



Weekly Report on the Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland

Week 6, 2022

Health Protection Surveillance Centre, HPSC
COVID-19 Epidemiology Team, 14/02/2022

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 6, 2022 (6th February to 12th 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 22nd December 2021 the daily COVID-19 case number reported publicly is an estimate based on positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR test results uploaded to the HSE COVID Care Tracker (HSE CCT) the preceding day. This transition was in anticipation of a large volume of cases and decreased capacity among surveillance partners over the Christmas period. Given the ongoing surge in cases in early January and its effect on reporting time, the daily case number of PCR cases reported continues to be an estimate (see Figure 1a). These data are provisional and do not represent notified cases. They serve to provide an up-to-date picture of trends during the surge period and until reporting time on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting system (CIDR) returns to normal.
- The notification of cases on CIDR has continued. In this report, confirmed COVID-19 cases are PCR positive cases notified on CIDR as per the case definition.
- The weekly number of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR since week 51, 2021, will differ from those obtained by adding the reported daily number of PCR positive cases due to the reporting of an estimate daily PCR case number since 22nd December 2021.
- 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.
- The daily case estimate based on PCR results, and the number of cases registering a positive antigen test to the HSE Antigen Portal have been reported separately. Likewise in this report, confirmed cases notified on CIDR are presented separately to cases who registered a positive antigen test result on the HSE Antigen Portal.
- 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.

Notes on data and data reporting (continued)



- 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 6, 2021) | | Week 6, 2022 | |
|---|---|---------|--------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Total number of confirmed cases | 584,706 | | 36,491 | |
| Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population | 12278.9 | | 766.3 | |
| Number of cases hospitalised | 5,729 | 1.0 | 528* | 1.4 |
| Number of cases admitted to ICU | 133 | 0.0 | <5* | |
| Number of deaths among confirmed cases | 280 | 0.0 | 6* | 0.02 |
| Case fatality ratio (CFR %) | 0.0 | | 0.02 | |
| Incidence rate of confirmed deaths per 100,000 population | 5.9 | | 0.13 | |
| Males | 273,924 | 46.8 | 16,141 | 44.2 |
| Females | 310,600 | 53.1 | 20,294 | 55.6 |
| M:F ratio | 0.88 | | 0.80 | |
| Median (years) | 32 | | 39 | |
| Mean age (years) | 33 | | 36 | |
| Age range (years) | 0-105 | | 0-102 | |

**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 6, 2022

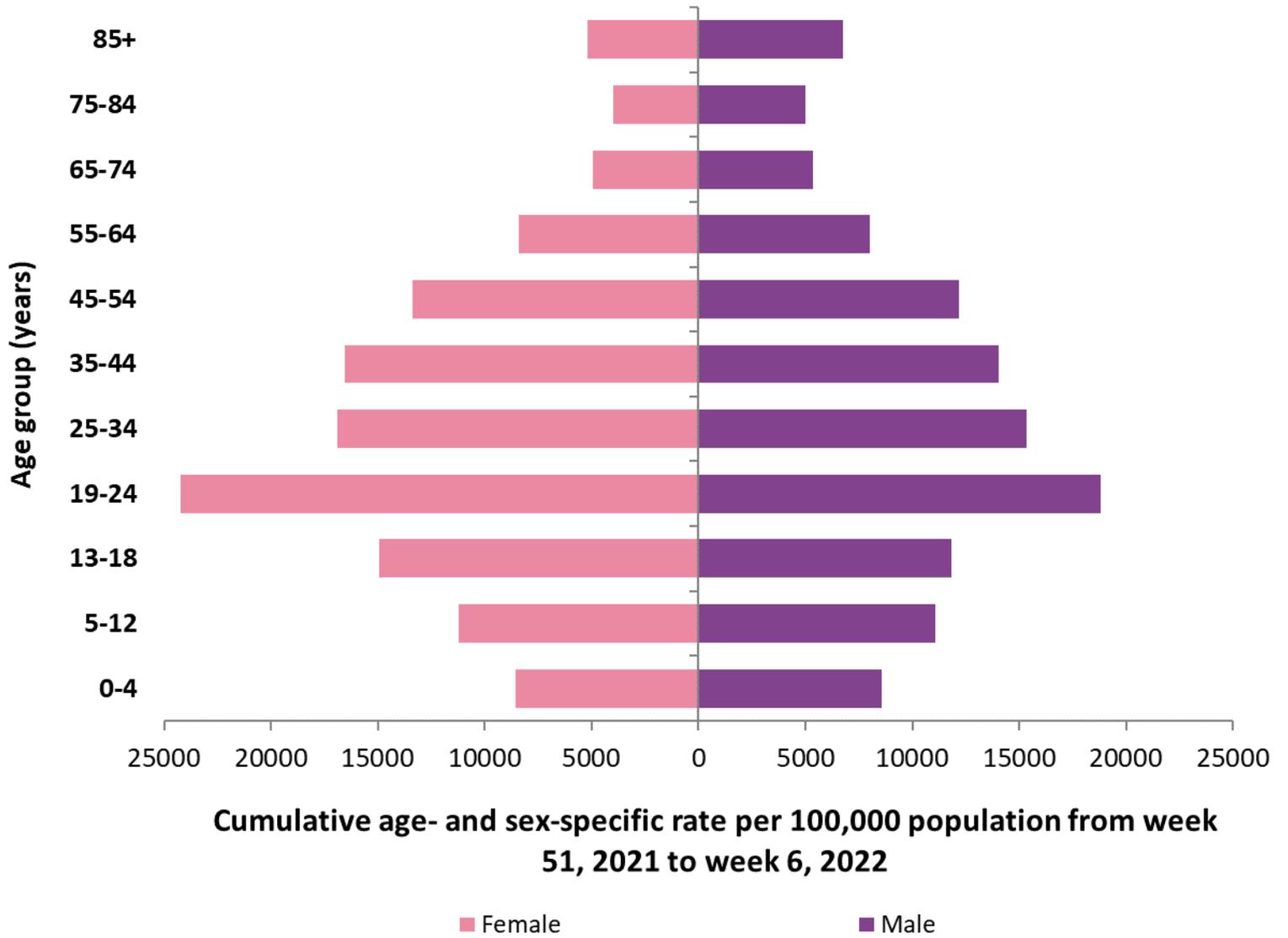
| Characteristic | | Week 6 | Percent |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------|---------|
| Total number of confirmed cases | | 36,491 | 100 |
| Sex | Male:Female ratio | 0.80 | |
| | Male | 16,141 | 44.2 |
| | Female | 20,294 | 55.6 |
| | Unknown | 56 | 0.2 |
| Age* | Mean age (years) | 36 | |
| | Median age (years) | 39 | |
| | Age range (years) | 0-102 | |
| | 0-4 yrs | 1,943 | 5.3 |
| | 5-12 yrs | 3,173 | 8.7 |
| | 13-18 yrs | 2,463 | 6.7 |
| | 19-24 yrs | 3,241 | 8.9 |
| | 25-34 yrs | 5,091 | 14.0 |
| | 35-44 yrs | 8,215 | 22.5 |
| | 45-54 yrs | 6,594 | 18.1 |
| | 55-64 yrs | 3,141 | 8.6 |
| | 65-74 yrs | 1,492 | 4.1 |
| | 75-84 yrs | 760 | 2.1 |
| | 85+ yrs | 376 | 1.0 |
| 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 6, 2022

(excluding 16 cases for whom age is unknown, 182 cases for whom sex is unknown)

