



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



Week 50 2021

Health Protection Surveillance Centre, 20th December 2021

Dates to note:

- Week 50 (12th to 18th 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 20/12/2021. 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 18th 2021 (week 40) and extracted from CIDR at 1:30 pm on December 20th 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

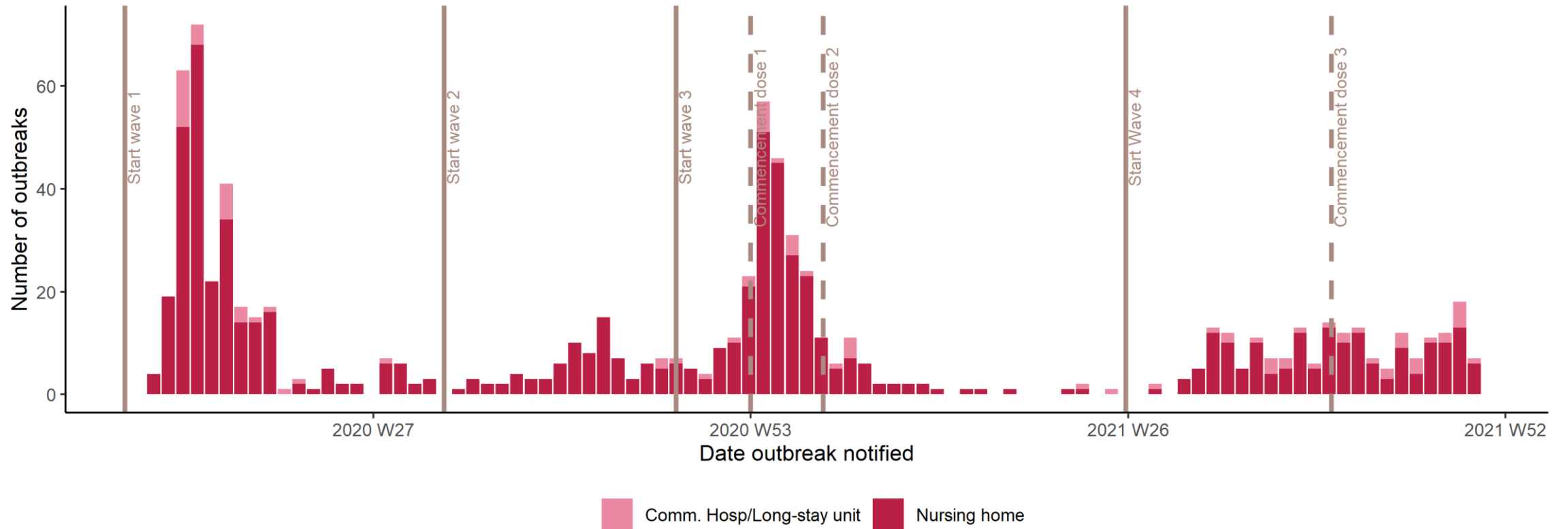


Wave	Outbreak		Linked confirmed cases				
	Number of outbreaks	Number of cases*	Number	Number hospitalised	Number admitted to ICU	Number hospitalised and died	Number who died
Wave 1 (weeks 10-31 2020)	302	6658	6251	476	16	195	884
Wave 2 (weeks 32-47 2020)	80	1571	1555	90	<5	25	133
Wave 3 (week 48 2020 - week 25 2021)	267	8375	8329	576	12	198	1020
Wave 4 (weeks 26-50 2021)	202	2641	2559	188	<5	44	172
Total	851	19245	18694	1330	31	462	2209

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

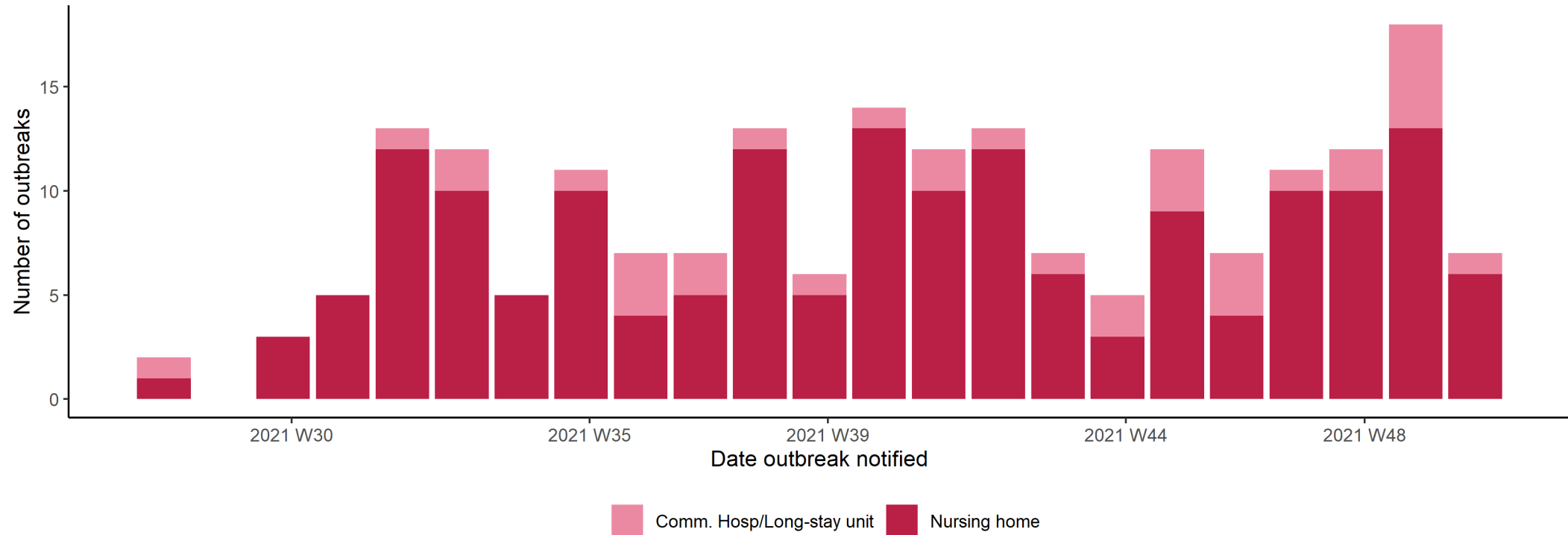
- Overall, there have been 851 COVID-19 outbreaks in Nursing homes and Community Hospitals
- 1,330 of 18,694 laboratory confirmed outbreak cases have been hospitalised (7.1%)
- 2,209 deaths have been reported among confirmed outbreak cases in these settings (11.8%)

