



Weekly Report on the Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland

Week 8, 2022

Health Protection Surveillance Centre, HPSC
COVID-19 Epidemiology Team, 28/02/2022

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 2020-2022.
- 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 51, 2021 (19th to 25th December 2021) – the beginning of the 5th wave
 - Week 8, 2022 (20th February to 26th February) – most recent epidemiological week
- Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.

- Since 14th January 2022, a confirmatory PCR test is no longer necessary for some groups of people testing positive on an antigen test in the community, see [guidance](#). Cases with a positive antigen test are asked to register the result on the HSE Positive Antigen Portal. The number of cases registering a positive antigen test on the HSE Antigen Portal the previous day has been reported on a daily basis in addition to the estimate based on the positive PCR results (see Figure 7).
- People registering a positive antigen test through the HSE Antigen Portal are managed in the same way as those with a positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR test in terms of Public Health advice and management of close contacts.
- However, for surveillance purposes, a self-administered positive antigen test registered on the HSE Antigen Portal is not considered to be a confirmed COVID-19 case as it is not subject to data validation and linkage to previous or subsequent PCR results is not feasible.
- In this report, confirmed cases notified on CIDR and cases who have registered a positive antigen test result on the HSE Antigen Portal are presented separately.
- Data from both sources (CIDR and the HSE Antigen Portal) should be interpreted in the context of the current testing policy. The change to the testing policy on 14th January for some groups (see above), will affect the number and age distribution of confirmed cases notified on CIDR. Those aged 4-39 years outside of risk groups no longer require a confirmatory PCR test after a positive antigen test. These age-groups will be over represented in data from the Positive Antigen Portal and under represented in the PCR data.
- The surge in case numbers during week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022, exceeded the capacity of surveillance partners leading to an increased reporting time (time from when a case is notified to when they are uploaded to CIDR) to CIDR.
- For this reason, notifications on CIDR in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 were reduced compared to the number of cases diagnosed during this period. Notifications on CIDR in weeks 3 and 4, 2022 were inflated compared to cases diagnosed during weeks 3 and 4, due to the ongoing processing of cases diagnosed during previous weeks.
- CIDR data by date of notification does not accurately reflect trends between week 51, 2021 and week 4, 2022.
- To better reflect the epidemiology during this period, some additional trend data are presented by [epidemiological date](#) (epi-date). Epi-date is based on the earliest of dates available on the case. Analysis by epidemiological date provides a more accurate picture of trends as it removes the impact of reporting time.

The following figures and tables are based on cases notified on CIDR and do not include cases who registered a positive antigen result on the HSE Positive Antigen Portal.

A confirmed case on CIDR relates to a case with a positive PCR test.

Summary characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR, wave 5

	Total (week 26, 2021-week 8, 2021)		Week 8, 2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases	641,660		24,986	
Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population	13475.0		524.7	
Number of cases hospitalised	7,162	1.1	455*	1.8
Number of cases admitted to ICU	156	0.0	<5*	
Number of deaths among confirmed cases	386	0.1	<5*	
Case fatality ratio (CFR %)	0.1		0.02	
Incidence rate of confirmed deaths per 100,000 population	8.1		0.08	
Males	299,075	46.6	10,894	43.6
Females	342,383	53.4	14,064	56.3
M:F ratio	0.87		0.77	
Median (years)	33		42	
Mean age (years)	34		40	
Age range (years)	0-105		0-101	

**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.*

*** Since 14/01/2022 (week 2, 2022), confirmatory PCR tests are no longer required for those aged 4-39 years outside of a risk group. This will affect the number and age distribution of cases notified on CIDR.*

Table 1: Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 8, 2022

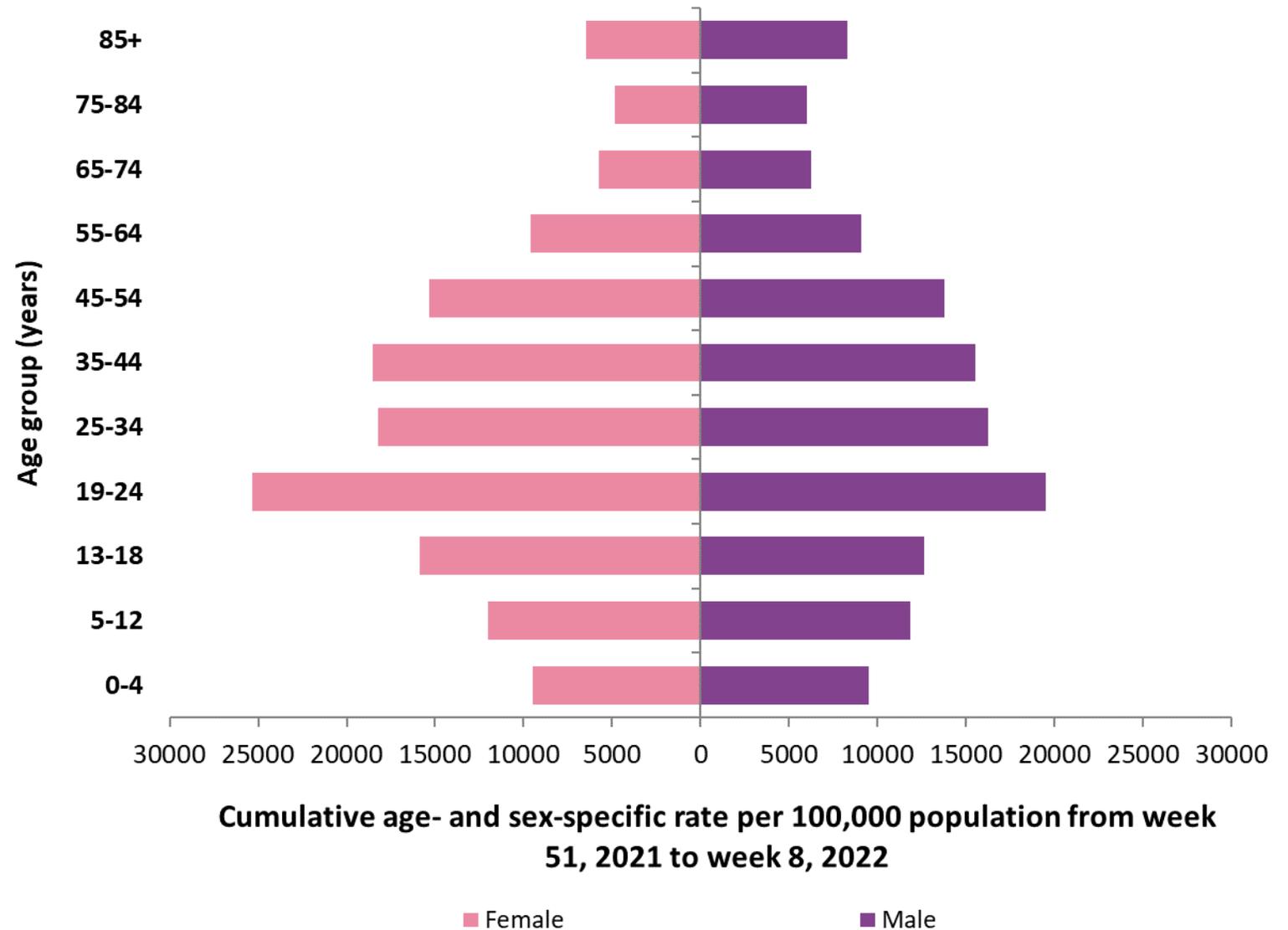
Characteristic		Week 8	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases		24,986	100
Sex	Male:Female ratio	0.77	
	Male	10,894	43.6
	Female	14,064	56.3
	Unknown	28	0.1
Age*	Mean age (years)	40	
	Median age (years)	42	
	Age range (years)	0-101	
	0-4 yrs	1,363	5.5
	5-12 yrs	1,714	6.9
	13-18 yrs	1,360	5.4
	19-24 yrs	1,113	4.5
	25-34 yrs	3,080	12.3
	35-44 yrs	5,753	23.0
	45-54 yrs	5,078	20.3
	55-64 yrs	2,667	10.7
	65-74 yrs	1,486	5.9
	75-84 yrs	894	3.6
	85+ yrs	476	1.9
Unknown	2	0.0	

