Weekly Report on the Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland

Week 4, 2022

Health Protection Surveillance Centre, HPSC

COVID-19 Epidemiology Team, 31/01/2022

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 4, 2022 (23rd January to 29th January) – 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.

Notes on data and data reporting

- 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 Positive 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 1b).
- People registering a positive antigen test through the HSE Positive 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 Positive 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 Positive 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 Positive Antigen Portal.
- Data from both sources (CIDR and the Positive 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. The effect may not yet be evident in data presented by date of notification due to the increased reporting time. These age-groups will be over represented in data from the Positive Antigen Portal.

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 artificially reduced compared to the number of cases diagnosed during this period. Notifications on CIDR in week 3 and 4, 2022 were artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during week 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.
- Reporting time will return to previous levels next week as cases diagnosed during the surge have now been processed and case numbers are within the capacity of surveillance partners to process in a timely manner.

Daily reported cases of COVID-19 in Ireland

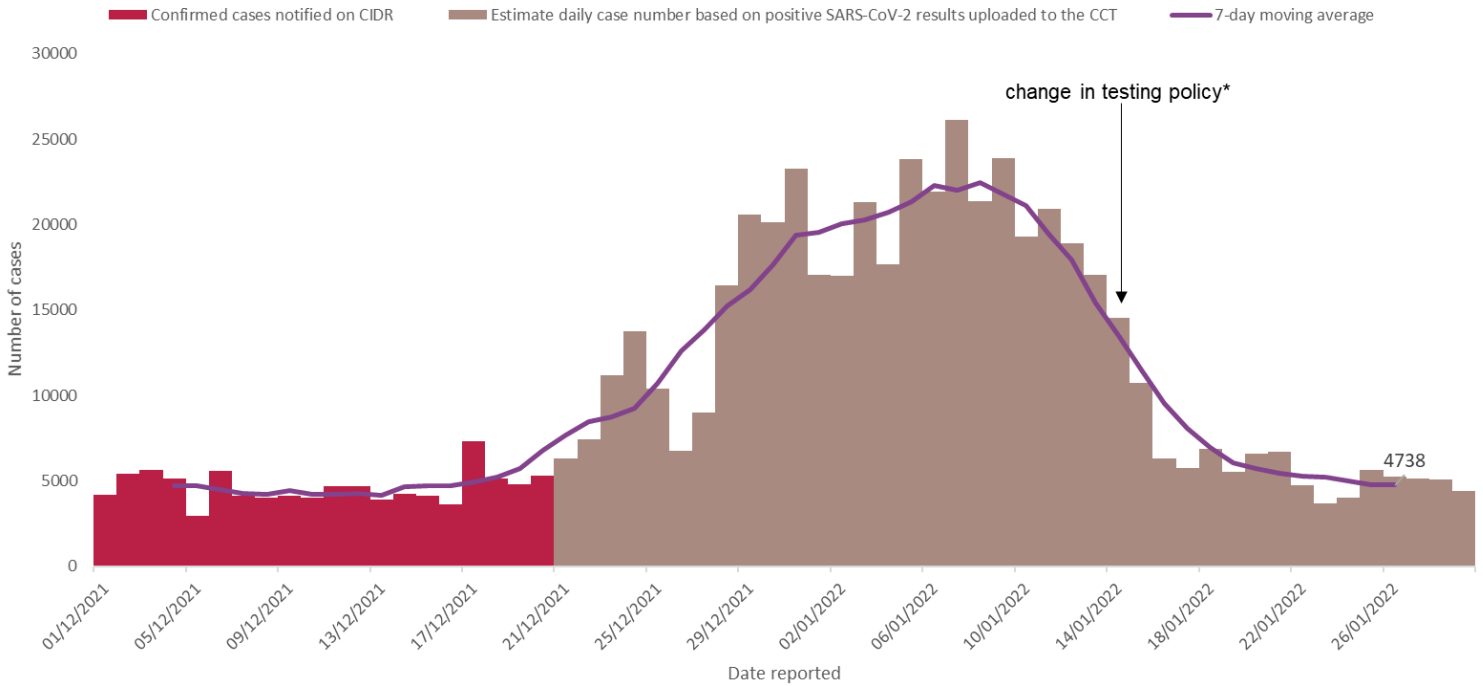


Figure 1a: Number of PCR positive reported cases** of COVID-19 in Ireland by day, 1st December 2021 to 29th January 2022

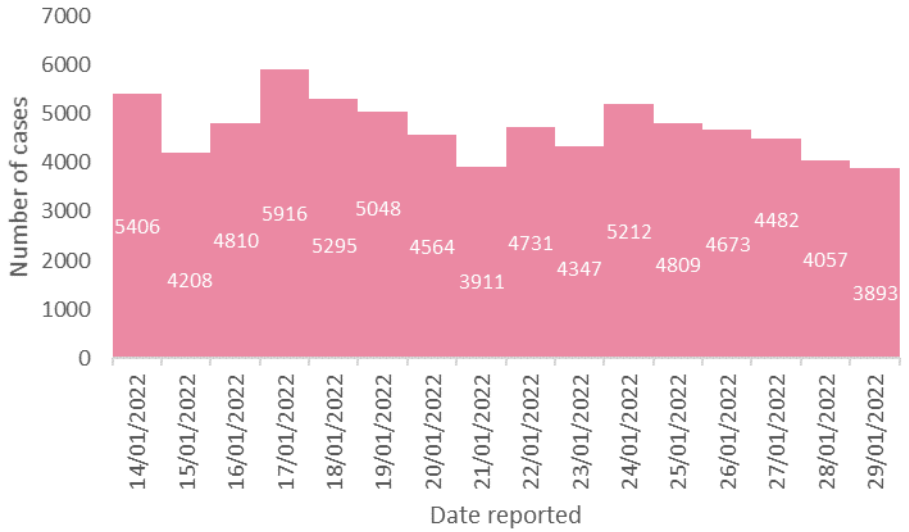


Figure 1b: Number of cases registering a positive antigen test to the HSE Positive Antigen Portal, 14th December 2021 to 29th January 2022

**Change to testing policy: confirmatory PCR tests no longer necessary for some groups.*
*** Since 21/12/2021 the daily COVID-19 case number reported is an estimate based on positive SARS-CoV-2 results uploaded to the HSE COVIDCare Tracker the preceding day. Since 14/01/2022 positive antigen tests are being reported in addition to PCR confirmed SARS-CoV-2 cases.*

Data source: CIDR and HSE COVIDCare Tracker, January 31st 2022

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 51, 2021-week 4, 2022)		Week 4, 2022[$]	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases	512,110		128,968	
Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population	10754.4		2708.4	
Number of cases hospitalised	4,234	0.8	1590*	1.2
Number of cases admitted to ICU	103	0.0	23*[#]	0.02
Number of deaths among confirmed cases	149	0.0	32*[#]	0.02
Case fatality ratio (CFR %)	0.0		0.02	
Incidence rate of confirmed deaths per 100,000 population	3.1		0.67	
Males	242,137	47.3	59,639	46.2
Females	269,560	52.6	69,158	53.6
M:F ratio	0.90		0.86	
Median (years)	31		34	
Mean age (years)	33		33	
Age range (years)	0-108		0-108	

[$]Notifications in week 4, 2022 were artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during week 4, due to the ongoing processing of cases diagnosed during previous weeks.
*** 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. The effect of this change may not be evident yet in data presented by date of notification due to the increased reporting time.*
**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 confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR

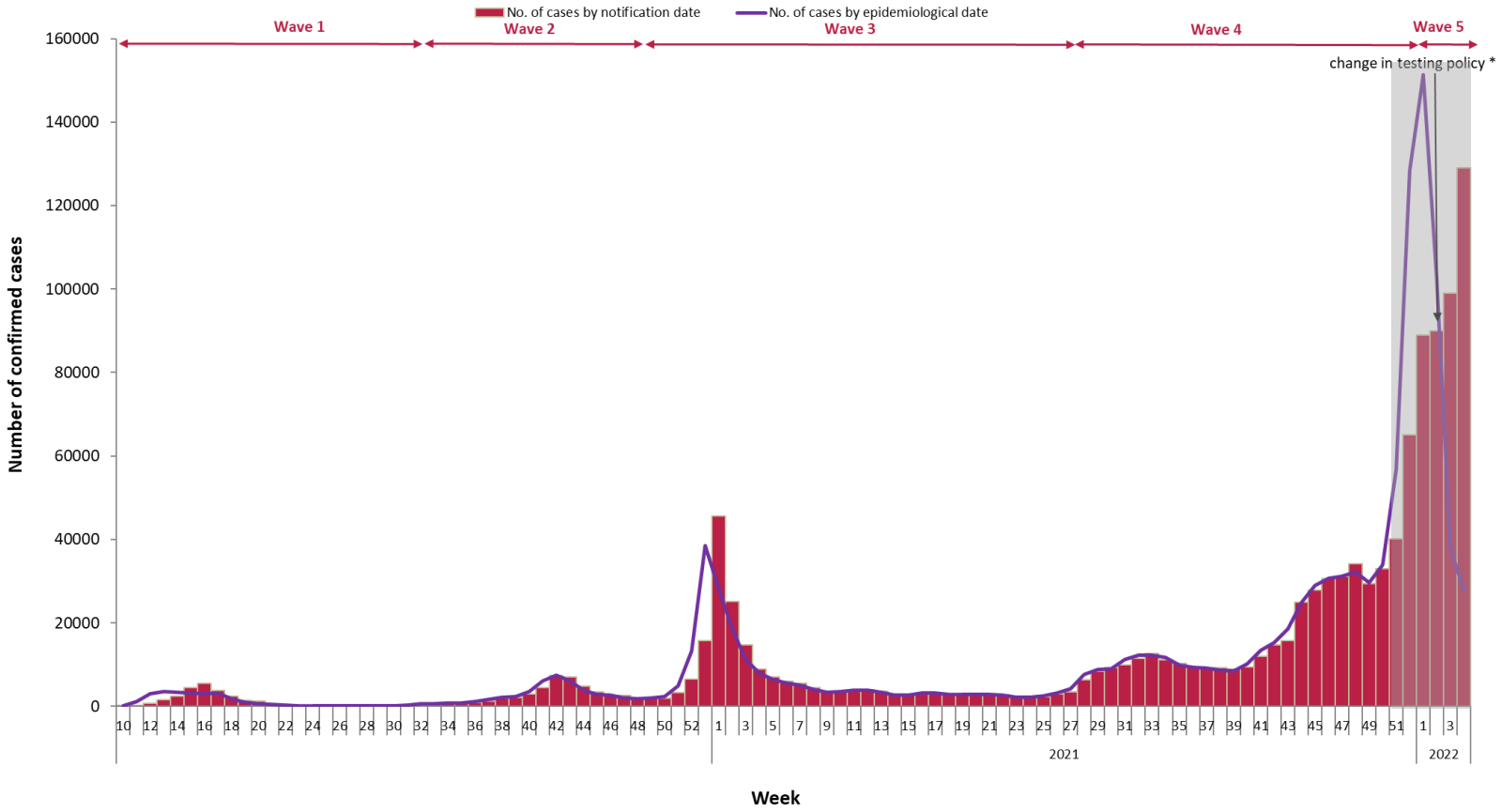


Figure 2: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by week by notification** and epi-date*** in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 4, 2022

**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. The effect may not yet be evident in data presented by date of notification due to the increased reporting time.*
***Data by date of notification (bars) does not accurately reflect trends between week 51, 2021 and week 4, 2022 (greyed area). Due to the increased reporting time arising during the surge period, notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3 and 4, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.*
****Data by epi-date (purple line) provides a more accurate reflection of trends for this period.*

Summary characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR, Week 4, 2022

