



Weekly Report on COVID-19 Outbreaks in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals

Week 48 2021

Health Protection Surveillance Centre, 6th December 2021

Dates to note:

- Week 48 (28th November to 4th December 2021)
- Week 10 2020 (1st to 7th March 2020) –The beginning of the pandemic in Ireland
- Wave 4 of the pandemic in Ireland (Week 26 2021 (week commencing 27/06/2021) to present)

Note: The epidemiological weeks in this report, run from Sunday to Saturday, please refer to the surveillance resources on the HPSC website for a complete list of epidemiological weeks with start and end dates.

Note: Data were extracted from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system on 06/12/2021. These data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.

Notes

The following report provides information on COVID-19 outbreaks/clusters notified on CIDR to midnight December 4th 2021 (week 48) and extracted from CIDR at 1:30 pm on December 6th 2021.

Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and updating. For this reason, data reported may not match data previously reported or outbreaks data reported in the future for the same time period. Furthermore, the number of linked cases is based on the number of linked cases at the time of extraction from CIDR and an outbreak may increase in size since the time of extraction.

Sincere thanks are extended to all those who are participating in the collection of data and reporting of data used in this report, particularly under the current challenging circumstances. 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.

COVID-19 outbreaks in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals, waves 1-4

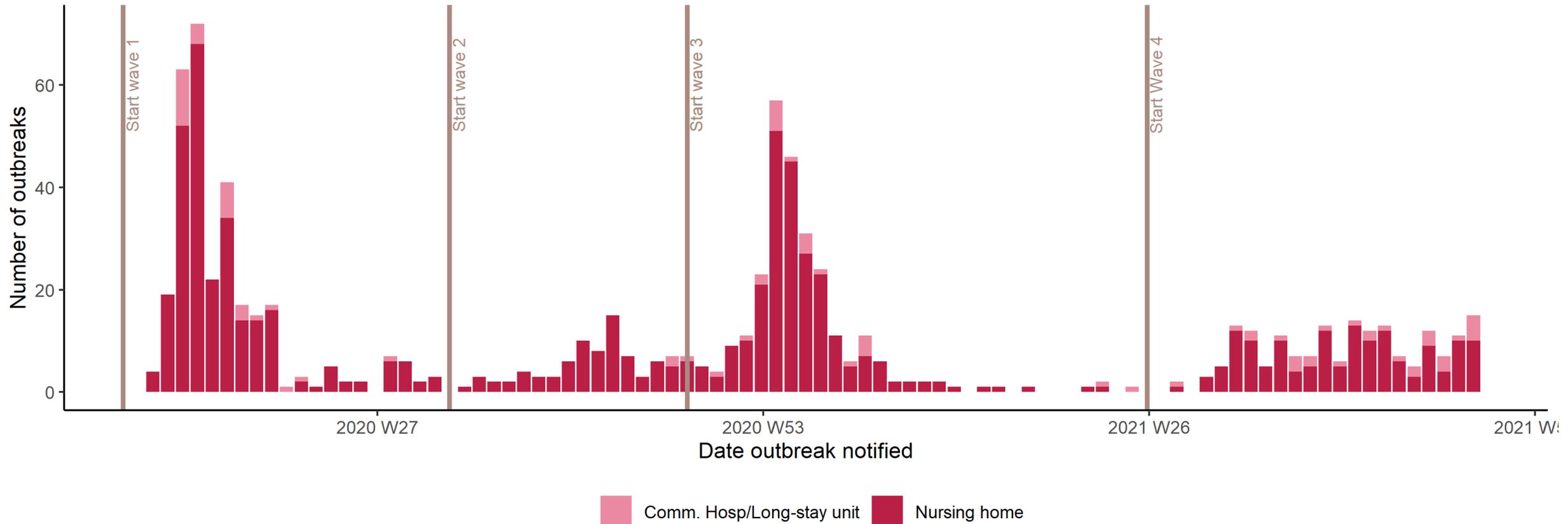


Wave	Outbreak		Linked confirmed cases				
	Number of outbreaks	Number of cases*	Number	Number hospitalised	Number admitted to ICU	Number hospitalised and died	Number who died
Wave 1 (weeks 10-31 2020)	302	6658	6251	476	16	195	884
Wave 2 (weeks 32-47 2020)	80	1571	1555	90	<5	25	133
Wave 3 (week 48 2020 - week 25 2021)	267	8375	8329	576	12	198	1019
Wave 4 (weeks 26-48 2021)	180	2517	2414	183	<5	38	158
Total	829	19121	18549	1325	31	456	2194

*the larger between the aggregate number of confirmed cases reported or the number of confirmed linked cases

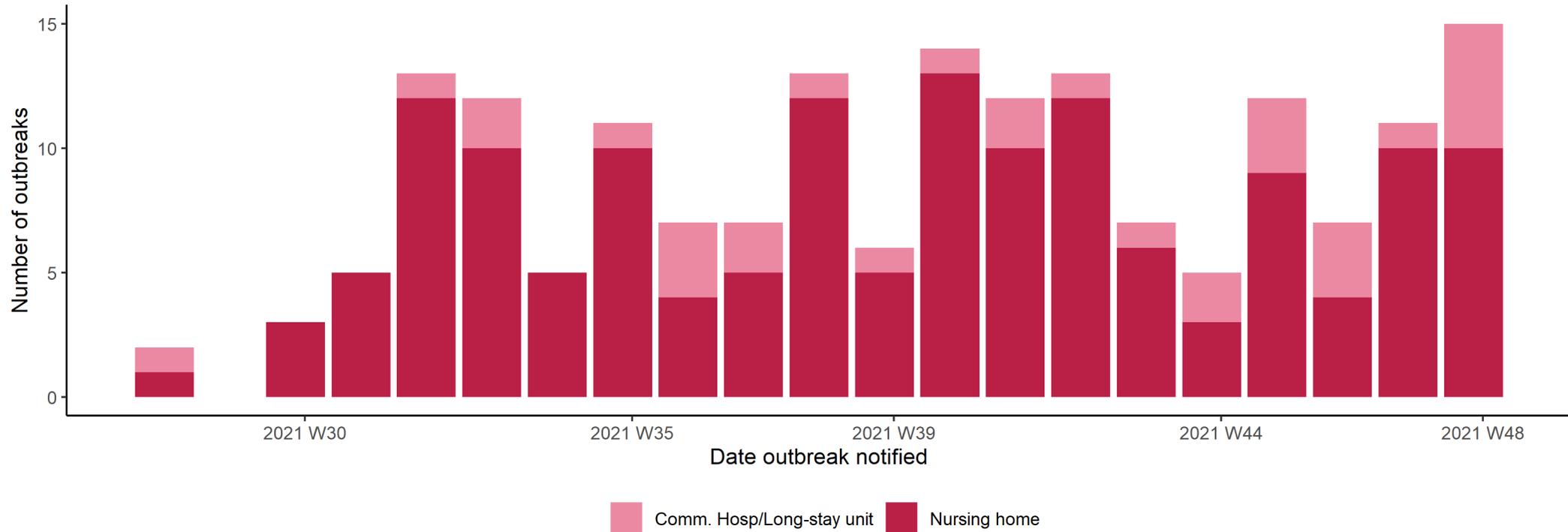
- Overall, there have been 829 COVID-19 outbreaks in Nursing homes and Community Hospitals
- 1,325 of 18,549 laboratory confirmed outbreak cases have been hospitalised (7.1%)
- 2,194 deaths have been reported among confirmed outbreak cases in these settings (11.8%)