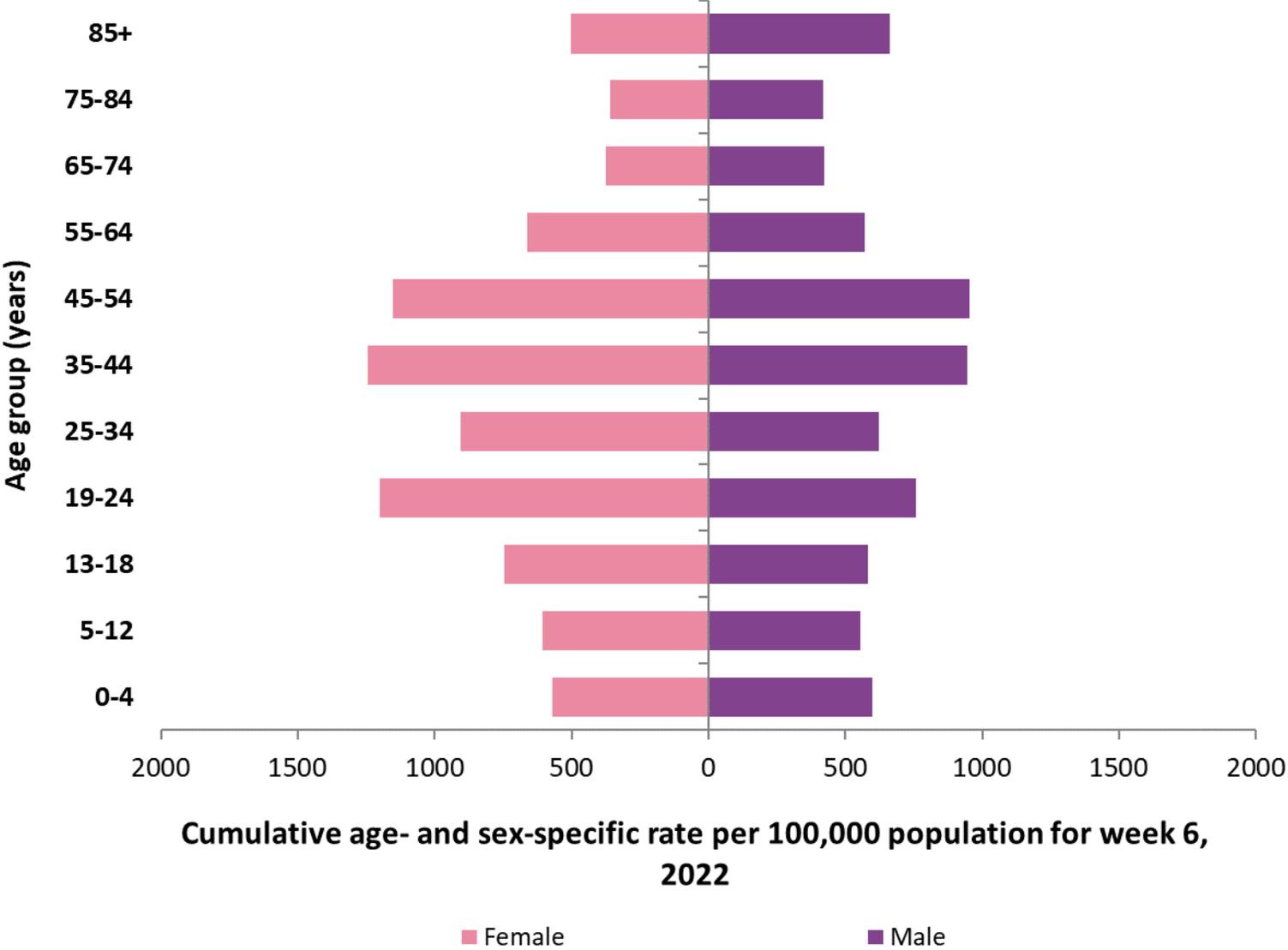


*Since 14/01/2022 (week 2, 2022), confirmatory PCR tests are no longer required for those aged 4-39 years outside of a risk group. This will affect the number and age distribution of confirmed cases notified on CIDR.

Age and sex pyramid for confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR, week 6, 2022

Figure 1b: Cumulative age* and sex-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population notified in Ireland during week 6, 2022

(excluding 2 cases for whom age is unknown and 56 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

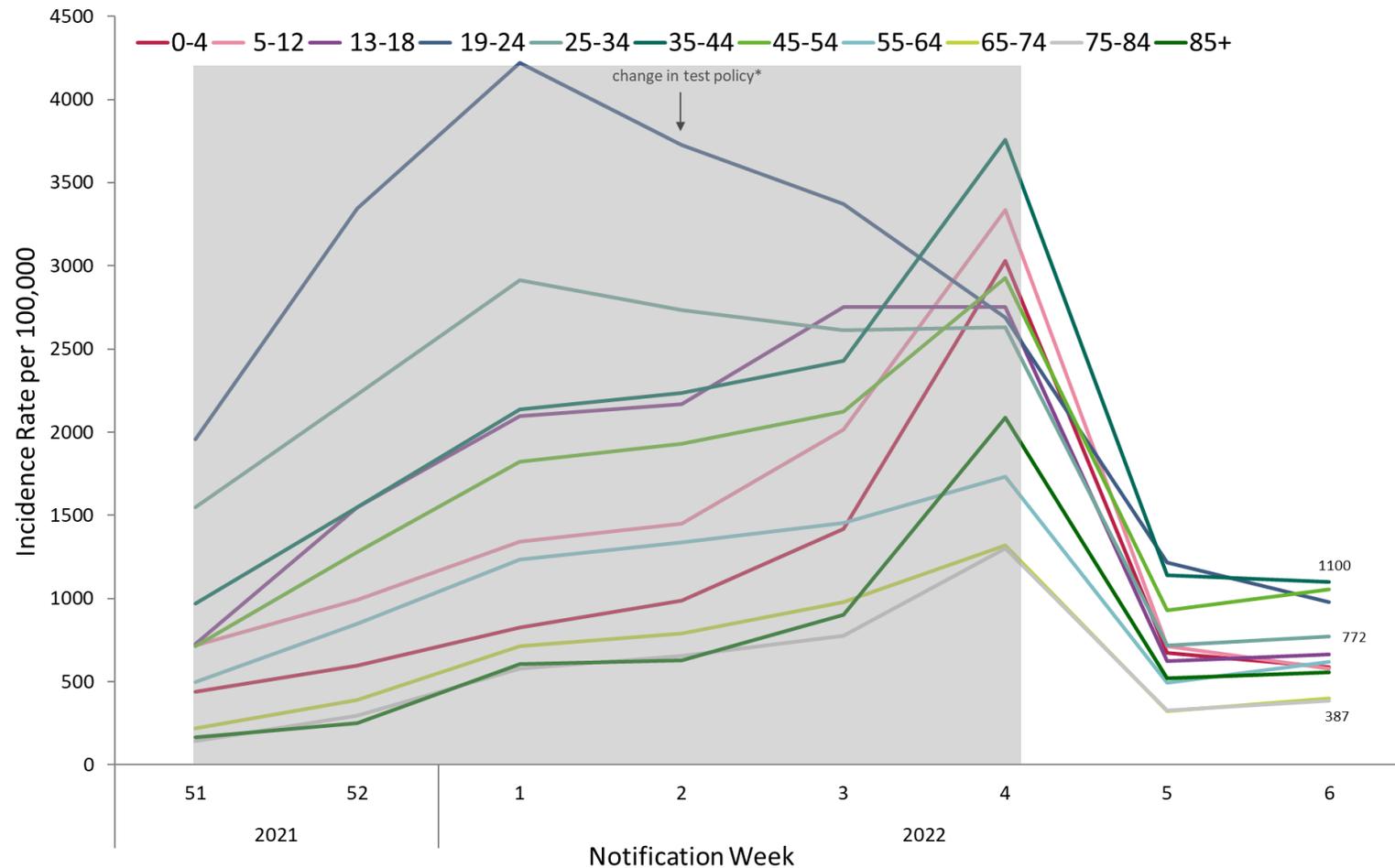


Figure 2a: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland by week of notification from week 51, 2021 to week 6**, 2022

*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 may not yet be evident in data presented by date of notification due to the increase reporting 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.