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 26-50 2021)



- Wave 4:**
- 202 nursing home and community hospital/long stay unit COVID-19 outbreaks notified
 - The number of outbreaks in these settings in the last 18 weeks has been relatively stable, but was highest in week 49, with 18 outbreaks.

Burden of disease associated with COVID-19 outbreaks in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals, wave 4 (weeks 26-50 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	34	306	293	66	<5	6	14
Nursing home	168	2335	2266	122	<5	38	158
Total	202	2641	2559	188	<5	44	172

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

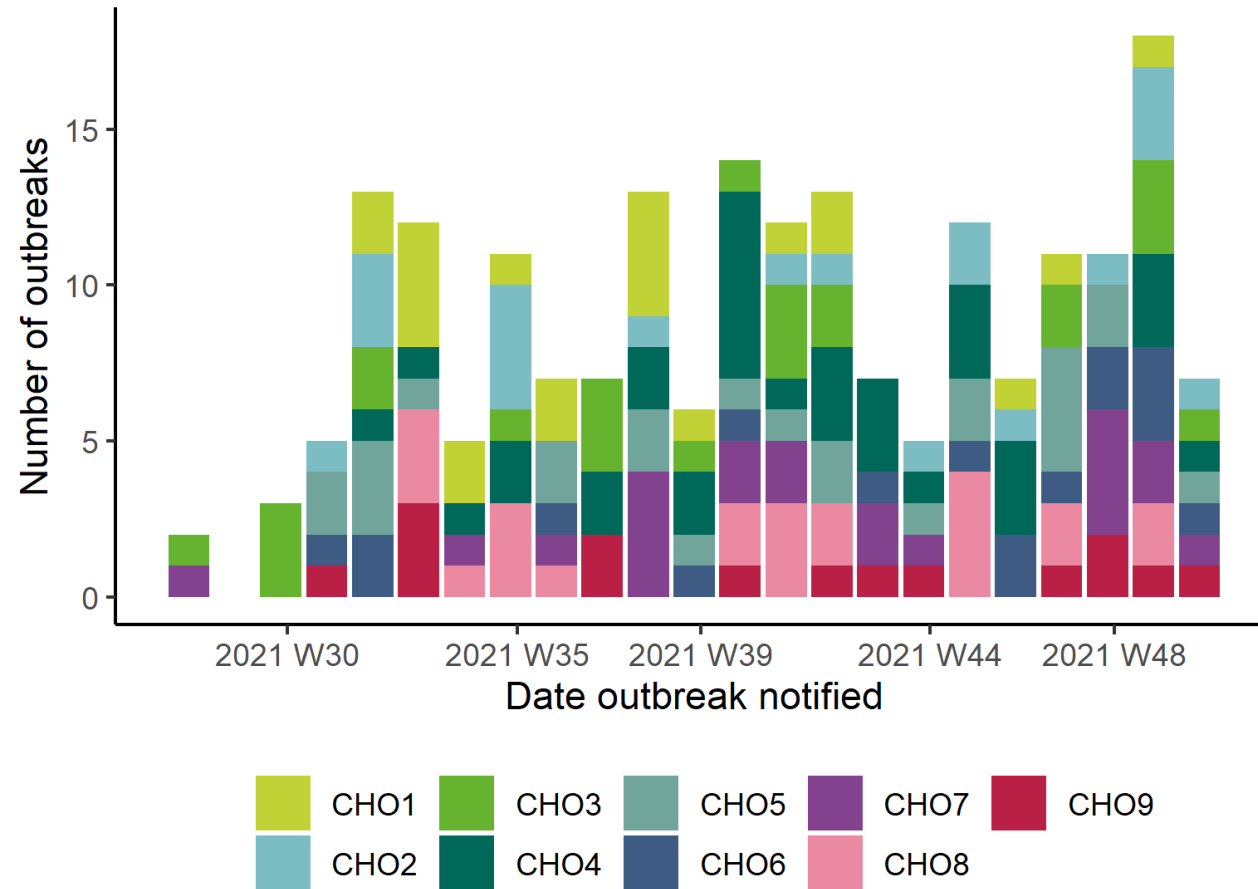
Wave 4:

- Of the 202 outbreaks in wave 4, 130 are officially closed on CIDR, and an additional 25 outbreaks have not had a reported case in the last 28 days, leaving 47 open outbreaks
- 188 of the 2,559 outbreak-linked cases (7.3%) were hospitalised (age range 25-98 years, median 84 years)
- 172 (6.7%) cases died (age range 57-103 years, median 87 years)
- The 172 deaths were spread across 72 outbreaks (1-11 per outbreak)

Week 50 2021

- Seven new outbreaks – 24 linked cases (range 2-7 cases per outbreak)