Table 1: Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 4*, 2022

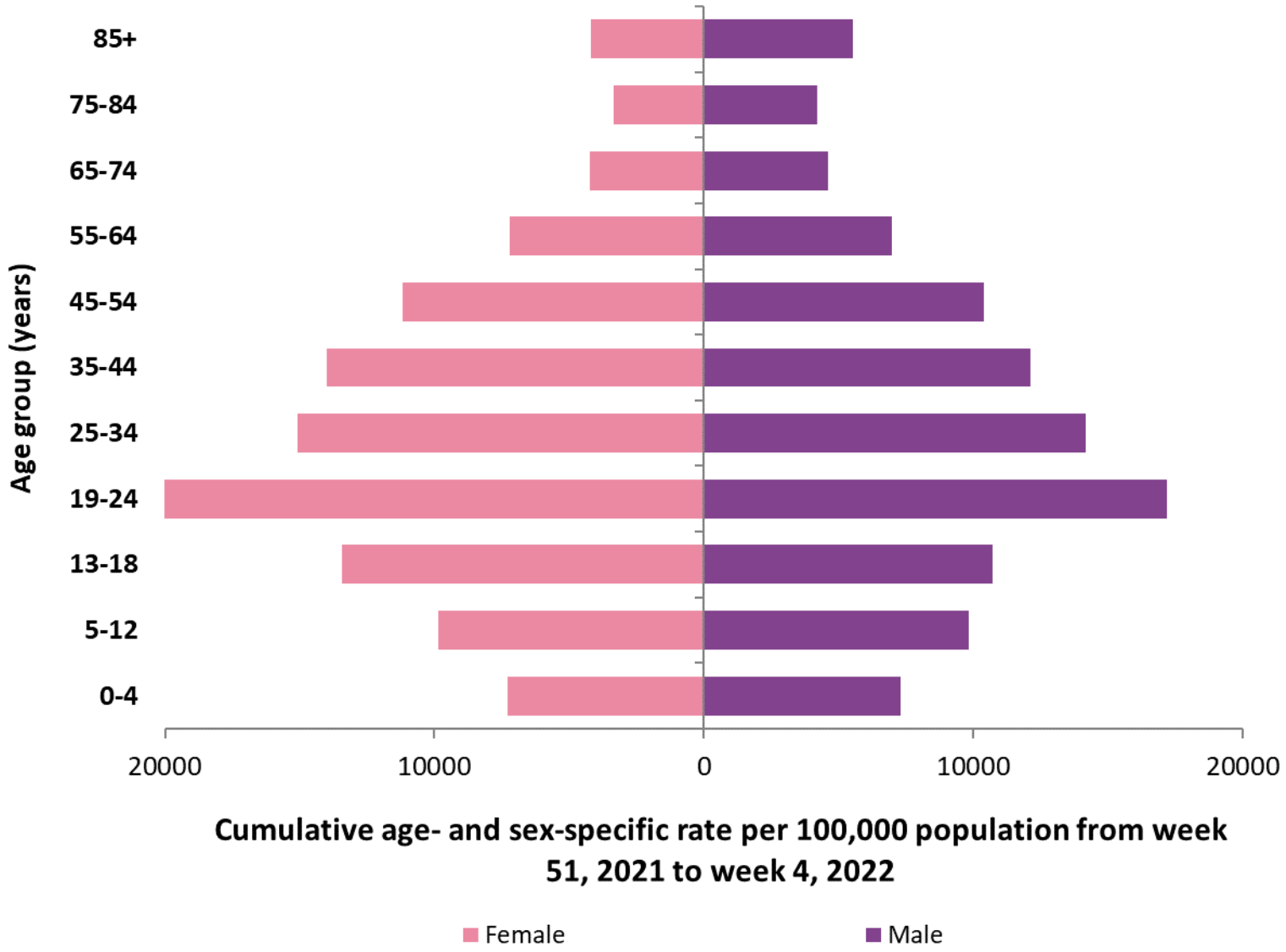
Characteristic		Week 4 *	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases		128,968	100
Sex	Male:Female ratio	0.86	
	Male	59,639	46.2
	Female	69,158	53.6
	Unknown	171	0.1
Age**	Mean age (years)	33	
	Median age (years)	34	
	Age range (years)	0-117	
	0-4 yrs	10,041	7.8
	5-12 yrs	18,308	14.2
	13-18 yrs	10,227	7.9
	19-24 yrs	8,908	6.9
	25-34 yrs	17,335	13.4
	35-44 yrs	28,083	21.8
	45-54 yrs	18,322	14.2
	55-64 yrs	8,822	6.8
	65-74 yrs	4,942	3.8
	75-84 yrs	2,560	2.0
	85+ yrs	1,419	1.1
	Unknown	1	0.0

**Notifications in week 4, 2022 were artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during week 4, due to the ongoing processing of cases diagnosed during the surge period.*
***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. The effect may not yet be evident in data presented by date of notification due to the increased reporting time.*

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

Figure 3a: 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 4, 2022

(excluding 13 cases for whom age is unknown, 413 cases for whom sex is unknown)

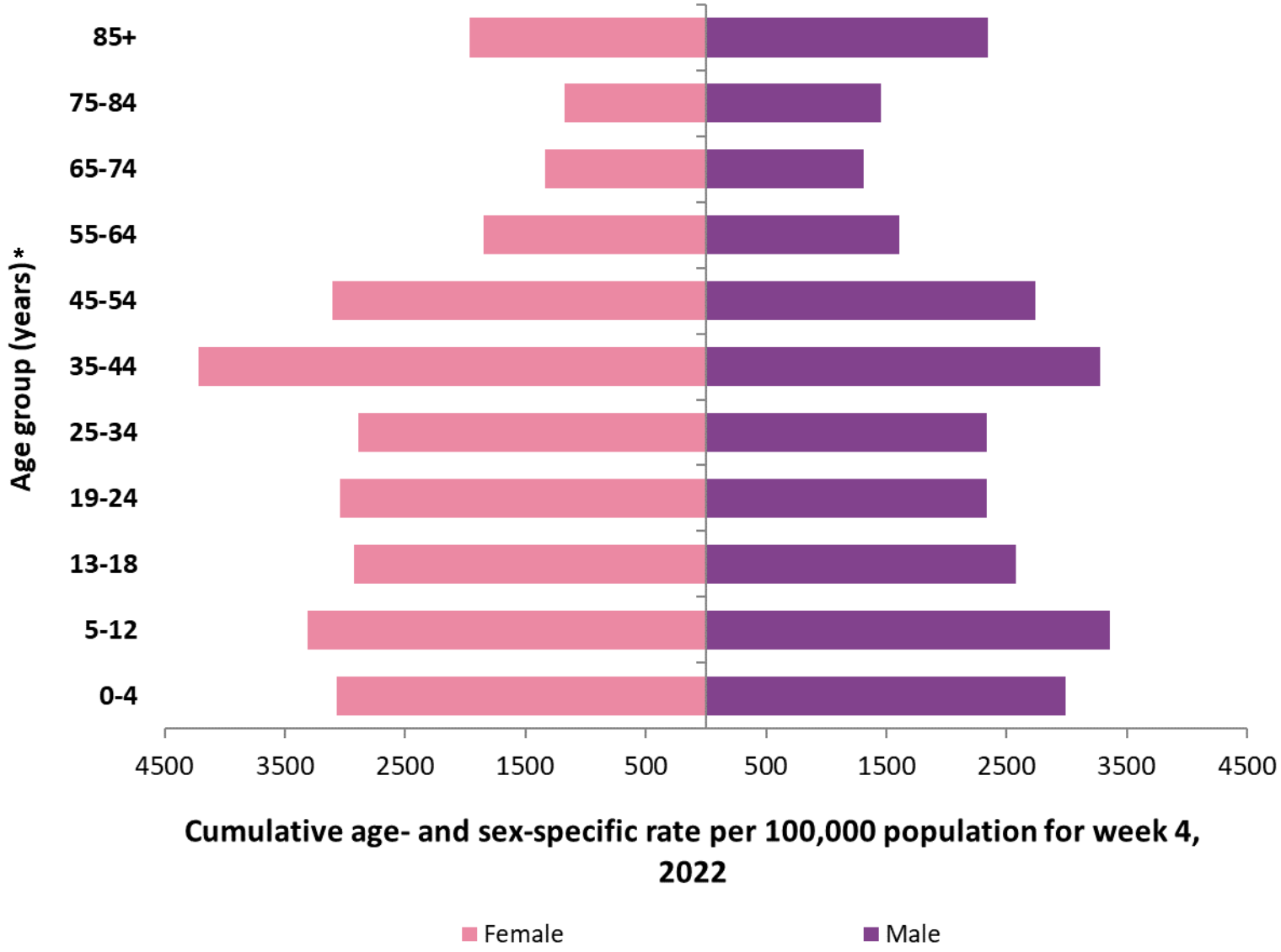


**Since 14/01/2022 (week 2, 2022), confirmatory PCR tests are no longer required for those aged 4-39 years outside of a risk group. This will affect the number and age distribution of confirmed cases notified on CIDR. The effect may not yet be evident in data presented by date of notification due to the increase reporting time.*

Age and sex pyramid for confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR, week 4, 2022

Figure 3b: Cumulative age* and sex-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population notified in Ireland during week 4**, 2022

(excluding 1 cases for whom age is unknown and 171 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. The effect may not yet be evident due to the increased reporting time.*
***Notifications in week 4, 2022 were artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during week 4, due to the ongoing processing of cases diagnosed during the surge period.*

Proportion of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified by age groups on CIDR, wave 4 and 5

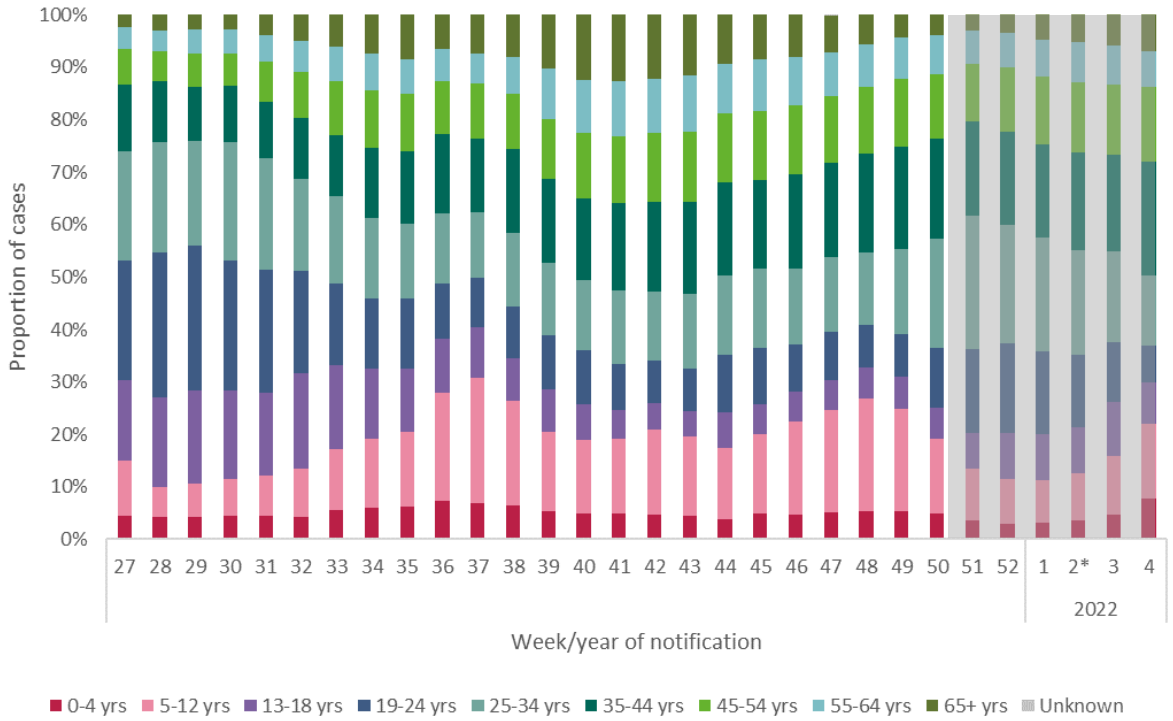


Figure 4a: Proportion of confirmed COVID-19 cases by age group in Ireland **by week of notification** from week 26, 2021 to week 4**, 2022

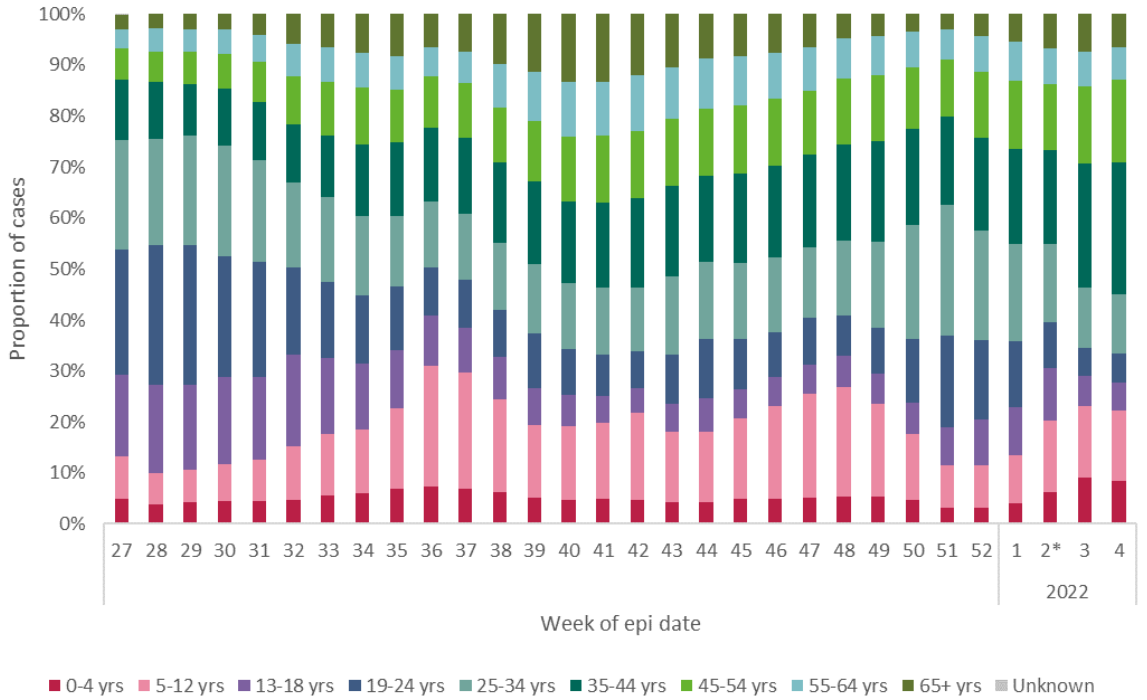


Figure 4b: Proportion of confirmed COVID-19 cases by age group in Ireland **by week of epi-date*** ** from week 26, 2021 to week 4**, 2022

