



# Weekly Report on the Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland

## Week 41, 2021

Health Protection Surveillance Centre, HPSC  
COVID-19 Epidemiology Team, 18/10/2021

### 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 2020/2021.
- Reference dates:
  - Week 10, 2020 (1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020) – the beginning of the pandemic in Ireland, also the start of the first wave
  - Week 32, 2020 (2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August 2020) – the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave
  - Week 48, 2020 (22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2020) – the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave
  - Week 26, 2021 (27<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021) – the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> wave
  - Week 41, 2021 (10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021) – most recent epidemiological week
- Data for this report is based on case notified on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) up to the 16<sup>th</sup> October
- Data was extracted from CIDR system on 18/10/2021
- CIDR data was merged with data from the HSE COVID care tracker to report on some enhanced variables
- Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.

# Note



- On 14 May 2021 the HSE suffered a major cyber-attack on its IT systems. While HSE-HPSC and CIDR were not directly compromised by the cyber-attack, our surveillance partners (Departments of Public Health, laboratories, and others) were. As an interim measure after the cyber-attack, the reported daily number of COVID-19 cases was based on data uploaded to the HSE-CovidCare Tracker (CCT). The data extracted from CCT did not represent notified cases and had not undergone the extent of data validation which is undertaken by Departments of Public Health and HPSC. All cases were retrospectively notified to CIDR and reporting on the number of cases from CIDR recommenced on 2 September.
- The number of cases reported from CIDR for the period affected by the cyber-attack will differ from the estimates reported based on interim arrangements.
- Not all surveillance processes have returned to normal. The transfer of information gathered during the patient interview from the CCT to CIDR is not yet restored. For this reason CIDR data has been merged with CCT data to report on some variables.
- Further information is available [here](#).

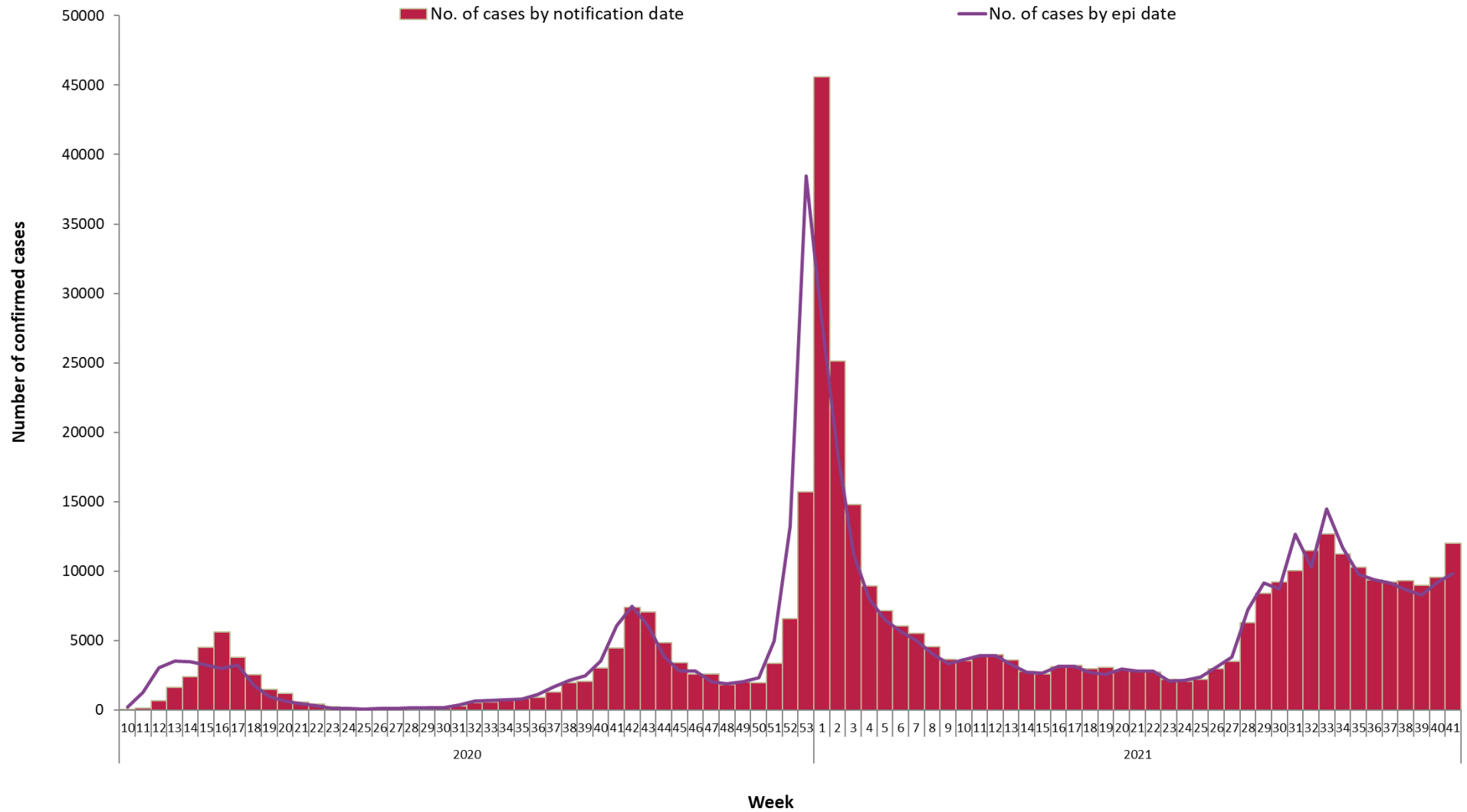
# Summary characteristics of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland