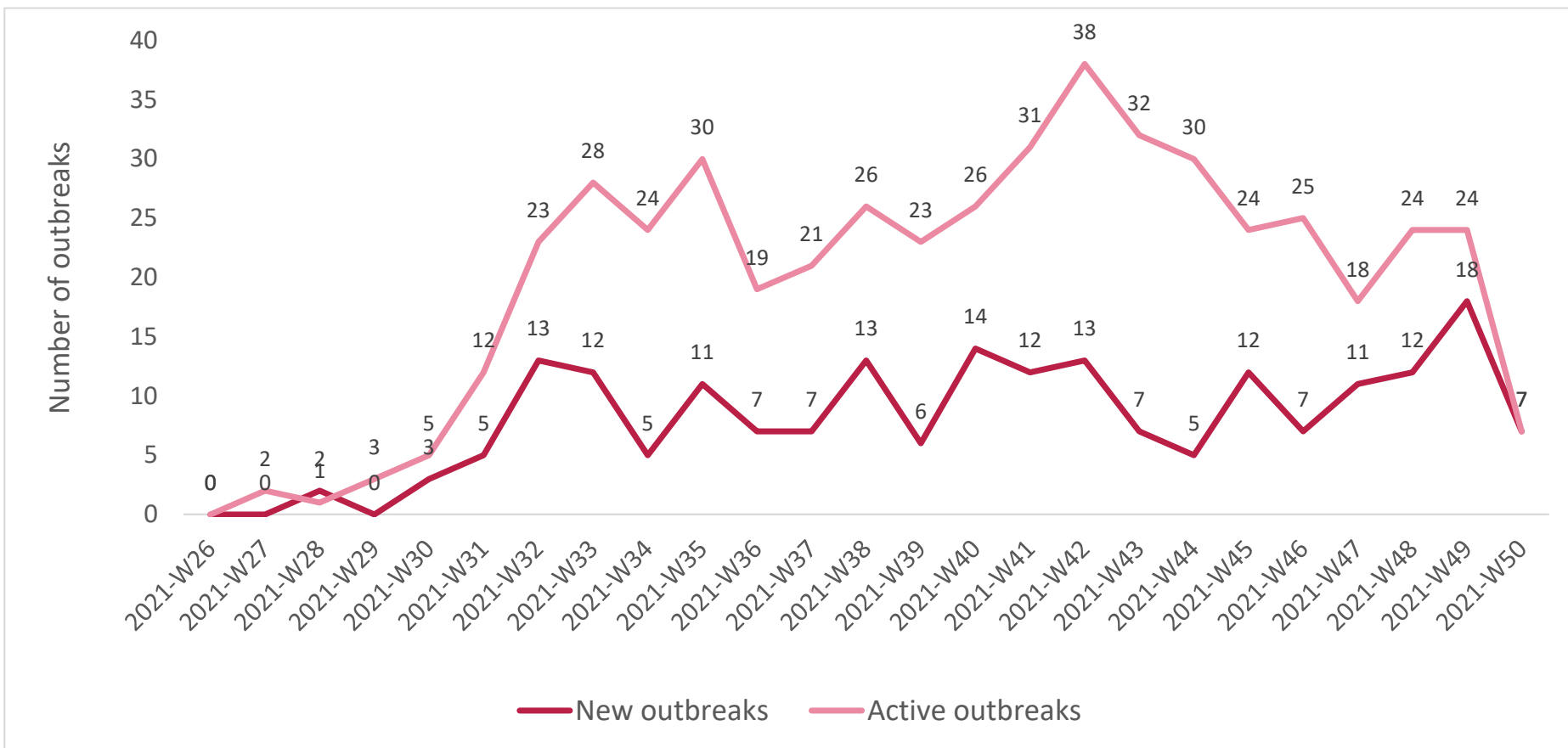
Regional distribution of outbreaks in Nursing Home and Community Hospitals, Wave 4 (weeks 26-50 2021)



Wave 4:

- The highest number of outbreaks was reported in CHO4 (35 outbreaks) followed by CHO5 (25 outbreaks)
- Seven CHOs were represented in the 7 outbreaks notified in week 50