Weekly number of COVID-19 outbreaks in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals, waves 1-4



Large peaks occurred in the number of outbreaks in wave 1 (72 outbreaks in a single week) and wave 3 (57 outbreaks in a single week)

Weekly number of COVID-19 outbreaks in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals, wave 4 (weeks 26-48 2021)



- Wave 4:**
- 180 nursing home and community hospital/long stay unit COVID-19 outbreaks notified
 - The number of outbreaks in these settings in the last 17 weeks has been relatively stable, but was highest in week 48, with 15 outbreaks this week.

Burden of disease associated with COVID-19 outbreaks in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals, wave 4 (weeks 26-48 2021)



Outbreaks Location	Outbreak		Linked confirmed cases				
	Number of outbreaks	Number of cases*	Number	Number hospitalised	Number admitted to ICU	Number hospitalised and died	Number who died
Comm. Hosp/Long-stay unit	31	299	290	64	<5	6	13
Nursing home	149	2218	2124	119	<5	32	145
Total	180	2517	2414	183	<5	38	158

*the larger between the aggregate number of confirmed cases reported or the number of confirmed linked cases

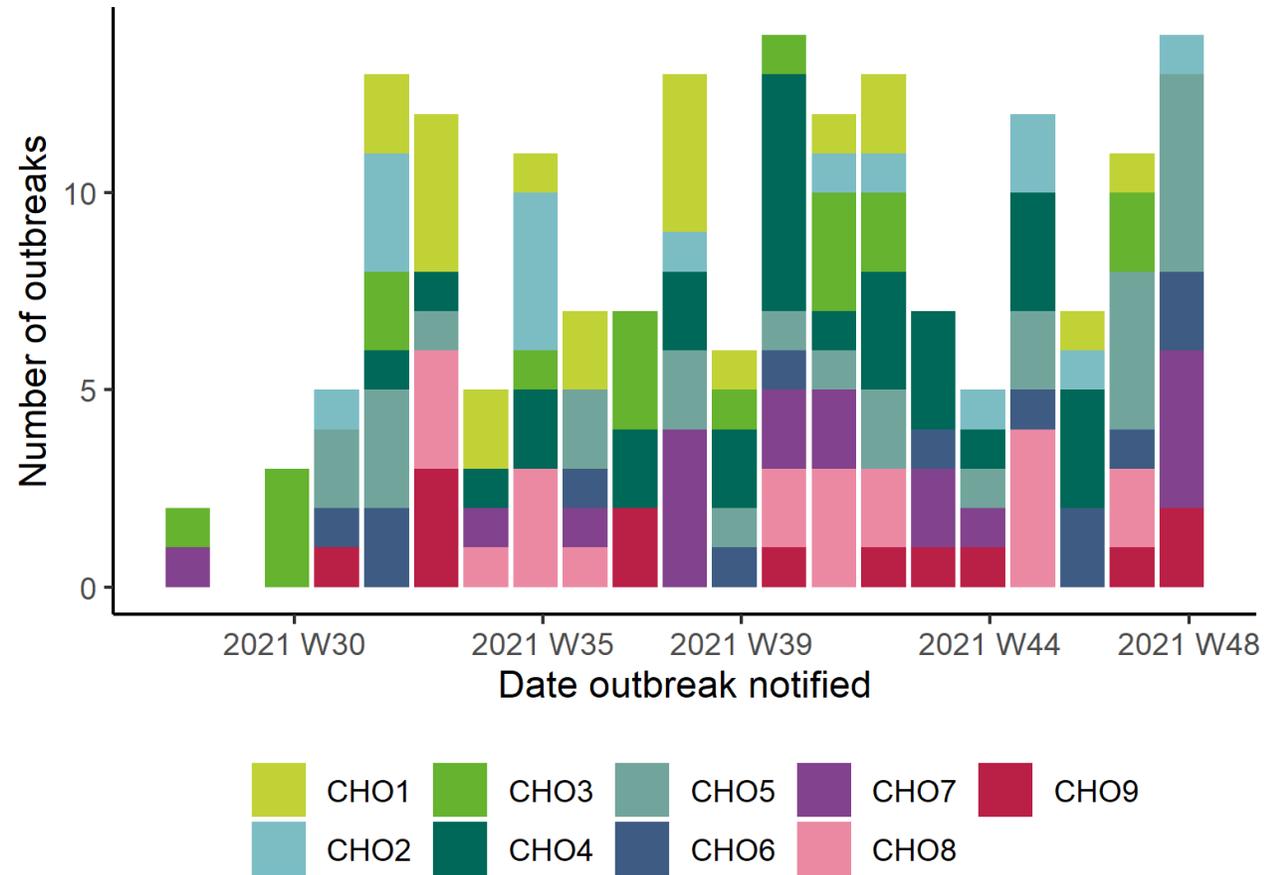
Wave 4:

