



# Weekly Report on the Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland

## Week 44, 2021

Health Protection Surveillance Centre, HPSC  
COVID-19 Epidemiology Team, 08/11/2021

### Please note:

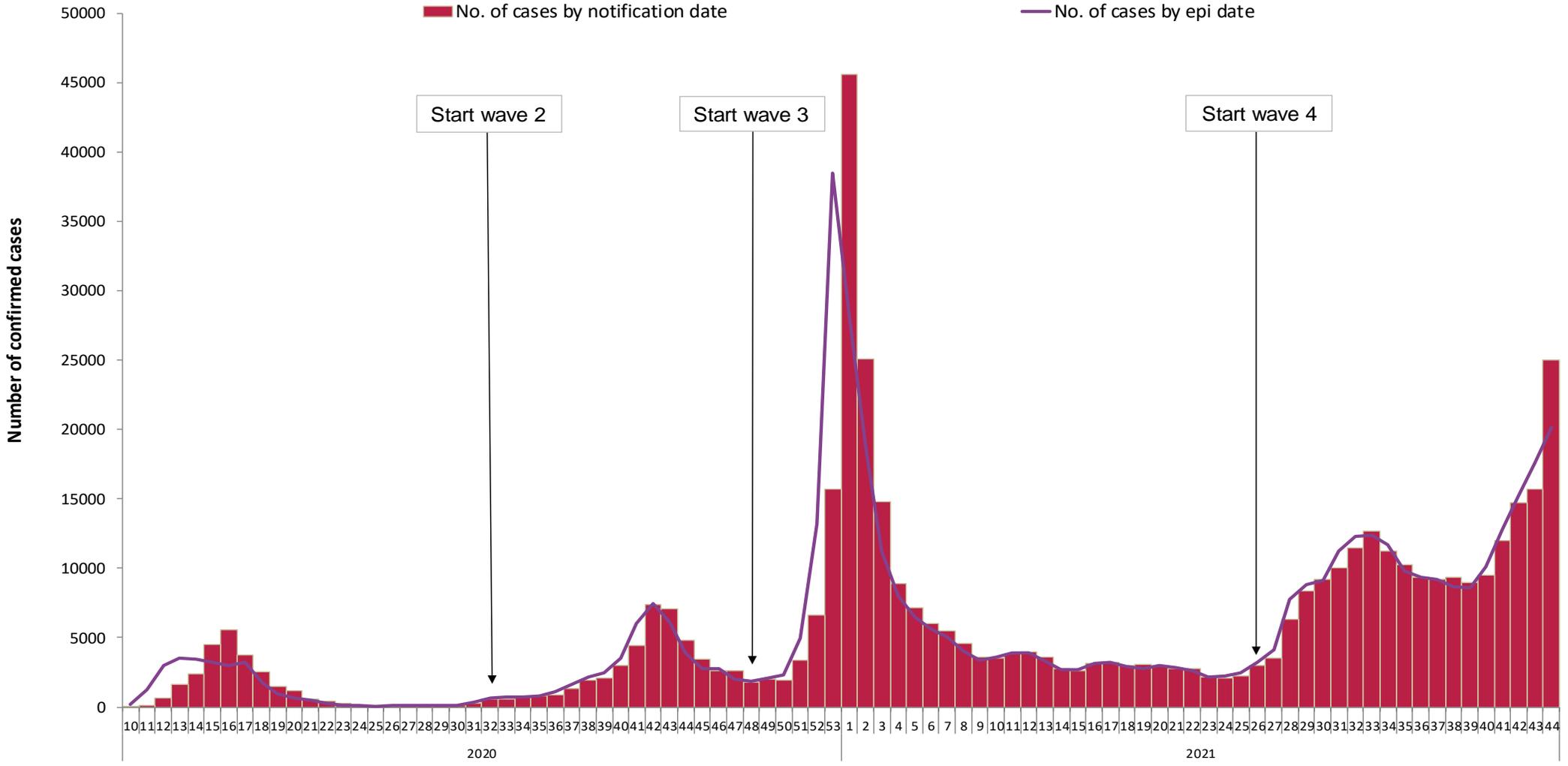
- The epidemiological weeks in this report, run from Sunday to Saturday. Please refer to the [HPSC website](#) for a complete list of epidemiological weeks with start and end dates for 2020/2021.
- Reference dates:
  - Week 10, 2020 (1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020) – the beginning of the pandemic in Ireland, also the start of the first wave
  - Week 32, 2020 (2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August 2020) – the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave
  - Week 48, 2020 (22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2020) – the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave
  - Week 26, 2021 (27<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021) – the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> wave
  - Week 44, 2021 (31<sup>st</sup> October to 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021) – most recent epidemiological week
- Data for this report is based on case notified on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) up to the 30<sup>th</sup> October
- Data was extracted from CIDR system on 08/11/2021
- 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 44, 2021 )		Week 44, 2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases	470,577		24,995	
Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population	9882.2		524.9	
Number of cases hospitalised	19,173	4.1	262*	1.0
Number of cases admitted to ICU	2,027	0.4	11*	0.04
Number of deaths among confirmed cases	5,278	1.1	5*	0.02
Case fatality ratio (CFR %)	1.1		0.02	
Incidence rate of confirmed deaths per 100,000 population	110.8		0.11	
Number of cases in healthcare workers	28917	6.1	363	1.5
% where HCW is known		12.3		4.5
Males	229,627	48.8	12,104	48.4
Females	240,803	51.2	12,853	51.4
M:F ratio	0.95		0.94	
Median (years)	33		34	
Mean age (years)	36		35	
Age range (years)	0-108		0-98	

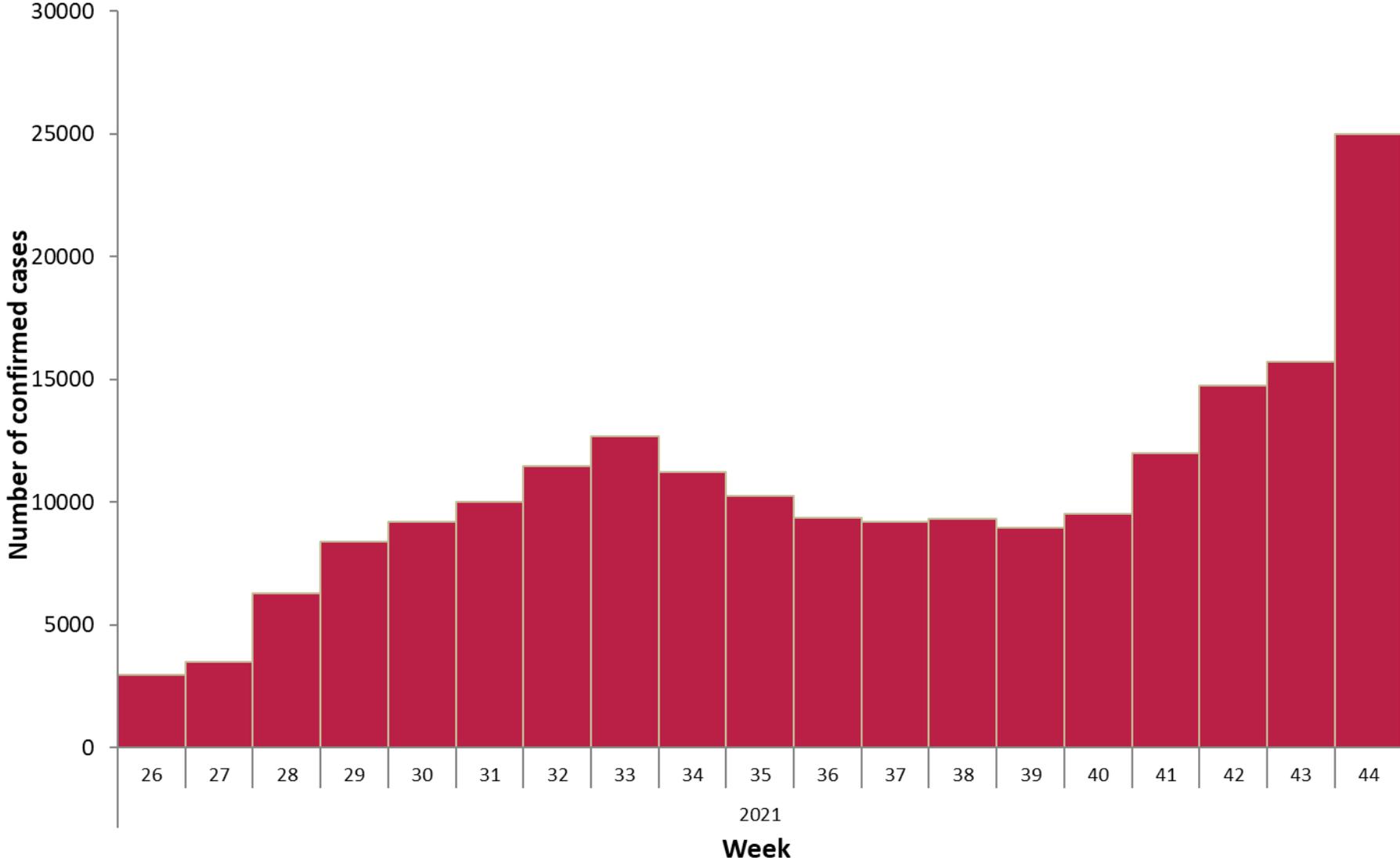
\* The number of cases hospitalised, cases admitted to ICU and deaths described in the above table relate only to COVID-19 cases who were notified during this reporting period, and where the outcome is known at the time of reporting. It does not reflect all hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths 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 44, 2021