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

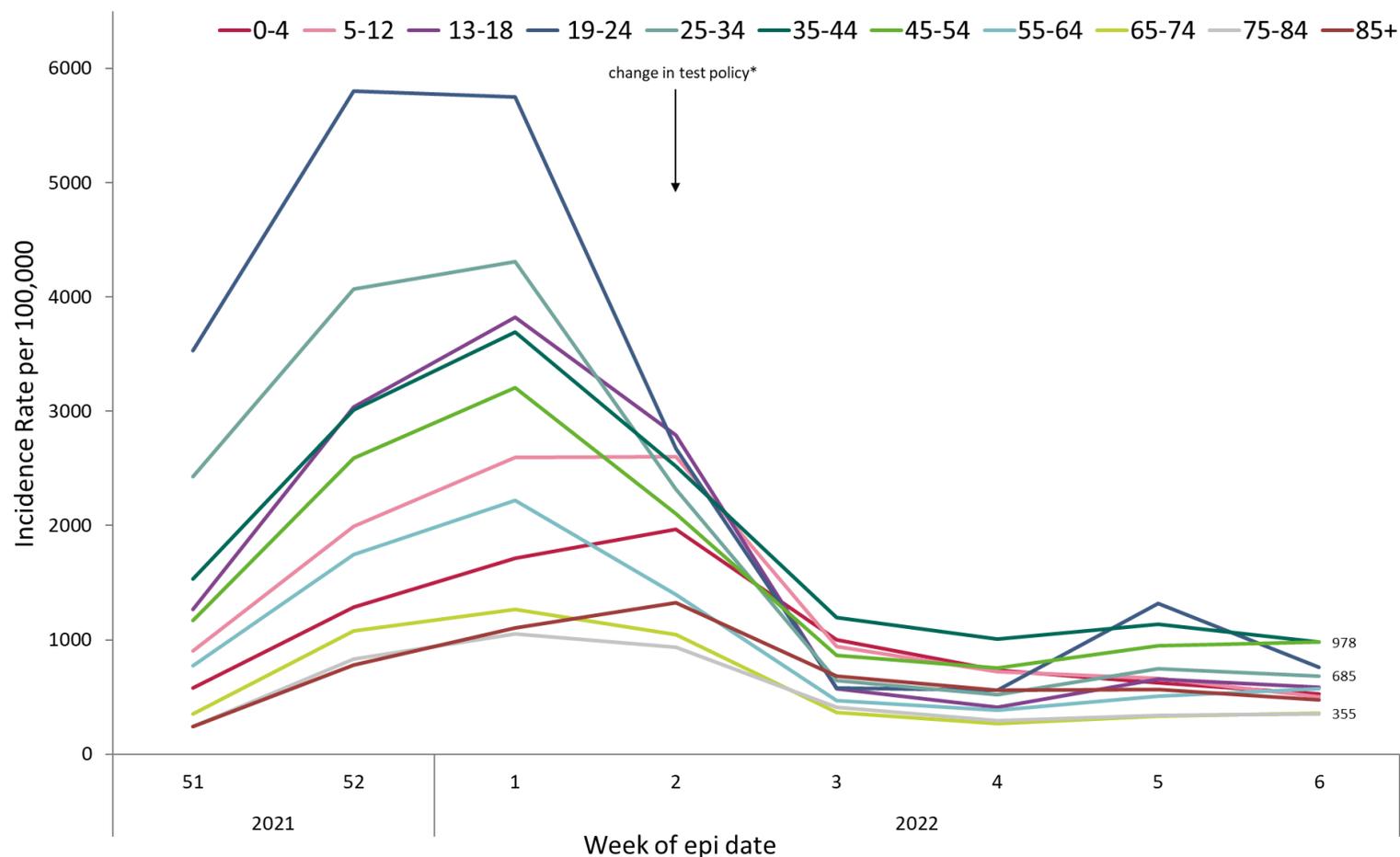


Figure 2b: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland **by week of epi-date** from week 51, 2021 to week 6, 2022

**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

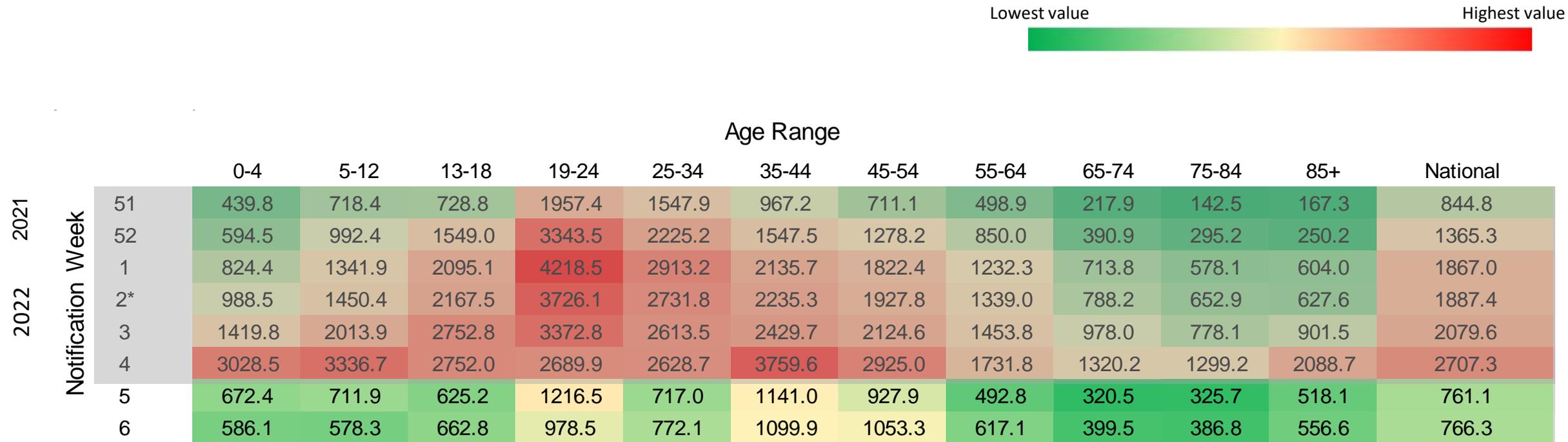


Figure 3: Heat map of weekly age-specific* incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland by week of notification from week 51, 2021 to week 6**, 2022

*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 51, 2021 and week 4, 2022 (greyed area). Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are reduced, while notifications in weeks 3 and 4, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.