- Of the 180 outbreaks in wave 4, 109 are officially closed on CIDR, and an additional 20 outbreaks have not had a reported case in the last 28 days, leaving 51 open outbreaks
- 183 of the 2,414 outbreak-linked cases (7.6%) were hospitalised (age range 25-98 years, median 84 years)
- 158 (6.5%) cases died (age range 57-103 years, median 87 years)
- The 158 deaths were spread across 64 outbreaks

Week 48 2021

- Fifteen new outbreaks – 94 linked cases (range 2-22 cases per outbreak)

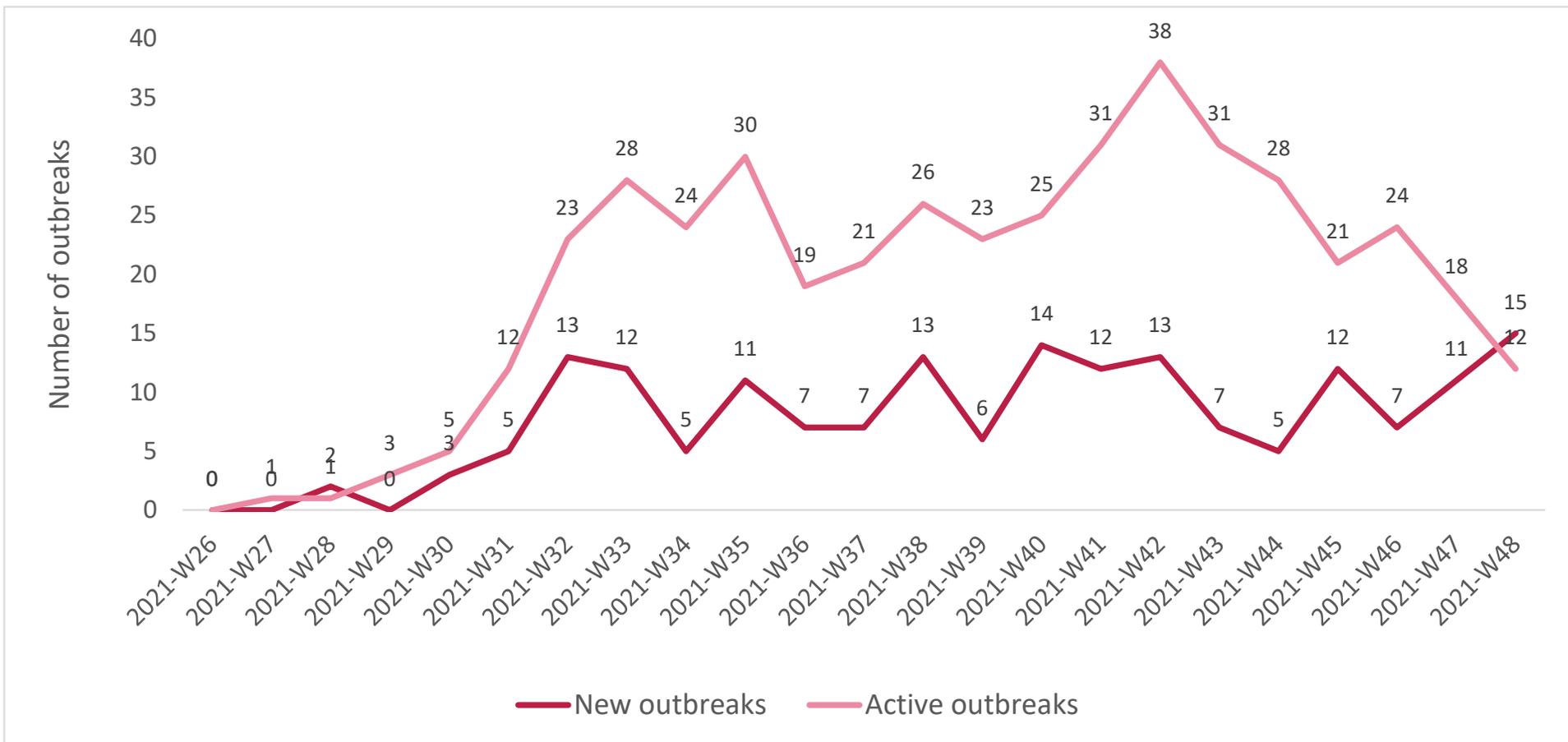
Regional distribution of outbreaks in Nursing Home and Community Hospitals, Wave 4 (weeks 26-48 2021)



Wave 4:

- The highest number of outbreaks was reported in CHO4 (31 outbreaks) followed by CHO5 (27 outbreaks)
- Five CHOs were represented in the 15 outbreaks notified in week 48