**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 increased reporting time.*
***Data by date of notification does not accurately reflect trends between week 51, 2021 and week 4, 2022 (greyed area in Figure 4a). Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3 and 4, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.*
****Data by epi-date (Figure 4b) provides a more accurate reflection of trends for this period.*

Incidence rates by age group for confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR, wave 4 and 5

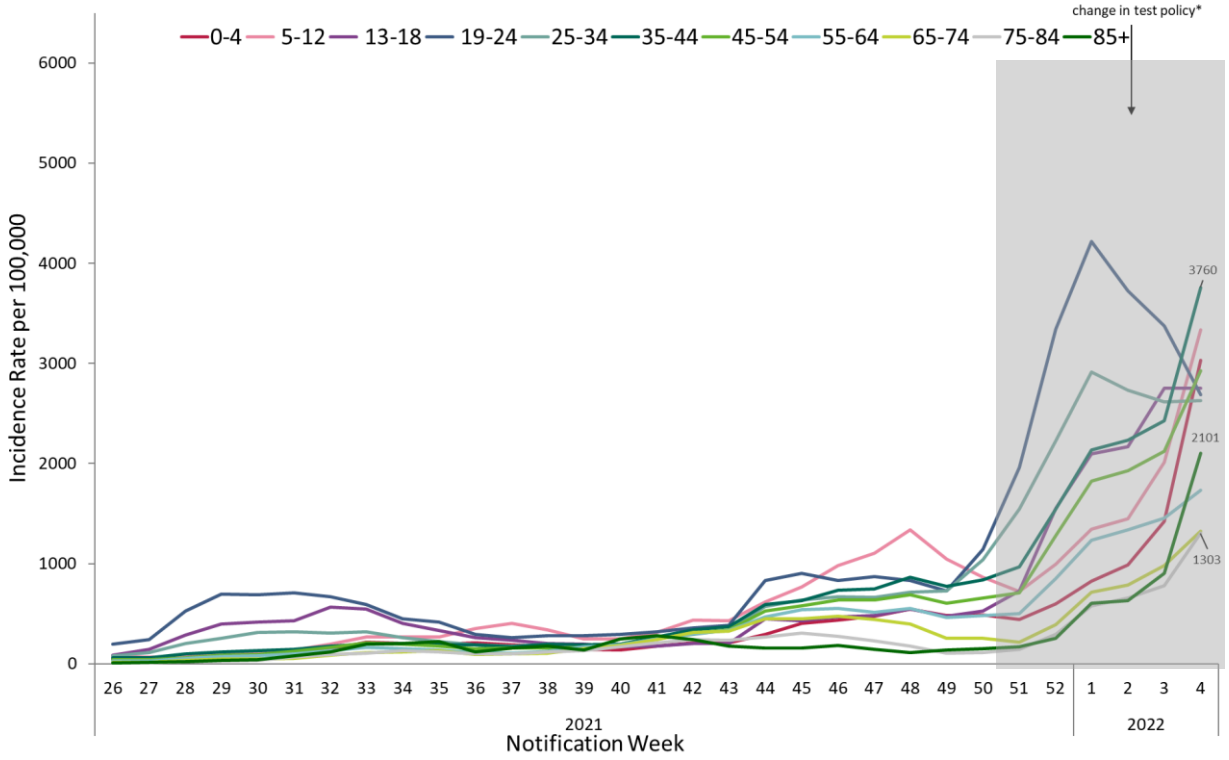


Figure 5a: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland **by week of notification** from week 26, 2021 to week 4**, 2022

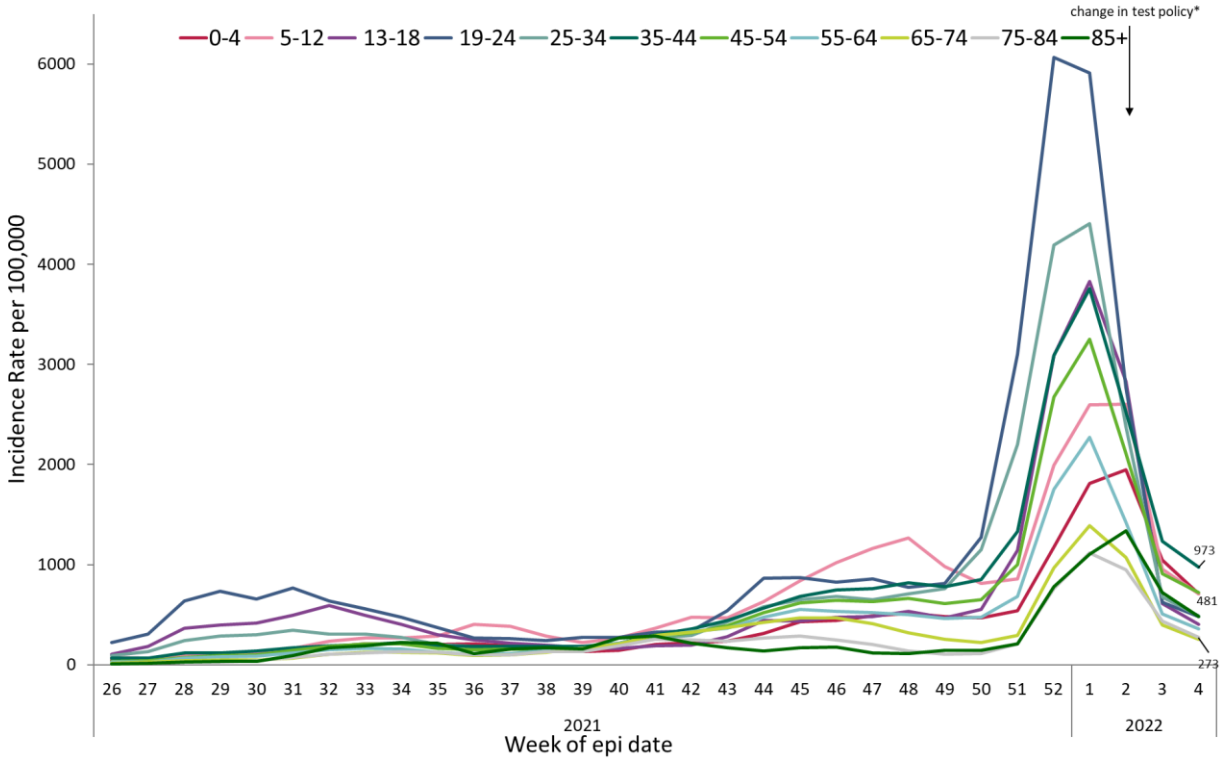


Figure 5b: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland **by week of epi-date*** ** from week 26, 2021 to week 4**, 2022

**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.*
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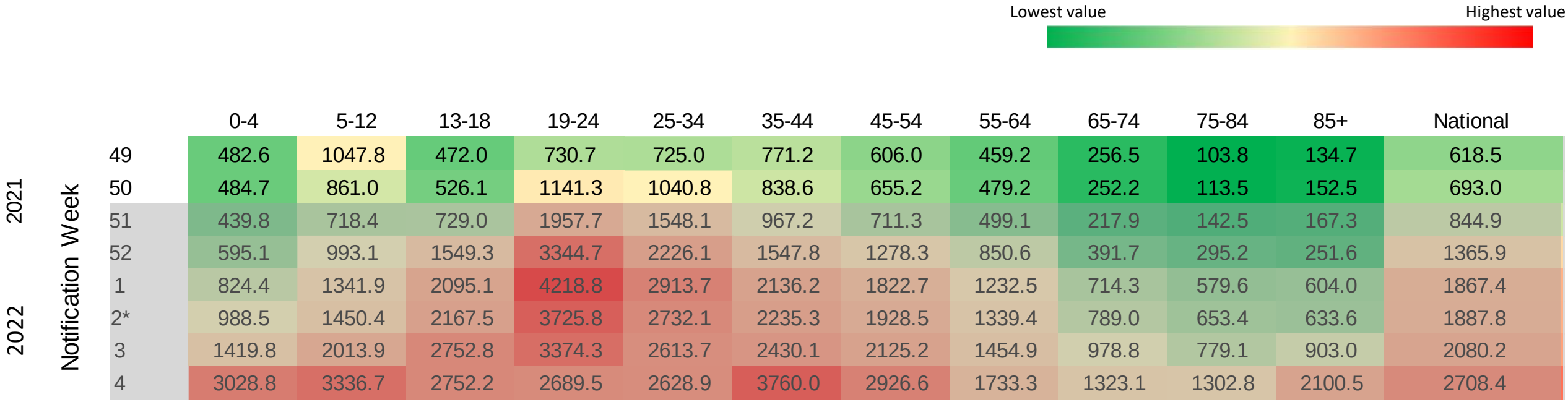
****Data by epi-date (Figure 5b) provides a more accurate reflection of trends for this period.*

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	49	482.6	1047.8	472.0	730.7	725.0	771.2	606.0	459.2	256.5	103.8	134.7	618.5
	50	484.7	861.0	526.1	1141.3	1040.8	838.6	655.2	479.2	252.2	113.5	152.5	693.0
	51	439.8	718.4	729.0	1957.7	1548.1	967.2	711.3	499.1	217.9	142.5	167.3	844.9
	52	595.1	993.1	1549.3	3344.7	2226.1	1547.8	1278.3	850.6	391.7	295.2	251.6	1365.9
2022	1	824.4	1341.9	2095.1	4218.8	2913.7	2136.2	1822.7	1232.5	714.3	579.6	604.0	1867.4
	2*	988.5	1450.4	2167.5	3725.8	2732.1	2235.3	1928.5	1339.4	789.0	653.4	633.6	1887.8
	3	1419.8	2013.9	2752.8	3374.3	2613.7	2430.1	2125.2	1454.9	978.8	779.1	903.0	2080.2
	4	3028.8	3336.7	2752.2	2689.5	2628.9	3760.0	2926.6	1733.3	1323.1	1302.8	2100.5	2708.4

Figure 6: 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 49, 2021 to week 4**, 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. The effect may not yet be evident 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). Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3 and 4, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.*