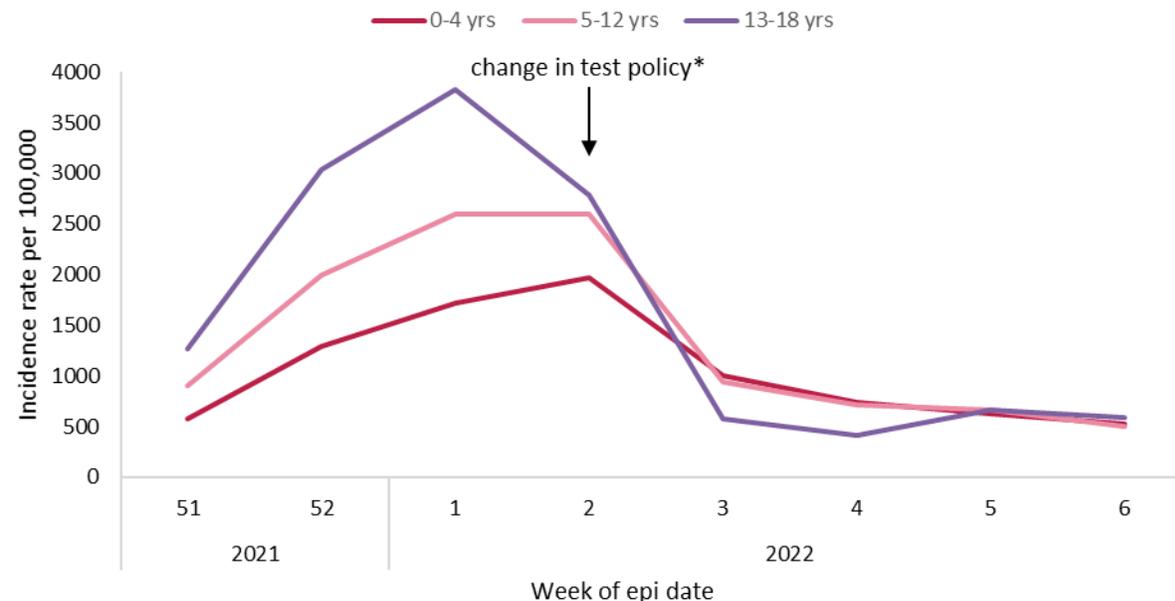
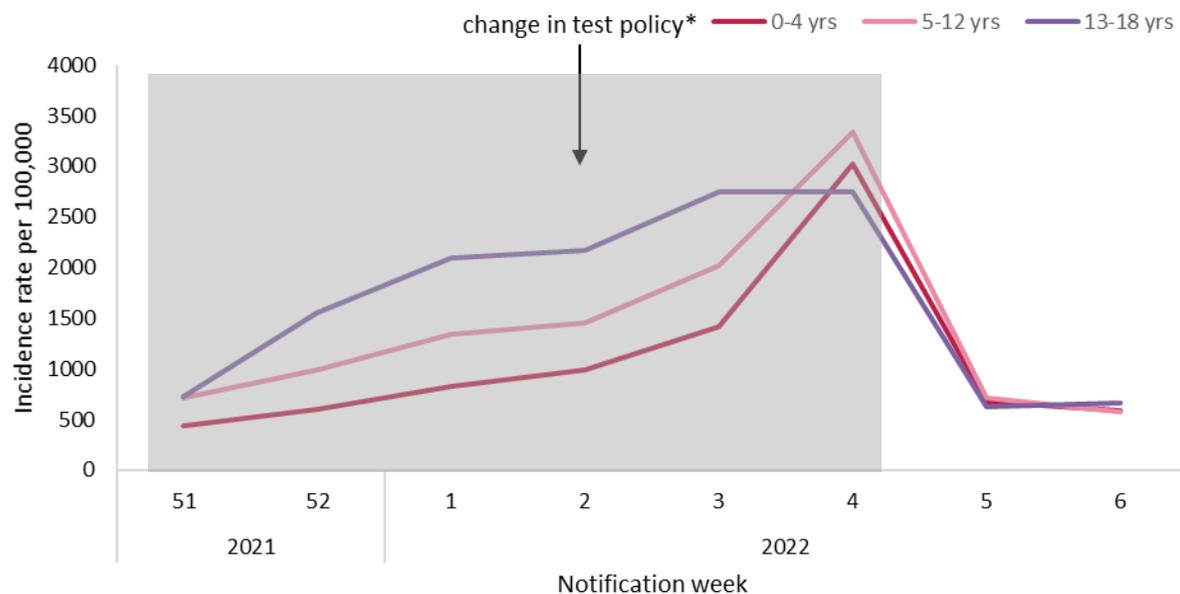


Figure 4a: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population among children aged 0-18 years by **notification week** from 51, 2021 to week 6**, 2022

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 6**, 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 51, 2021 and week 4, 2022 (greyed area Figure 4a). 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 4b) provides a more accurate reflection of trends for this period. Due to reduced notifications in week 51, 2021 – week 3, 2021 the peak in figure 4a is later than in figure 4b.

Characteristics for confirmed COVID-19 cases by county notified on CIDR, week 6, 2022

Table 2: Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases by county notified in Ireland, during week 6, 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) | |
| Carlow | 632 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 37 | 1110.1 |
| Westmeath | 889 | 2.4 | 0.8 | 38 | 1001.5 |
| Louth | 1258 | 3.4 | 0.8 | 40 | 976.1 |
| Waterford | 1119 | 3.1 | 0.8 | 38 | 963.2 |
| Limerick | 1793 | 4.9 | 0.8 | 37 | 920.0 |
| Kildare | 2019 | 5.5 | 0.8 | 38 | 907.4 |
| Galway | 2298 | 6.3 | 0.8 | 38 | 890.5 |
| Cork | 4456 | 12.2 | 0.8 | 39 | 820.8 |
| Clare | 959 | 2.6 | 0.7 | 40 | 807.1 |
| Laois | 669 | 1.8 | 0.8 | 38 | 789.9 |
| Dublin | 10312 | 28.3 | 0.8 | 38 | 765.3 |
| Offaly | 579 | 1.6 | 0.7 | 39 | 742.7 |
| Wicklow | 1035 | 2.8 | 0.8 | 41 | 726.7 |
| Longford | 288 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 39.5 | 704.6 |
| Sligo | 460 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 37 | 701.9 |
| Tipperary | 1100 | 3.0 | 0.7 | 37 | 689.4 |
| Kilkenny | 682 | 1.9 | 0.8 | 40 | 687.3 |
| Monaghan | 405 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 37 | 659.8 |
| Meath | 1277 | 3.5 | 0.8 | 40 | 654.7 |
| Wexford | 911 | 2.5 | 0.8 | 40 | 608.5 |
| Mayo | 741 | 2.0 | 0.9 | 39 | 567.8 |
| Kerry | 836 | 2.3 | 0.9 | 37 | 566.0 |
| Leitrim | 177 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 40 | 552.4 |
| Cavan | 415 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 37 | 544.8 |
| Donegal | 855 | 2.3 | 0.8 | 39 | 537.1 |
| Roscommon | 326 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 40 | 505.1 |

**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 this surge period data validation is 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.