# Epidemic curve of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4<sup>th</sup> wave



**Figure 2:** Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week in Ireland for the 4<sup>th</sup> wave from week 26, 2021 to week 44, 2021

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



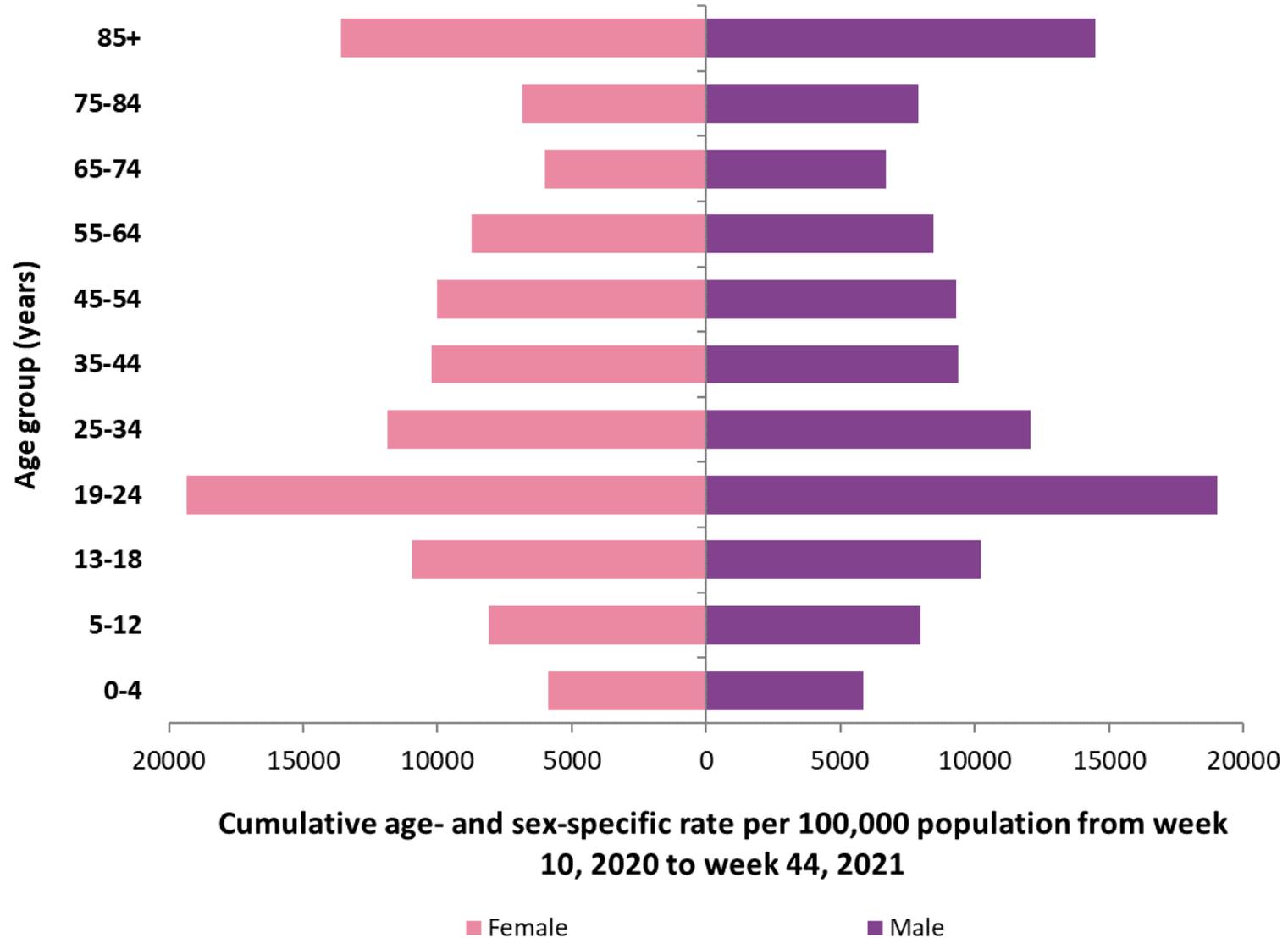
**Table 1:** Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 44, 2021

Characteristic		Week 44	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases		24,995	100
<b>Sex</b>	Male:Female ratio	0.94	
	Male	12,104	48.4
	Female	12,853	51.4
	Unknown	38	0.2
<b>Age</b>	Mean age (years)	35	
	Median age (years)	34	
	Age range (years)	0-98	
	0-4 yrs	978	3.9
	5-12 yrs	3,394	13.6
	13-18 yrs	1,658	6.6
	19-24 yrs	2,764	11.1
	25-34 yrs	3,794	15.2
	35-44 yrs	4,412	17.7
	45-54 yrs	3,289	13.2
	55-64 yrs	2,388	9.6
	65-74 yrs	1,689	6.8
	75-84 yrs	523	2.1
	85+ yrs	105	0.4
	Unknown	1	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 44, 2021