COVID-19 cases in children aged 18 years and under on CIDR, wave 4 and 5

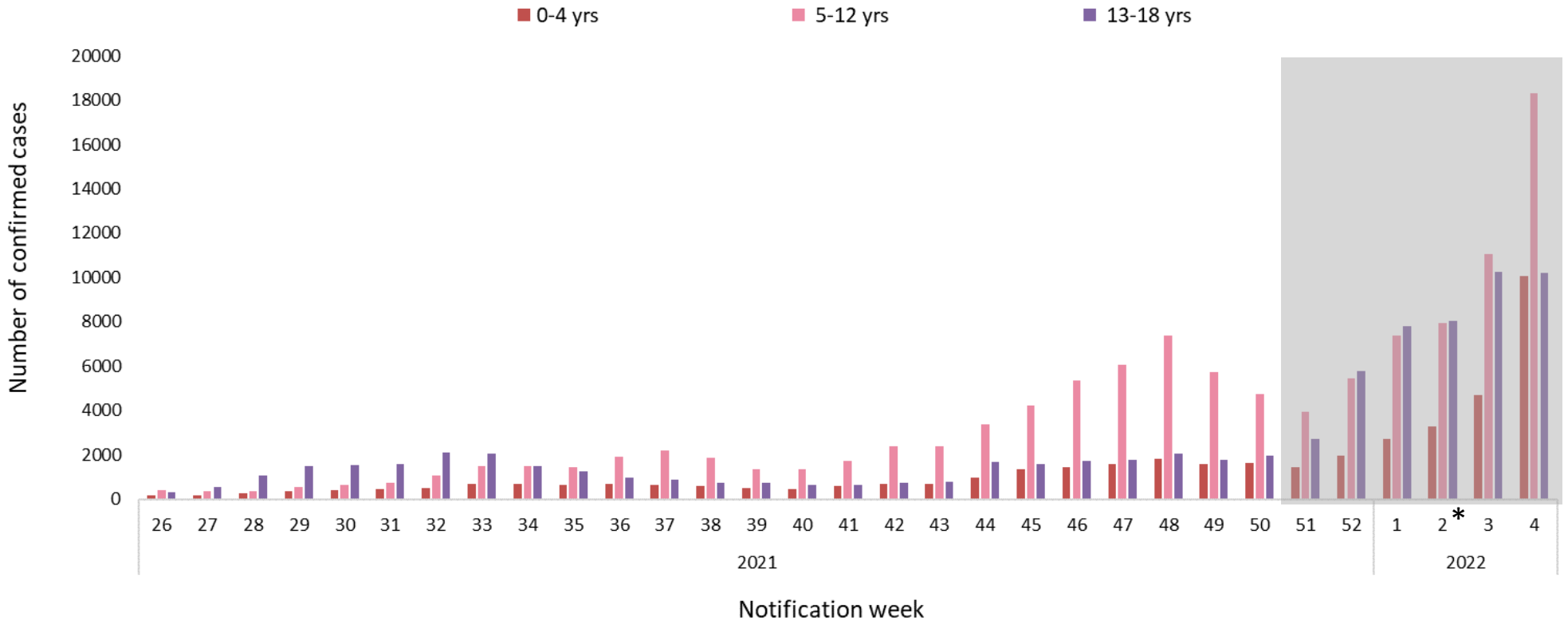


Figure 7: Weekly number of age-specific confirmed COVID-19 cases **by week of notification** in Ireland from week 26, 2021 to week 4**, 2022

**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 increased reporting time.*
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****Data by epi-date provides a more accurate reflection of trends for this period.*

COVID-19 weekly incidence rate among children aged 0-18 years on CIDR, wave 4 and 5

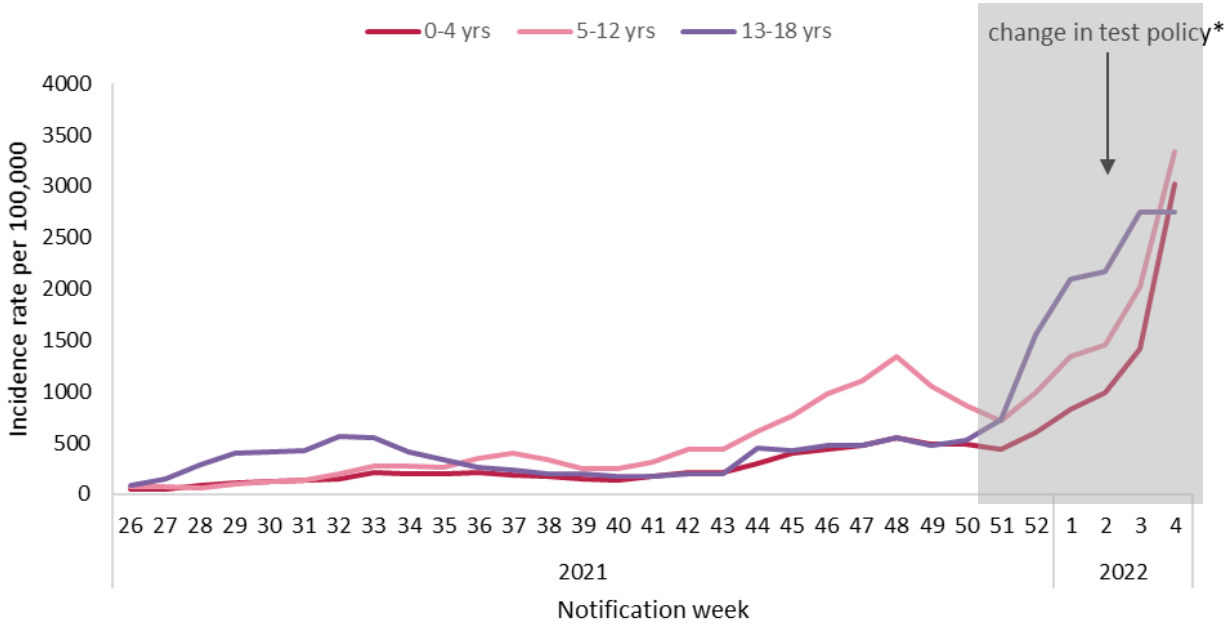

Figure 8a: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population among children aged 0-18 years by **notification week** from 26, 2021 to week 4**, 2022

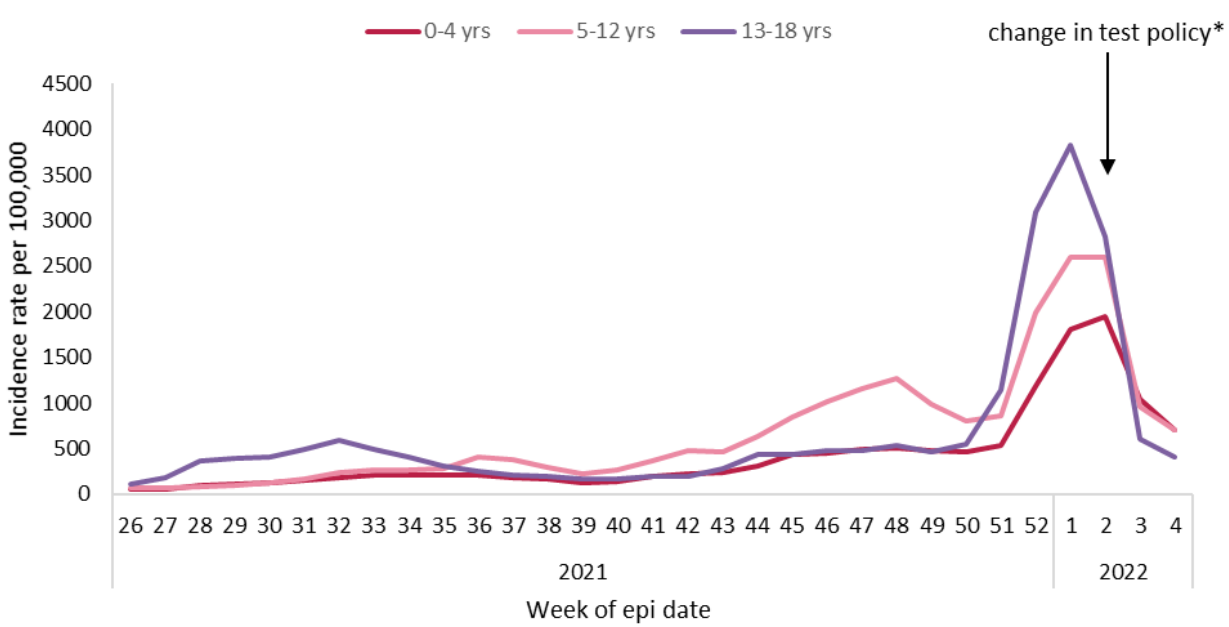

Figure 8b: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population among children aged 0-18 years by **week of epi date** from 26, 2021 to week 4**, 2022

**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 increased reporting time.*
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****Data by epi-date (Figure 8b) provides a more accurate reflection of trends for this period.*

Characteristics for confirmed COVID-19 cases by county notified on CIDR, week 4, 2022

Table 2: Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases by county notified in Ireland, during week 4*, 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)	
Limerick	7309	5.7	0.9	33	3750.1
Carlow	2115	1.6	0.8	35	3715.0
Westmeath	3242	2.5	0.9	33	3652.1
Longford	1431	1.1	1.0	34	3501.1
Waterford	3885	3.0	0.9	35	3344.1
Tipperary	5048	3.9	0.8	35	3163.8
Laois	2564	2.0	1.0	35	3027.3
Cork	16102	12.5	0.9	34	2966.1
Louth	3773	2.9	0.9	35	2927.4
Clare	3434	2.7	0.9	32	2890.2
Monaghan	1752	1.4	0.9	34	2854.1
Kerry	4201	3.3	0.8	37	2844.1
Galway	6944	5.4	0.9	35	2690.9
Kildare	5901	4.6	0.9	34	2652.1
Wexford	3916	3.0	0.9	35	2615.5
Dublin	34220	26.5	0.8	34	2539.8
Meath	4942	3.8	0.9	35	2533.8
Cavan	1918	1.5	0.8	35	2517.9
Mayo	3137	2.4	0.9	35	2403.7
Roscommon	1460	1.1	0.9	35	2262.0
Sligo	1465	1.1	0.8	35	2235.4
Leitrim	700	0.5	0.7	34.5	2184.5
Wicklow	3110	2.4	0.8	35	2183.6
Offaly	1680	1.3	0.9	34	2154.9
Kilkenny	2097	1.6	0.9	34	2113.2
Donegal	2622	2.0	0.8	36	1647.1

**Notifications in week 4, 2022 were artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during week 4, due to the ongoing processing of cases diagnosed during previous weeks.*
***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. The effect may not yet be evident due to the increase reporting time.*

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

	Week	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	49	714.9	452.9	565.6	636.1	486.8	745.2	488.3	499.0	779.3	654.0	746.2	483.7	407.9	464.9	600.5	358.6	598.3	496.9	555.4	350.1	401.3	637.4	649.9	759.3	523.0	520.3	618.5
	50	681.5	439.8	478.9	724.3	457.3	911.6	561.5	588.3	730.8	673.2	622.2	621.0	554.1	579.8	743.3	380.1	692.7	480.6	538.7	429.2	381.5	611.7	748.9	647.7	527.6	598.9	693.0
	51	706.1	626.2	678.4	662.2	788.4	1095.0	869.2	640.5	1016.6	1153.9	552.6	724.0	720.9	792.7	1131.2	567.0	829.6	990.5	533.6	745.2	546.3	737.7	480.3	1167.1	408.8	600.3	844.9
	52	1800.4	1138.2	1977.8	1105.2	1588.6	1417.4	1574.5	867.3	1173.0	1860.3	1683.6	1448.0	1262.7	1316.3	1540.1	1251.3	1380.2	1207.1	1636.7	1554.0	1013.2	1249.7	1042.4	2515.5	957.1	1136.0	1365.9
2022	1	2669.9	1534.6	2625.9	1288.2	2209.3	2073.1	1670.2	1106.2	1929.4	2138.4	1610.4	1732.0	1527.5	1835.0	2527.1	1777.7	2013.9	1617.6	2158.8	2124.1	1815.8	1748.6	1357.4	2974.0	1435.3	1943.5	1867.4
	2*	2778.8	1441.4	3310.1	1779.6	1972.5	1605.1	2821.1	1191.5	2093.9	1764.6	1557.3	2618.3	1636.2	2830.7	2151.5	1999.1	1781.6	1506.9	2335.8	2249.6	1985.2	1615.8	1186.1	4274.0	1680.4	1598.0	1887.8
	3	2007.7	2731.8	2967.6	1558.0	2578.6	1926.7	2242.9	1155.7	2923.1	1706.1	1690.7	2250.0	1499.8	2285.1	2566.6	2123.3	2100.6	2542.9	1753.4	3089.4	2267.5	1850.8	1904.0	3913.5	2478.6	2208.9	2080.2
	4	3715.0	2517.9	2890.2	2966.1	1647.1	2539.8	2690.9	2844.1	2652.1	2113.2	3027.3	2184.5	3750.1	3501.1	2927.4	2403.7	2533.8	2854.1	2154.9	2262.0	2235.4	3163.8	3344.1	3652.1	2615.5	2183.6	2708.4

Notification Week

Figure 9: 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 48, 2021 and week 4, 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. The effect may not yet be evident 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). Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3 and 4, 2022 are artificially 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 96 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	0.6
	2	39954	876	2.2	76	0.2	29	0.1
	3	179381	4615	2.6	563	0.3	275	0.2
	4	358595	4073	1.1	474	0.1	188**	0.05
	5	485085	2709	0.6	58	0.0	24**	0.00
	Total	**1082627**	**13796**	**1.3**	**1448**	**0.1**	**625**	**0.1**
65+ yrs	1	6524	1803	27.6	161	2.5	1421	21.8
	2	4229	962	22.7	104	2.5	360	8.5
	3	20928	5068	24.2	401	1.9	2605	12.4
	4	27263	2723	10.0	279	1.0	784**	2.9
	5	27012	1524	5.6	45	0.2	125**	0.5
	Total	**85956**	**12080**	**14.1**	**945**	**1.1**	**5295**	**6.2**

* 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 of death.