Lowest value Highest value

| | | 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 | Week 51 | 692.1 | 626.2 | 678.4 | 659.8 | 787.1 | 1102.5 | 871.9 | 639.1 | 1033.2 | 1150.8 | 532.5 | 730.2 | 722.4 | 765.8 | 1128.9 | 567.8 | 861.9 | 985.6 | 524.6 | 740.6 | 547.8 | 739.6 | 490.6 | 967.7 | 411.4 | 607.3 | 844.8 |
| | Week 52 | 1767.0 | 1142.1 | 1976.1 | 1102.3 | 1588.0 | 1430.3 | 1598.5 | 846.9 | 1298.4 | 1856.3 | 1582.1 | 1473.0 | 1266.3 | 1216.0 | 1548.7 | 1238.2 | 1508.4 | 1203.9 | 1487.9 | 1550.9 | 1017.8 | 1274.8 | 1058.7 | 1841.8 | 953.1 | 1176.8 | 1365.3 |
| 2022 | Notification 1 | 2608.4 | 1543.8 | 2626.7 | 1277.1 | 2207.4 | 2081.2 | 1711.2 | 1109.0 | 1962.7 | 2136.4 | 1588.0 | 1747.6 | 1529.5 | 1744.4 | 2520.9 | 1779.2 | 2056.5 | 1617.6 | 2157.5 | 2131.9 | 1832.6 | 1764.9 | 1383.2 | 2549.3 | 1433.3 | 1987.0 | 1867.0 |
| | Notification 2 | 2771.7 | 1476.8 | 3312.7 | 1766.7 | 1973.1 | 1612.9 | 2904.4 | 1203.1 | 2095.7 | 1764.6 | 1553.8 | 2655.7 | 1643.4 | 2754.9 | 2145.3 | 2019.0 | 1895.0 | 1508.5 | 2334.5 | 2258.9 | 2003.5 | 1634.6 | 1214.5 | 3582.3 | 1675.1 | 1595.2 | 1887.4 |
| | Notification 3* | 1997.1 | 2747.6 | 2976.8 | 1545.7 | 2577.4 | 1946.4 | 2292.1 | 1184.1 | 2900.2 | 1706.1 | 1682.5 | 2271.9 | 1508.0 | 2260.7 | 2569.0 | 2128.6 | 2146.7 | 2536.4 | 1753.4 | 3095.6 | 2273.6 | 1851.4 | 1911.8 | 3565.4 | 2475.3 | 2095.1 | 2079.6 |
| | Notification 4 | 3713.2 | 2519.2 | 2849.8 | 2921.3 | 1643.9 | 2544.2 | 2687.0 | 2945.7 | 2652.1 | 2126.3 | 3026.1 | 2193.9 | 3727.6 | 3496.2 | 2925.9 | 2386.8 | 2539.4 | 2854.1 | 2160.1 | 2266.7 | 2252.2 | 3208.3 | 3418.1 | 3613.8 | 2615.5 | 2149.2 | 2707.3 |
| | Notification 5 | 1111.9 | 639.3 | 774.3 | 771.3 | 312.8 | 794.6 | 876.5 | 511.1 | 891.7 | 624.8 | 859.5 | 458.7 | 948.7 | 944.4 | 1026.5 | 546.3 | 731.1 | 786.8 | 656.7 | 452.4 | 590.5 | 709.5 | 1001.9 | 945.1 | 585.1 | 655.8 | 761.1 |
| | Notification 6 | 1110.1 | 544.8 | 807.1 | 820.8 | 537.1 | 765.3 | 890.5 | 566.0 | 907.4 | 687.3 | 789.9 | 552.4 | 920.0 | 704.6 | 976.1 | 567.8 | 654.7 | 659.8 | 742.7 | 505.1 | 701.9 | 689.4 | 963.2 | 1001.5 | 608.5 | 726.7 | 766.3 |

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 51, 2021 and week 6, 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 51, 2021 and week 4, 2022 (greyed area). 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.

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 99 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 | 552912 | 3608 | 0.7 | 76 | 0.0 | 46** | 0.01 |
| | Total | | 1150408 | 14767 | 1.3 | 1473 | 0.1 | 660 |
| 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 | 31778 | 2120 | 6.7 | 57 | 0.2 | 234** | 0.74 |
| | Total | | 90704 | 12713 | 14.0 | 1002 | 1.1 | 5436 |

* 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.

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

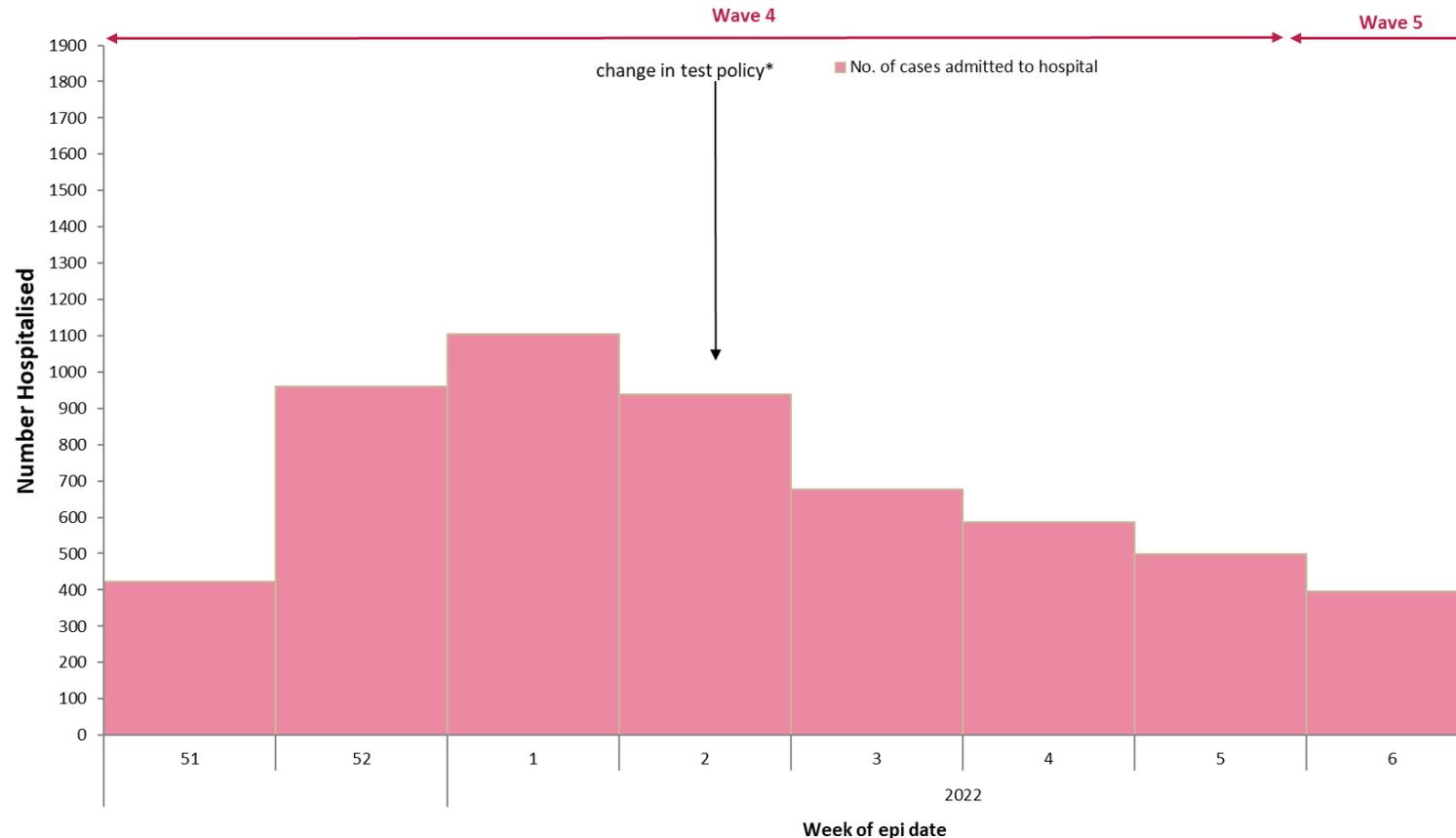


Figure 6: Number of hospitalised COVID-19 cases** and 3 week moving average (%*) of overall cases hospitalised in Ireland between week 51, 2021 and week 6, 2022 **based on week of epi-date*****

*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.