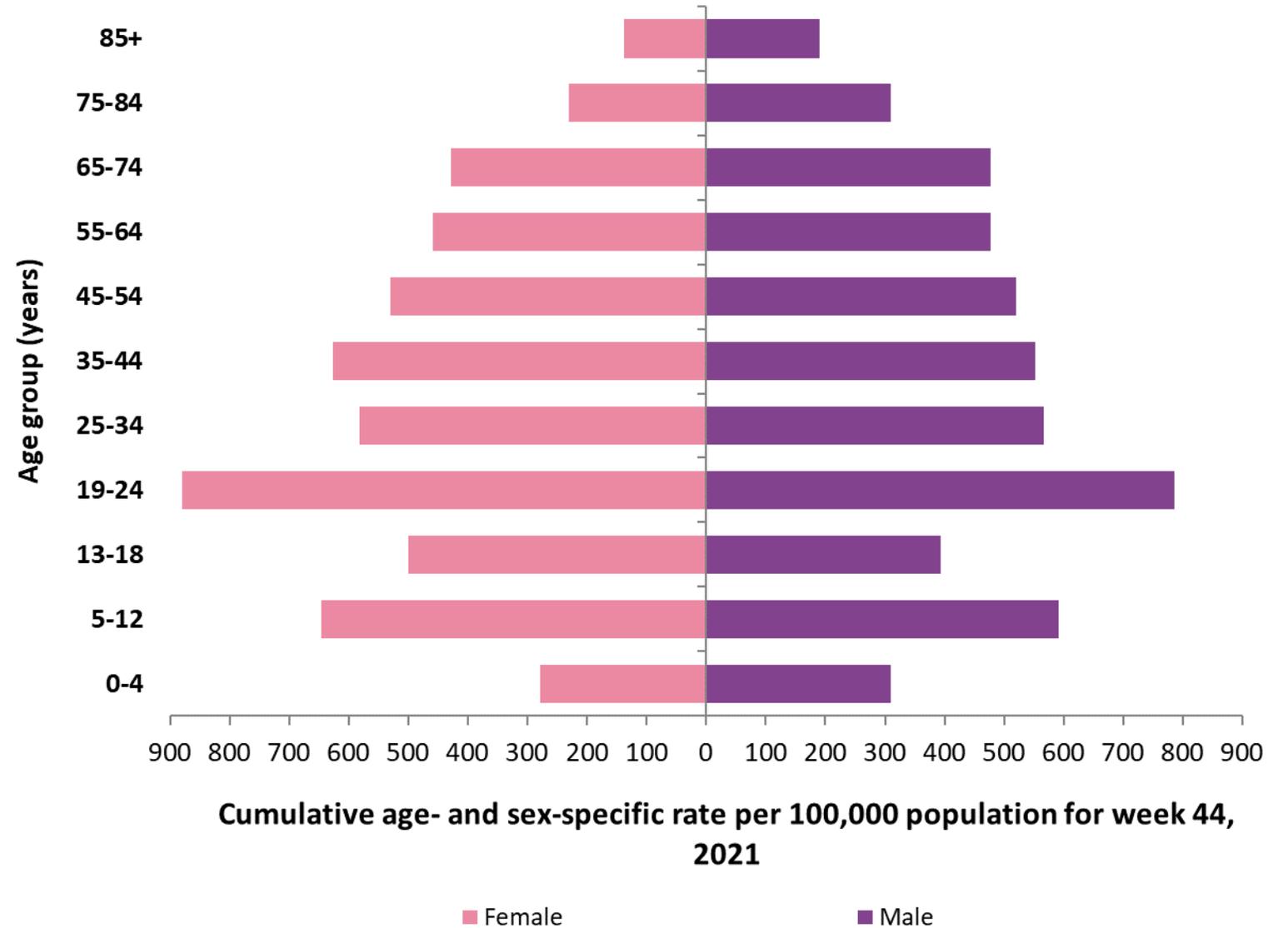
(excluding 60 cases for whom age is unknown, 146 cases for whom sex is unknown and one case for whom both are unknown)



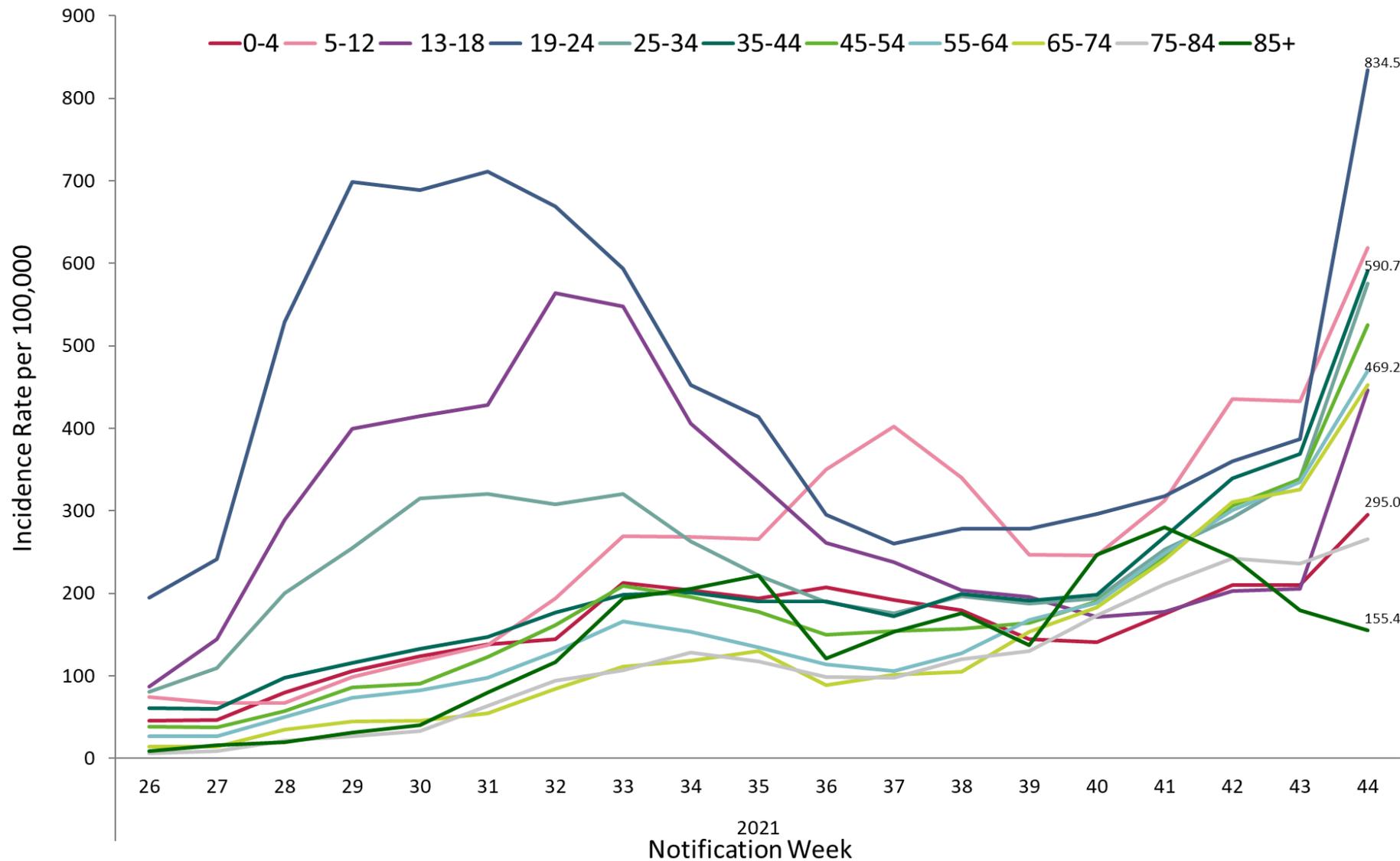
# Age and sex pyramid for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland for the latest epidemiological week

**Figure 3b:** Cumulative age and sex-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population notified in Ireland during week 44, 2021

(excluding 1 case for whom age is unknown and 38 cases for whom sex is unknown)



# Incidence rates by age group for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4<sup>th</sup> wave



**Figure 4:** Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland for the 4<sup>th</sup> wave from week 26, 2021 to week 44, 2021

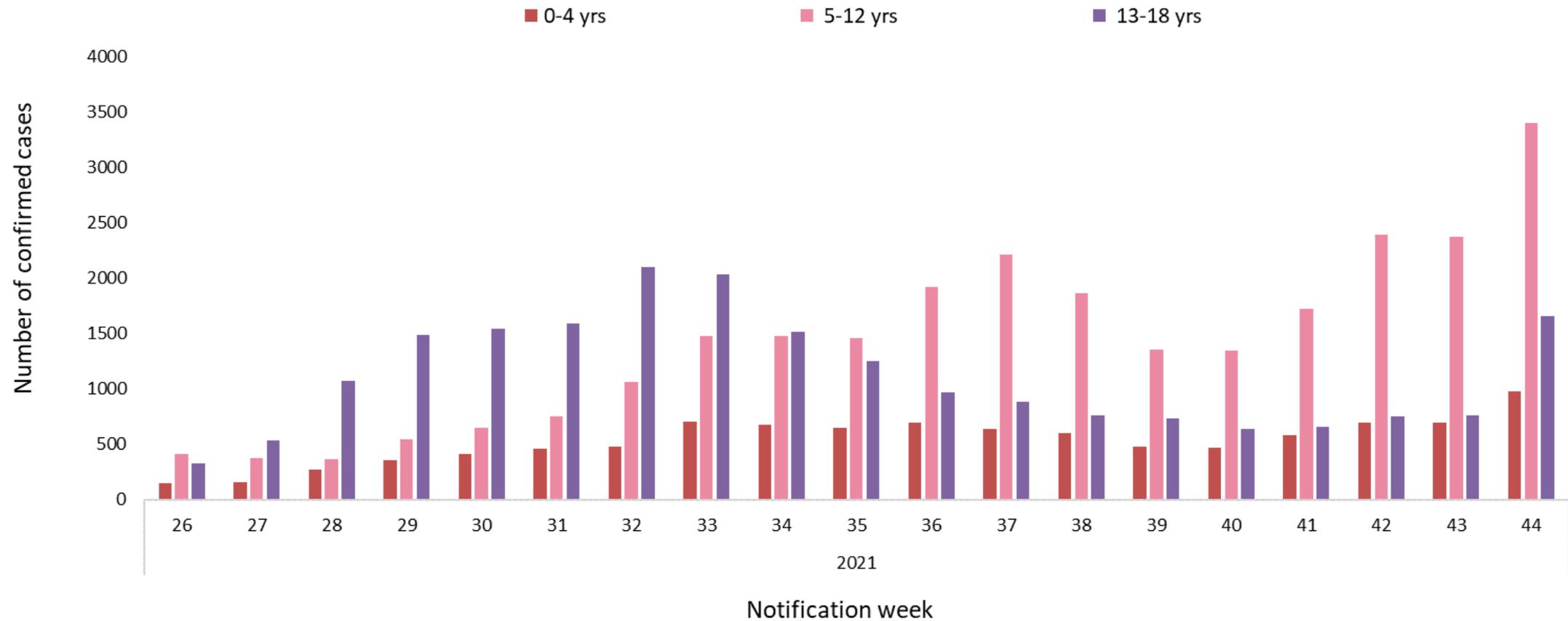
# Incidence by age groups for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4<sup>th</sup> wave