**Since 14/01/2022 (week 2, 2022), confirmatory PCR tests are no longer necessary for those aged 4-39 years outside of a risk group. This will affect the number and age distribution of confirmed cases notified on CIDR.*

Age and sex pyramid for confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR, wave 5

Figure 1a: Cumulative age* and sex-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population notified in Ireland between week 51, 2021 and week 8, 2022

(excluding 21 cases for whom age is unknown, 202 cases for whom sex is unknown)

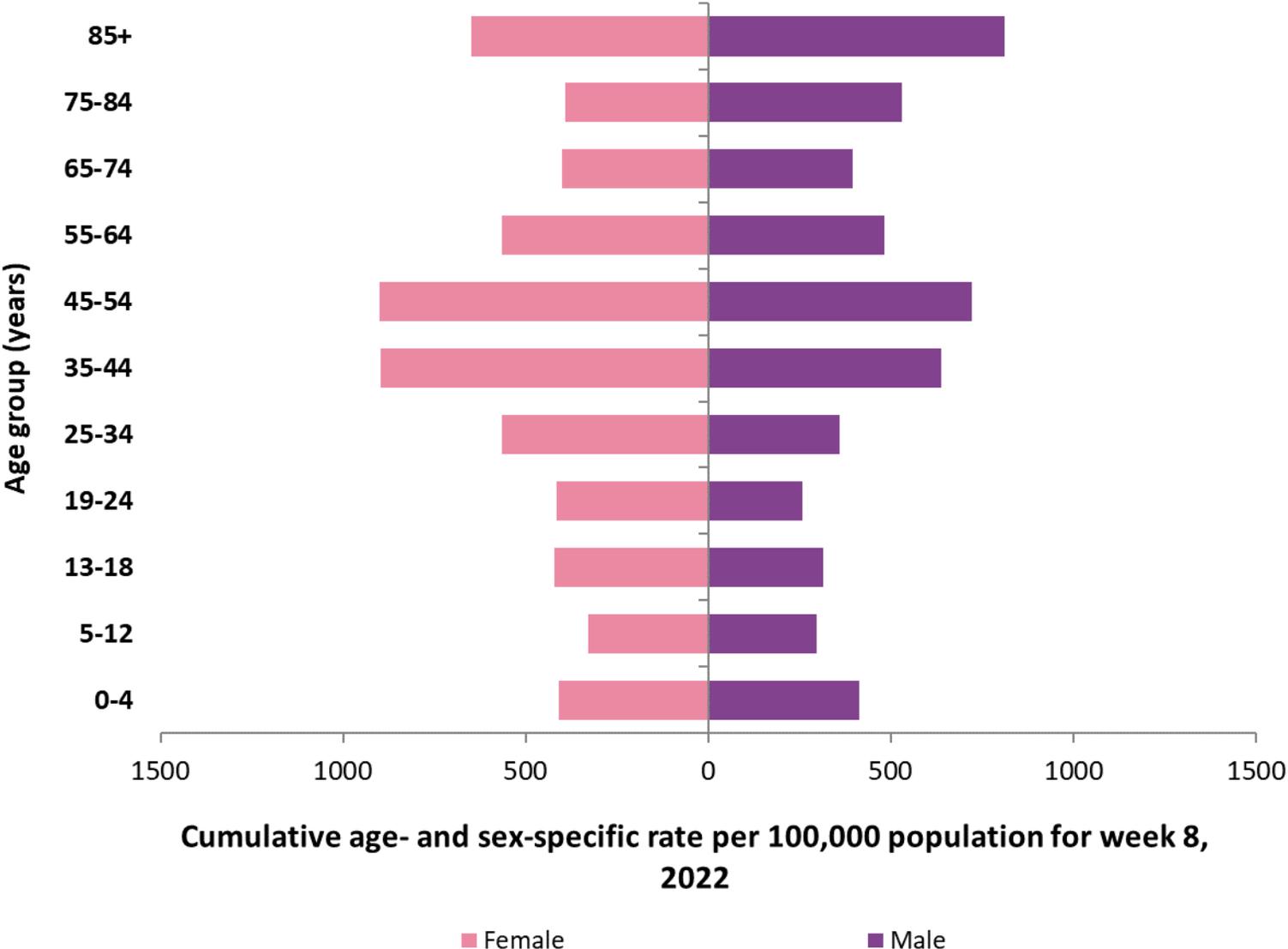


*Since 14/01/2022 (week 2, 2022), confirmatory PCR tests are no longer required for those aged 4-39 years outside of a risk group. This will affect the number and age distribution of confirmed cases notified on CIDR.

Age and sex pyramid for confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR, week 8, 2022

Figure 1b: Cumulative age* and sex-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population notified in Ireland during week 8, 2022

(excluding 2 cases for whom age is unknown and 28 cases for whom sex is unknown)



*Since 14/01/2022 (week 2, 2022), confirmatory PCR tests are no longer required for those aged 4-39 years outside of a risk group. This will affect the number and age distribution of confirmed cases notified on CIDR.

Incidence rates by age group for confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR, wave 5