**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 6, 2022

Table 4: Number of hospitalisations and ICU admissions** in COVID-19 cases in Ireland between for week 6**, 2022 based on week of notification***

| Age Group (years) | Number of cases (n) | Number of cases (%) | Cases hospitalised (n) | Cases hospitalised (%) |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 0-4 yrs | 1,943 | 5.3 | 34 | 6.4 |
| 5-12 yrs | 3,173 | 8.7 | 22 | 4.2 |
| 13-18 yrs | 2,463 | 6.7 | 20 | 3.8 |
| 19-24 yrs | 3,241 | 8.9 | 31 | 5.9 |
| 25-34 yrs | 5,091 | 14.0 | 51 | 9.7 |
| 35-44 yrs | 8,215 | 22.5 | 67 | 12.7 |
| 45-54 yrs | 6,594 | 18.1 | 41 | 7.8 |
| 55-64 yrs | 3,141 | 8.6 | 50 | 9.5 |
| 65-74 yrs | 1,492 | 4.1 | 60 | 11.4 |
| 75-84 yrs | 760 | 2.1 | 85 | 16.1 |
| 85+ yrs | 376 | 1.0 | 67 | 12.7 |
| Unknown | 2 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Total | 36,491 | 100 | 528 | 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

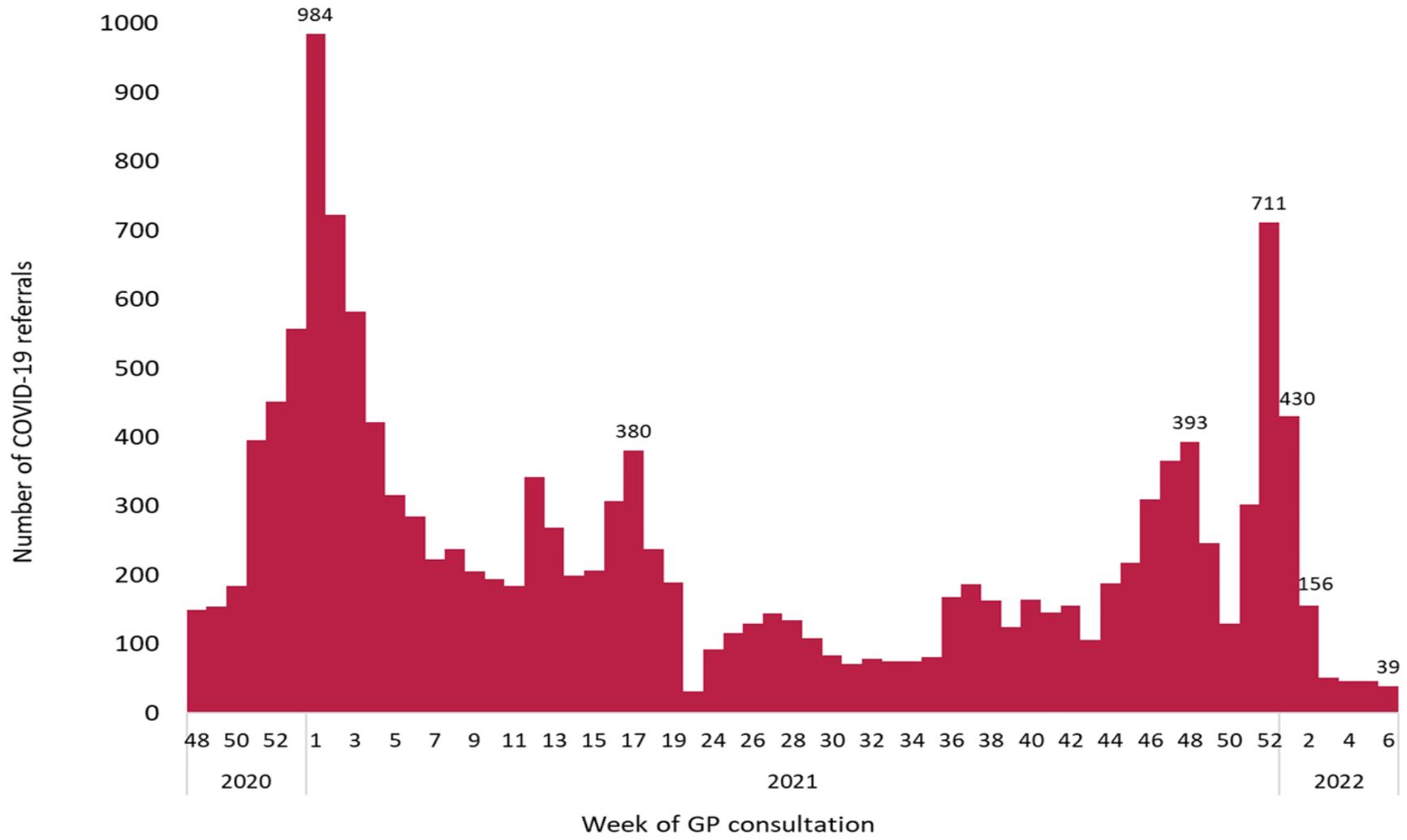


Figure 7: Number of sentinel GP COVID-19 PCR test referrals by week of consultation, week 48, 2020 – week 6, 2022.

**Sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals are reflecting community COVID-19 incidence AND changes to health seeking behaviour regarding the use of online COVID-19 test booking systems and COVID-19 antigen tests.*



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

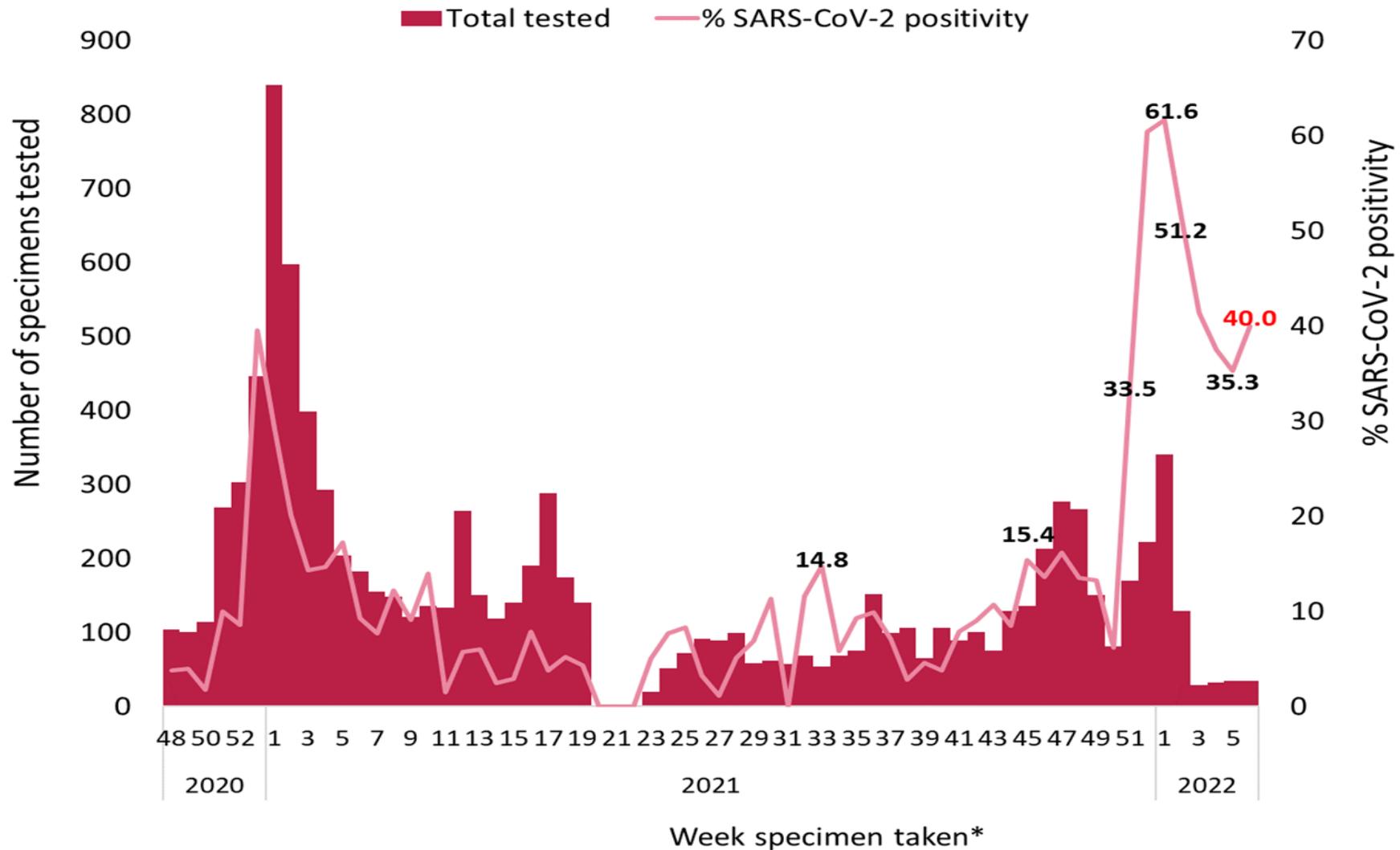


Figure 8: % SARS-CoV-2 PCR positivity data from sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals tested by NVRL*, 2020-2022.