		0-4	5-12	13-18	19-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	National
2021	Notification Week												
	26	45.5	74.7	86.7	194.7	81.0	61.2	38.2	27.1	13.9	6.6	8.9	62.3
	27	46.8	67.3	144.2	241.8	109.8	60.1	38.0	27.3	14.7	9.2	16.3	73.4
	28	79.9	66.9	288.8	529.0	200.0	97.6	57.3	50.3	34.8	21.9	19.2	132.5
	29	105.6	98.8	399.4	698.4	254.8	115.7	85.9	73.7	44.7	27.0	31.1	176.1
	30	124.0	118.5	415.0	688.4	315.4	133.2	90.2	82.3	45.5	33.1	40.0	193.3
	31	138.2	137.1	428.4	711.6	320.1	146.9	122.8	98.0	54.3	64.1	79.9	210.4
	32	144.2	194.1	563.8	668.8	308.3	177.1	161.5	129.7	84.1	94.1	116.9	240.6
	33	213.0	269.2	547.6	593.3	320.1	198.6	209.4	166.4	111.6	106.9	193.9	266.6
	34	203.9	268.8	406.1	452.6	263.3	200.8	195.5	153.8	118.9	128.8	205.8	236.0
	35	194.0	266.1	335.3	413.6	222.2	190.7	177.6	135.0	130.1	117.6	222.0	215.8
	36	207.8	350.5	261.0	295.6	189.6	190.3	149.7	114.0	89.2	98.7	121.4	196.5
	37	191.8	402.0	237.6	260.3	176.1	172.2	154.1	106.1	101.5	98.2	153.9	193.5
	38	179.8	340.1	203.5	278.1	197.0	199.0	157.3	127.9	105.2	120.6	176.2	195.6
	39	144.2	247.1	195.9	278.4	187.4	191.2	164.7	167.8	153.7	130.3	137.7	188.1
	40	140.9	245.7	171.2	296.2	193.5	198.2	189.9	188.4	183.4	173.0	247.2	200.1
	41	175.0	312.7	177.6	317.9	252.8	268.6	245.2	248.5	240.4	211.2	279.8	251.7
	42	209.6	435.8	202.9	360.5	292.1	339.8	305.9	301.0	310.3	242.7	244.2	309.7
	43	209.6	432.7	205.3	387.1	339.4	368.9	338.5	335.0	326.4	236.1	179.1	330.5
44	295.0	618.6	446.2	834.5	575.4	590.7	525.4	469.2	452.2	266.2	155.4	524.9	

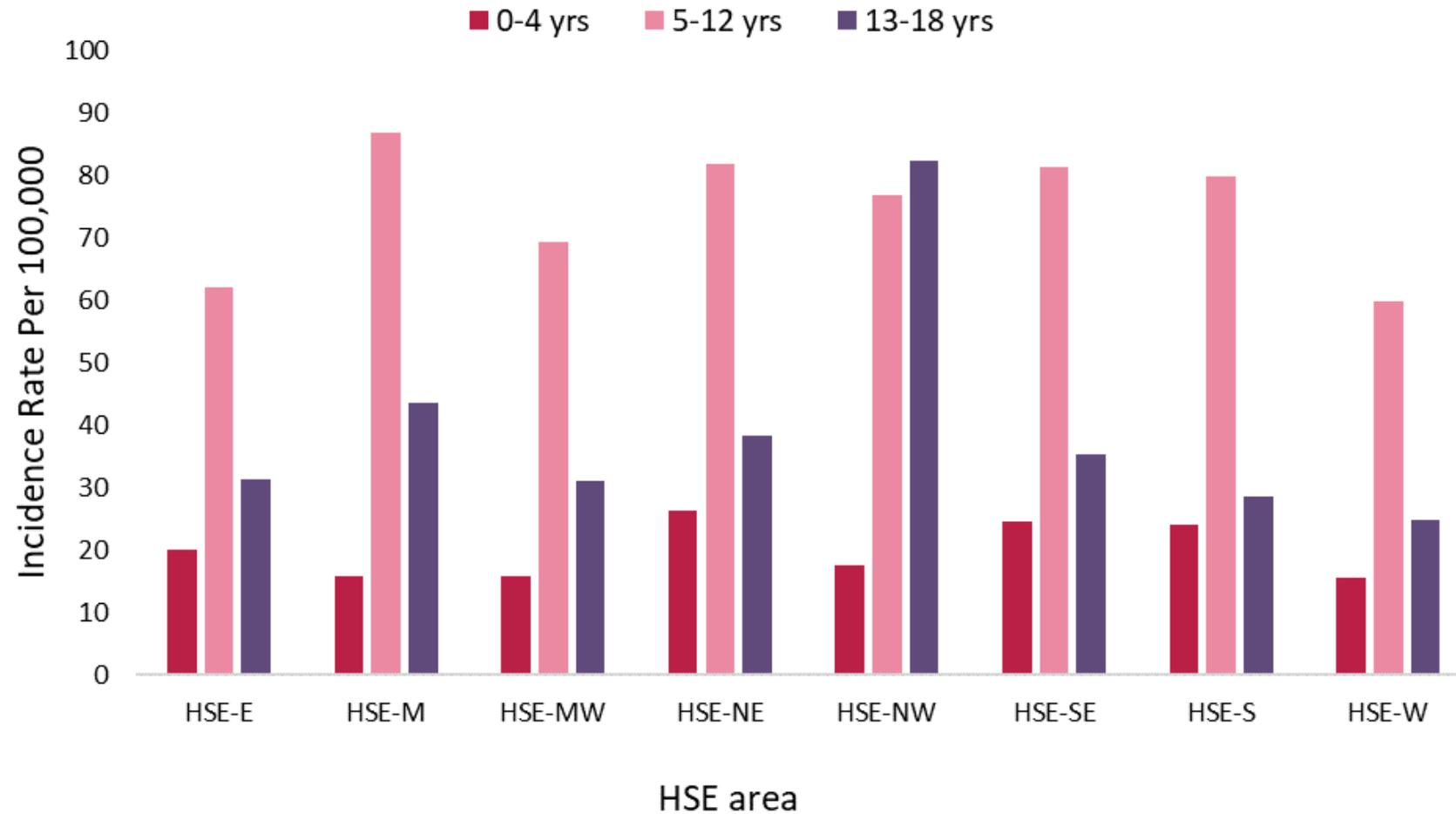
**Figure 5:** Heat map of weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland for the 4<sup>th</sup> wave between week 26, 2021 and week 44, 2021

# 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 4<sup>th</sup> wave between week 26, 2021 and week 44, 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 44, 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 44, 2021