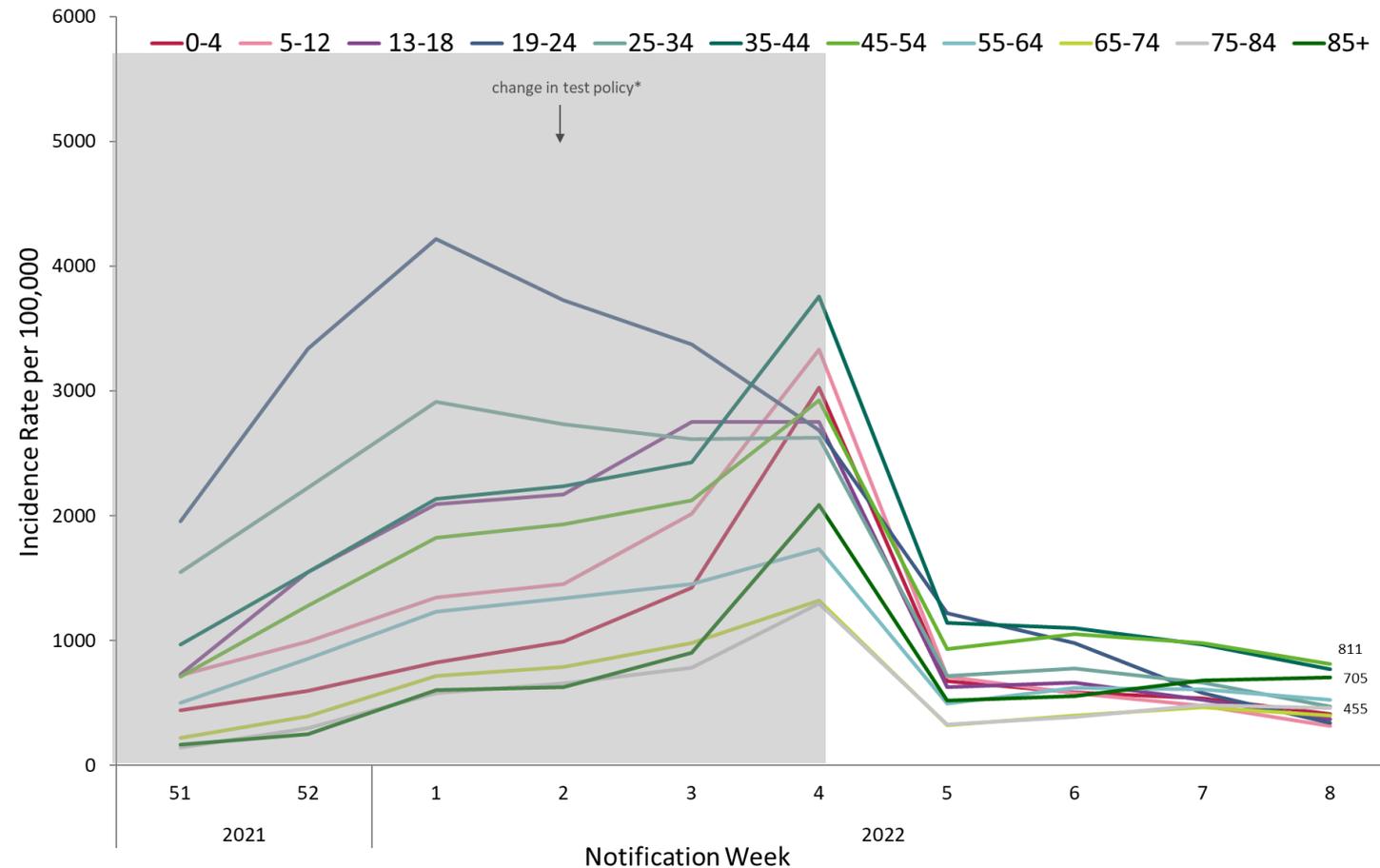


Figure 2a: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland **by week of notification** from week 51, 2021 to week 8**, 2022

*There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer necessary for those aged 4-39 years outside of a risk group. This will affect the number and age distribution of confirmed cases notified on CIDR. The effect of this may have been delayed in data presented by date of notification due to the increase reporting time at that time.

**Data by date of notification does not accurately reflect trends between week 51, 2021 and week 4, 2022 (greyed area in Figure 2a). Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are reduced, while notifications in weeks 3 and 4, 2022 are inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.

***Data by epi-date (Figure 2b) provides a more accurate reflection of trends for this period. Due to reduced notifications in week 1 to week 2, 2022 the peak in figure 2a is later than in figure 2b.

Incidence rates by age group for confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR, wave 5

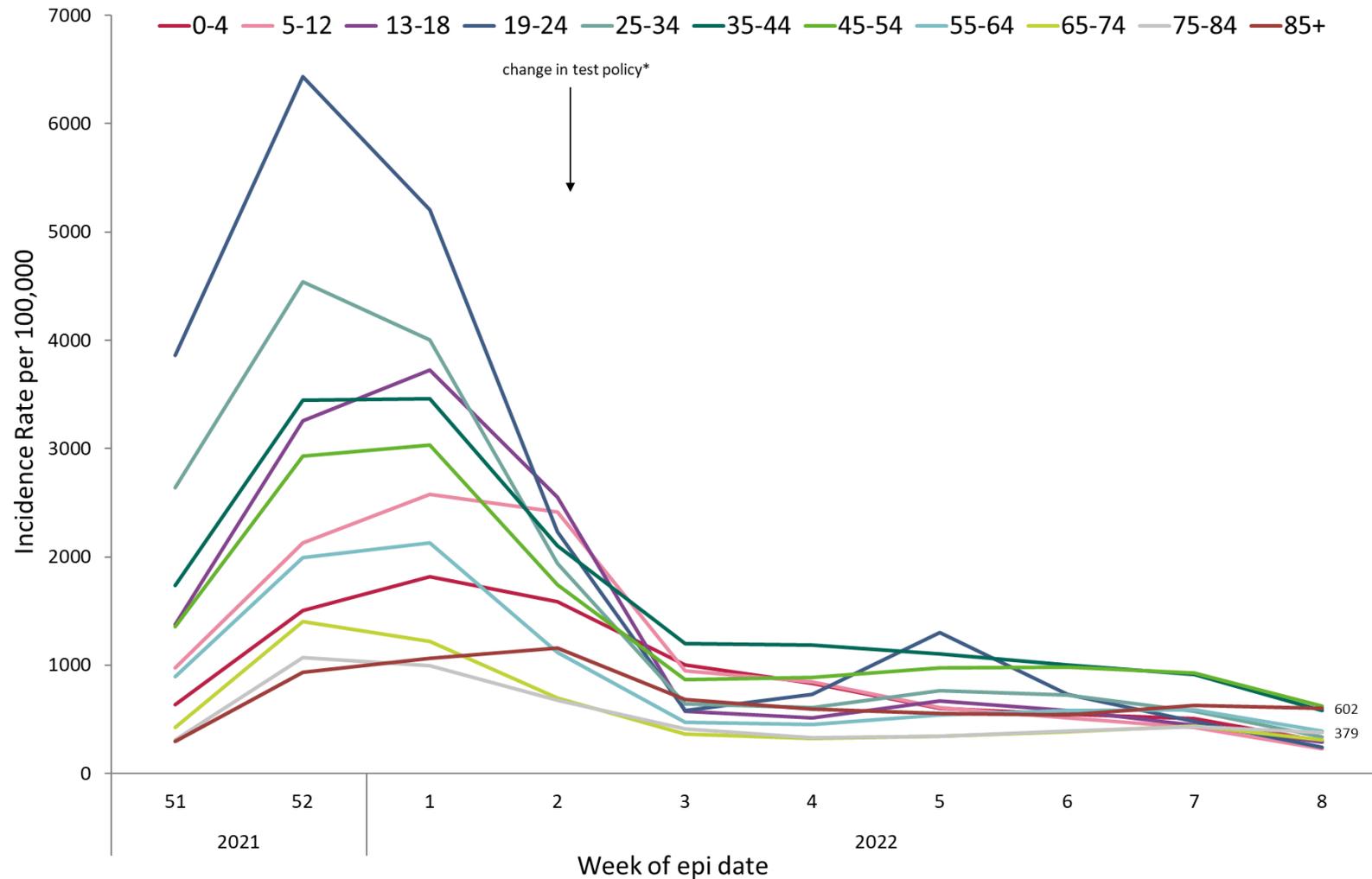


Figure 2b: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland **by week of epi-date** from week 51, 2021 to week 8, 2022

**There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer necessary for those aged 4-39 years outside of a risk group. This will affect the number and age distribution of confirmed cases notified on CIDR.*

Incidence by age group for confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR, latest 8 weeks



		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 1	824.4	1341.7	2094.5	4217.6	2912.6	2135.3	1822.4	1231.9	713.8	577.1	604.0	1866.7
	Notification Week 2*	987.9	1450.0	2167.2	3725.2	2730.9	2234.8	1927.7	1338.8	787.9	652.9	627.6	1887.0
2022	Notification Week 3	1419.8	2013.3	2752.2	3371.6	2612.9	2428.9	2124.1	1453.6	978.0	778.1	900.0	2079.1
	Notification Week 4	3027.3	3333.4	2751.4	2687.1	2627.7	3758.4	2923.0	1730.8	1319.4	1297.7	2088.7	2705.8
	Notification Week 5	672.4	711.9	625.2	1216.2	717.0	1140.9	927.9	492.8	320.2	325.7	518.1	761.0
	Notification Week 6	586.1	578.3	662.8	978.5	772.1	1099.9	1053.3	617.1	399.5	386.8	555.1	766.3
	Notification Week 7	532.7	474.8	524.5	578.5	660.6	966.7	977.2	604.8	463.7	482.4	676.5	675.1
	Notification Week 8	411.1	312.4	366.0	336.0	467.1	770.3	811.1	524.0	397.8	455.0	704.6	524.7

Figure 3: Heat map of weekly age-specific* incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland by week of notification from week 52, 2021 to week 8**, 2022

*There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer required for those aged 4-39 years outside of a risk group. This will affect the number and age distribution of confirmed cases notified on CIDR.