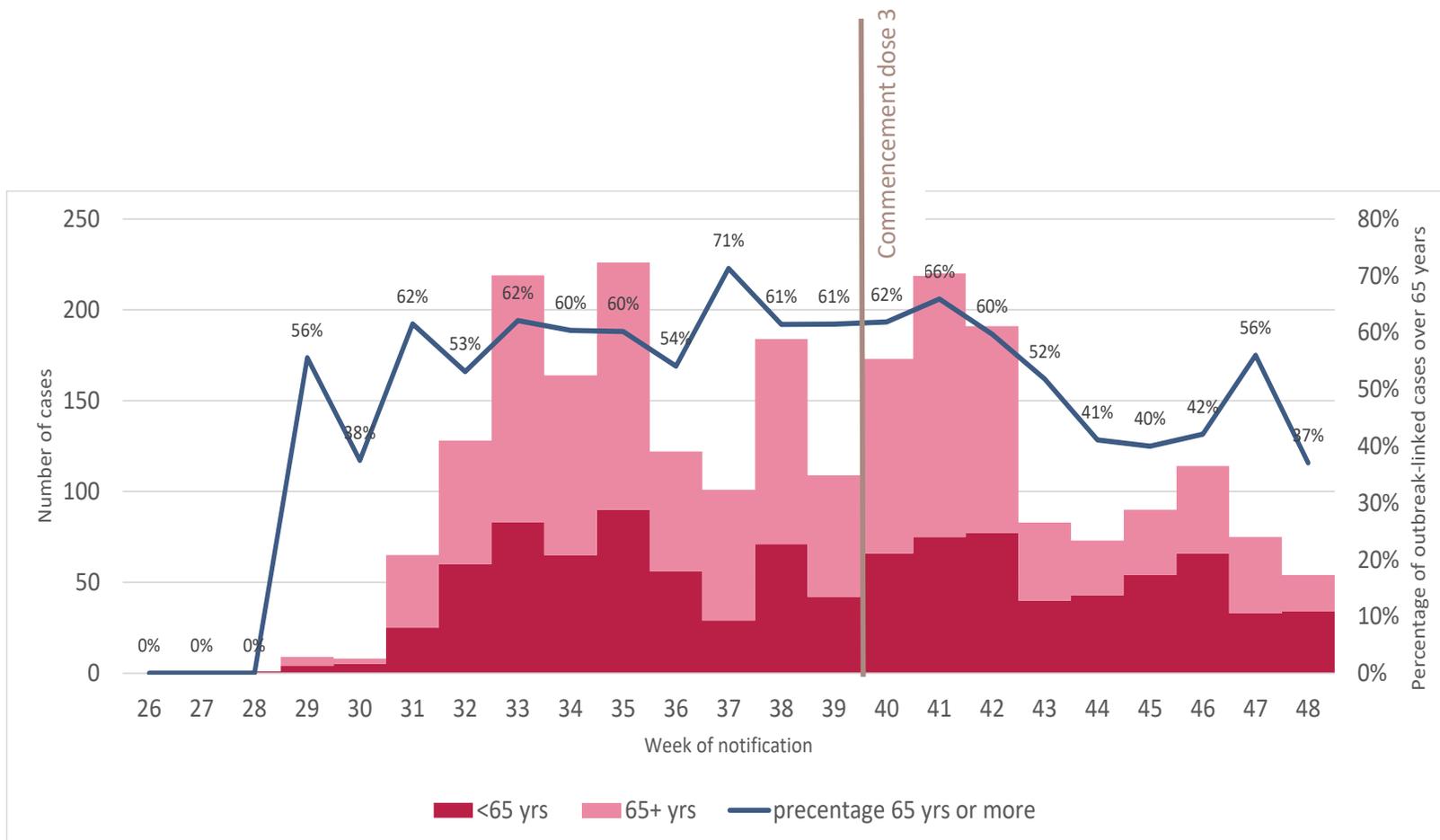
New and active outbreaks by week in Nursing Home and Community Hospitals, Wave 4 (weeks 26-48 2021)



Wave 4:

The number of active outbreaks (those with a case notified that week) peaked at 38 in week 42. Fewer outbreaks had cases reported in weeks 43 - 48 although the number of outbreaks with linked cases in the most recent weeks may increase as more information becomes available

Cases linked to COVID-19 outbreaks in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals by age group, wave 4 (weeks 26-48 2021)



- In wave 4, the number of linked cases of all ages peaked at 226 cases in week 35, followed by a sharp decline from week 43 (week beginning 24/10/2021) to just 54 linked cases in week 48. This is likely due to administration of the booster vaccine which commenced for residents in week 40
- Across wave 4, 58% (1390/2414) of linked cases were 65 years of age or more –this was lower in the last 5 weeks at c.43%, and likely reflects the earlier implementation of booster vaccine for residents compared to staff at these facilities

Outcomes among cases linked to COVID-19 outbreaks in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals by age group, wave 4 (weeks 26-48 2021)