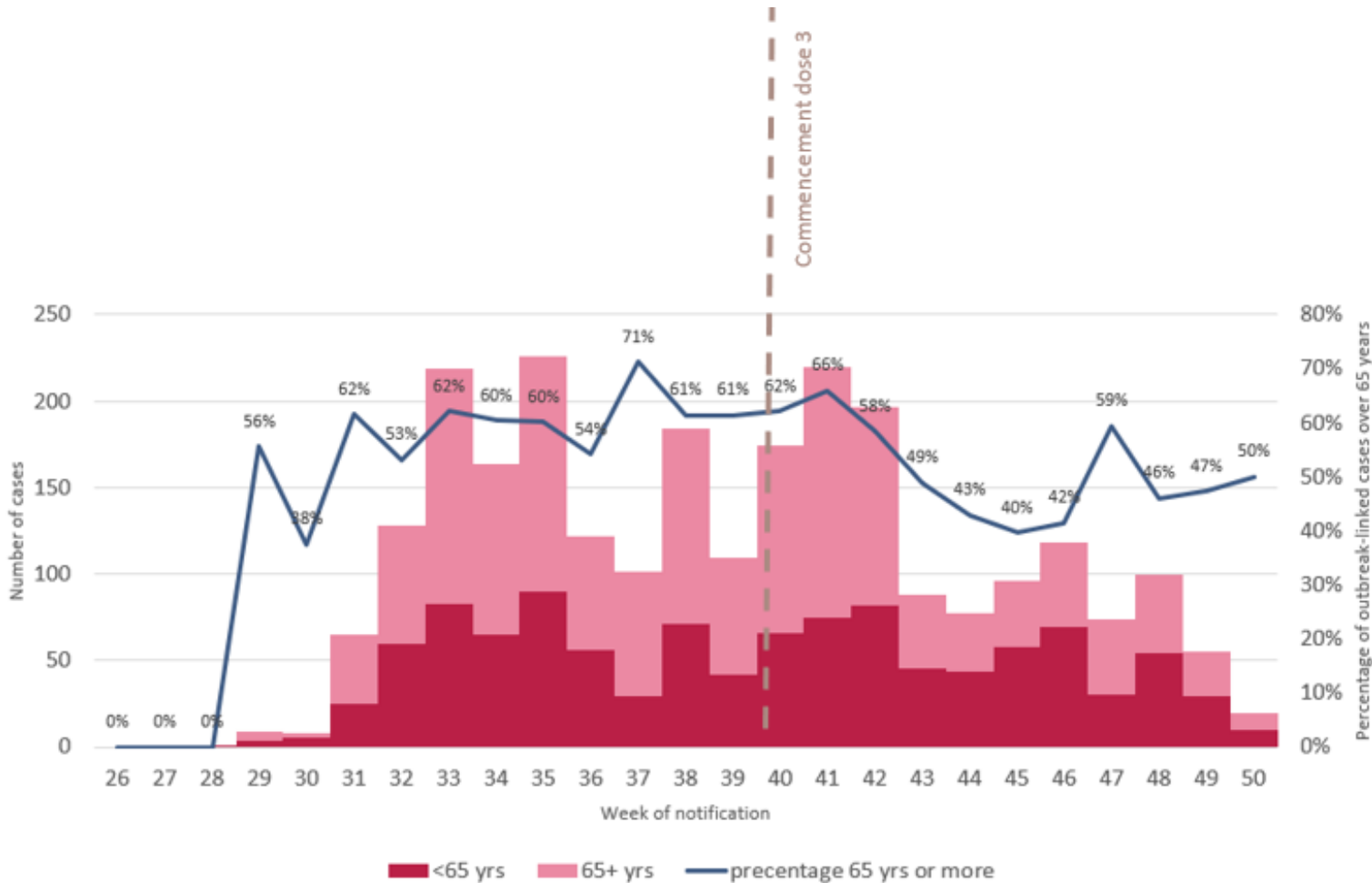
New and active outbreaks by week in Nursing Home and Community Hospitals, Wave 4 (weeks 26-50 2021)



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 - 50 although the number of outbreaks with linked cases in the most recent weeks may increase as more data are collected

Cases linked to COVID-19 outbreaks in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals by age group, wave 4 (weeks 26-50 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 20 linked cases in week 50. This is likely due to administration of the booster vaccine which commenced for residents in week 40
- Across wave 4, 57% (1462/2559) of linked cases were 65 years of age or more –this was lower in weeks 44-46 at 41%, 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 26-50 2021)