**Data by date of notification does not accurately reflect trends between week 1, 2022 and week 4, 2022 (greyed area). Notifications in week 1, 2022 to week 2, 2022 are reduced, while notifications in weeks 3 and 4, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.

COVID-19 weekly incidence rate among children aged 0-18 years on CIDR, wave 5

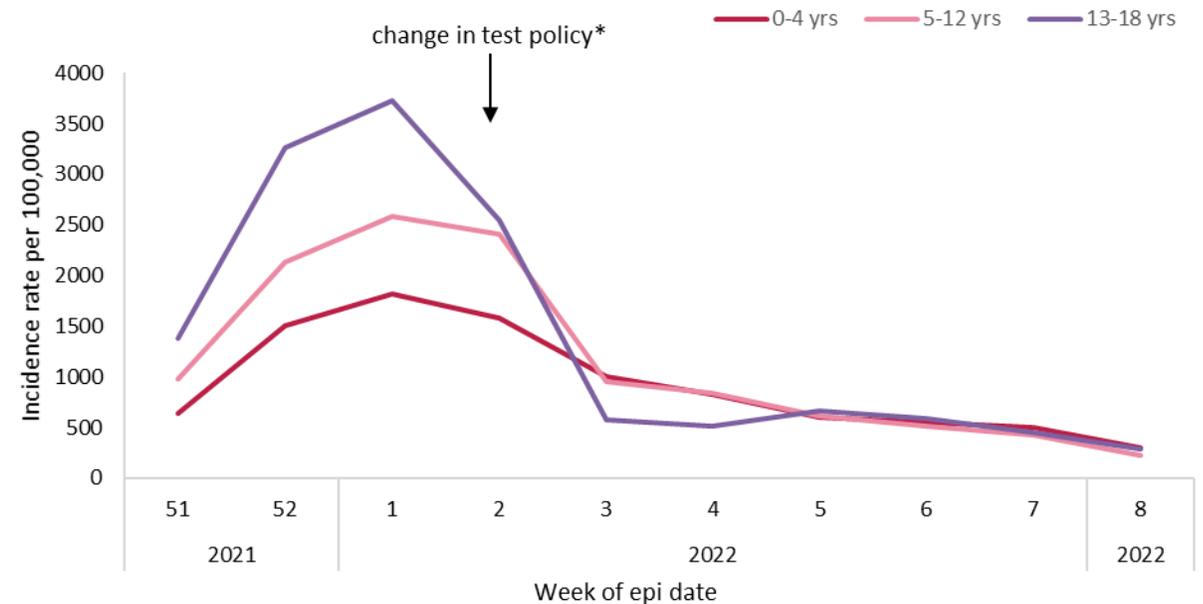
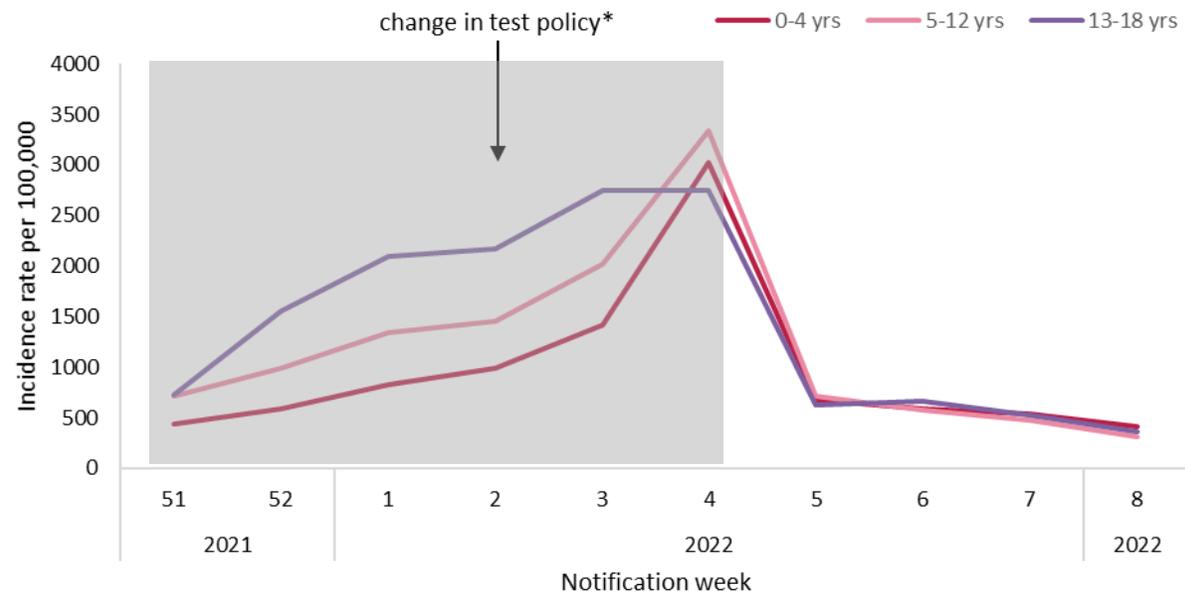


Figure 4a: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population among children aged 0-18 years by **notification week** from 51, 2021 to week 8**, 2022

Figure 4b: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population among children aged 0-18 years by **week of epi date***** from 51, 2021 to week 8**, 2022

*There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer necessary for those aged 4-39 years outside of a risk group. This will affect the number and age distribution of confirmed cases notified on CIDR.

**Data by date of notification does not accurately reflect trends between week 1, 2022 and week 4, 2022 (greyed area Figure 4a). Notifications in week 1, 2022 to week 2, 2022 are reduced, while notifications in weeks 3 and 4, 2022 are inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.

***Data by epi-date (Figure 4b) provides a more accurate reflection of trends for this period. Due to reduced notifications in week 1, 2022 to week 2, 2022 the peak in figure 4a is later than in figure 4b.

Characteristics for confirmed COVID-19 cases by county notified on CIDR, week 8, 2022

Table 2: Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases by county notified in Ireland, during week 8, 2022

During the surge period data validation was limited. In some instances, the county is inferred from the county of the test centre or the county of the laboratory, and may not be the county of residence of the case. Data by county should therefore be interpreted with caution.