Hospitalisations among confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR, wave 4 and 5

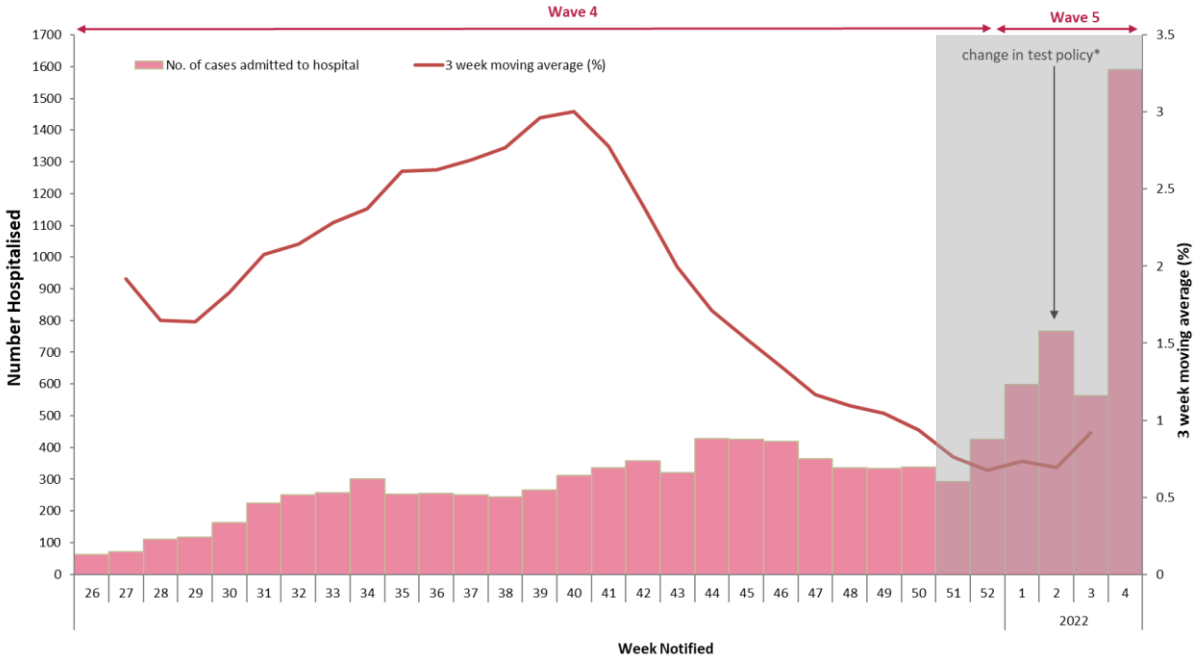

Figure 10a: Number of hospitalised COVID-19 cases** and 3 week moving average (%*) of overall cases hospitalised in Ireland between week 26, 2020 and week 4, 2022 **based on week of notification*****

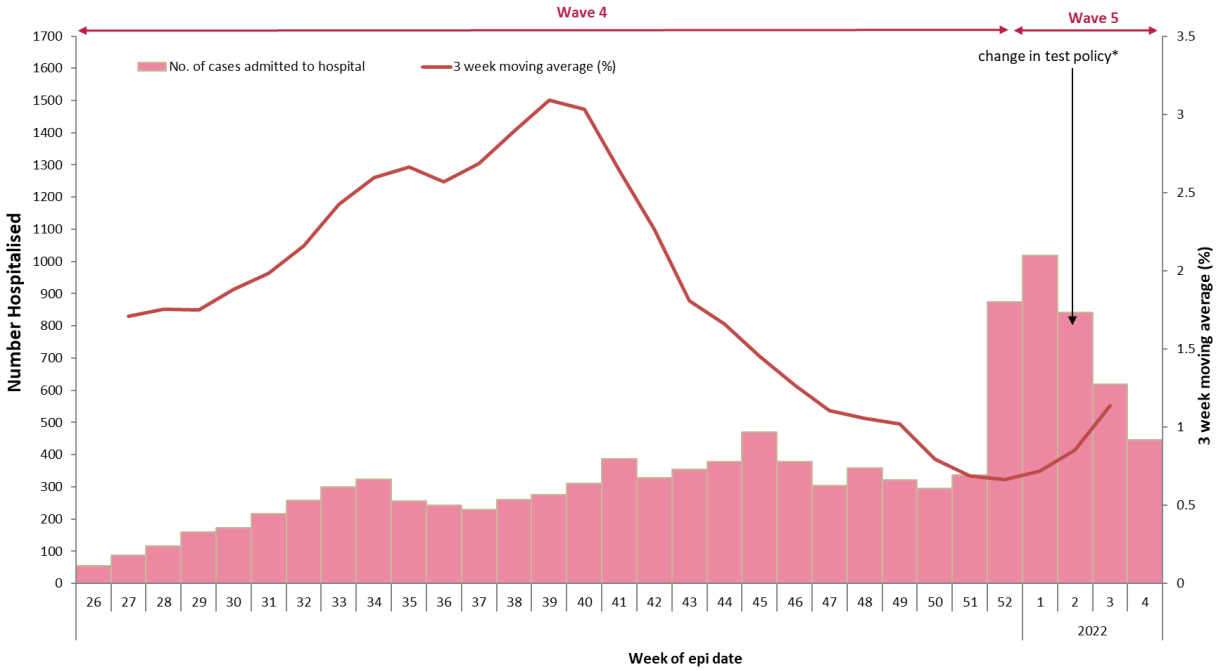

Figure 10b: Number of hospitalised COVID-19 cases** and 3 week moving average (%*) of overall cases hospitalised in Ireland between week 26, 2020 and week 4, 2022 **based on week of epi-date******

**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 by date of notification does not accurately reflect trends between week 51, 2021 and week 4, 2022 (greyed area in Figure 10a). Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3 and 4, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.*

*****Data by epi-date (Figure 10b) provides a more accurate reflection of trends for this period.*

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

ICU admissions among confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR, wave 4 and 5

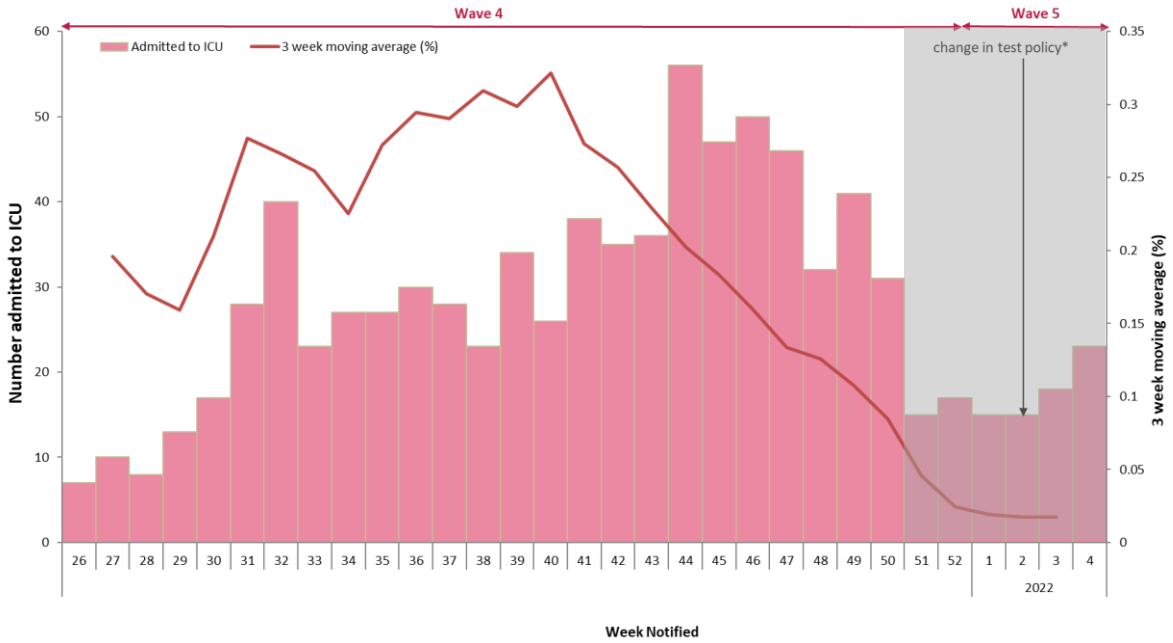

Figure 11a: Number of ICU admissions** in COVID-19 cases and 3 week moving average (%) of ICU admissions of overall case numbers in Ireland between week 26, 2020 and week 4***, 2022 **based on week of notification**

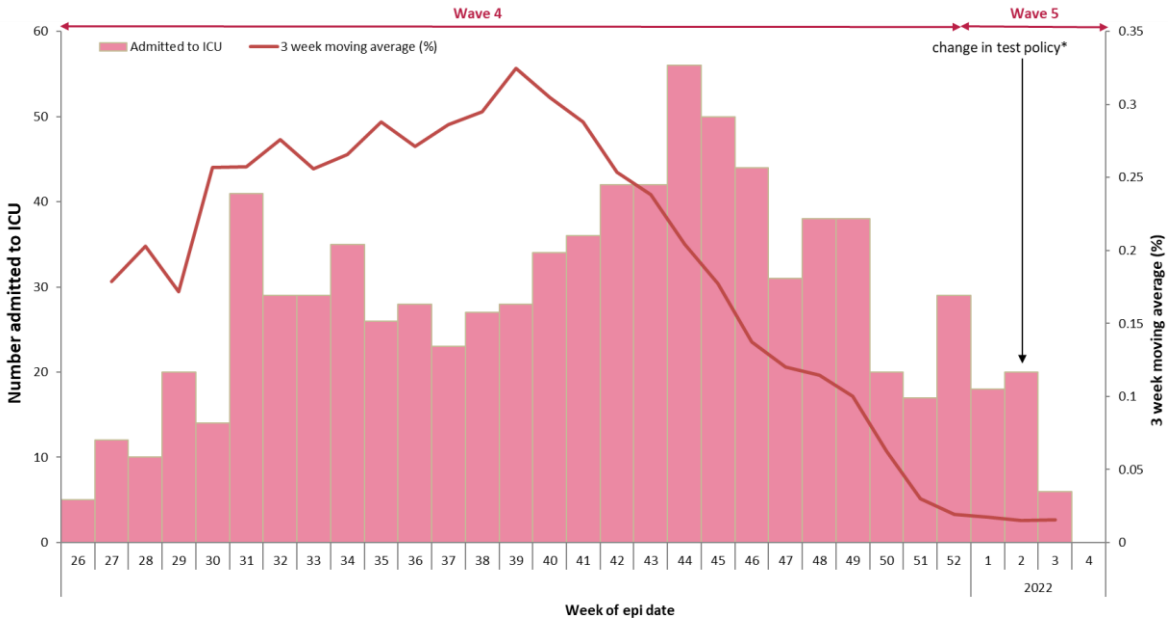

Figure 11a: Number of ICU admissions** in COVID-19 cases and 3 week moving average (%) of ICU admissions of overall case numbers in Ireland between week 26, 2020 and week 4***, 2022 **based on week of epi-date******

**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 admitted to ICU.*
***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.*
****Data by date of notification does not accurately reflect trends between week 51, 2021 and week 4, 2022 (greyed area in Figure 11a). Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3 and 4, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.*
*****Data by epi-date (Figure 11b) provides a more accurate reflection of trends for this period.*
******Data are based on the date the case was notified on CIDR or the epi-date of the case, and not the date of ICU admission.*

Hospitalisations and ICU admissions among confirmed COVID-19 cases by age group notified on CIDR, week 4, 2022

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

Age Group (years)	Number of cases (n)	Number of cases (%)	Cases hospitalised (n)	Cases hospitalised (%)	Cases admitted to ICU (n)	Cases admitted to ICU (%)
0-4 yrs	10304	7.8	90	5.6	0	0.0
5-12 yrs	18816	14.2	62	3.9	0	0.0
13-18 yrs	10420	7.9	66	4.1	0	0.0
19-24 yrs	9169	6.9	74	4.6	0	0.0
25-34 yrs	17748	13.4	179	11.2	<5	-
35-44 yrs	28908	21.8	162	10.1	<5	-
45-54 yrs	18883	14.3	126	7.9	<5	-
55-64 yrs	9066	6.8	160	10.0	<5	-
65-74 yrs	5060	3.8	198	12.3	12	52.2
75-84 yrs	2625	2.0	275	17.1	<5	-
85+ yrs	1434	1.1	213	13.3	0	0.0
Unknown	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	**132434**	**100**	**1605**	**100**	**23**	**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 and to ICU.*
***Hospitalisations and 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.*
****Notifications in week 4, 2022 were artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during week 4 due to the ongoing processing of cases diagnosed during previous weeks.*
*****Data are based on the date the case was notified on CIDR, and not the date of hospitalisation or ICU admission.*

Hospitalisations by age group among confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR, wave 4 and 5