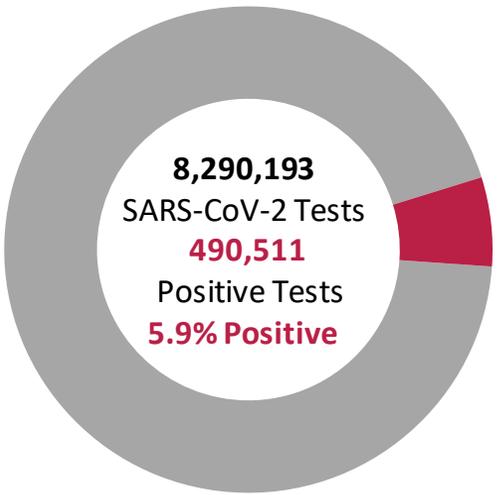
County	Cases		M:F ratio	Median age	Incidence Rate per 100,000
	N	%		(years)	
Leitrim	240	1.0	1.0	40	749.0
Carlow	397	1.6	1.0	38	697.3
Waterford	791	3.2	0.9	33	680.9
Louth	867	3.5	1.1	36	672.7
Laois	545	2.2	1.1	27	643.5
Westmeath	542	2.2	0.9	33	610.6
Donegal	946	3.8	0.9	29.5	594.3
Longford	235	0.9	1.0	33	575.0
Meath	1098	4.4	0.9	34	562.9
Cork	3020	12.1	0.9	35	556.3
Limerick	1054	4.2	1.0	35.5	540.8
Kerry	791	3.2	1.1	38	535.5
Wexford	782	3.1	1.0	38	522.3
Dublin	7019	28.1	0.9	34	520.9
Tipperary	793	3.2	1.0	35	497.0
Cavan	372	1.5	0.9	35	488.3
Galway	1257	5.0	0.9	28	487.1
Wicklow	693	2.8	1.0	37	486.6
Clare	559	2.2	0.8	38	470.5
Mayo	601	2.4	1.0	36	460.5
Sligo	293	1.2	1.1	37	447.1
Kilkenny	419	1.7	1.1	33	422.2
Monaghan	252	1.0	1.0	34	410.5
Roscommon	257	1.0	1.1	35	398.2
Kildare	882	3.5	0.9	35	396.4
Offaly	290	1.2	1.0	35	372.0

# Incidence rates by county for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4<sup>th</sup> wave

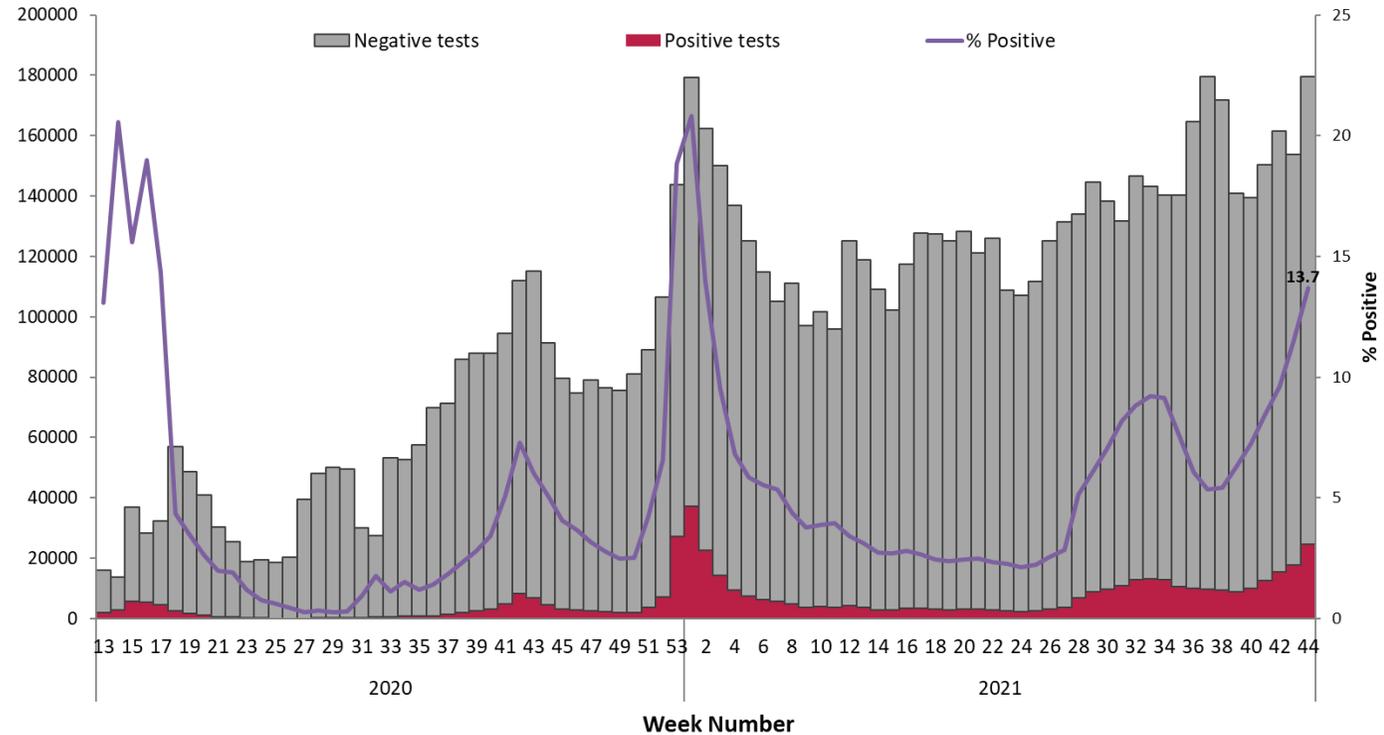
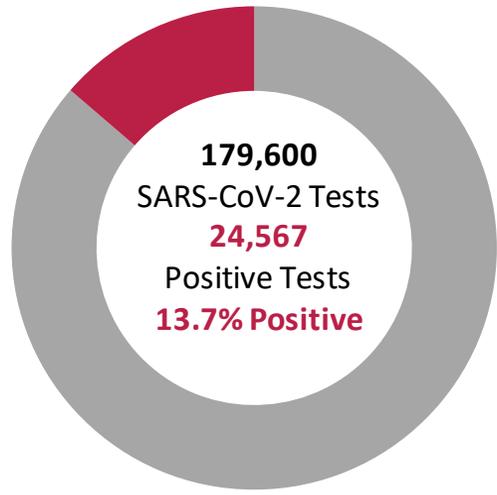
		Carlow	Cavan	Clare	Cork	Donegal	Dublin	Galway	Kerry	Kildare	Kilkenny	Laois	Leitrim	Limerick	Longford	Louth	Mayo	Meath	Monaghan	Offaly	Roscommon	Sligo	Tipperary	Waterford	Westmeath	Wexford	Wicklow	National
2021	Notification Week 26	14.1	40.7	48.0	19.7	215.5	89.5	29.1	33.9	51.2	23.2	63.8	18.7	82.1	34.3	66.0	37.5	60.0	31.0	42.3	91.4	76.3	21.9	104.2	72.1	25.4	35.1	62.3
	27	49.2	51.2	38.7	29.3	213.0	96.1	50.8	62.3	79.1	40.3	43.7	34.3	122.1	29.4	95.4	76.6	72.3	58.6	55.2	85.2	126.6	23.2	36.2	66.5	48.1	43.5	73.4
	28	131.7	114.2	70.7	75.5	392.0	165.9	129.8	94.1	134.8	48.4	138.1	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	53.4	118.7	132.5
	29	202.0	152.3	70.7	118.6	535.2	191.5	259.2	123.9	162.7	69.5	291.6	246.5	140.6	127.2	250.6	196.2	159.5	236.2	112.9	170.4	146.5	99.7	80.9	118.3	87.5	171.3	176.1
	30	130.0	182.5	104.4	120.7	378.2	220.1	283.7	198.4	133.9	99.8	198.4	227.8	191.4	124.8	378.6	301.1	178.4	252.5	94.9	230.9	213.6	127.9	105.0	143.1	90.2	155.9	193.3
	31	172.1	236.3	143.9	163.6	321.0	238.7	303.4	203.1	152.4	105.8	181.8	152.9	179.6	181.0	269.2	314.9	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	467.3	137.2	149.4	578.5	247.6	295.7	202.4	202.7	145.1	194.8	187.2	190.4	156.6	245.2	315.7	213.8	651.6	201.4	444.7	288.4	168.0	171.3	287.3	187.0	181.1	240.6
	33	226.6	737.8	155.7	191.2	599.3	253.3	256.1	285.7	204.0	135.0	230.2	221.6	296.6	205.5	377.1	272.8	238.9	830.8	202.7	379.6	196.8	296.5	218.6	252.3	167.6	183.3	266.6
	34	175.6	502.8	131.3	163.9	557.2	214.9	239.9	303.3	181.1	199.5	126.3	330.8	254.0	327.8	237.4	287.3	231.2	777.1	238.6	350.1	273.1	246.9	158.4	210.7	146.3	163.6	236.0
	35	230.1	334.8	196.1	185.3	498.8	207.7	193.8	225.4	151.5	166.3	211.3	402.6	228.8	259.3	262.3	245.2	196.9	498.5	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	130.8	409.6	223.3	171.7	142.2	171.2	168.3	263.3	221.6	181.1	305.8	251.4	212.2	186.6	478.9	219.3	233.9	149.5	137.3	127.4	152.1	108.9	102.5	196.5
	37	242.4	216.6	140.6	144.2	389.5	211.0	119.7	173.3	196.4	163.3	229.1	137.3	193.9	215.3	345.3	185.4	222.0	423.5	160.3	159.6	135.8	162.3	148.9	201.6	145.6	74.4	193.5
	38	254.7	248.1	109.4	146.4	321.6	234.2	144.5	146.2	247.6	140.1	186.5	221.6	203.7	249.6	252.2	252.9	202.0	290.0	136.0	141.0	151.1	145.4	169.6	187.0	82.8	95.5	195.6
	39	274.0	259.9	186.0	142.4	282.7	200.8	156.6	256.6	163.6	108.8	165.3	215.3	225.8	393.9	173.0	113.4	208.7	247.6	144.9	198.3	174.0	156.1	327.1	143.1	124.9	113.0	188.1
	40	328.5	206.1	163.3	183.3	285.8	195.0	220.5	264.0	168.1	182.4	222.0	168.5	245.8	315.6	211.8	160.9	177.9	259.0	151.4	164.2	152.6	146.0	357.2	169.0	142.3	159.4	200.1
	41	354.8	274.4	291.2	222.2	302.8	236.5	194.1	423.8	229.2	198.5	320.0	305.8	285.3	499.1	296.4	187.7	287.1	265.5	147.5	255.6	221.3	208.7	461.4	274.9	162.3	181.9	251.7
	42	660.4	301.9	367.8	290.3	329.2	279.7	277.8	561.2	238.2	282.2	380.2	327.7	363.8	611.7	344.5	180.8	312.7	257.4	277.1	303.7	221.3	258.2	650.7	348.1	203.7	214.1	309.7
	43	535.7	304.6	375.4	371.0	329.2	292.9	288.7	490.2	278.2	321.5	345.9	474.3	362.8	521.1	404.2	240.6	303.5	228.1	239.9	251.0	245.7	300.2	653.3	313.2	325.9	292.1	330.5
	44	697.3	488.3	470.5	556.3	594.3	520.9	487.1	535.5	396.4	422.2	643.5	749.0	540.8	575.0	672.7	460.5	562.9	410.5	372.0	398.2	447.1	497.0	680.9	610.6	522.3	486.6	524.9