County	Cases		M:F ratio	Median age	Incidence Rate per 100,000
	N	%		(years)	
Donegal	1266	5.1	0.7	42	795.3
Louth	1024	4.1	0.8	43	794.5
Monaghan	474	1.9	0.9	44	772.2
Wicklow	1058	4.2	0.8	42	742.8
Carlow	398	1.6	0.8	41	699.1
Kildare	1464	5.9	0.9	42	658.0
Longford	254	1.0	0.8	40	621.4
Waterford	721	2.9	0.8	44	620.6
Galway	1571	6.3	0.7	41	608.8
Leitrim	192	0.8	0.6	41	599.2
Westmeath	520	2.1	0.8	40	585.8
Roscommon	377	1.5	0.9	41	584.1
Sligo	372	1.5	0.9	43	567.6
Laois	472	1.9	0.8	41	557.3
Cavan	406	1.6	0.7	41	533.0
Limerick	1016	4.1	0.8	41	521.3
Mayo	647	2.6	0.7	42	495.8
Dublin	6550	26.2	0.8	42	486.1
Tipperary	770	3.1	0.7	42	482.6
Meath	932	3.7	0.8	43	477.8
Wexford	650	2.6	0.7	41	434.1
Kilkenny	427	1.7	0.7	43	430.3
Cork	2211	8.8	0.8	42	407.3
Clare	476	1.9	0.7	42	400.6
Offaly	279	1.1	0.7	43	357.9
Kerry	459	1.8	0.7	43	310.8

**There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer required for those aged 4-39 years outside of a risk group. This will affect the number and age distribution of cases notified on CIDR. It may affect the incidence for counties with younger age populations.*

Incidence rates by county for confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR, latest 8 weeks

During the surge period data validation was limited. In some instances, the county is inferred from the county of the test centre or the county of the laboratory, and may not be the county of residence of the case. Data by county should therefore be interpreted with caution.

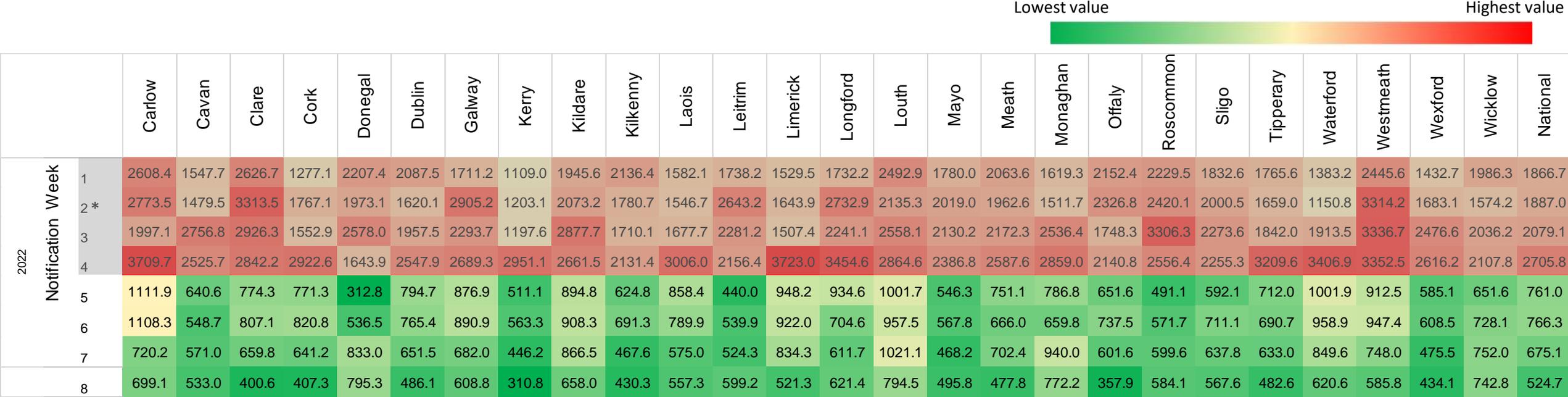


Figure 5: Heat map of weekly incidence rates by county of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland by week of notification** between week 1, 2022 and week 8, 2022

*There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer required for those aged 4-39 years outside of a risk group. This will affect the number and age distribution of cases notified on CIDR. It may affect the incidence for counties with younger age populations.

**Data by date of notification does not accurately reflect trends between week 1, 2022 and week 4, 2022 (greyed area). Notifications in week 1, 2022 to week 2, 2022 are reduced, while notifications in weeks 3 and 4, 2022 are inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.

Hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths among confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR, waves 1 - 5

Table 3: Summary of hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths among confirmed COVID-19 cases by age group and wave.

(This does not include 104 cases for whom the age is unknown, of these 7 were indicated to be hospitalised and 1 was indicated to have died)

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	1523	7.8	277	1.4	109	0.56
	2	39954	877	2.2	76	0.2	29	0.07
	3	179378	4613	2.6	563	0.3	277	0.15
	4	358552	4146	1.2	481	0.1	199	0.06
	5	603881	4324	0.7	88	0.0	63	0.01
	Total		1201377	15483	1.3	1485	0.1	677
65+ yrs	1	6524	1803	27.6	161	2.5	1422	21.80
	2	4229	962	22.7	104	2.5	361	8.54
	3	20928	5068	24.2	401	1.9	2608	12.46
	4	27245	2760	10.1	279	1.0	811	2.98
	5	37758	2837	7.5	68	0.2	323	0.86
	Total		96684	13430	13.9	1013	1.0	5525

Notes:

- 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.
- Data in the table above are based on the date the case was notified on CIDR, and not the date of hospitalisation, ICU admission or death.
- Data for waves 1-4 will be updated on a monthly basis. Data was last extracted on 14/02/2022.
- There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer required for those aged 4-39 years outside of a risk group. This will affect the number and age distribution of cases notified on CIDR, which will affect the denominator for the percentage of cases hospitalised or admitted to ICU.

Hospitalisations among confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR, wave 5