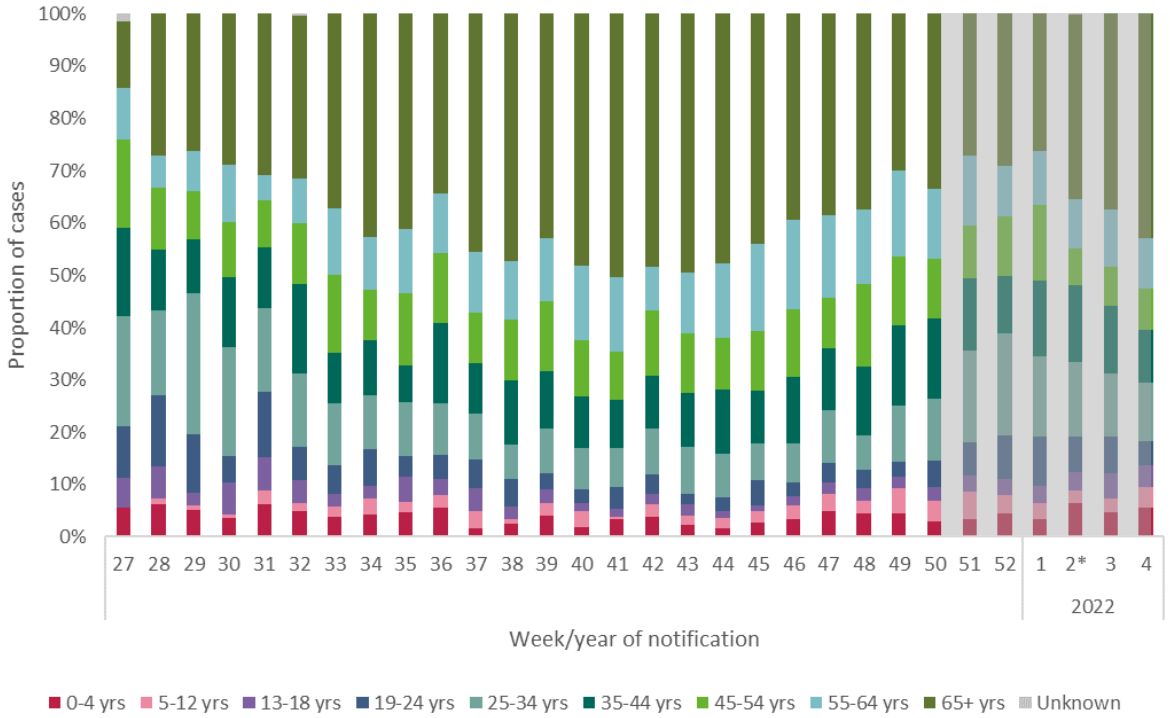

Figure 12a: Proportion of hospitalised COVID-19 cases by age group in Ireland **by week of notification** from week 26, 2021 to week 4**, 2022

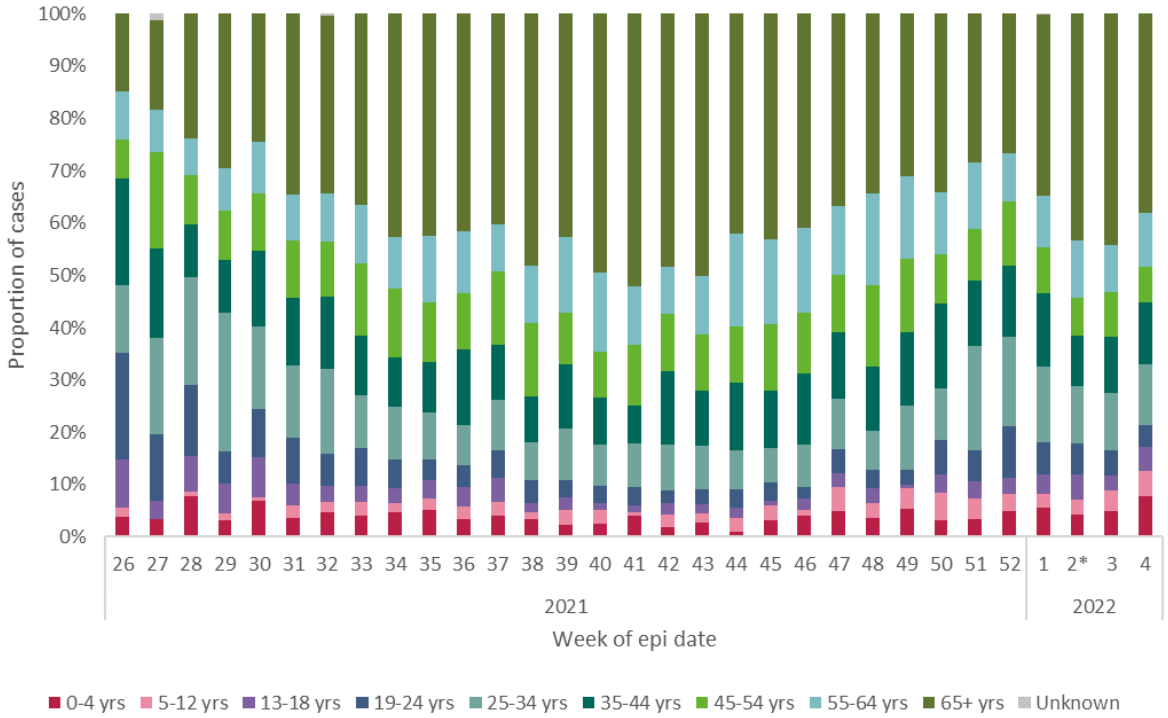

Figure 12b: Proportion of hospitalised COVID-19 cases by age group in Ireland **by week of epi-date*** ** from week 26, 2021 to week 4**, 2022

**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. Those admitted to hospital will continue to be tested by PCR.*

***Data by date of notification does not accurately reflect trends between week 51, 2021 and week 4, 2022 (greyed area in Figure 12a). Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3 and 4, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.*

****Data by epi-date (Figure 12b) provides a more accurate reflection of trends for this period.*

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

Deaths among COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR

	Number	Percent
Total number of deaths	6,196	
confirmed	5,921	95.6
probable	97	1.6
possible	178	2.9
Number hospitalised who died	3,528	56.9
admitted to ICU who died	792	12.8
not admitted to ICU who died	5,404	87.2
Number of HCWs who died	20	0.3
Number with underlying conditions who died	5,182	83.6
Males who died	3,325	53.7
M:F ratio	1.16	
Median age (years)	82	
Mean age (years)	80	

Table 5: Summary of deaths in all COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 4, 2022

Age group (years)	Female	Male	Total	Percent
<45 yrs	72	51	123	**2**
45-54 yrs	52	107	159	**3**
55-64 yrs	145	254	399	**6**
65-74 yrs	383	667	1050	**17**
75-84 yrs	875	1181	2056	**33**
85+ yrs	1341	1065	2406	**39**
Unknown	3	0	3	**0**
Total	**2871**	**3325**	**6196**	**100.0**
Percent	**46.3**	**53.7**		

Table 6: Number of deaths in all COVID-19 cases by sex and age group notified in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 4, 2022

Deaths among COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR

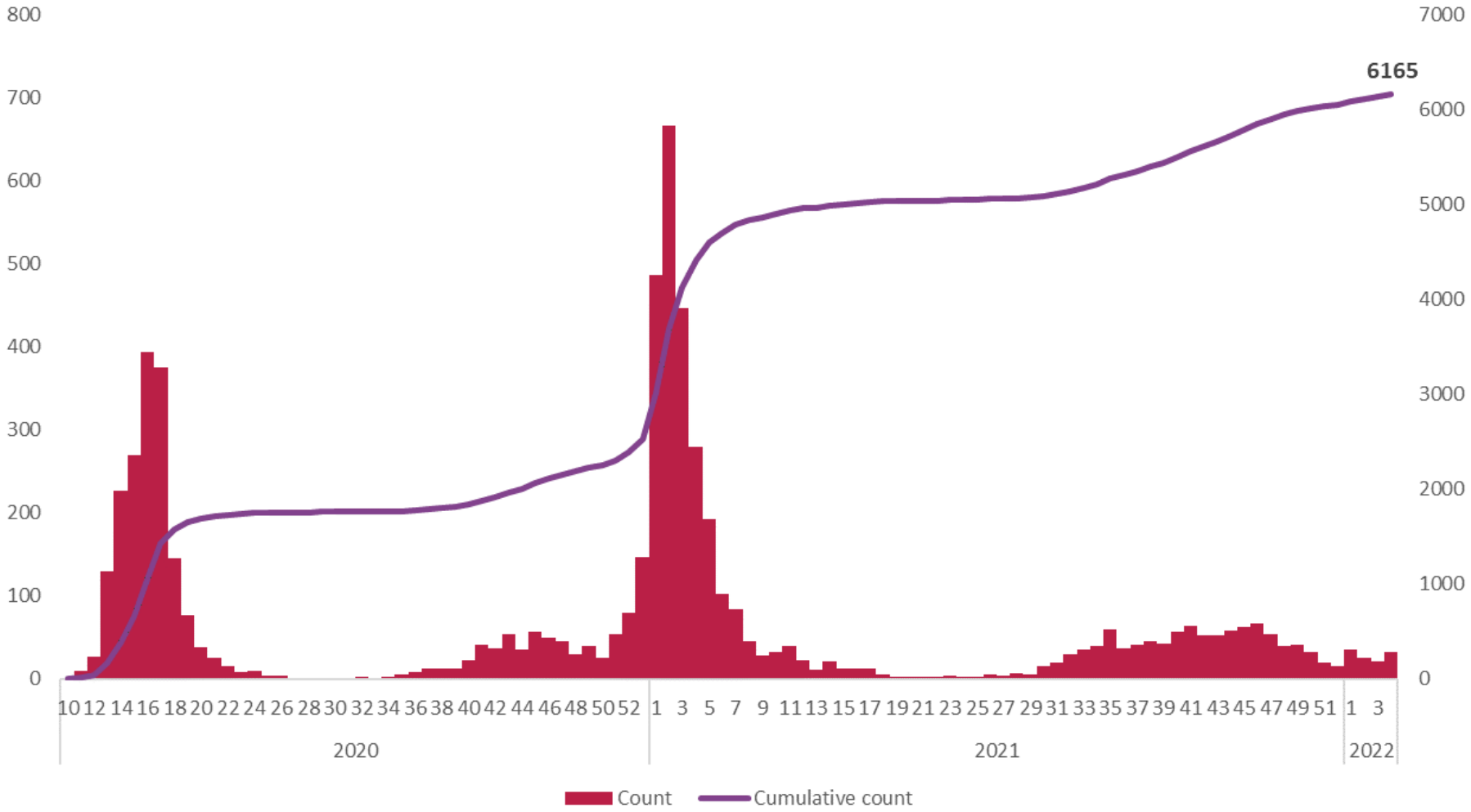

Figure 13: Total number* of COVID-19 deaths notified in and cumulative number **by week of death**, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 29/01/2021. Date of death was not available for 31 deaths.