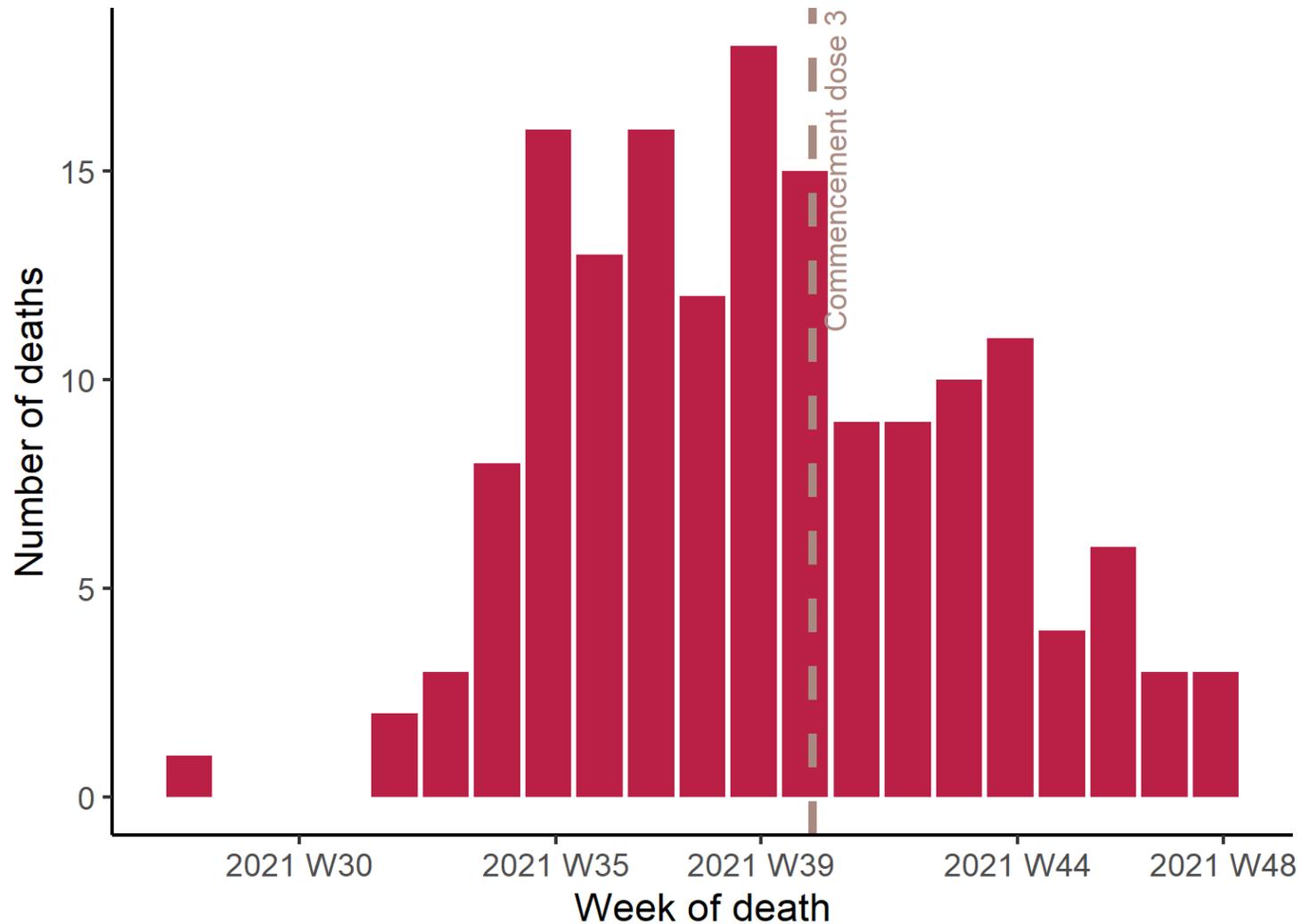


Age group	Number	Number hospitalised	% hospitalised	Number admitted to ICU	% ICU	Number who died	% died
<45 yrs	599	5	0.8%	<5	0.0%	0	0.0%
45-64 yrs	425	10	2.4%	<5	0.2%	5	1.2%
65-74 yrs	168	22	13.1%	<5	0.0%	11	6.5%
75-84 yrs	476	62	13.0%	<5	0.2%	48	10.1%
85+ yrs	746	84	11.3%	<5	0.0%	94	12.6%
Total	2414	183	7.6%	<5	0.1%	158	6.5%

Wave 4:

- The percentage of cases who died increased with age, being highest among those 85 years and over
- The percentage of cases who were hospitalised was highest in age groups 65-74 years and 75-84 years

Deaths among cases linked to COVID-19 outbreaks in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals by week of death, wave 4 (weeks 26-48 2021)



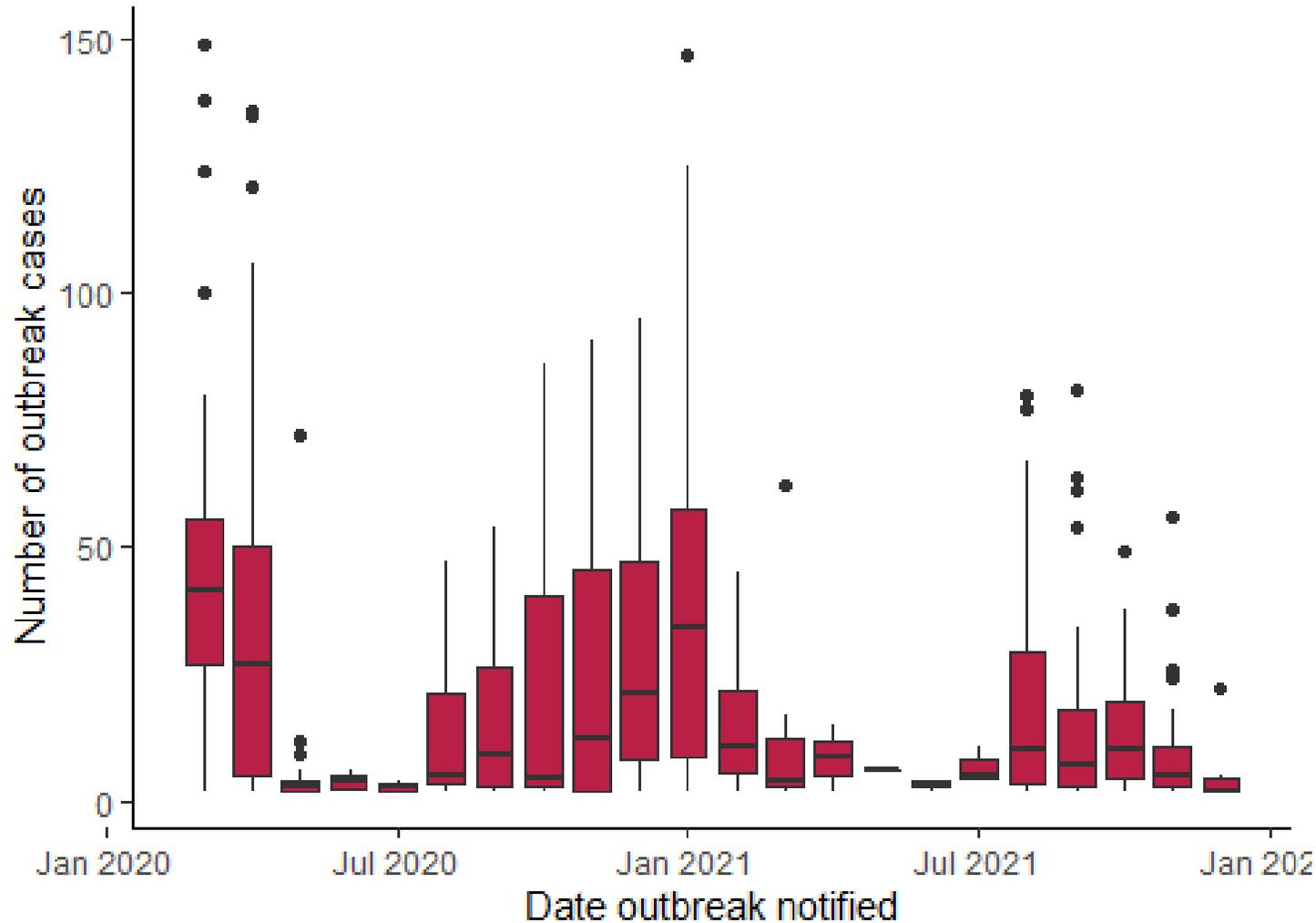
- In wave 4, the number of deaths per week (by date of death) peaked in week 39 with 18 deaths, followed by a reduction from week 44. Just 3 deaths each have so far been reported in weeks 47 and 48
- This decline in the weekly number of deaths follows the administration of the booster vaccine which commenced for residents in week 40