*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

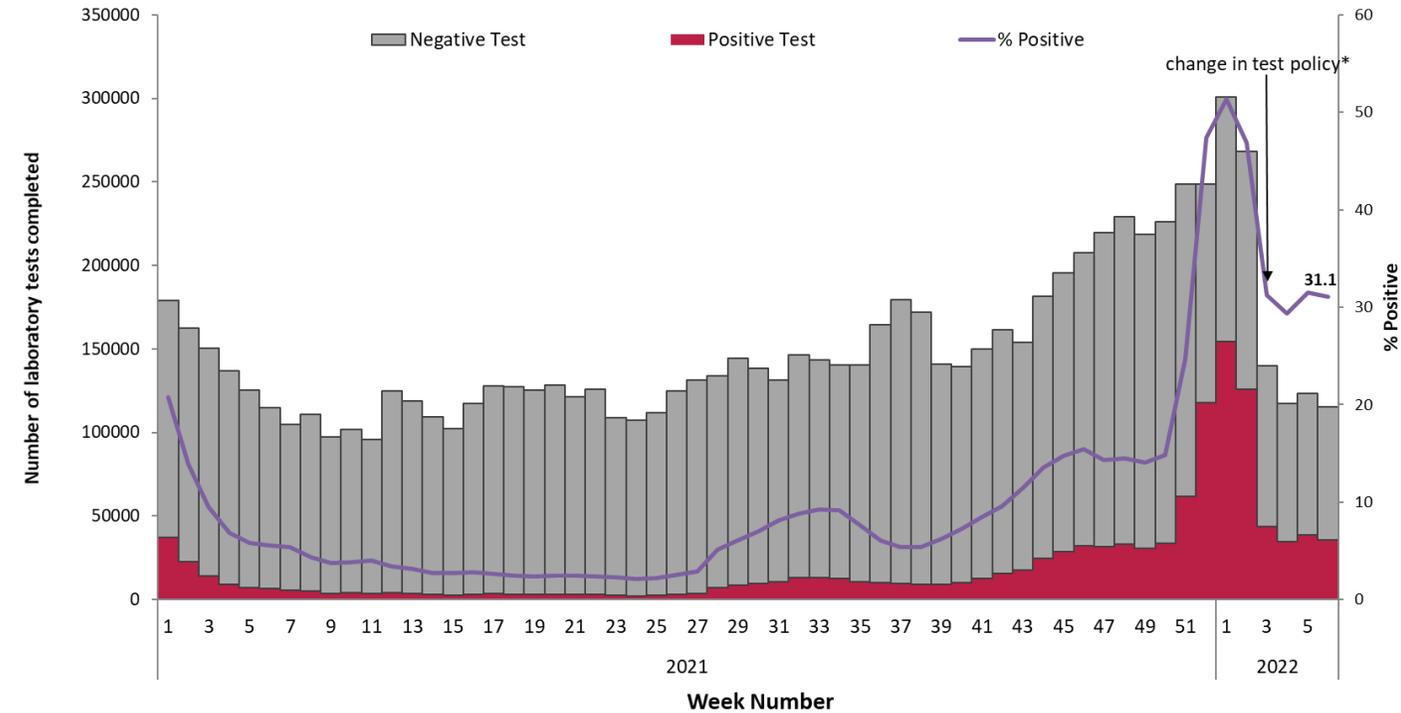
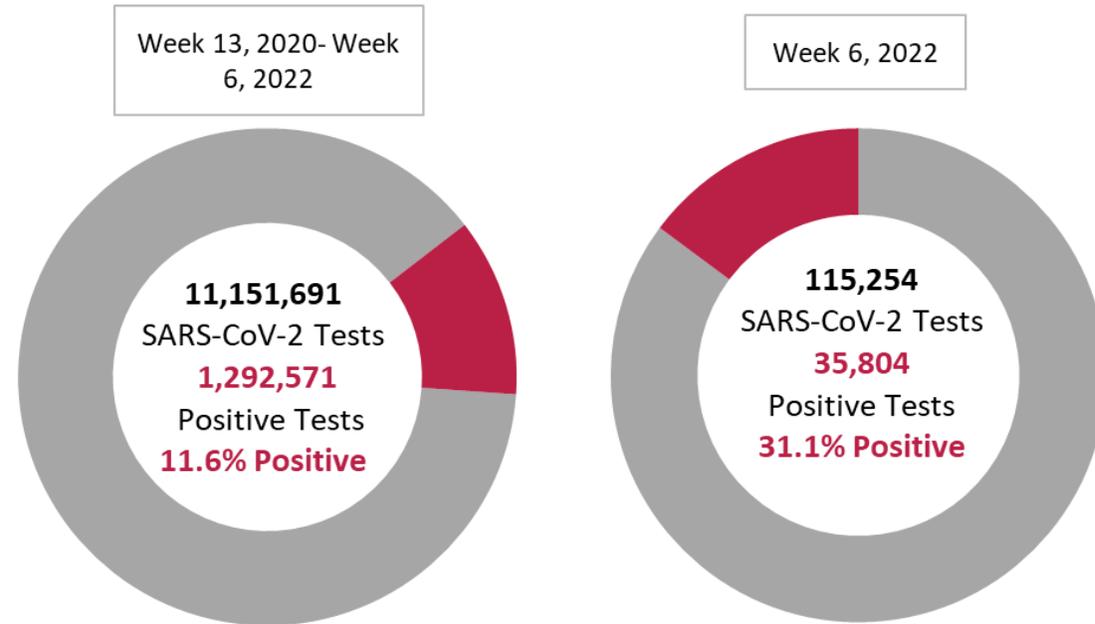


Figure 9a: Number of SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests and positive tests* in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 6, 2022

Figure 9b: Number of SARS-CoV-2 negative and positive PCR tests* completed in Ireland between week 1, 2021 and week 6, 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.