**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 notified on CIDR, wave 4 and 5

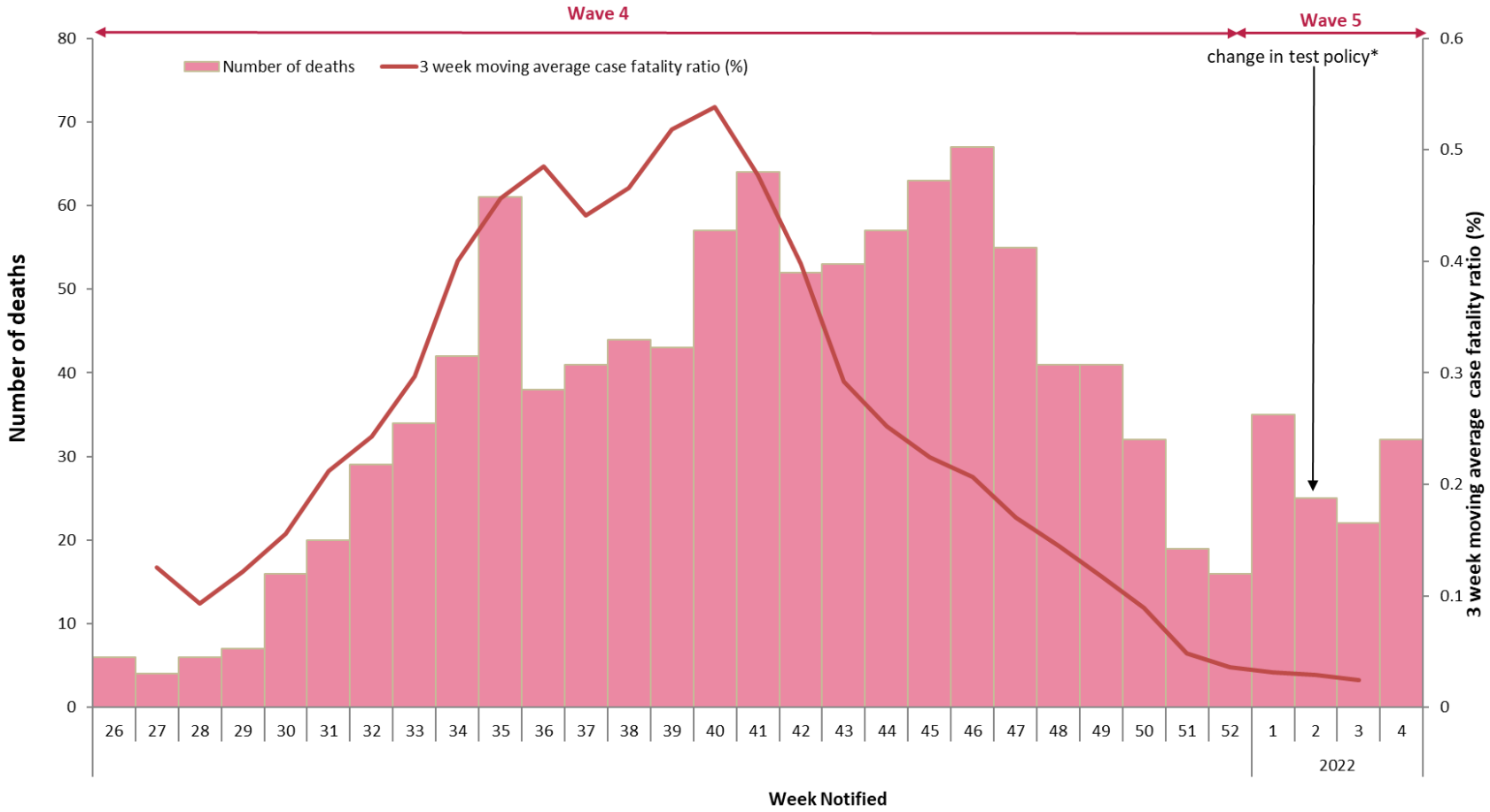

Figure 14: Number of deaths** in confirmed COVID-19 cases and 3 week moving average (%) of deaths of overall case numbers in Ireland between week 26, 2020 and week 4***, 2022 **based on week of notification**

**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 case fatality ratio.*
***Data by date of notification does not accurately reflect trends between week 51, 2021 and week 4, 2022. Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3 and 4, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.*
****Data are based on the date the case was notified on CIDR, and not the date of death.*

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 Positive Portal

Table 7: Characteristics of COVID-19 COVID-19 cases who registered a positive antigen test to the HSE Positive Antigen Portal since 14/01/2022 until 29/01/2022

Characteristic		Total (week 2, 2022-week 4, 2022)	Percent	Week 4	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases		74,035	100	31,478	100
Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population		1,555		661	
Sex	Male:Female ratio	0.85		0.82	
	Male	33,985	45.9	14,167	45.0
	Female	39,829	53.8	17,239	54.8
	Unknown	221	0.3	72	0.2
Age	0-3 yrs	1,359	1.8	589	1.9
	4-12 yrs	20,352	27.5	8,821	28.0
	13-18 yrs	7,773	10.5	3,220	10.2
	19-39 yrs	24,522	33.1	10,269	32.6
	40+ yrs	9,325	12.6	3,899	12.4
	Unknown	10,704	14.5	4,680	14.9

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

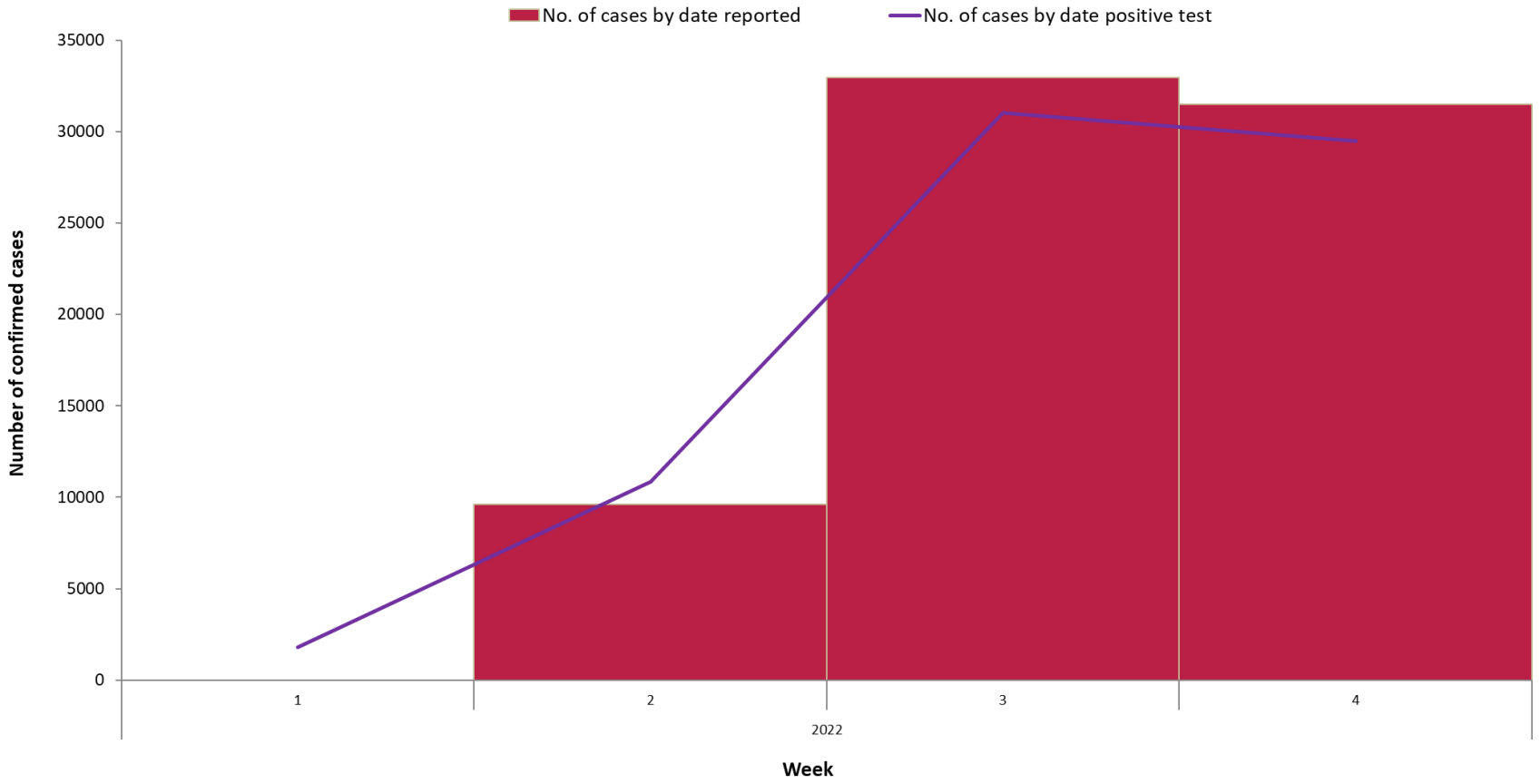

Figure 15: Number of COVID-19 cases who registered a positive antigen test on the HSE Antigen Positive Portal by week of registration and week of epidemiological date in Ireland between week 1, 2022 and week 4*, 2022

**Reporting to the HSE Positive Antigen Portal commenced on Friday the 14th January 2021, 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 Positive Portal

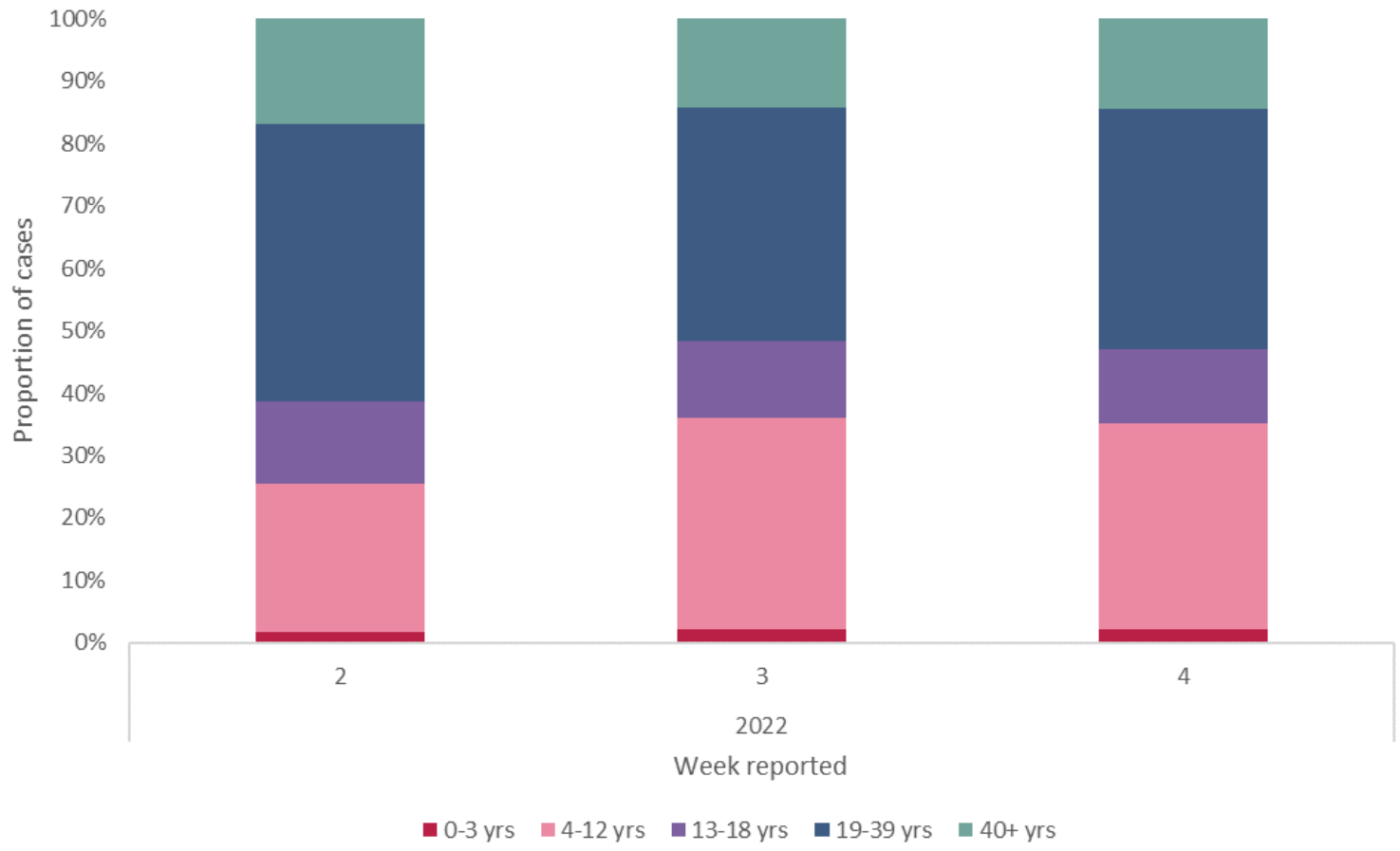

Figure 16: Age distribution of COVID-19 cases who registered a positive antigen test on the HSE Positive Antigen Portal by week of registration* between week 2**, 2022 and week 4, 2022