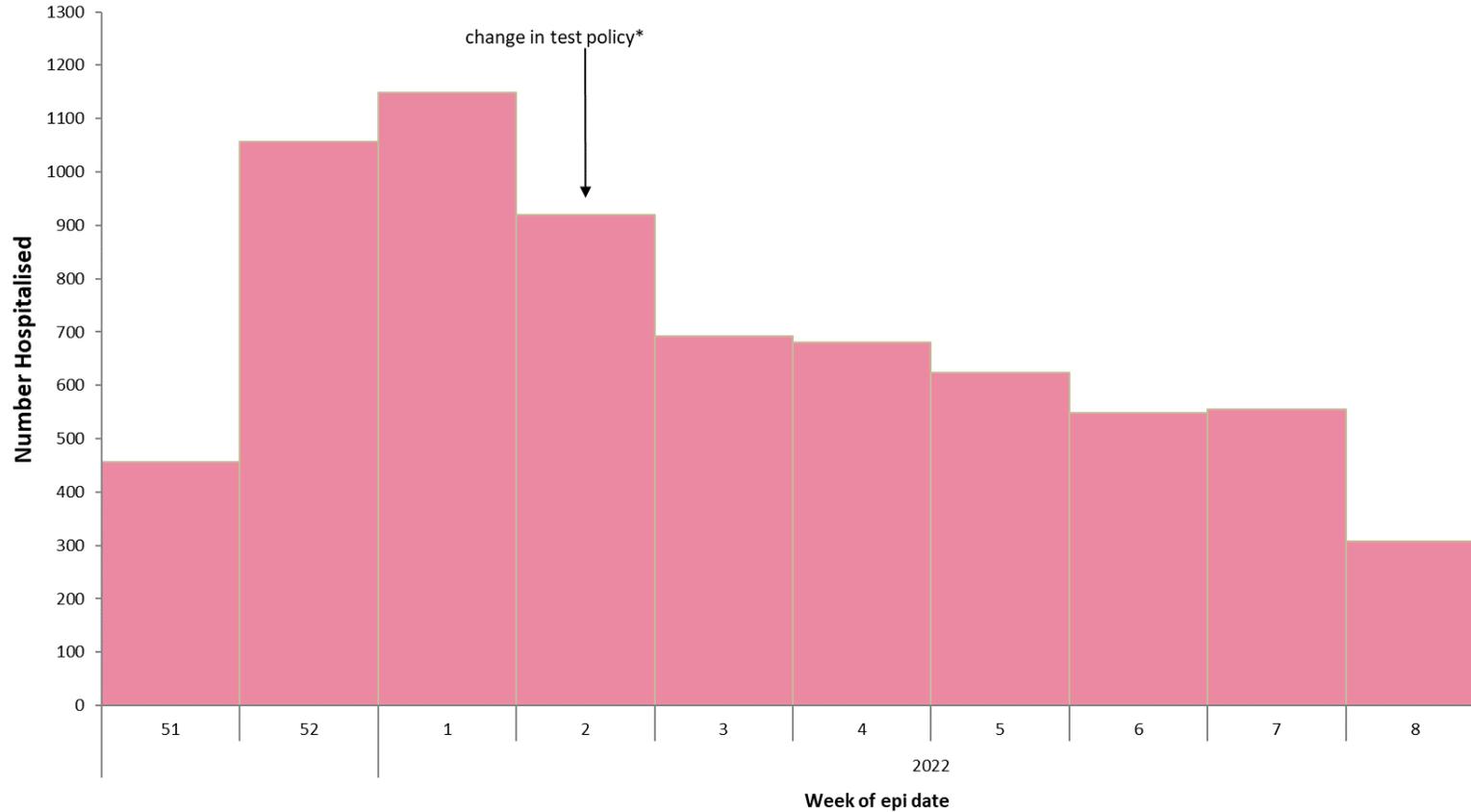


Figure 6: Number of hospitalised COVID-19 cases* of overall cases hospitalised in Ireland between week 51, 2021 and week 8, 2022 based on week of epi-date**

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

**Data are based on the date the case was notified on CIDR or the epi-date of the case, and not the date of hospital admission.

Number of cases and hospitalisations among confirmed COVID-19 cases by age group notified on CIDR, week 8, 2022

Table 4: Number of COVID-19 cases and hospital admissions** by age group in Ireland between for week 8**, 2022 **based on week of notification*****

Age Group (years)	Number of cases (n)	Number of cases (%)	Cases hospitalised (n)	Cases hospitalised (%)
0-4 yrs	1,363	5.5	27	5.9
5-12 yrs	1,714	6.9	17	3.7
13-18 yrs	1,360	5.4	10	2.2
19-24 yrs	1,113	4.5	18	4.0
25-34 yrs	3,080	12.3	43	9.5
35-44 yrs	5,753	23.0	40	8.8
45-54 yrs	5,078	20.3	33	7.3
55-64 yrs	2,667	10.7	48	10.5
65-74 yrs	1,486	5.9	61	13.4
75-84 yrs	894	3.6	92	20.2
85+ yrs	476	1.9	66	14.5
Unknown	2	0.0	0	0.0
Total	24,986	100	455	100

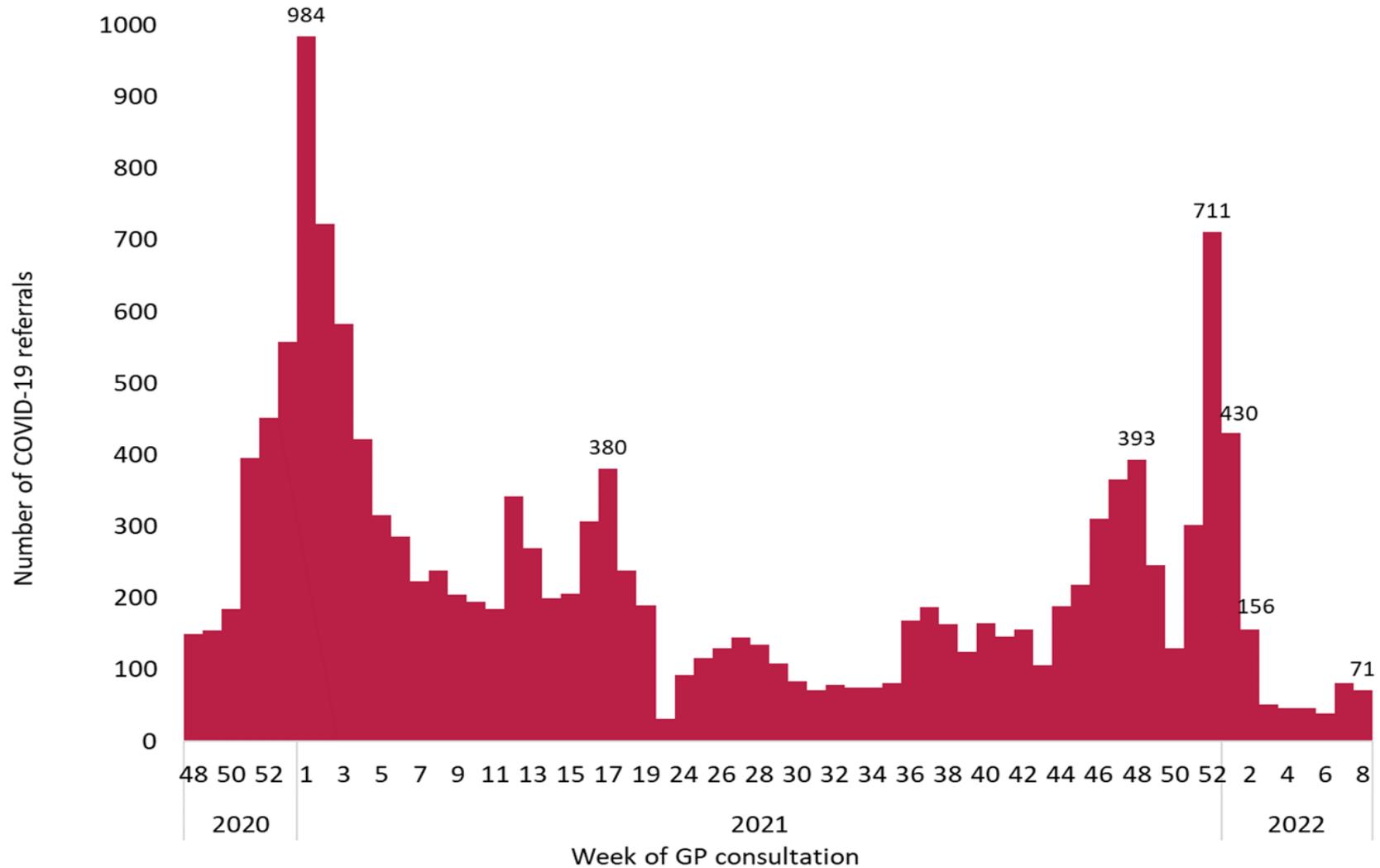
*There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer required for those aged 4-39 years outside of a risk group. This will affect the number and age distribution of cases notified on CIDR, which will affect the denominator for the percentage of cases admitted hospital.

