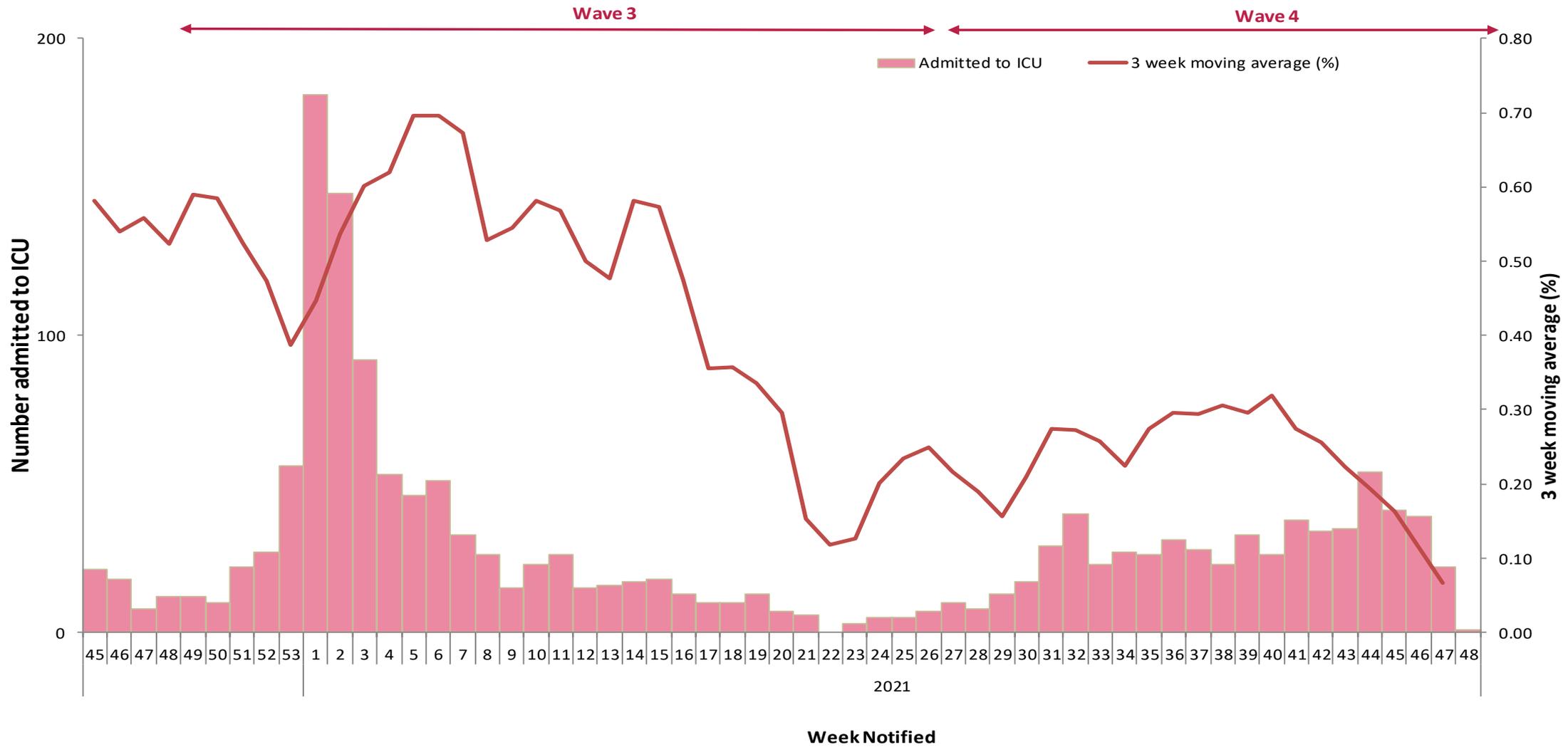


Figure 10: Number of ICU admissions in COVID-19 cases and 3 week moving average (%) of ICU admissions of overall case numbers in Ireland between week 45, 2020 and week 48, 2021 based on week of notification

*ICU admissions may be underestimated for recent weeks as the outcome may not yet have occurred or may not yet have been reported to CIDR.