**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 2021, and therefore week 2 includes only 2 days.*

Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 PCR testing

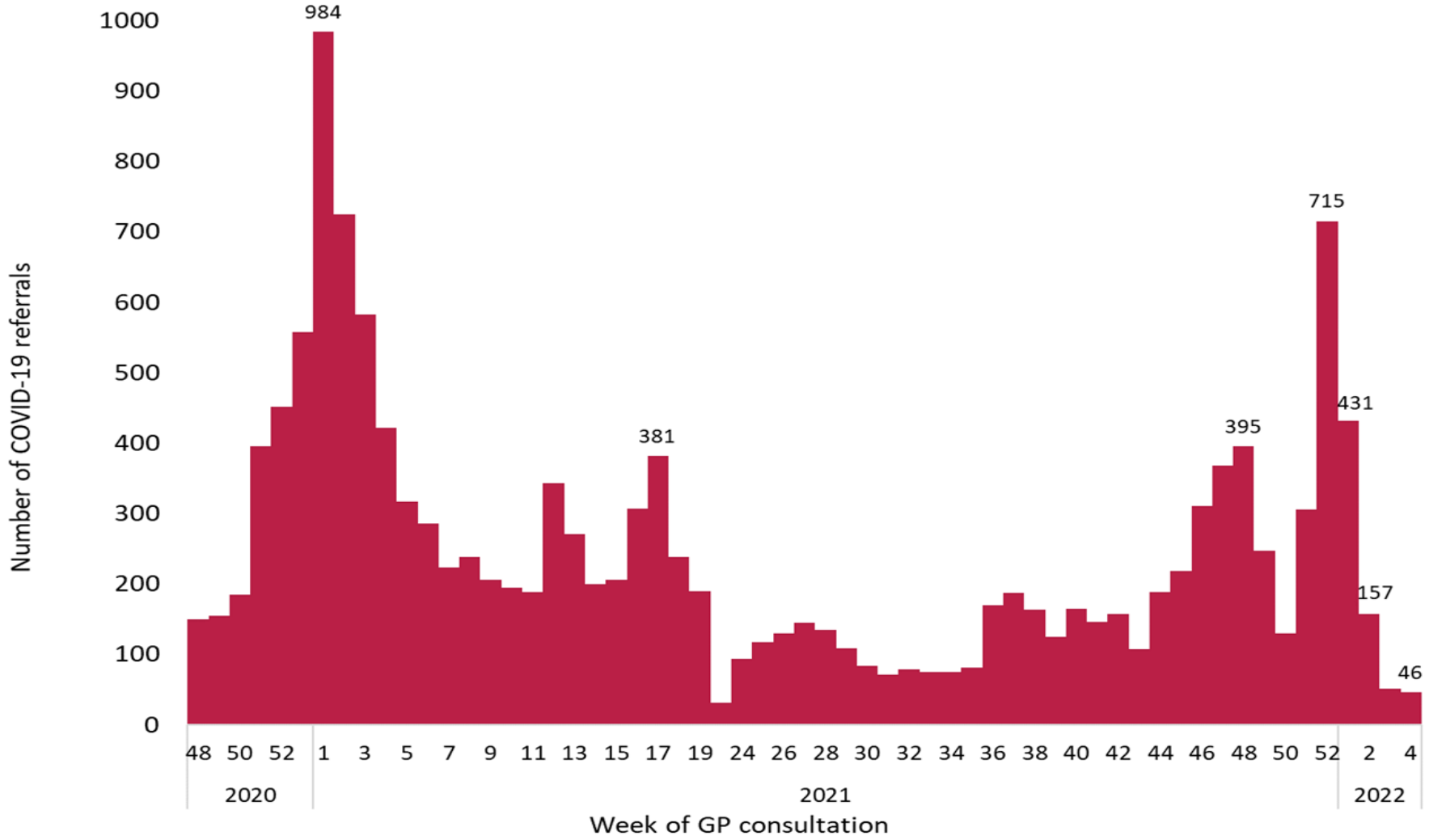

Figure 17: Number of sentinel GP COVID-19 PCR test referrals by week of consultation, week 48, 2020 – week 52, 2021, week 1 - week 4 2022

**Sentinel GP ILI consultation rates are reflecting community COVID-19 incidence AND changes to health seeking behaviour regarding use of online COVID-19 test booking systems. GP consultations for week 49 2021 may also have been impacted by storm Barra.*

Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 PCR testing

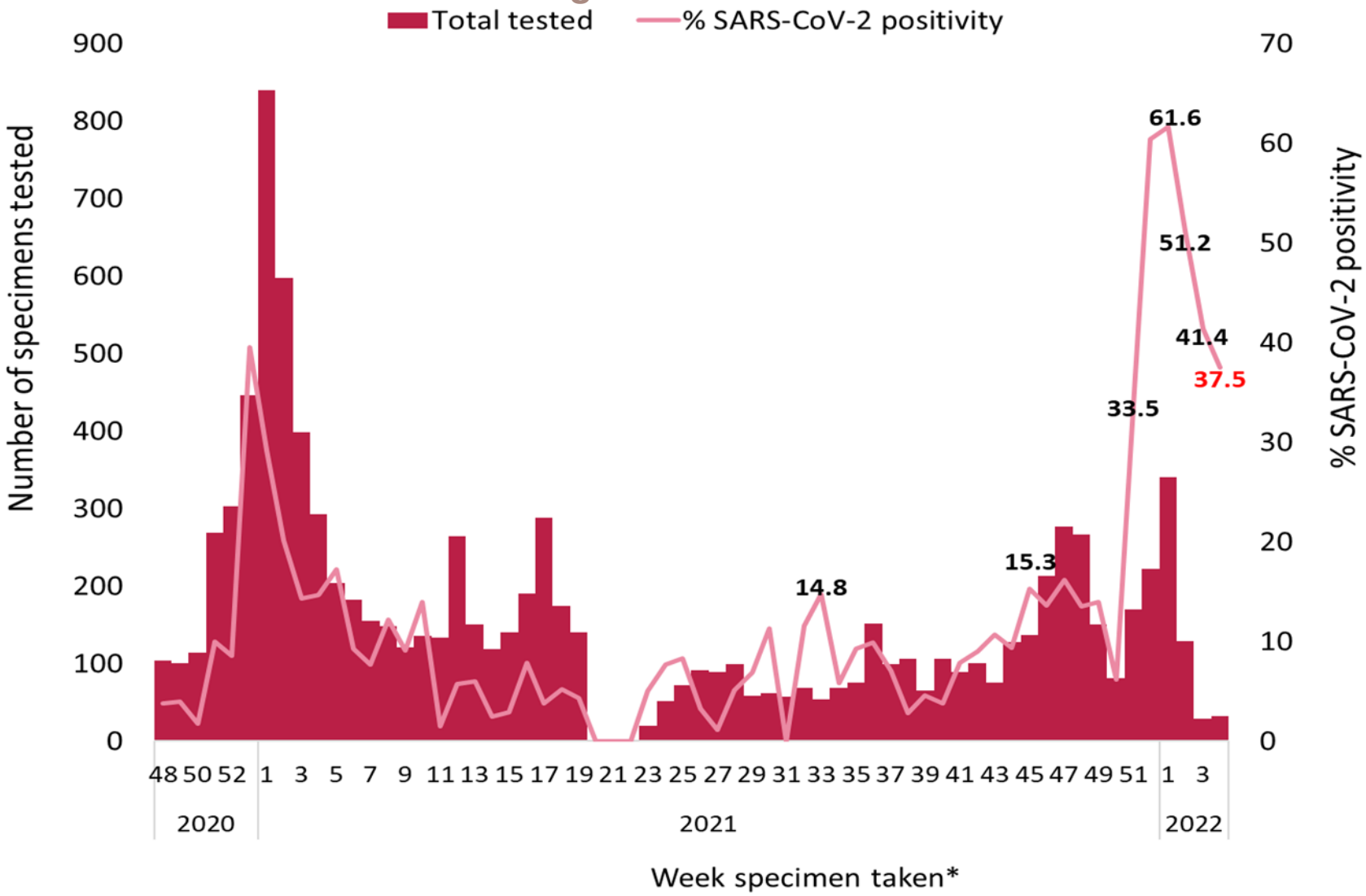

Figure 18: % SARS-CoV-2 PCR positivity data from sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals tested by NVRL/ENFER*, 2020-2021, 2022.

**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

Laboratory testing of SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests

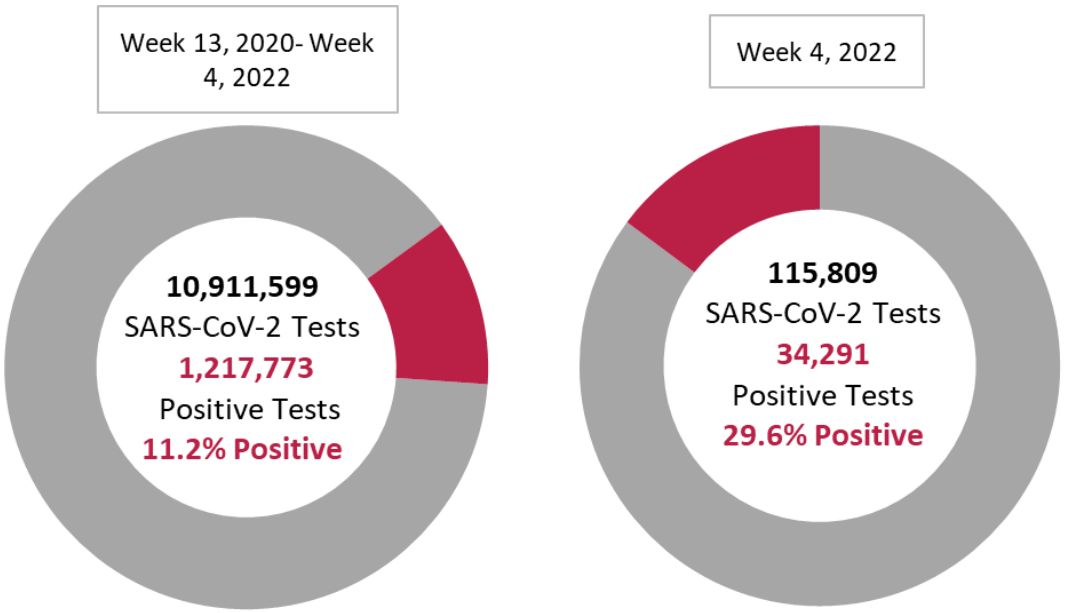

Figure 19a: Number of SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests and positive tests* in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 4, 2022

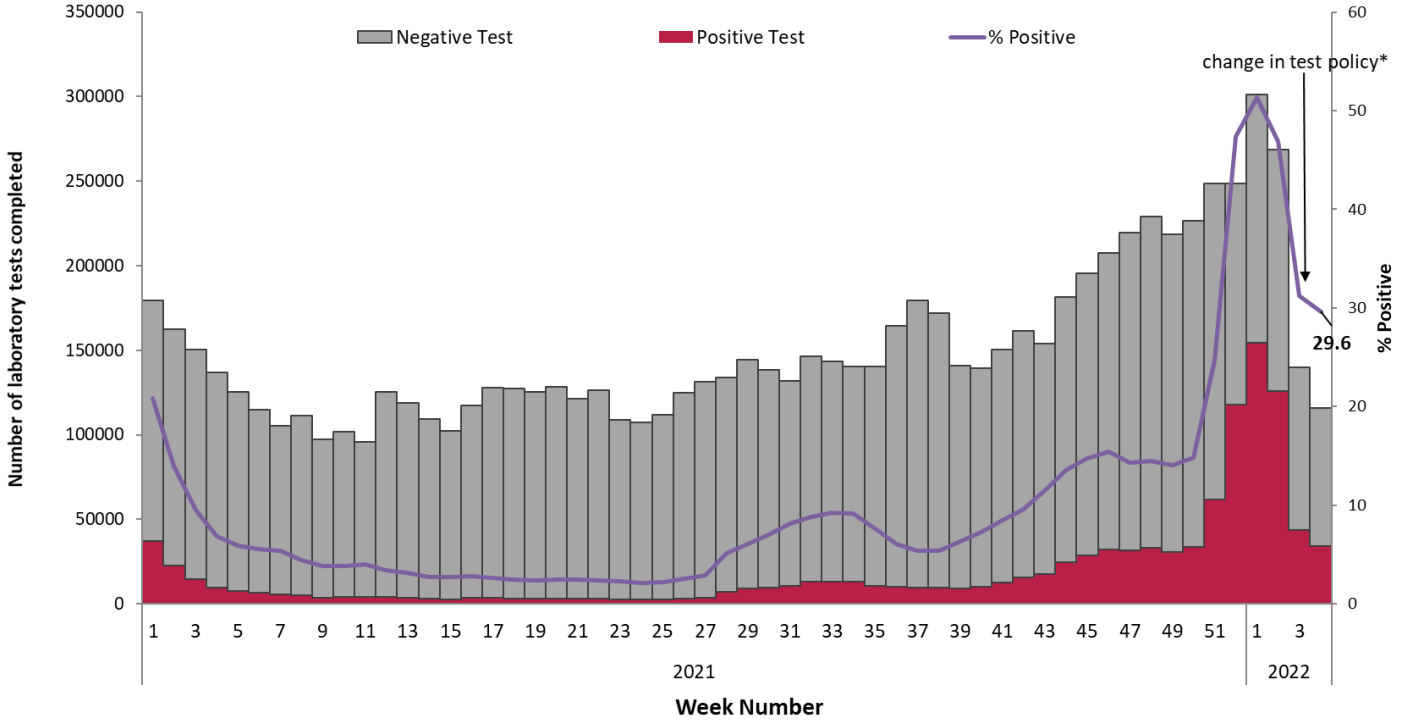

Figure 19b: Number of SARS-CoV-2 negative and positive PCR tests* completed in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 4, 2022

*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

- 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

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

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

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.