Daily reported cases of COVID-19 in Ireland based on HSE Antigen Portal

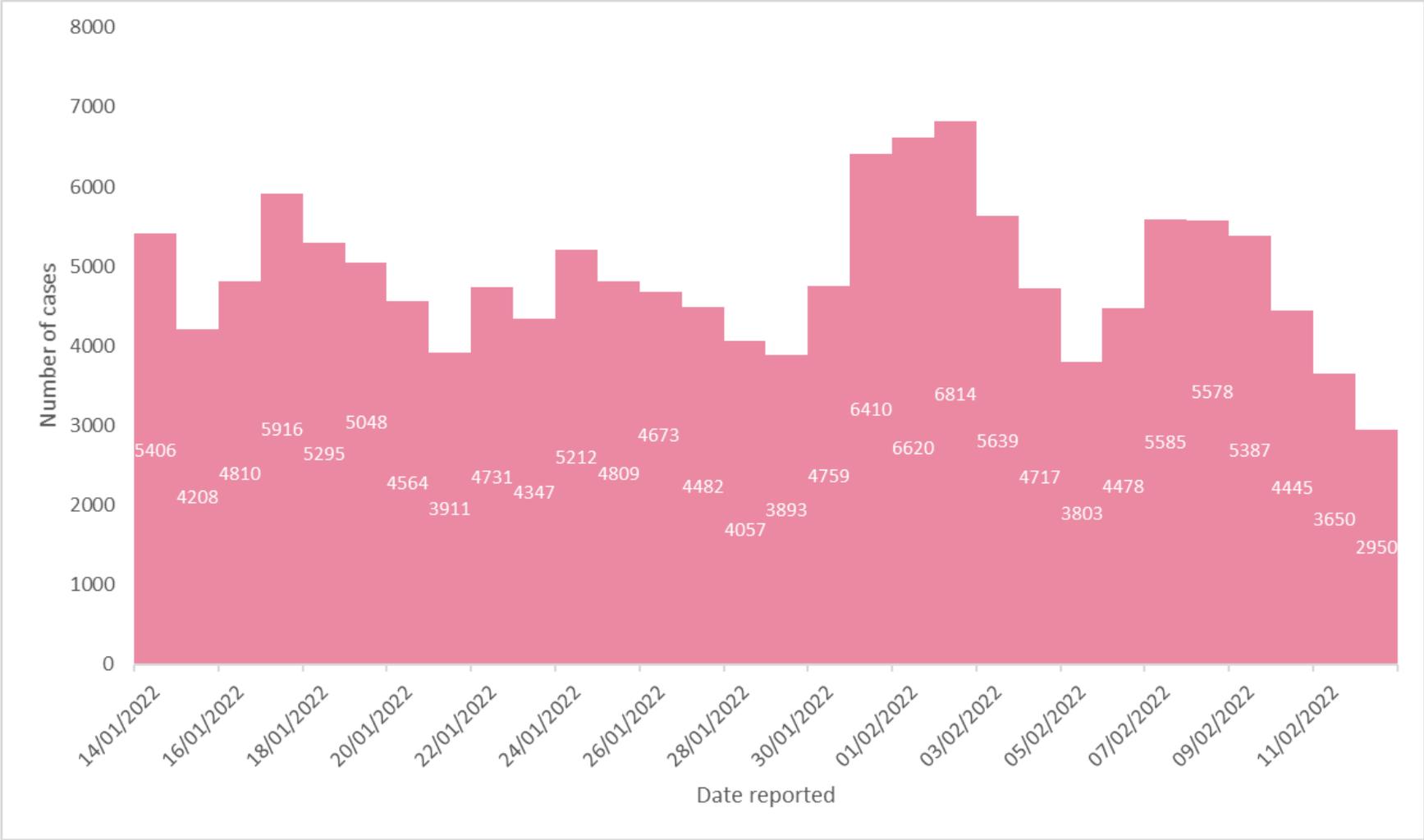


Figure 10: Number of cases registering a positive antigen test to the HSE Antigen Portal, 14th January 2022 to 12th February 2022

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 12/02/2022

| | Total (week 2, 2022-week 6, 2022) | | Week 6, 2022 | |
|--|--|---------|--------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Total number of confirmed cases | 144,872 | | 32,076 | |
| Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population | 3042.3 | | 673.6 | |
| Males | 65,142 | 45.0 | 14,192 | 44.2 |
| Females | 79,308 | 54.7 | 17,769 | 55.4 |
| M:F ratio | 0.82 | | 0.80 | |
| Median (years) | 21 | | 24 | |
| Mean age (years) | 24 | | 26 | |
| Age range (years) | 0- 105 | | 0- 105 | |

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

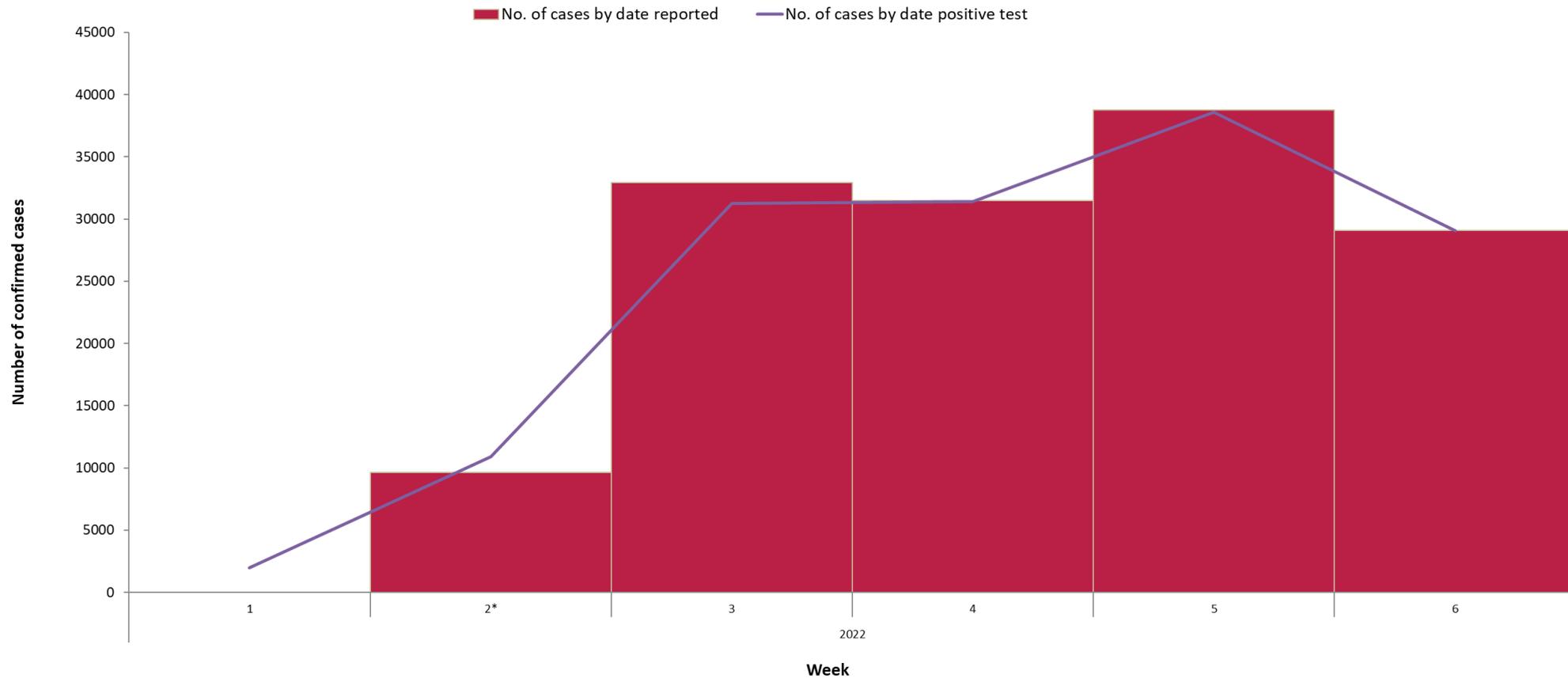


Figure 11: Number of COVID-19 cases who registered a positive antigen test on the HSE Antigen Positive Portal by week of registration and week of epidemiological date in Ireland between week 1, 2022 and week 6*, 2022

*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 now 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 12: 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 6, 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
- [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
- [Epidemiology of intensive care admissions](#) in cases of COVID-19 in Ireland

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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 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.