Comparison of disease severity among cases linked to outbreaks in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals by wave and age group

Age group	Wave	Number	Number hospitalised	% hospitalised	Number admitted to ICU	% ICU	Number who died	% died
<65 yrs	Wave 1	2672	88	3.3%	5	0.2%	20	0.7%
	Wave 2	779	15	1.9%	0	0.0%	<5	0.1%
	Wave 3	4033	100	2.5%	8	0.2%	18	0.4%
	Wave 4	1024	15	1.5%	<5	0.1%	5	0.5%
65+ yrs	Wave 1	3577	388	10.8%	11	0.3%	864	24.2%
	Wave 2	776	75	9.7%	<5	0.1%	132	17.0%
	Wave 3	4296	476	11.1%	<5	0.1%	1001	23.3%
	Wave 4	1390	168	12.1%	<5	0.1%	153	11.0%

The percentage of cases 65 years or older who died among cases linked to outbreaks notified in wave 4 was 11.0%, compared to between 17.0% and 24.2% in previous waves

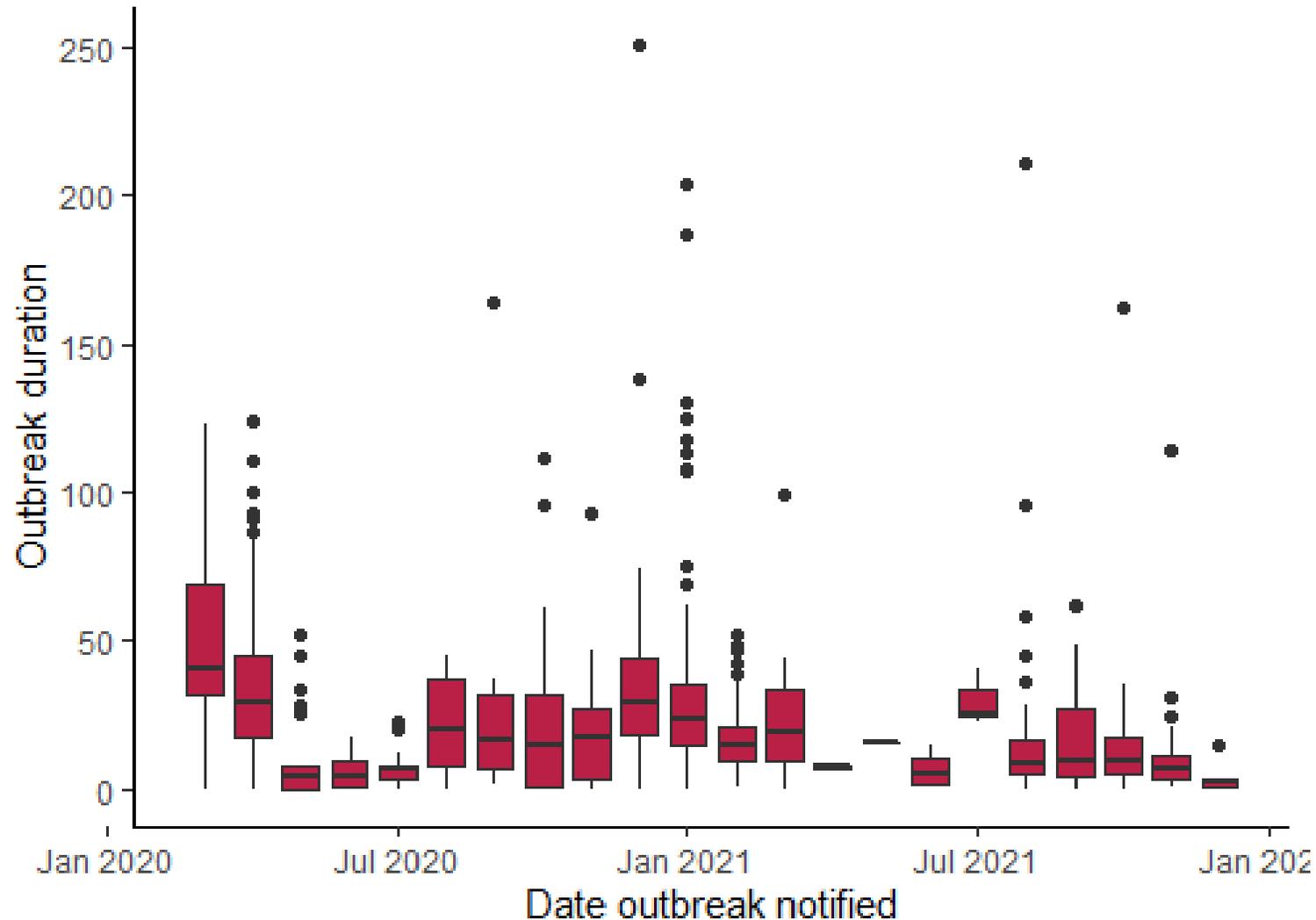
Distribution of outbreak size by month of outbreak notification



The median outbreak size has remained relatively low since the vaccination programme commenced in January/February 2021, with the median since January 31st being 8 (IQR 4-18) compared to the median of 22 (4-50) before January 31st