Deaths among COVID-19 cases

	Number	Percent
Total number of deaths	5,769	
confirmed	5,495	95.3
probable	98	1.7
possible	176	3.1
Number hospitalised who died	3,236	56.1
admitted to ICU who died	686	11.9
not admitted to ICU who died	5,083	88.1
Number of imported cases who died	17	0.3
Number of HCWs who died	20	0.3
Number with underlying conditions who died	4,899	84.9
Males who died	3,076	53.3
M:F ratio	1.14	
Median age (years)	82	
Mean age (years)	80	
Age range (years)	14-105	

Table 5: Summary of deaths in all COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 48, 2021

Age group (years)	Female	Male	Total	Percent
<45 yrs	31	37	68	1
45-54 yrs	42	86	128	2
55-64 yrs	124	227	351	6
65-74 yrs	345	605	950	16
75-84 yrs	821	1106	1927	33
85+ yrs	1327	1015	2342	41
Unknown	3	0	3	0
Total	2693	3076	5769	100.0
Percent	46.7	53.3		

Table 6: Number of deaths in all COVID-19 cases by sex and age group notified in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 48, 2021

Deaths among COVID-19 cases

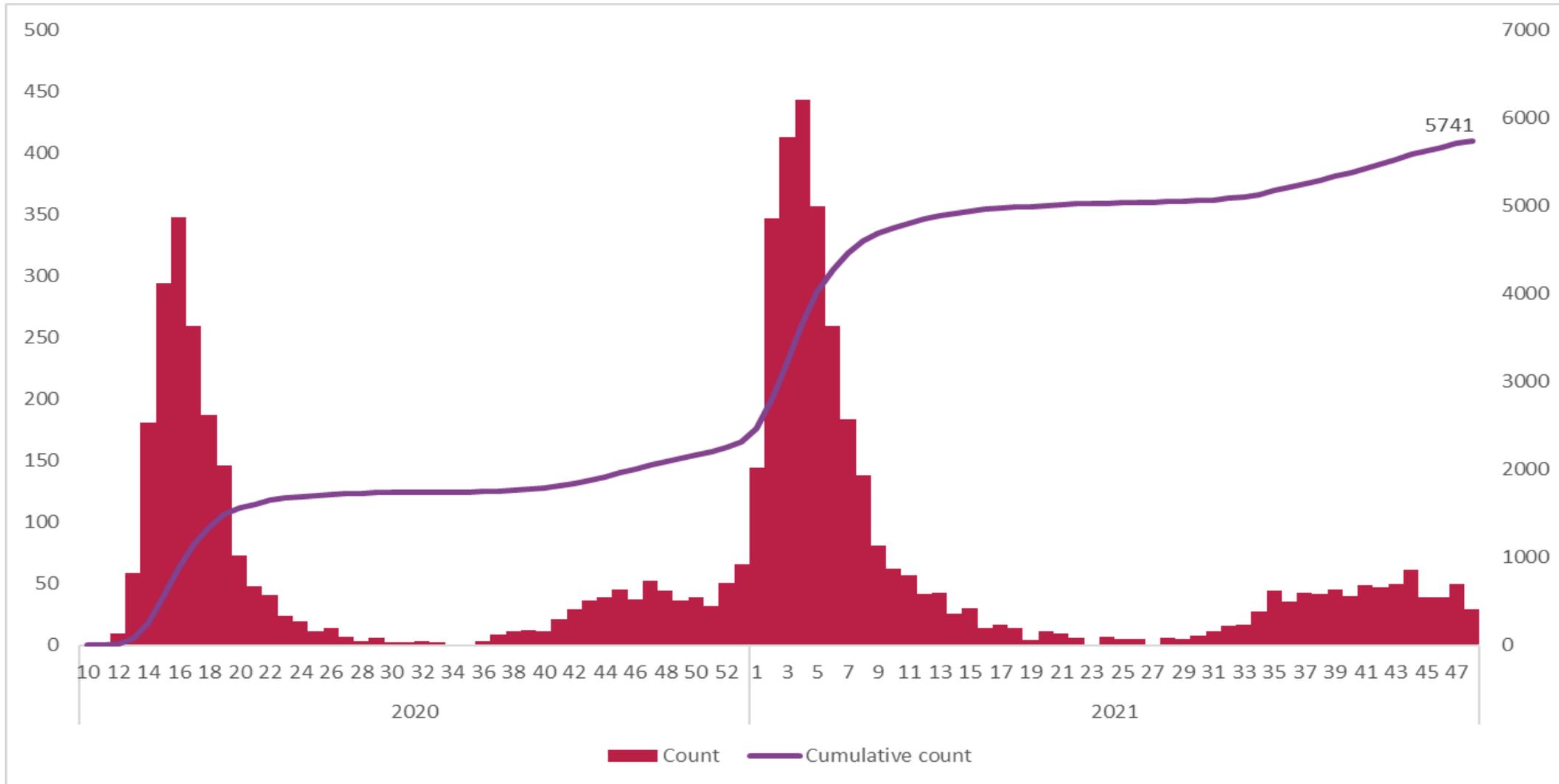


Figure 11: Total number of COVID-19 deaths notified in and cumulative number by week of death, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 04/12/2021. Date of death reported for 5,741 of deaths.

*Deaths may be underestimated for recent weeks as the outcome may not yet have occurred or may not yet have been reported to CIDR.