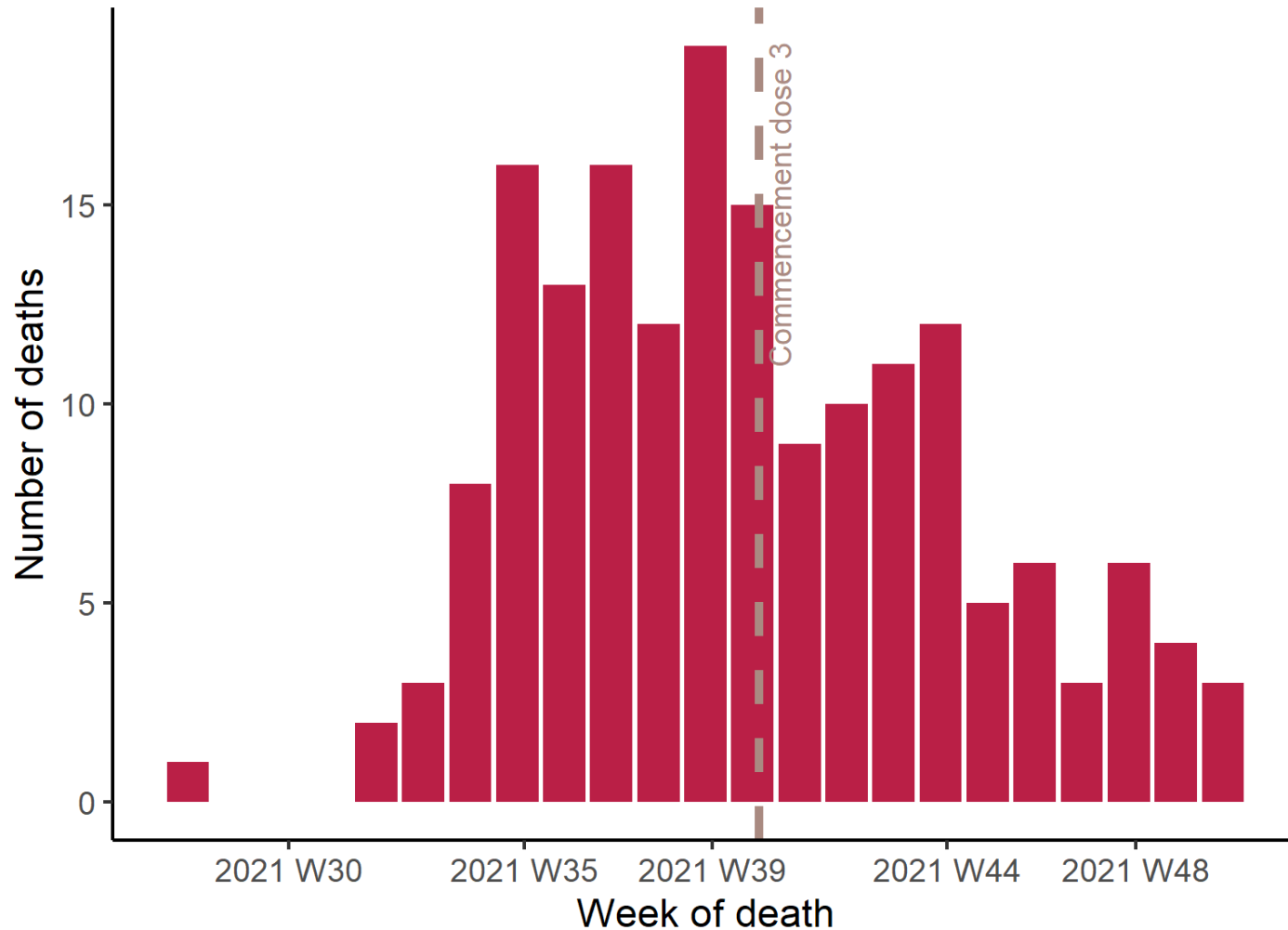


Age group	Number	Number hospitalised	% hospitalised	Number admitted to ICU	% ICU	Number who died	% died
<45 yrs	642	5	0.8%	<5	0.0%	0	0.0%
45-64 yrs	455	10	2.2%	<5	0.2%	5	1.1%
65-74 yrs	175	22	12.6%	<5	0.0%	11	6.3%
75-84 yrs	500	65	13.0%	<5	0.2%	52	10.4%
85+ yrs	787	86	10.9%	<5	0.0%	104	13.2%
Total	2559	188	7.3%	<5	0.1%	172	6.7%

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 26-50 2021)



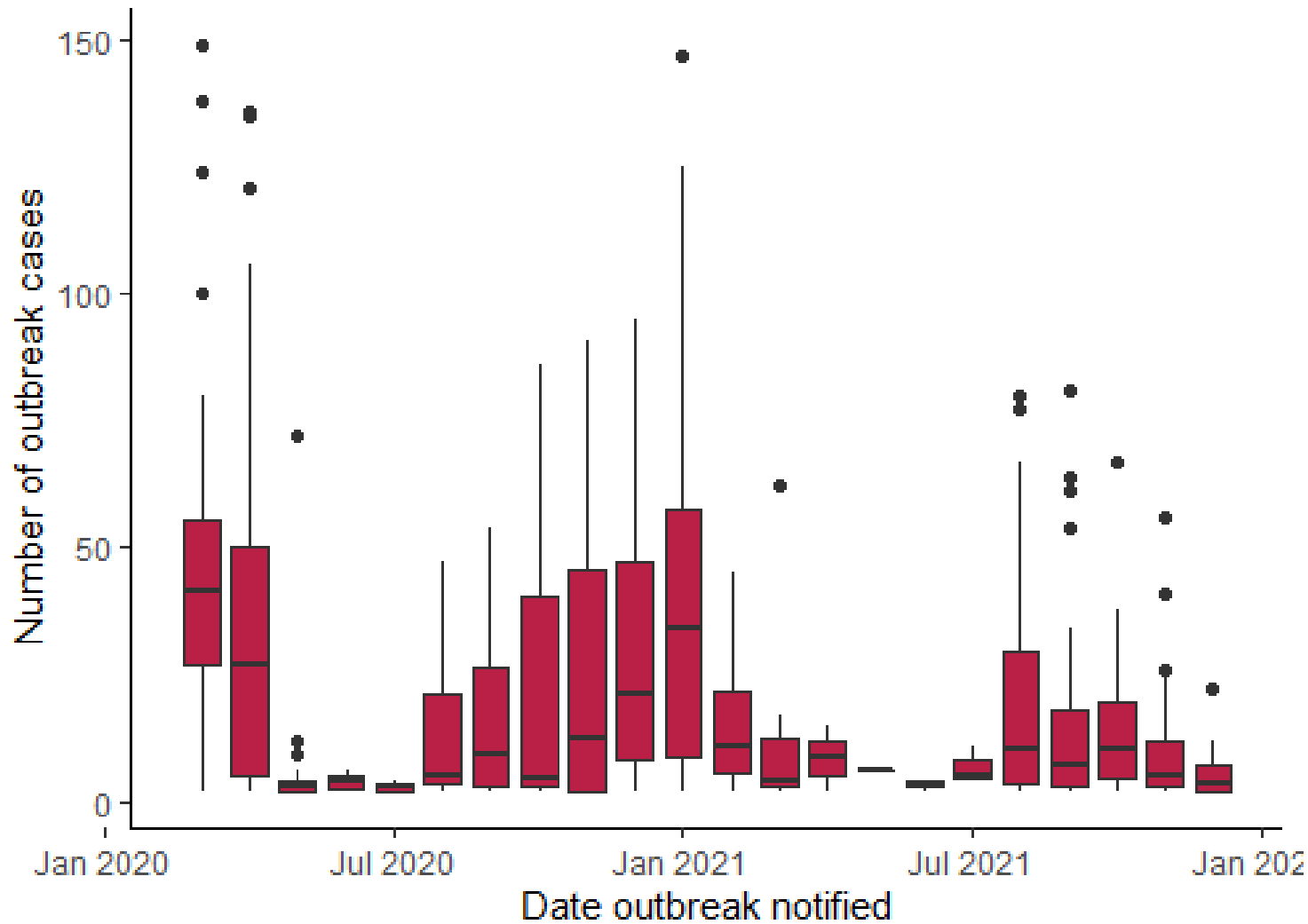
- In wave 4, the number of deaths per week (by date of death) peaked in week 39 with 18 deaths, followed by a reduction from week 44. Just 4 and 3 deaths respectively have so far been reported in weeks 49 and 50
- This decline in the weekly number of deaths follows the administration of the booster vaccine 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%	<5	0.0%	<5	0.1%
	Wave 3	4033	100	2.5%	8	0.2%	18	0.4%
	Wave 4	1097	15	1.4%	<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%	1002	23.3%
	Wave 4	1462	173	11.8%	<5	0.1%	167	11.4%
All ages	Wave 1	6251	476	7.6%	16	0.3%	884	14.1%
	Wave 2	1555	90	5.8%	<5	0.1%	133	8.6%
	Wave 3	8329	576	6.9%	12	0.1%	1020	12.2%
	Wave 4	2559	188	7.3%	<5	0.1%	172	6.7%