Note: Later outbreaks in the series may still be accruing cases

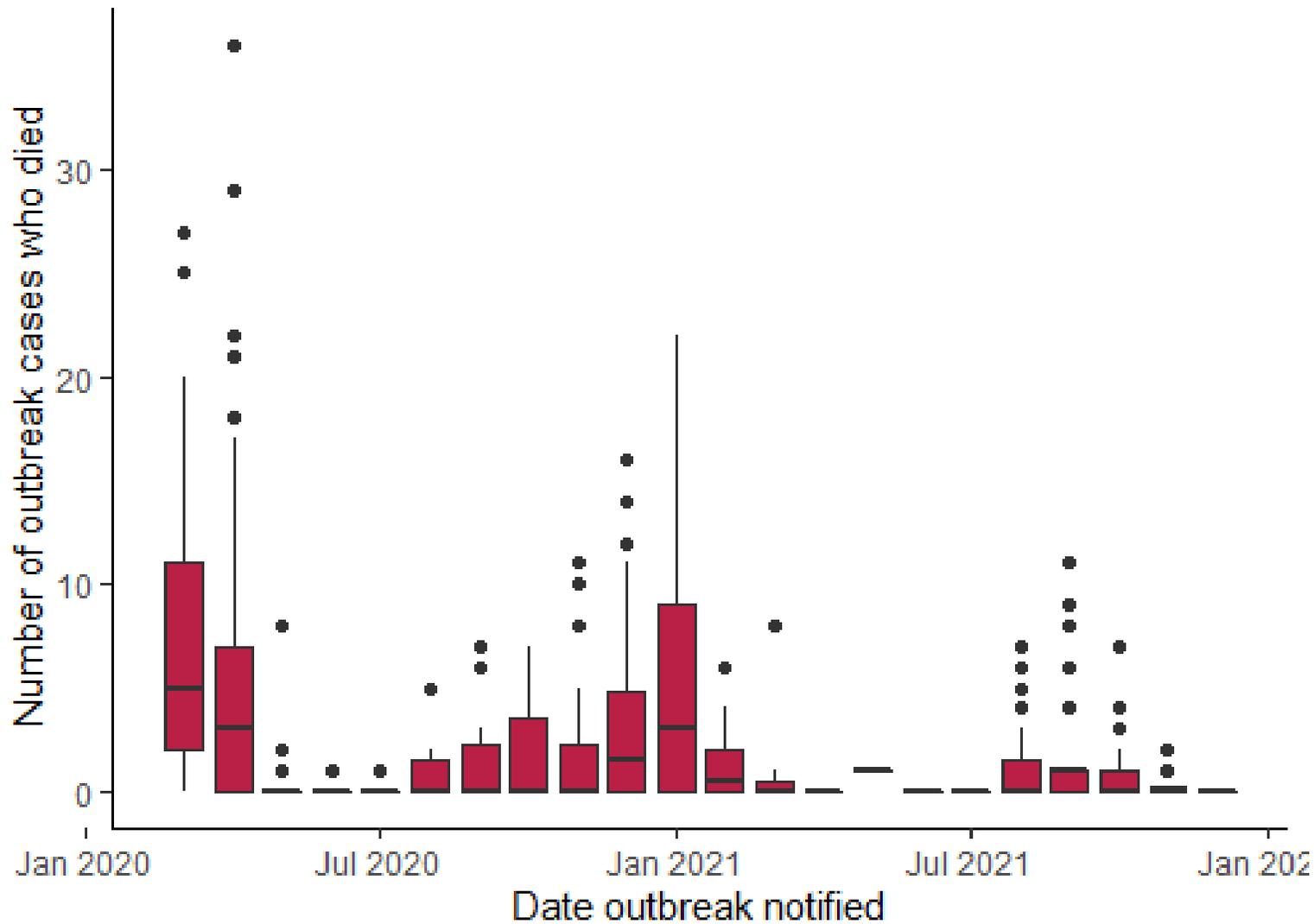
Distribution of outbreak duration by month of outbreak notification



The median outbreak duration has remained relatively low since the vaccination programme commenced in January/February 2021, with the median since January 31st being 10 days with IQR (5-18 days) compared to the median of 25 days with IQR (13-40 days) before January 31st

Note: Later outbreaks in the series may still be accruing cases

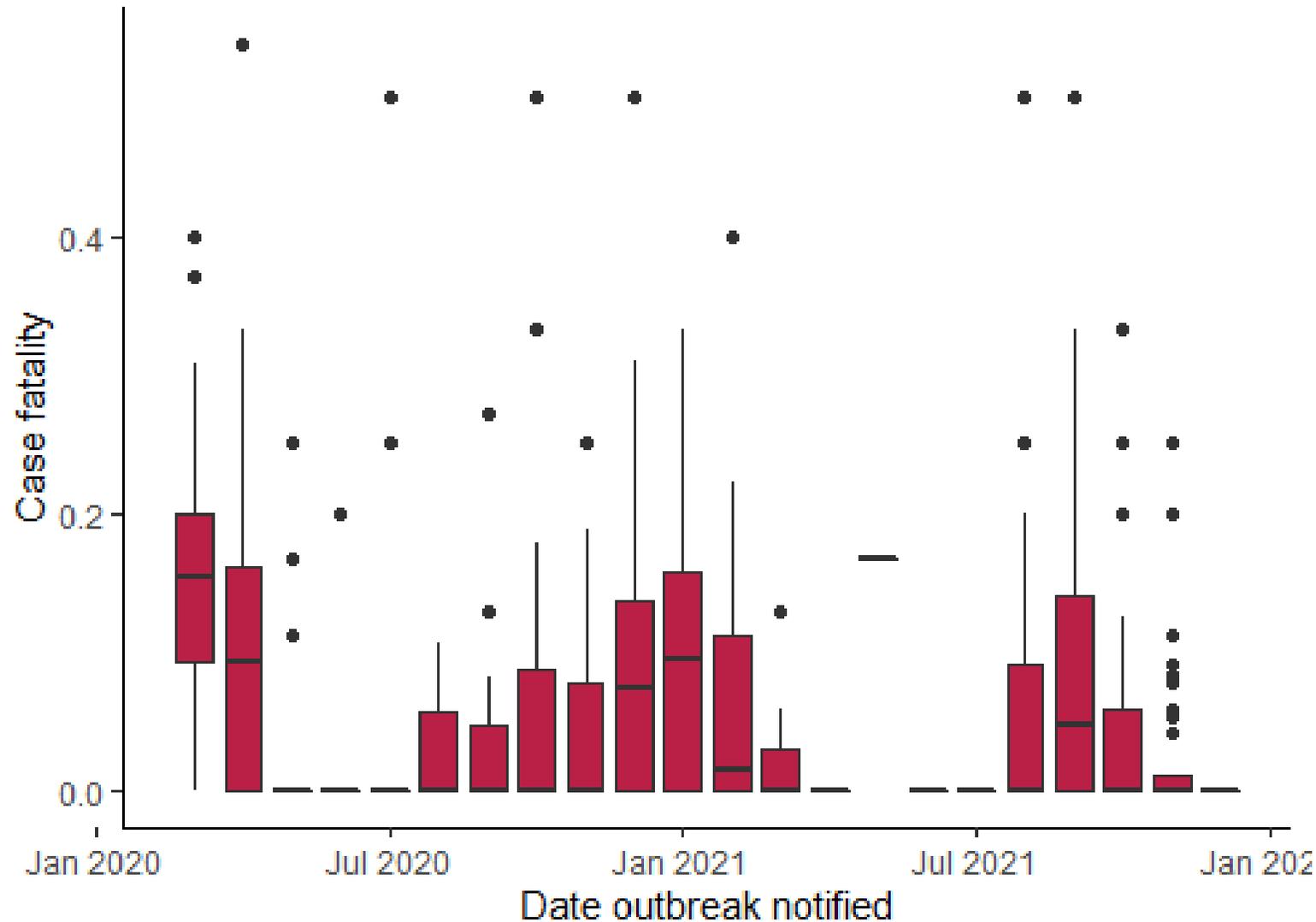
Distribution of number of deaths per outbreak by month of outbreak notification