Deaths among COVID-19 cases during waves 3 and 4

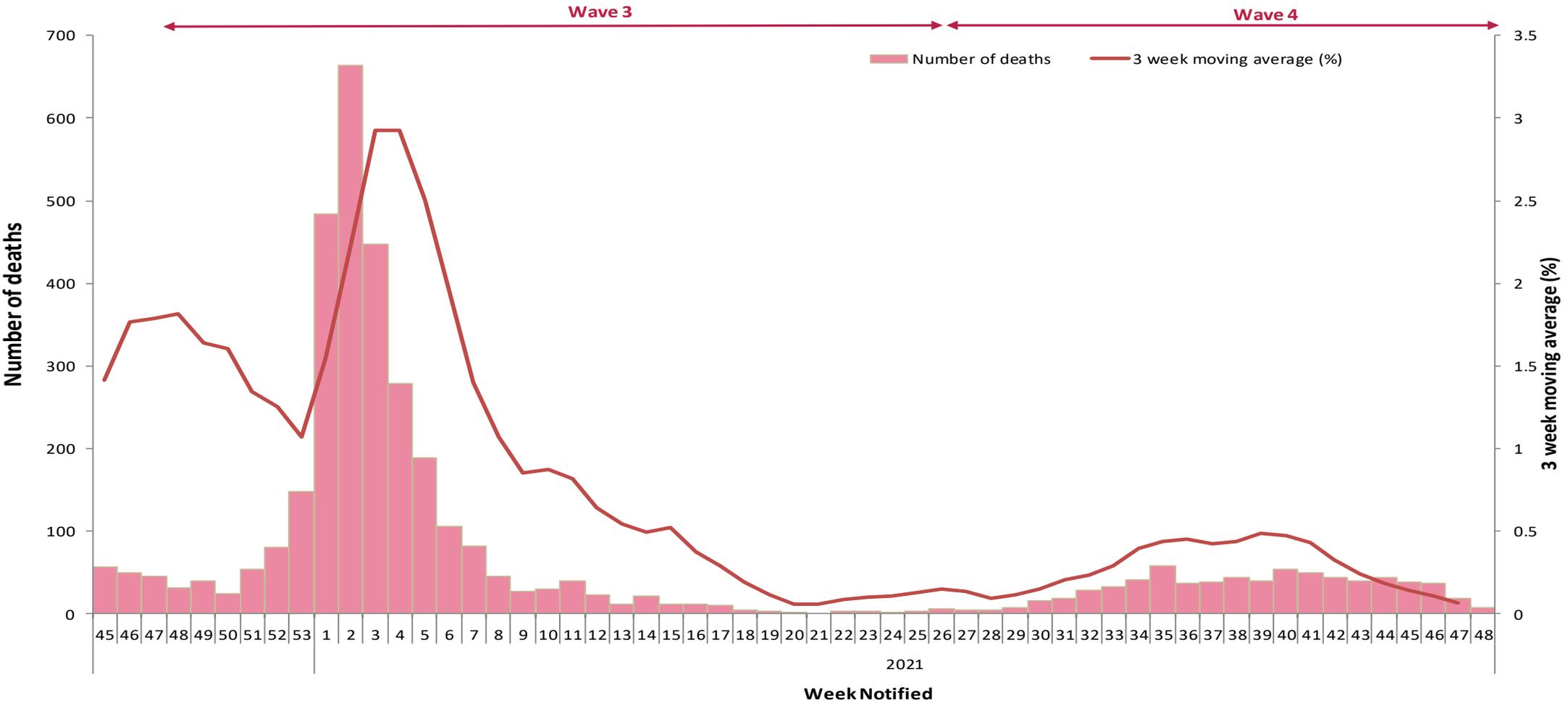
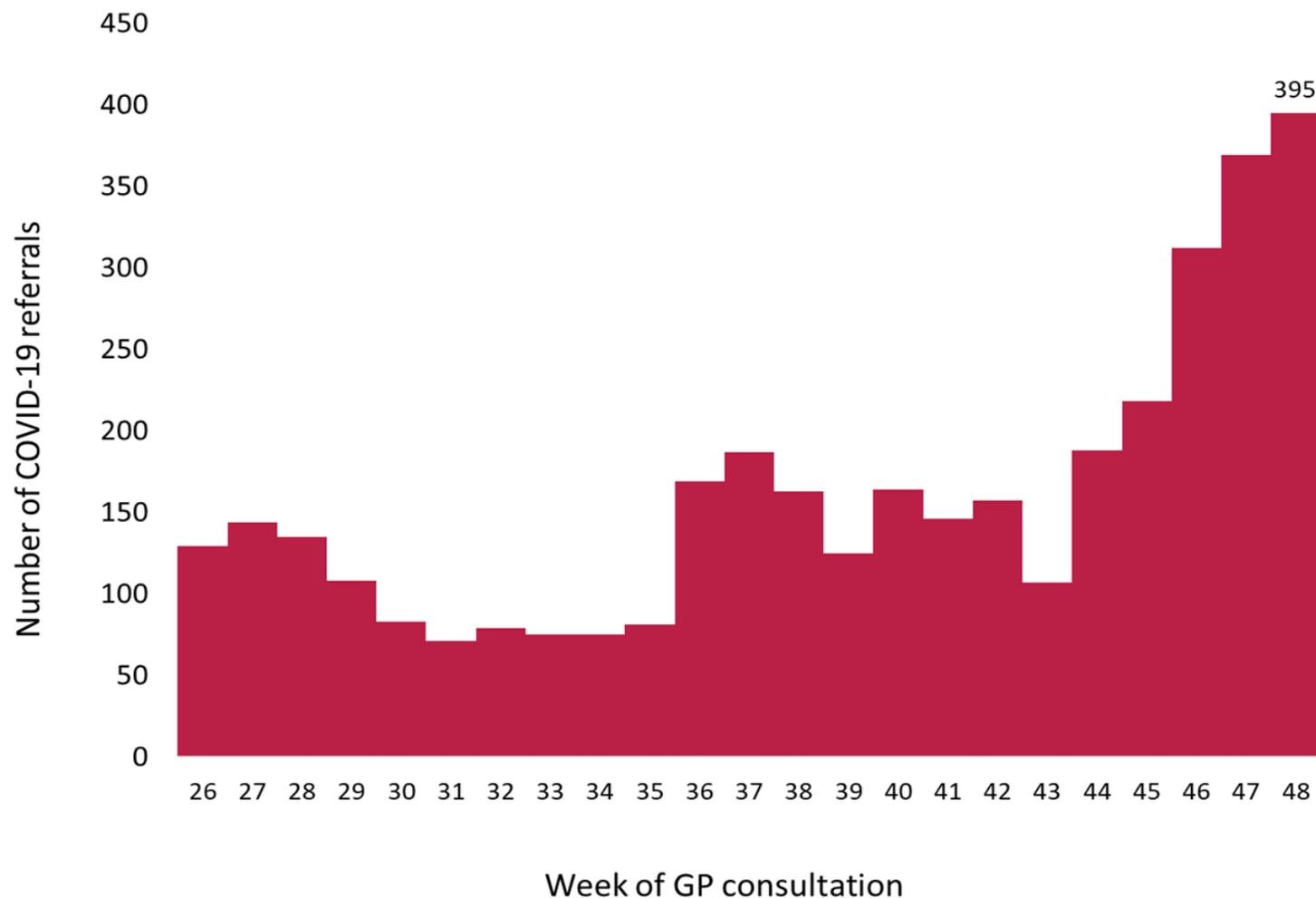