The percentage of cases 65 years or older who died among cases linked to outbreaks notified in wave 4 was 11.4%, compared to between 17.0% and 24.2% in previous waves

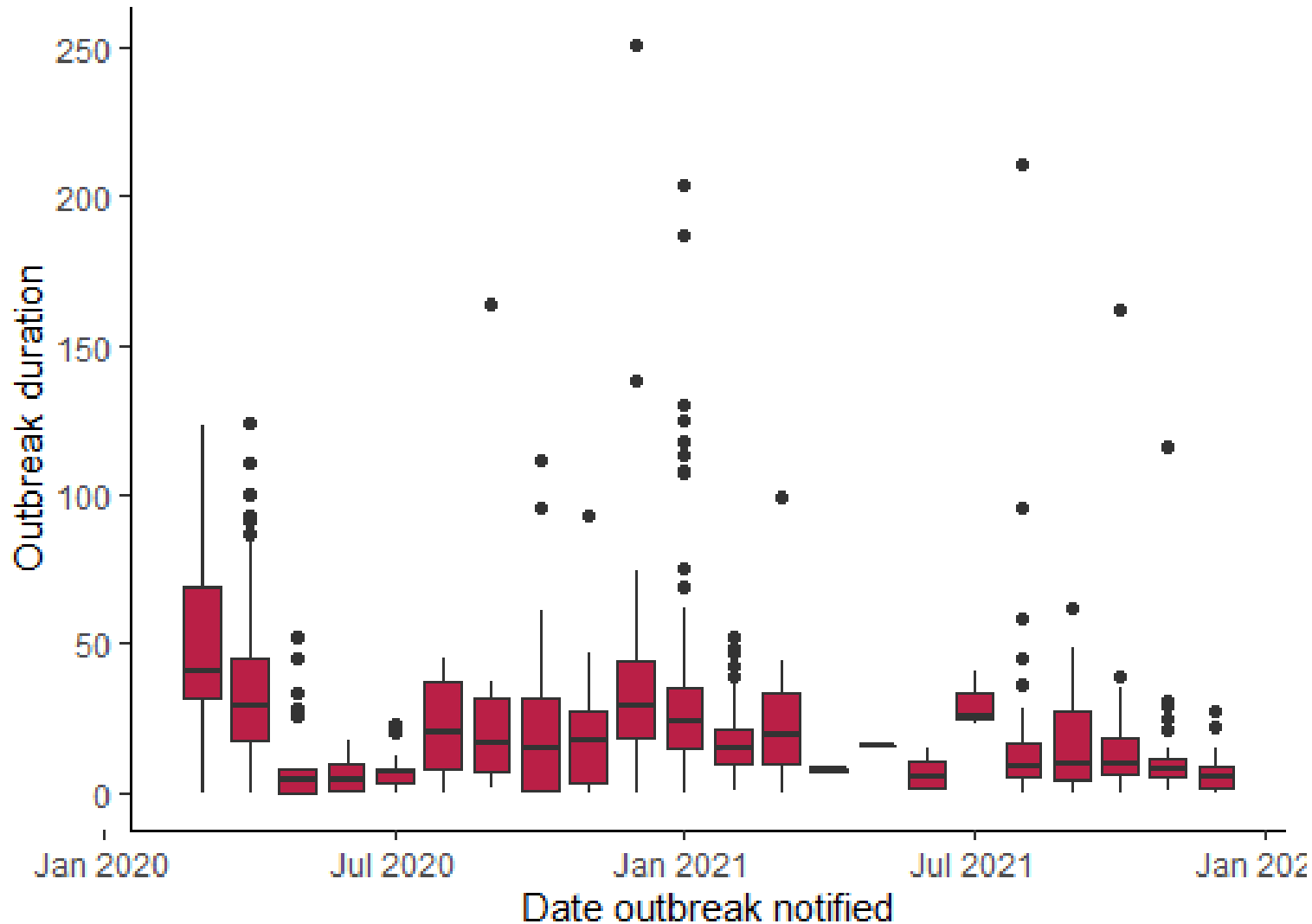
Distribution of outbreak size by month of outbreak notification



The median outbreak size has remained relatively low since the vaccination programme commenced in January/February 2021, with the median since January 31st being 7 (IQR 3-17) compared to the median of 22 (4-50) before January 31st