**Figure 7:** Heat map of weekly incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population, by county, notified in Ireland for the 4<sup>th</sup> wave between week 26, 2021 and week 44, 2021

Week 13, 2020- Week 44, 2021



Week 44, 2021

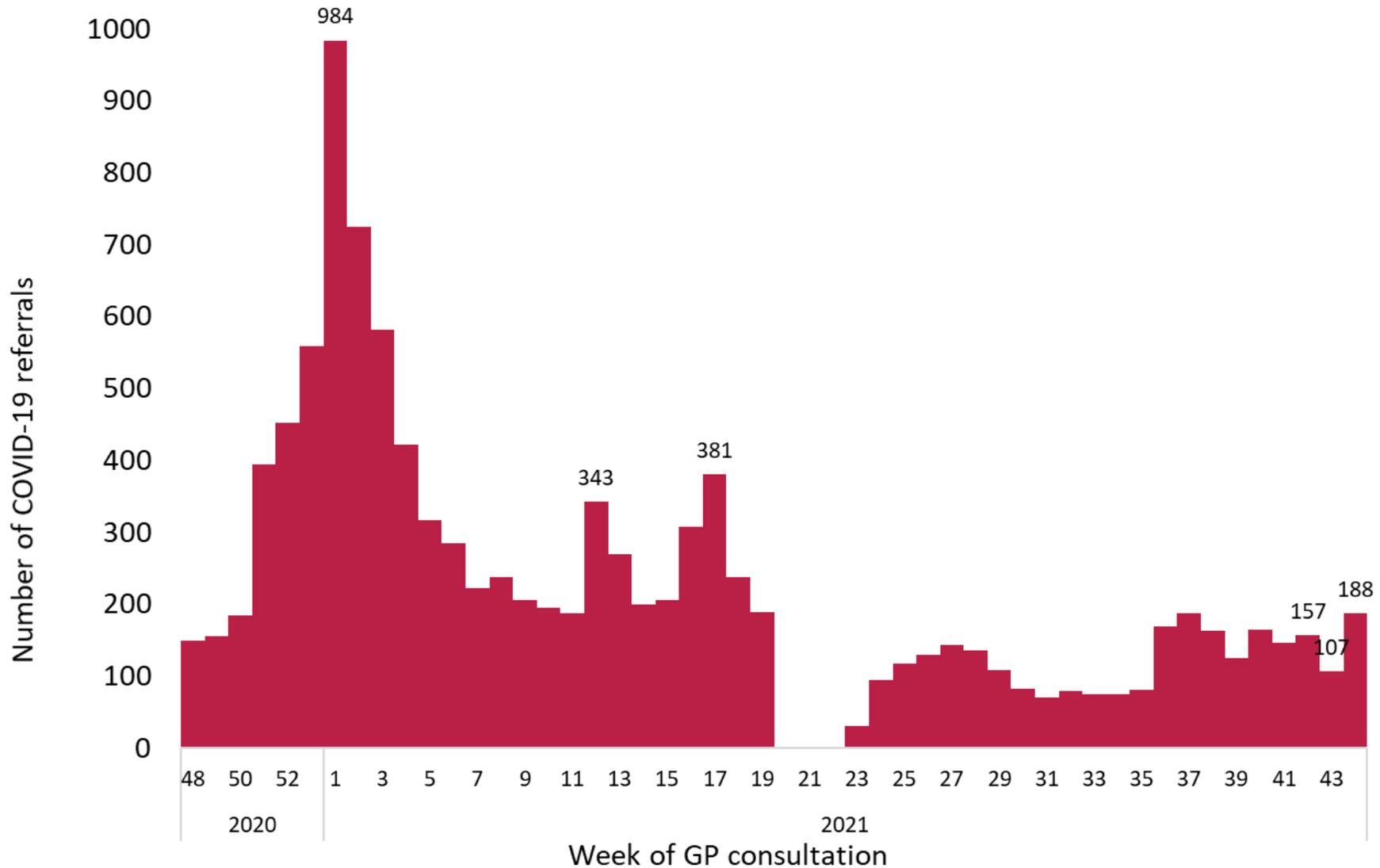


**Figure 8a:** Number of SARS-CoV-2 tests and positive tests\* in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 44, 2021

**Figure 8b:** Number of SARS-CoV-2 negative and positive tests\* completed in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 44, 2021

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

# Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 testing



**Figure 9:** Number of sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals by week of consultation, 2020-2021

\*Please note, from week 19-23 2021, the GP sentinel referral data were incomplete due to the cyber-attack