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

***Data are based on the date the case was notified on CIDR, and not the date of hospital admission.

Data on deaths can be found in the [weekly report on COVID-19 deaths](#) reported in Ireland

Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 PCR testing





Sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals (PCR) tested by National Virus Reference Laboratory

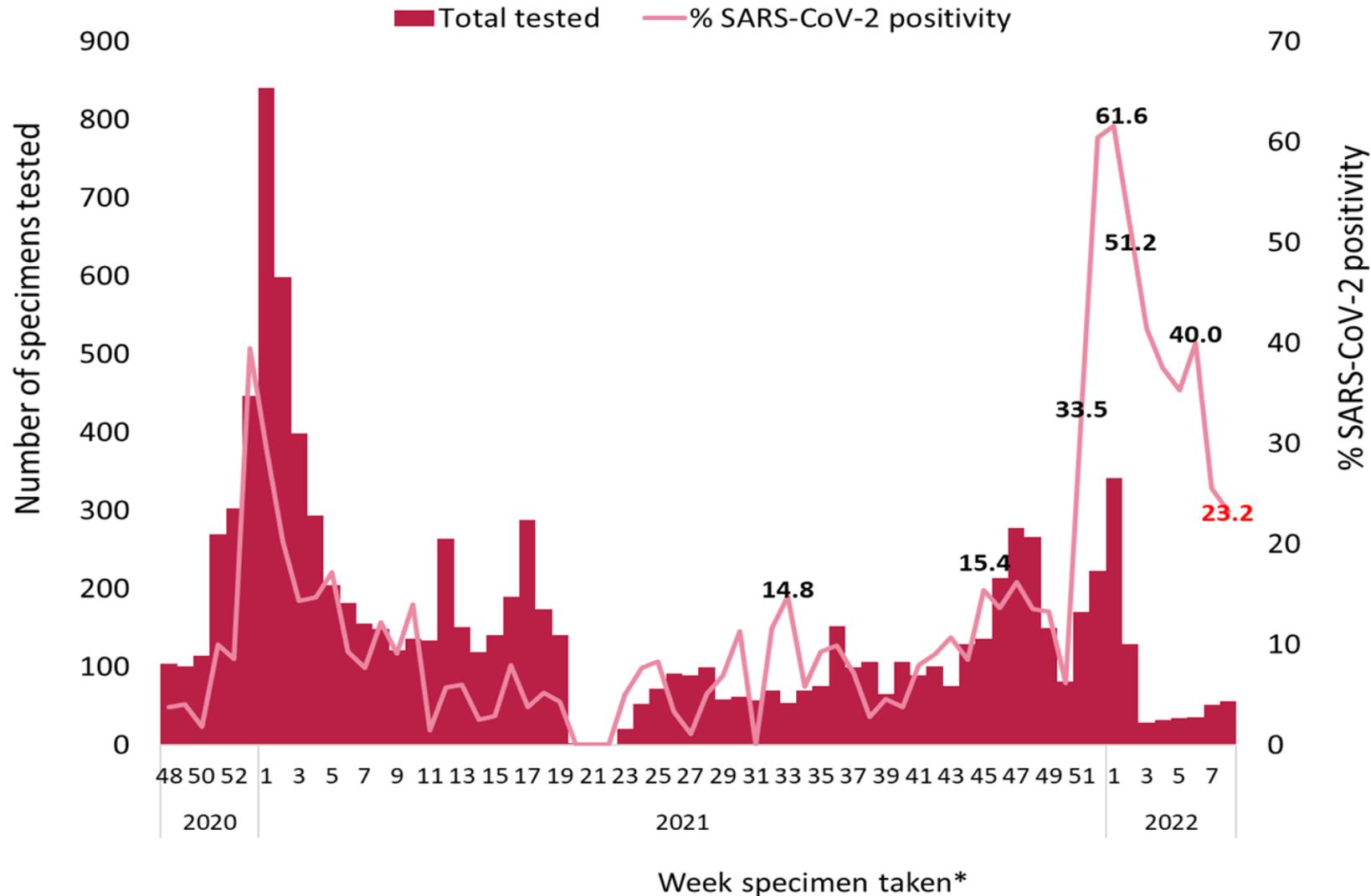


Figure 8: % SARS-CoV-2 PCR positivity data from sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals tested by NVRL*, 2020-2022.

**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

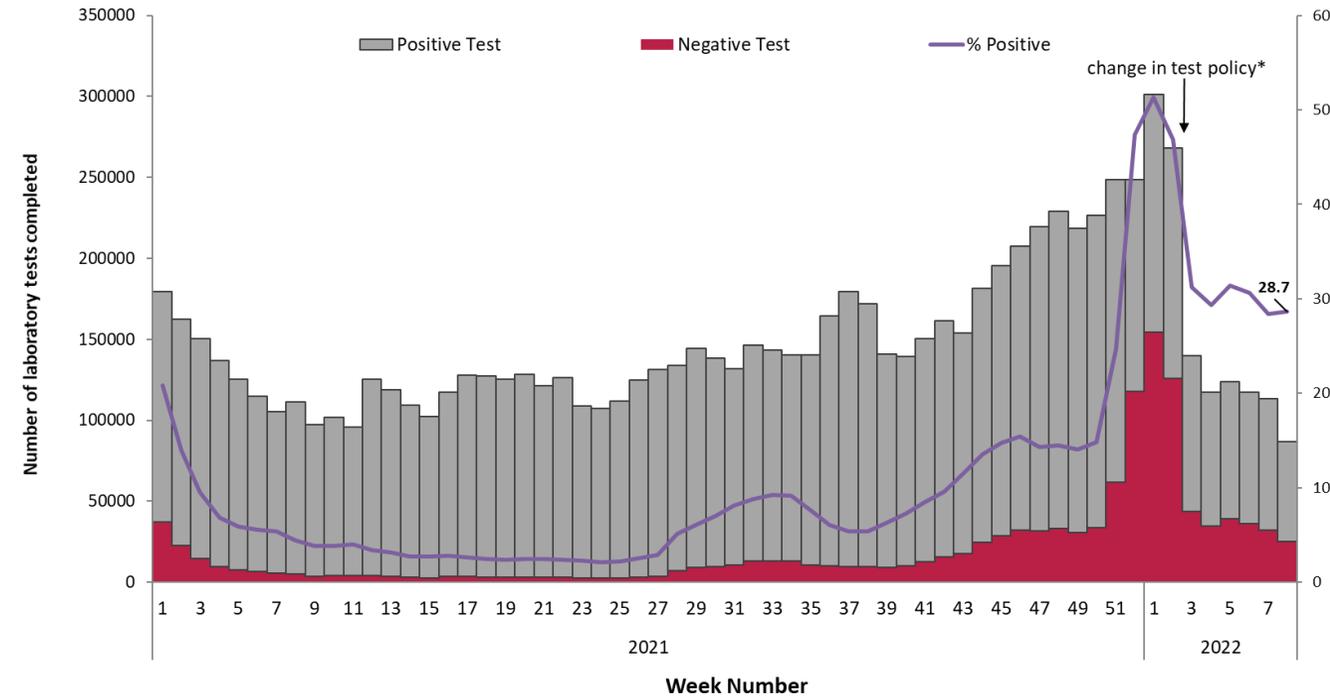
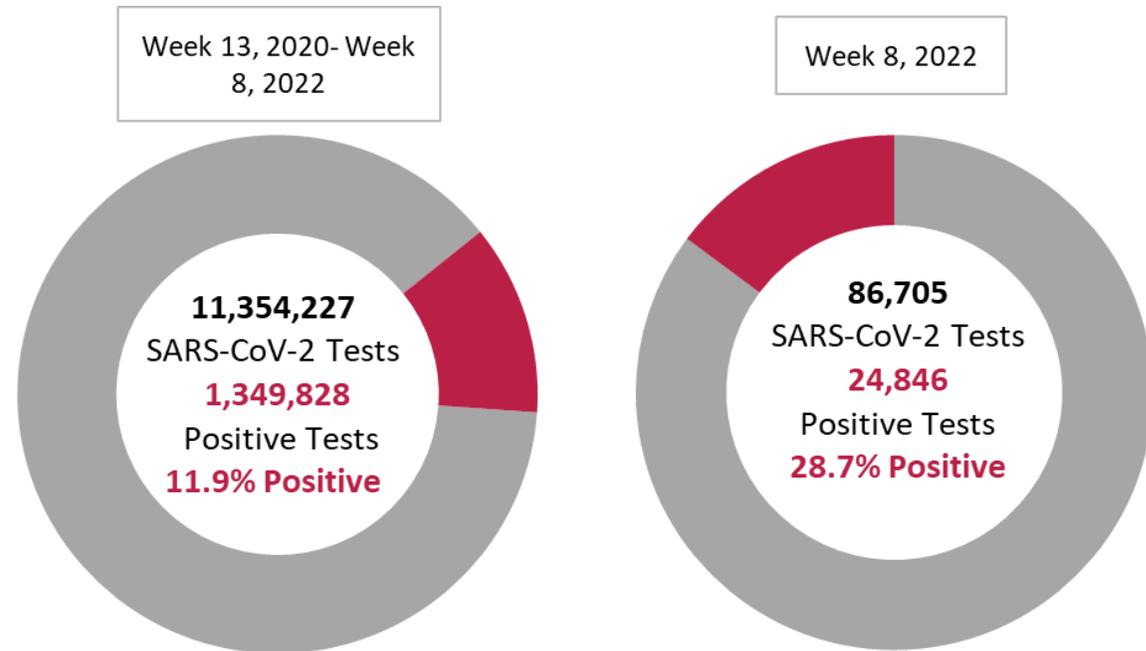