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

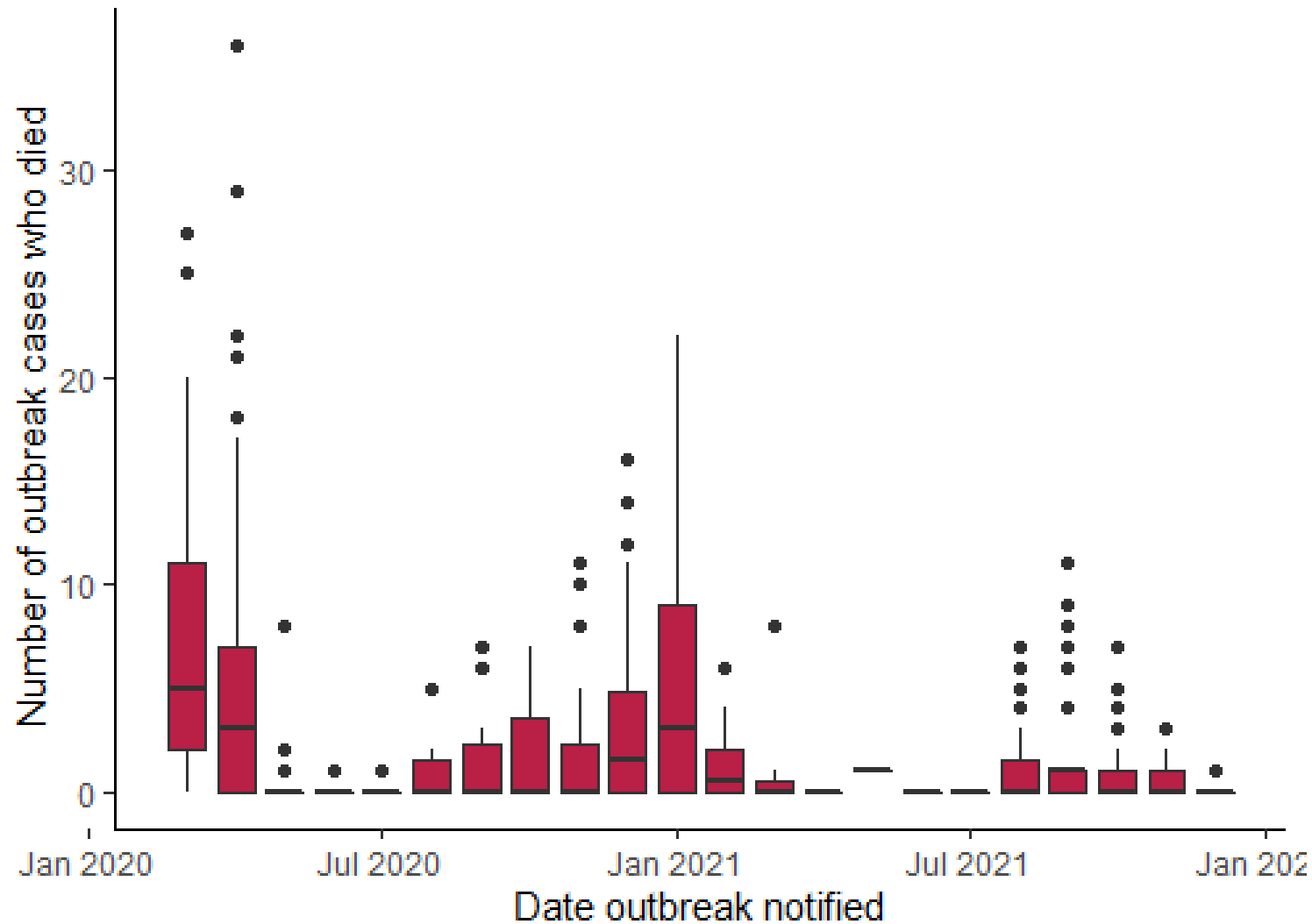
Distribution of outbreak duration by month of outbreak notification



The median outbreak duration has remained relatively low since the vaccination programme commenced in January/February 2021, with the median since January 31st being 9 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

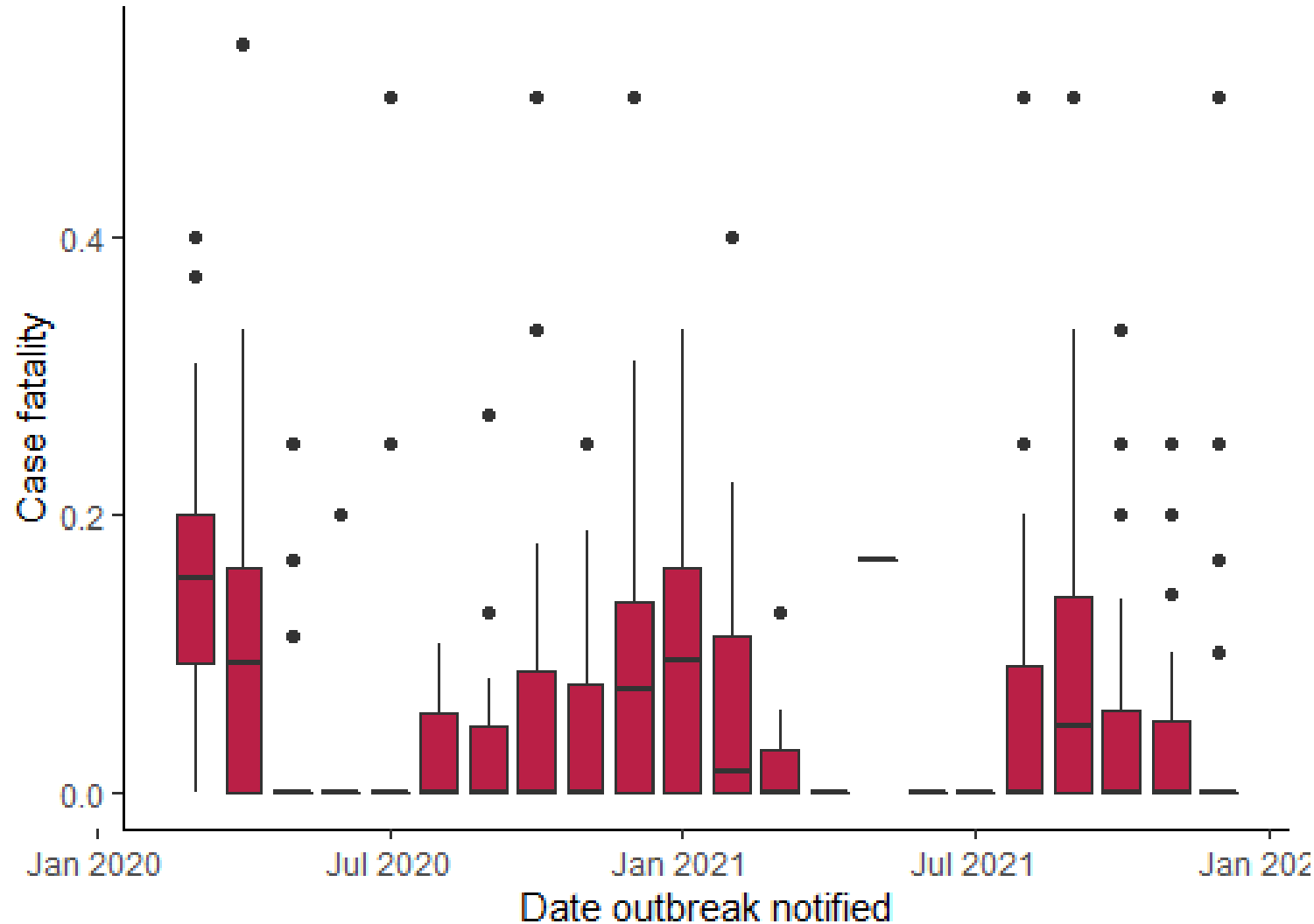
Distribution of number of deaths per outbreak by month of outbreak notification