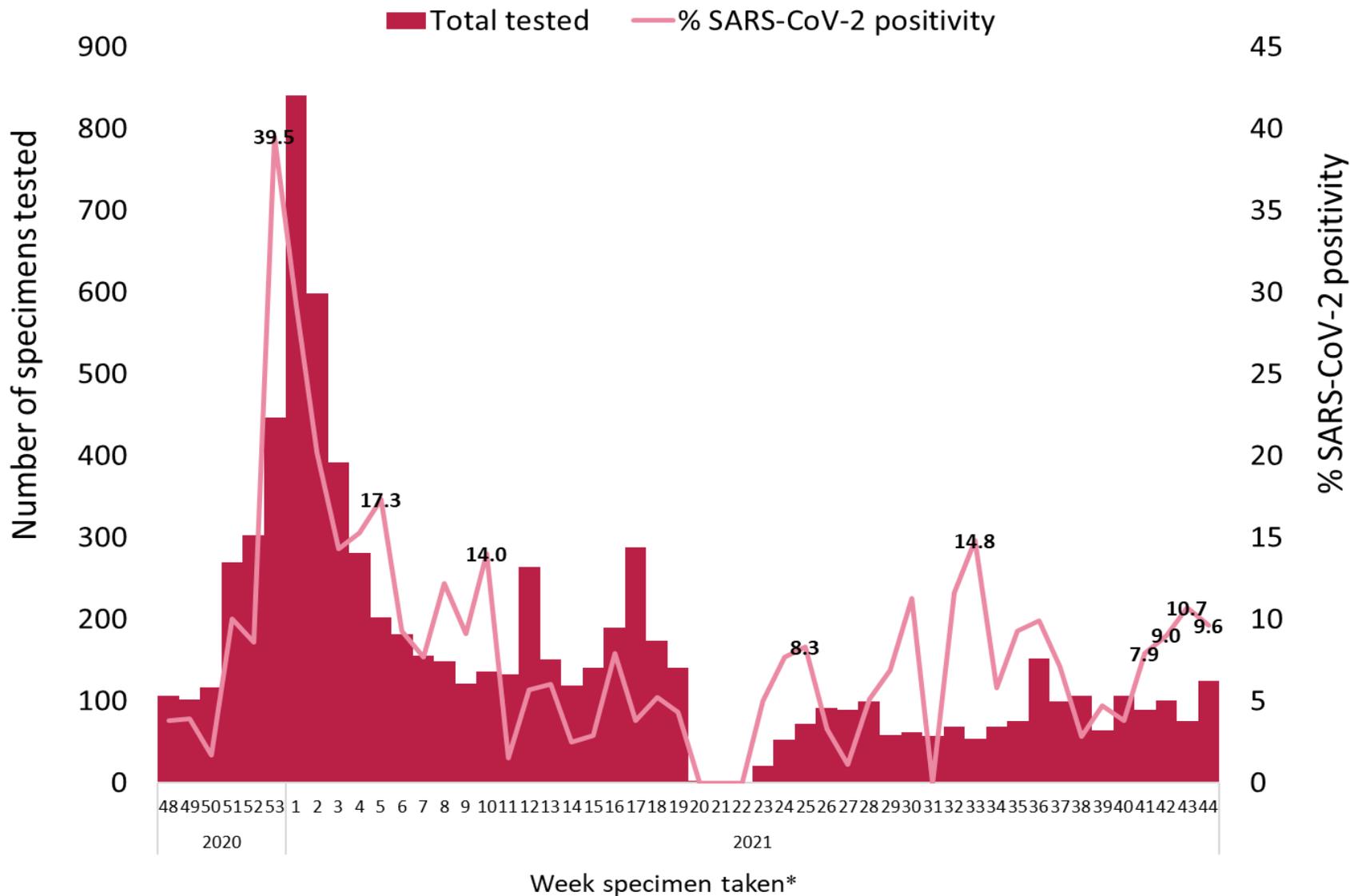




Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



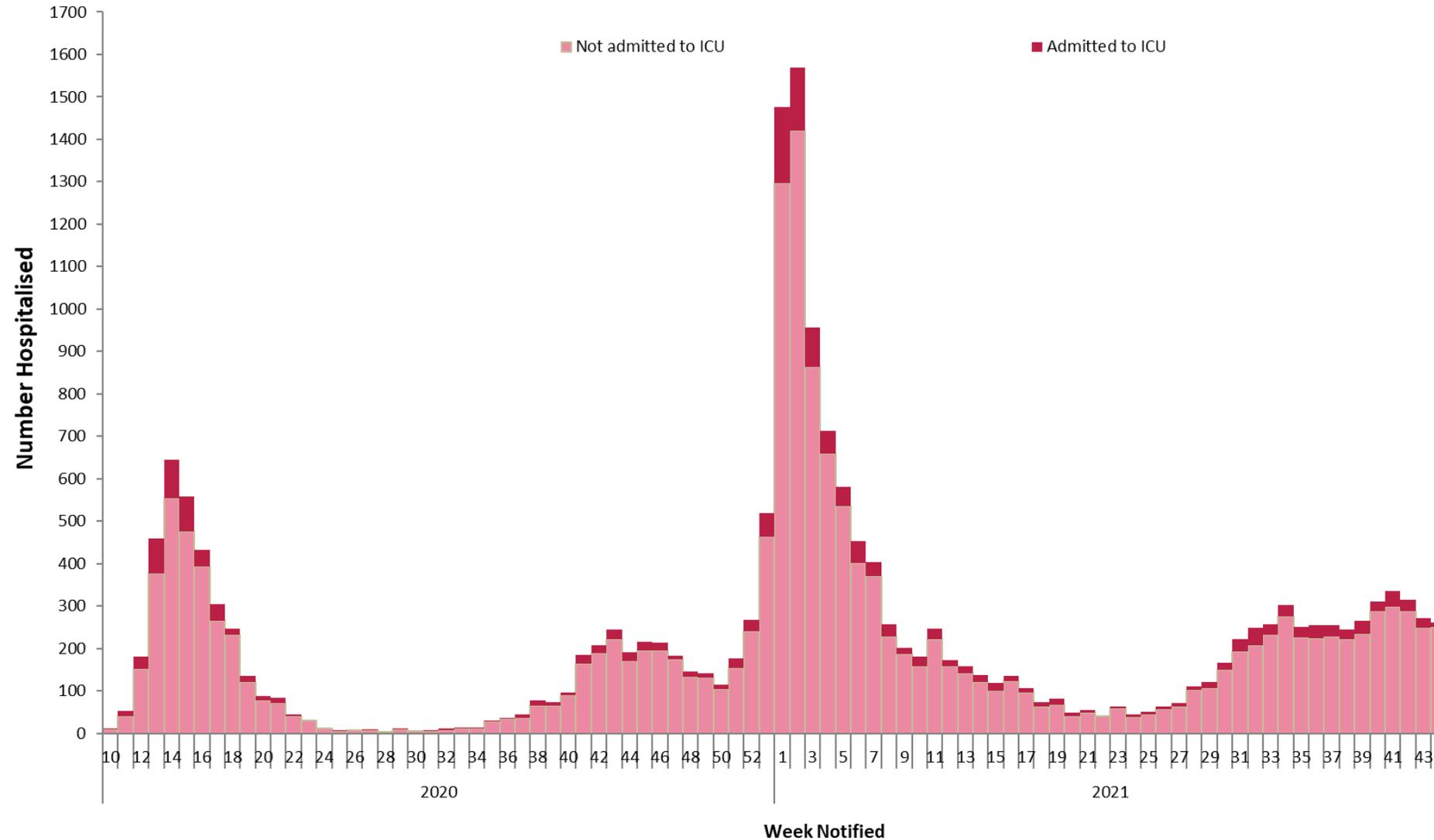
# Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 testing



**Figure 10:** % SARS-CoV-2 positivity data from sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals tested by NVRL/ENFER, 2020-2021

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

# Hospitalisations and ICU admissions among COVID-19 cases



**Figure 11:** Number of hospitalised COVID-19 cases based on ICU admission status in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 44, 2021\*

\*Please note that the most recent weeks may not yet reflect all admissions.