Figure 9a: Number of SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests and positive tests* in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 8, 2022

Figure 9b: Number of SARS-CoV-2 negative and positive PCR tests* completed in Ireland between week 1, 2021 and week 8, 2022

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

The following figures and tables are based on notified cases who registered a positive antigen test on the HSE Positive Antigen Portal

They are not considered confirmed cases and have not undergone data validation.

Summary characteristics of COVID-19 cases who registered a positive antigen test on the HSE Antigen Portal



Table 5: Characteristics of COVID-19 cases who registered a positive antigen test to the HSE Positive Antigen Portal since 14/01/2022 until 19/02/2022

	Total (week 2, 2022-week 8, 2022)		Week 8, 2022	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases	195,950		24,373	
Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population	4115.0		511.8	
Males	87,487	44.6	10,365	42.5
Females	107,898	55.1	13,942	57.2
M:F ratio	0.81		0.74	
Median (years)	23		28	
Mean age (years)	25		29	
Age range (years)	0-105		0-96	

Epidemiological curve of COVID-19 cases who registered a positive antigen test on the HSE Antigen Portal

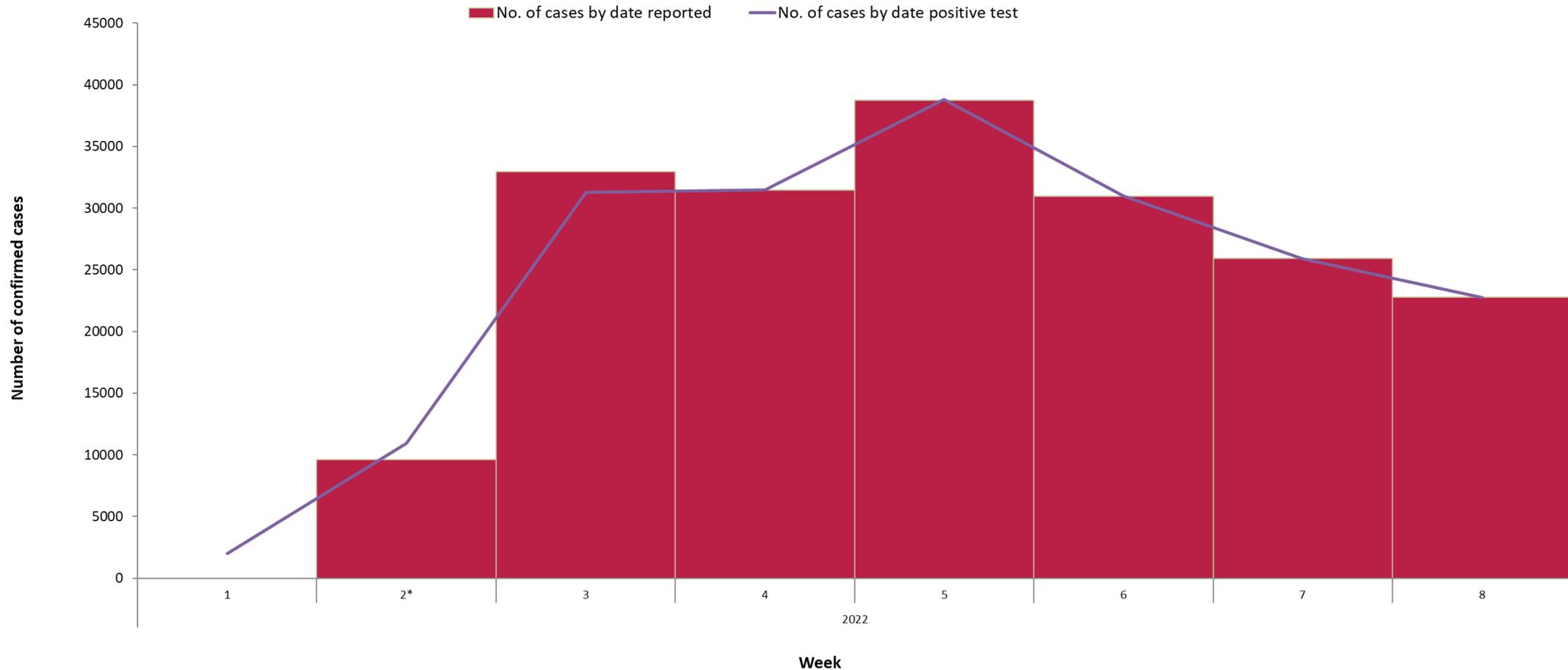


Figure 10: Number of COVID-19 cases who registered a positive antigen test on the HSE Antigen Positive Portal by week of registration and week of epidemiological date in Ireland between week 1, 2022 and week 8*, 2022

*Reporting to the HSE Positive Antigen Portal commenced on Friday the 14th January 2022, and therefore week 2 includes only 2 days.

**Some cases reported a date of positive test much earlier than the date it was registered on the portal. Dates of positive tests earlier than week 1, 2022 are not shown in the number of case by date of positive test.

Age distribution of COVID-19 cases who registered a positive antigen test to the HSE Antigen Portal



Figure 11: Age distribution of COVID-19 cases who registered a positive antigen test on the HSE Positive Antigen Portal by week of registration* between week 2**, 2022 and week 8, 2022

*Please note, the week of registration on the HSE Positive Antigen portal may differ from the week the positive test was obtained.

**Registration on the HSE Positive Antigen Portal commenced on Friday the 14th January 2022, and therefore week 2 includes only 2 days.

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

- [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
- [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
- [Epidemiology of intensive care admissions](#) in cases of COVID-19 in Ireland
- In addition, the [Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland](#) infohub includes a series of dynamic dashboards presenting summary characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and outbreaks in Ireland

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

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.
- Antigen test data provided by HSE Antigen Positive Portal
- Slide with Laboratory testing for SARS-CoV-2 data provided by Deloitte Ireland LLP
- Figure 7: These data are reported from the Irish sentinel GP network and refer to GP COVID-19 referral consultations (currently via phone) for a COVID-19 PCR test at a community testing centre.
- Figure 8: These data include sentinel GP COVID-19 patient referrals for a COVID-19 PCR test in a community testing centre, that are tested for SARS-CoV-2 and reported to HPSC from the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL).

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.