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 the median of 2 (IQR 0-6) before January 31st

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

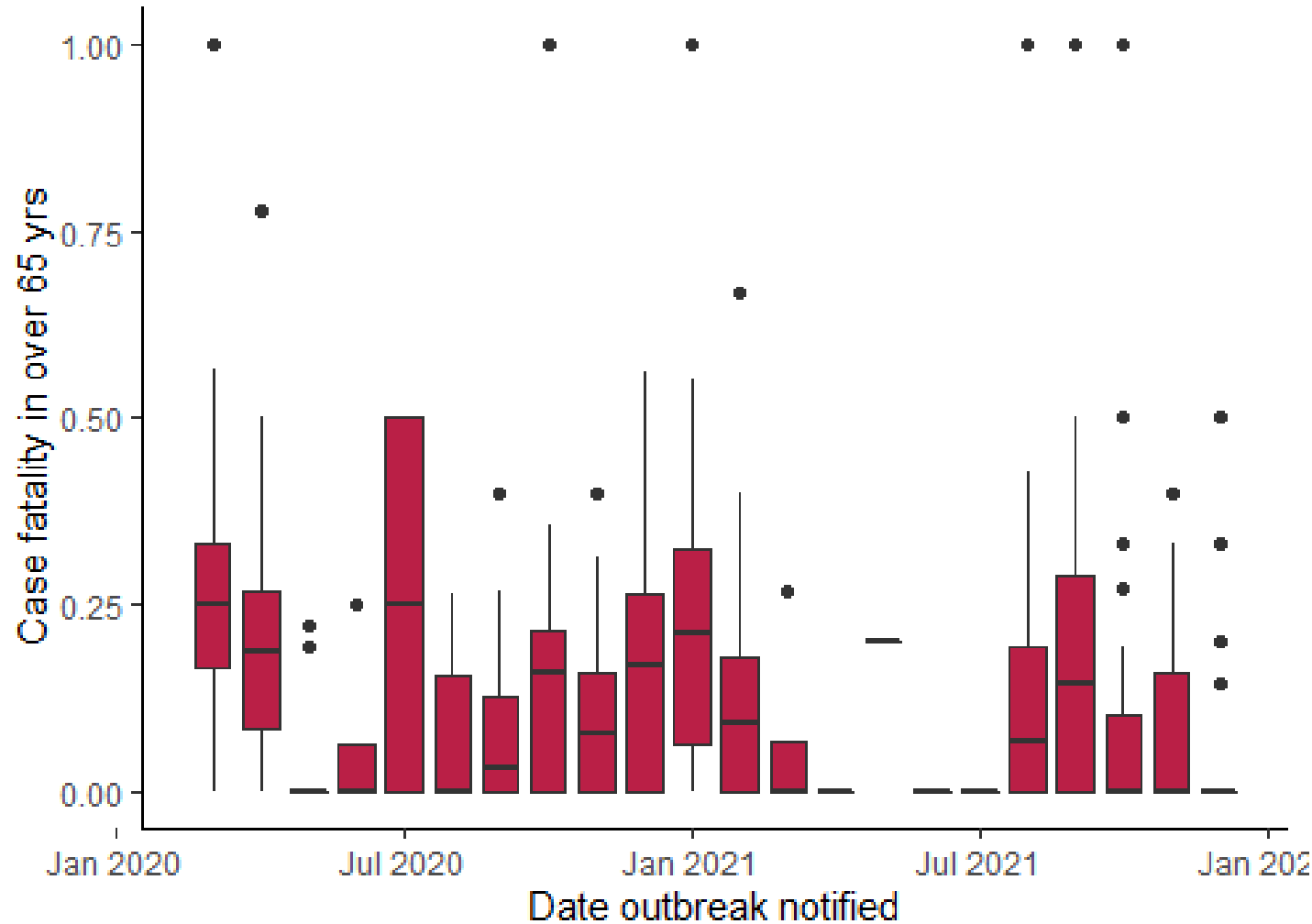
Distribution of outbreak case fatality by month of outbreak notification



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 2021, and appears to have declined again from October.

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