# Deaths among COVID-19 cases

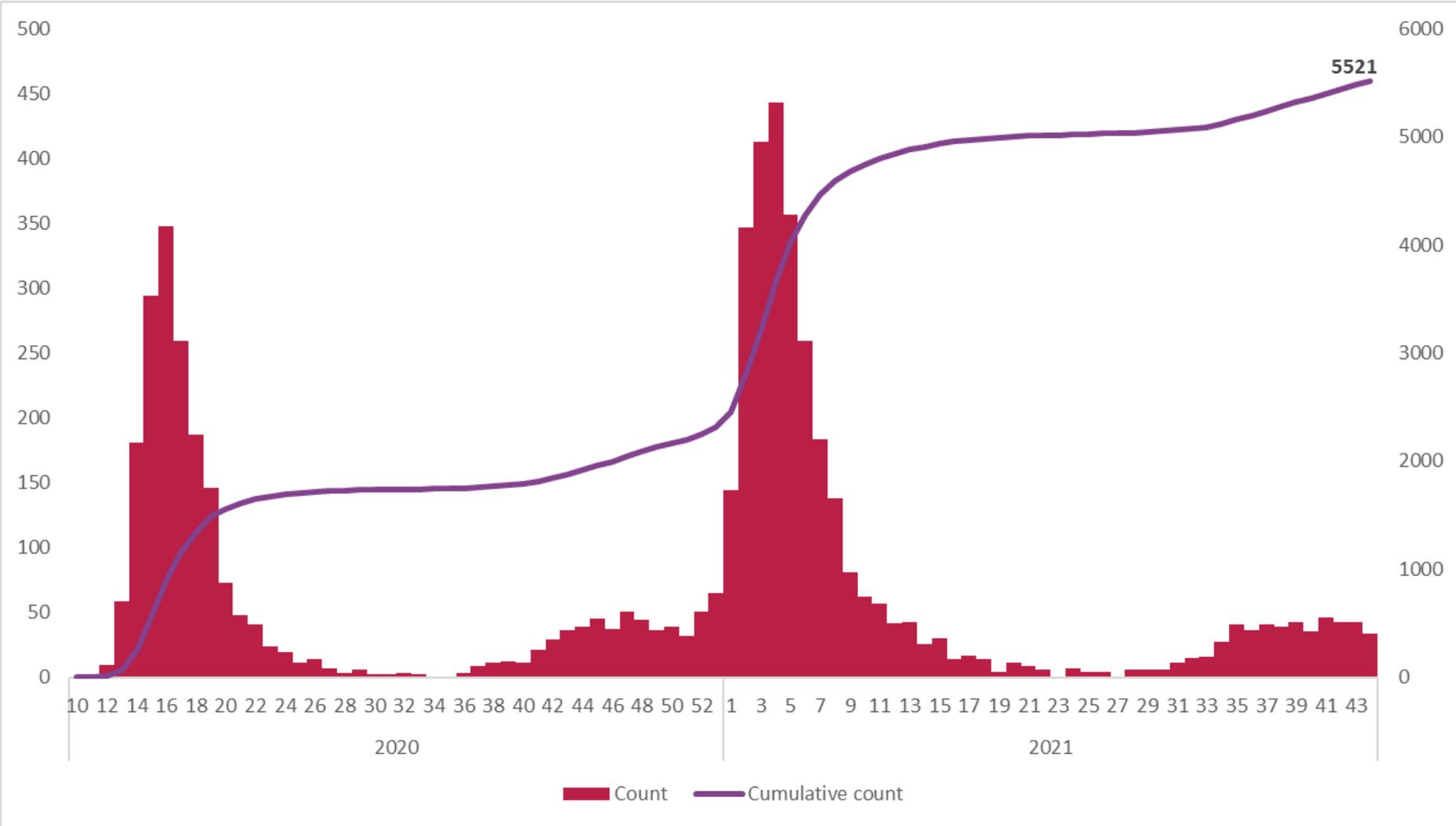
	Number	Percent
Total number of deaths	5,550	
confirmed	5,278	95.1
probable	97	1.7
possible	175	3.2
Number hospitalised who died	3,072	55.4
admitted to ICU who died	622	11.2
not admitted to ICU who died	4,928	88.8
Number of imported cases who died	15	0.3
Number of HCWs who died	19	0.3
Number with underlying conditions who died	4,772	86.0
Males who died	2,952	53.2
M:F ratio	1.14	
Median age (years)	82	
Mean age (years)	80	
Age range (years)	14-105	

**Table 3:** Summary of deaths in all COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 44, 2021

Age group (years)	Female	Male	Total	Percent
<45 yrs	27	35	62	1
45-54 yrs	40	78	118	2
55-64 yrs	111	203	314	6
65-74 yrs	323	574	897	16
75-84 yrs	792	1070	1862	34
85+ yrs	1302	992	2294	41
Unknown	3	0	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2598</b>	<b>2952</b>	<b>5550</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Percent</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>53.2</b>		

**Table 4:** Number of deaths in all COVID-19 cases by sex and age group notified in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 44, 2021

# Deaths among COVID-19 cases

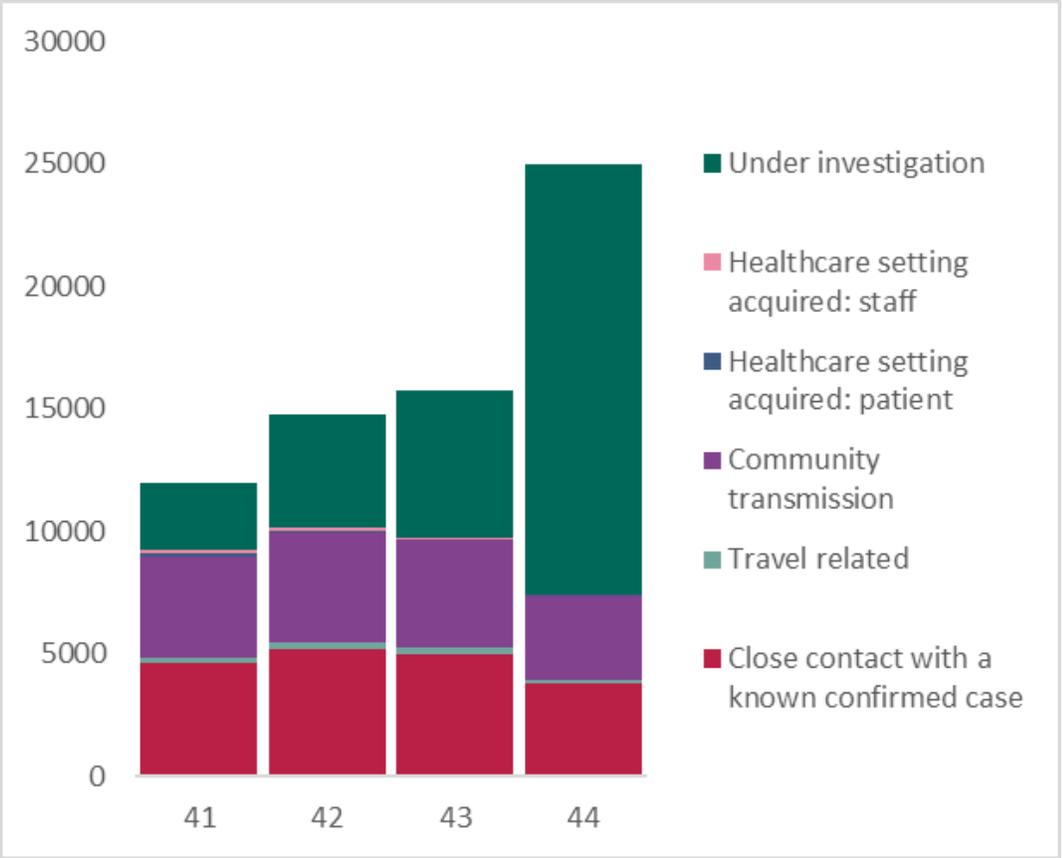


**Figure 12:** Total number of COVID-19 deaths notified in and cumulative number by week of death, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 06/11/2021. Date of death reported for 5,521 of deaths.

# Most likely transmission source of COVID-19 cases

**Table 5:** Most likely transmission source for cases notified in week 44, 2021.

Most likely transmission source for 44, 2021	Number of cases	Percent
Close contact with a known confirmed case	3772	15.1
Travel related	145	0.6
Community transmission	3457	13.8
Healthcare setting acquired: patient	29	0.1
Healthcare setting acquired: staff	43	0.2
Under investigation	17549	70.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>24995</b>	<b>100</b>



**Figure 13:** Most likely transmission source by week, from week 41 - week 44, 2021.

**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  $\geq 85$  years.