The median number of deaths per outbreak has remained relatively low since the vaccination programme commenced in January/February 2021, with the median since January 31st being 0 (IQR 0-1) compared to a median of 2 (IQR 0-6) before January 31st

Note: Later outbreaks in the series may still be accruing cases and deaths

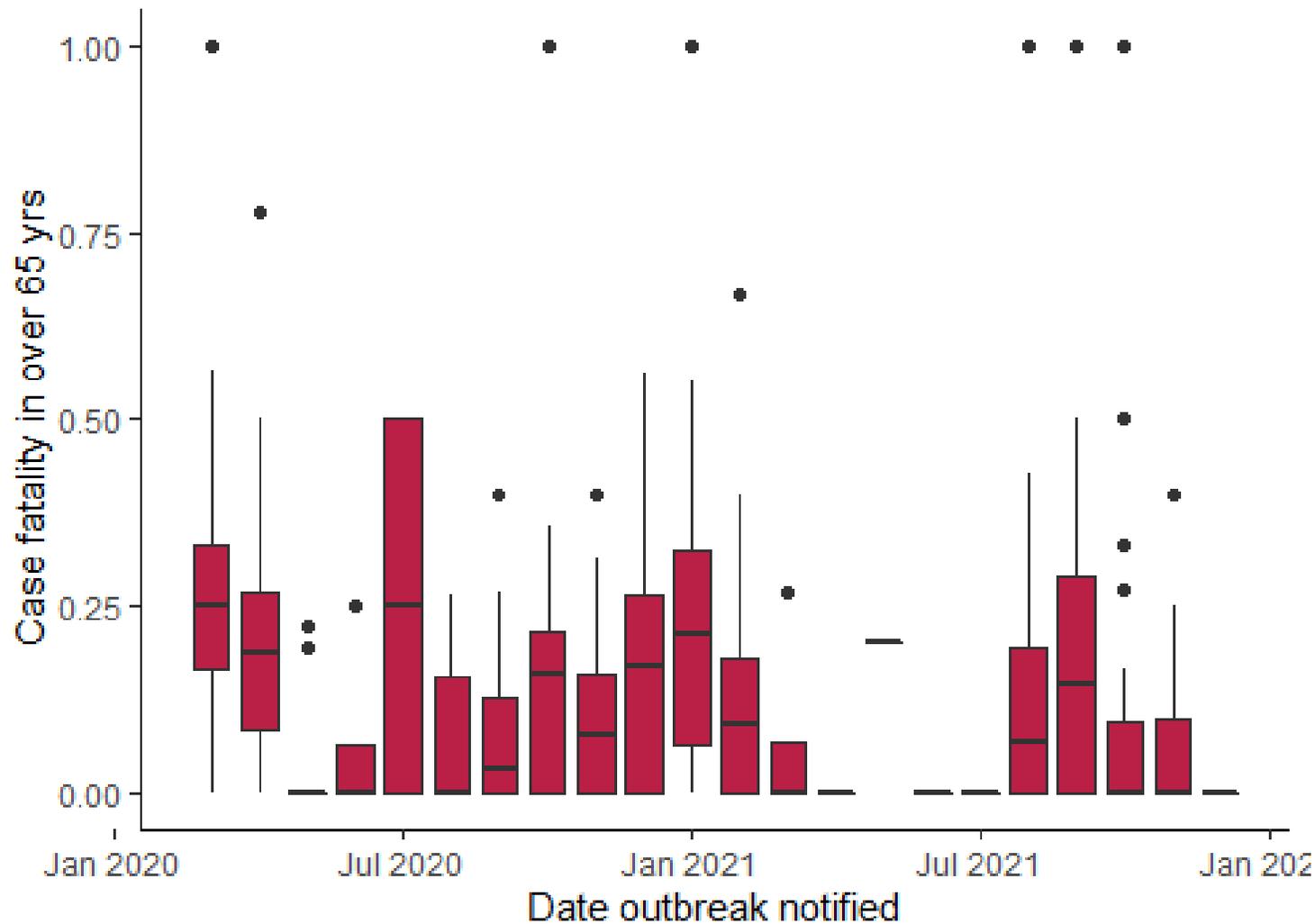
Distribution of outbreak case fatality by month of outbreak notification



The median outbreak case fatality has remained relatively low since the vaccination programme commenced in January/February 2021, with the median since January 31st being 0.0% with IQR (0.0-7.9%) compared to the median of 7.5% with IQR (0-14.8%) before January 31st

Note: Later outbreaks in the series may still be accruing cases and deaths

Distribution of outbreak case fatality in cases 65 years or over by month of outbreak notification [in outbreaks with cases over 65 years]



The median outbreak case fatality among cases 65 years or over is lower since the vaccination programme commenced in January/February 2021, with the median since January 31st being 0.0% with IQR (0-17%) compared to the median of 18.2% with IQR (0-29%) before January 31st.

The median outbreak case fatality among cases 65 years or over increased in August and September, and appears to have declined again from October.

Note: Later outbreaks in the series may still be accruing cases and deaths