Figure 12: Number of deaths in confirmed COVID-19 cases and 3 week moving average (%) of deaths of overall case numbers in Ireland between week 45, 2020 and week 48, 2021 based on week of notification*

*Deaths may be underestimated for recent weeks as the outcome may not yet have occurred or may not yet have been reported to CIDR.

Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 testing



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Figure 13: Number of sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals by week of consultation, week 26, 2021 – week 48, 2021

**Recent increases in sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals are reflecting community COVID-19 incidence and changes to health seeking behaviour resulting from high demands on online COVID-19 booking systems for community testing centres.*

Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 testing

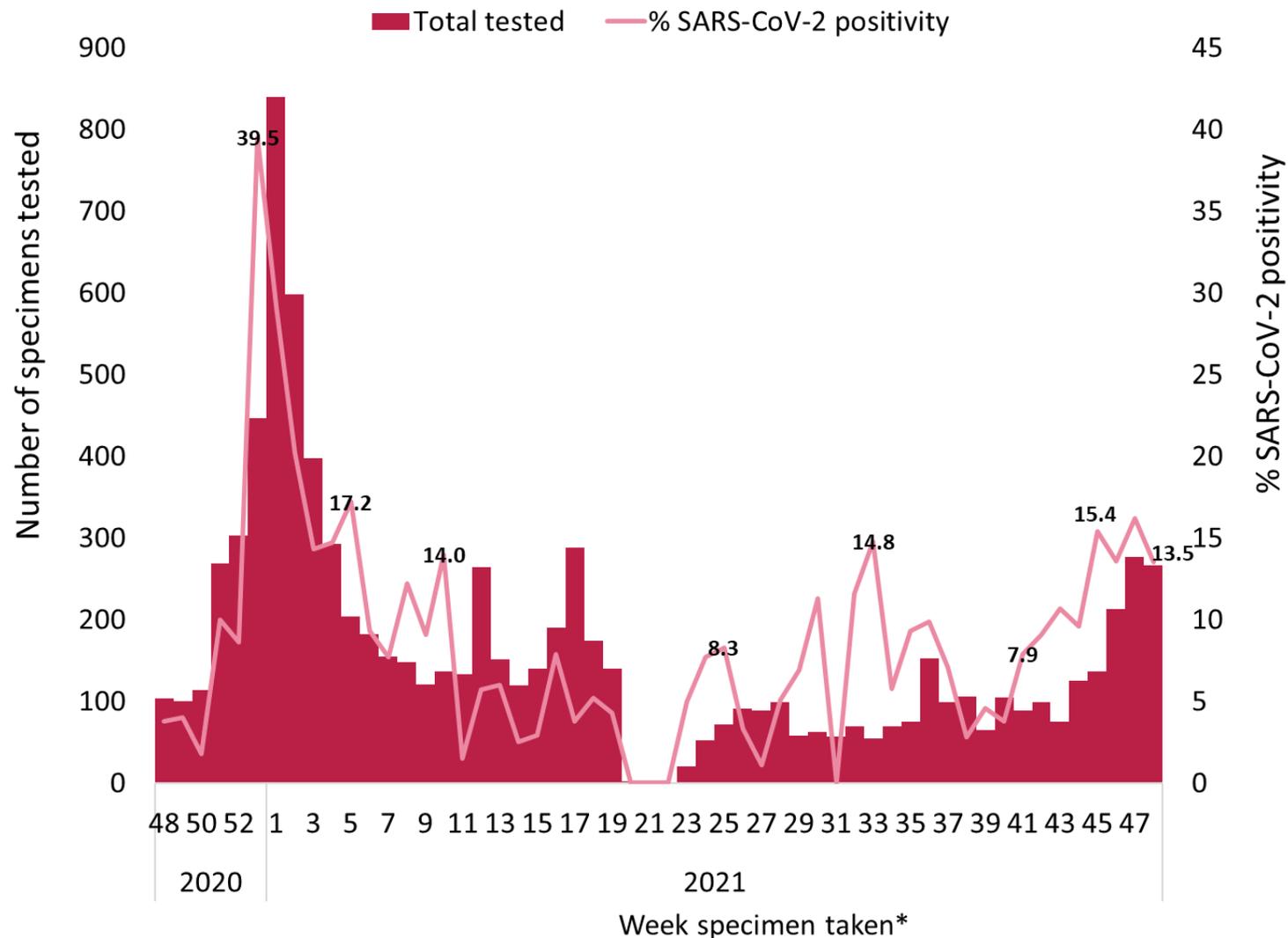


Figure 14: % SARS-CoV-2 positivity data from sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals tested by NVRL/ENFER*, 2020-2021.

*Including laboratories under the clinical governance of the NVRL

Please note, from week 19-23 2021, the GP sentinel virology data were incomplete due to the HSE cyber-attack



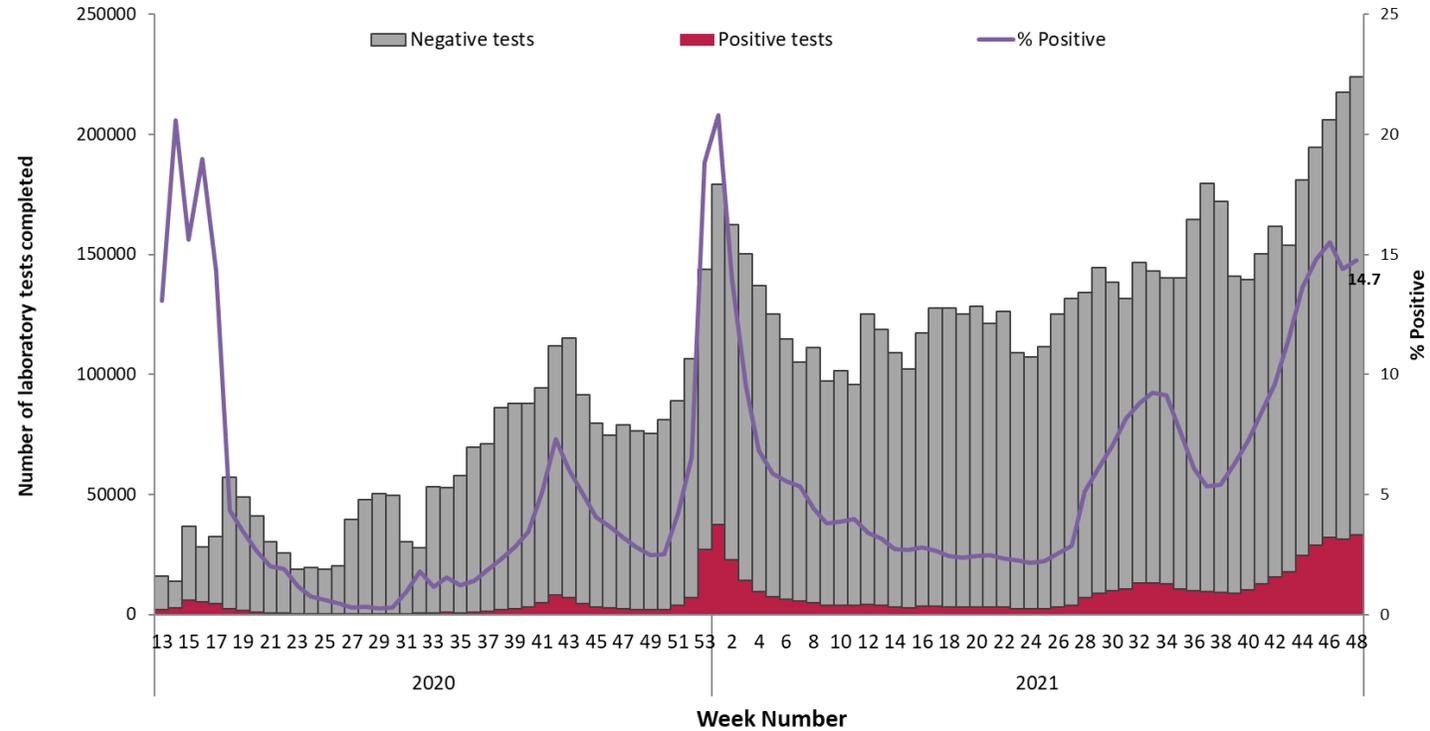
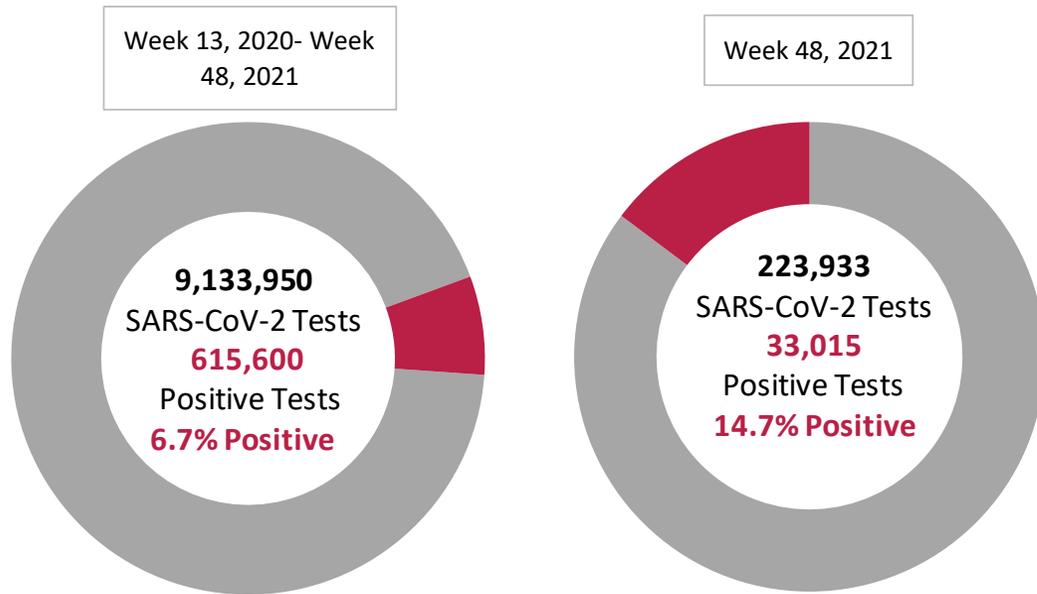


Figure 15a: Number of SARS-CoV-2 tests and positive tests* in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 48, 2021

Figure 15b: Number of SARS-CoV-2 negative and positive tests* completed in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 48, 2021

*Positive tests refers to all positive specimens and includes duplicates and individuals who were retested

Please refer to the Health Protection Surveillance (HPSC) website for specific reports on

- [14 Day report](#) epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland
- [Outbreaks/clusters](#) in Ireland COVID-19 weekly report
- [Weekly report on COVID-19](#) deaths reported in Ireland
- [SARS-CoV-2 wastewater surveillance](#) programme weekly reports
- [Healthcare Workers COVID-19](#) cases in Ireland monthly reports
- [Weekly reports on vaccination status](#) of COVID-19 deaths and cases admitted to ICU
- [Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland](#) – cases aged 0-18 years

Acknowledgements

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Technical Notes

1. Data Source

- Data are based on statutory notifications and were extracted from Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system and the HSE COVID care tracker. Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.
- Slide with Laboratory testing for SARS-CoV-2 data provided by Deloitte Ireland LLP

2. Epidemiological date

- Epidemiological date is based on the earliest of dates available on the case and taken from date of onset of symptoms, date of diagnosis, laboratory specimen collection date, laboratory received date, laboratory reported date or event creation date/notification date on CIDR. By using this date rather than event creation/ notification date, adjusts for any delays in testing/notification. Further information on epidemiological dates and weeks can be found on the [HPSC website](#).

3. Population data

- Population data were taken from Census 2016. Data were aggregated into the following age groups for the analysis: 0-4 years, 5-12 years, 13-18 years, 19-24 years, 25-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years, 55-64 years, 65-74 years, 75-84 years and ≥ 85 years.