	Total (week 10, 2020-week 41, 2021 )		Week 41, 2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases	415,112		11,986	
Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population	8717.4		251.7	
Number of cases hospitalised	17,668	4.3	213*	1.8
Number of cases admitted to ICU	1,922	0.5	6*	0.05
Number of deaths among confirmed cases	5,071	1.2	8*	0.07
Case fatality ratio (CFR %)	1.2		0.07	
Incidence rate of confirmed deaths per 100,000 population	106.5		0.17	
Number of cases in healthcare workers	28886	7.0	0	0.0
Males	202,463	48.8	5,832	48.7
Females	212,568	51.2	6,138	51.2
M:F ratio	0.95		0.95	
Median (years)	33		36	
Mean age (years)	36		37	
Age range (years)	0-108		0-100	

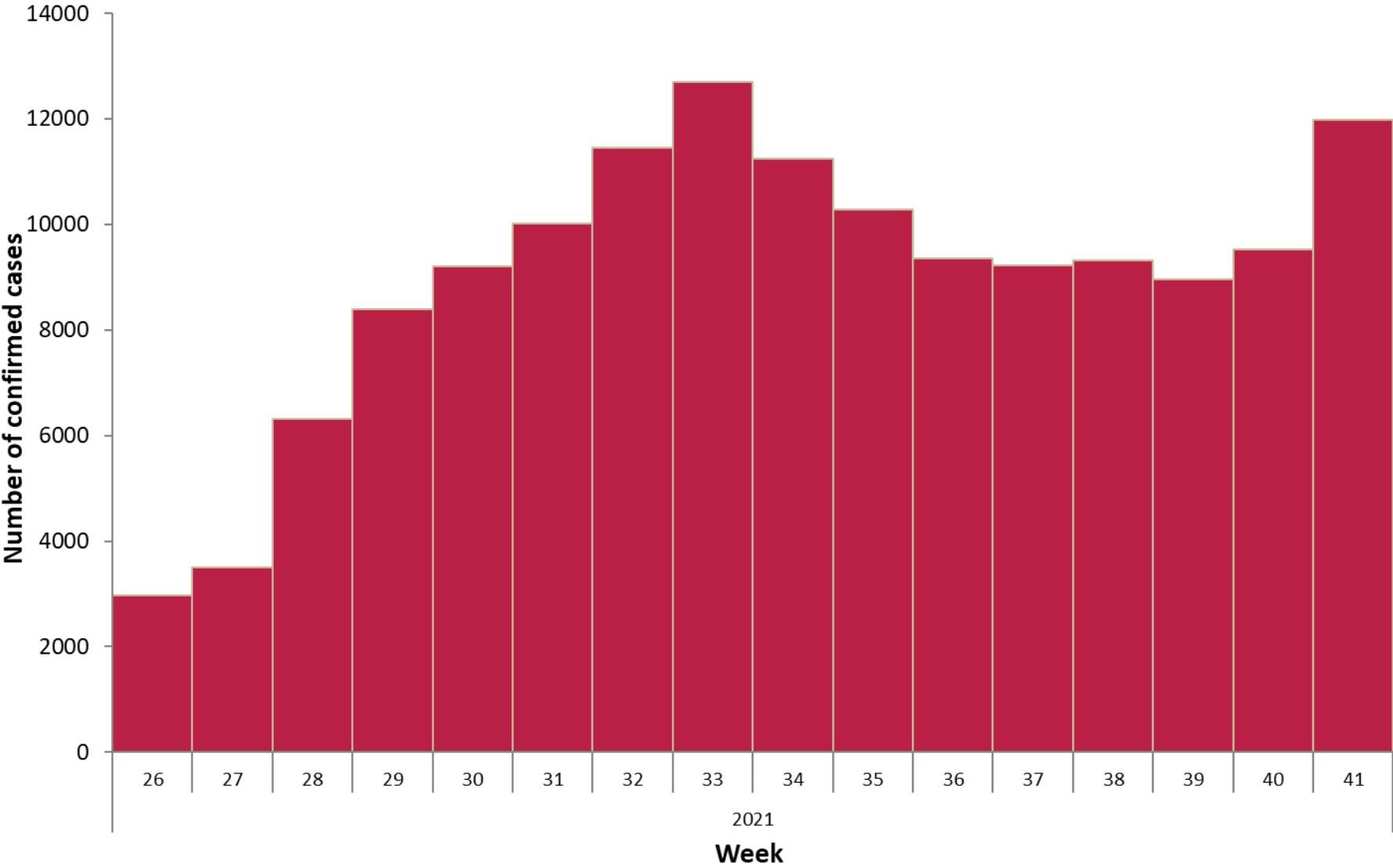
*\* The number of cases hospitalised, cases admitted to ICU and deaths described in the above table relate only to COVID-19 cases who were notified during this reporting period, and where the outcome is known at the time of reporting. It does not reflect all hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths 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 COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland



**Figure 1:** Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week and [epidemiological date](#) in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 41, 2021

# Epidemic curve of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4<sup>th</sup> wave



**Figure 2:** Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week in Ireland for the 4<sup>th</sup> wave from week 26, 2021 to week 41, 2021

# Summary characteristics of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the latest epidemiological week



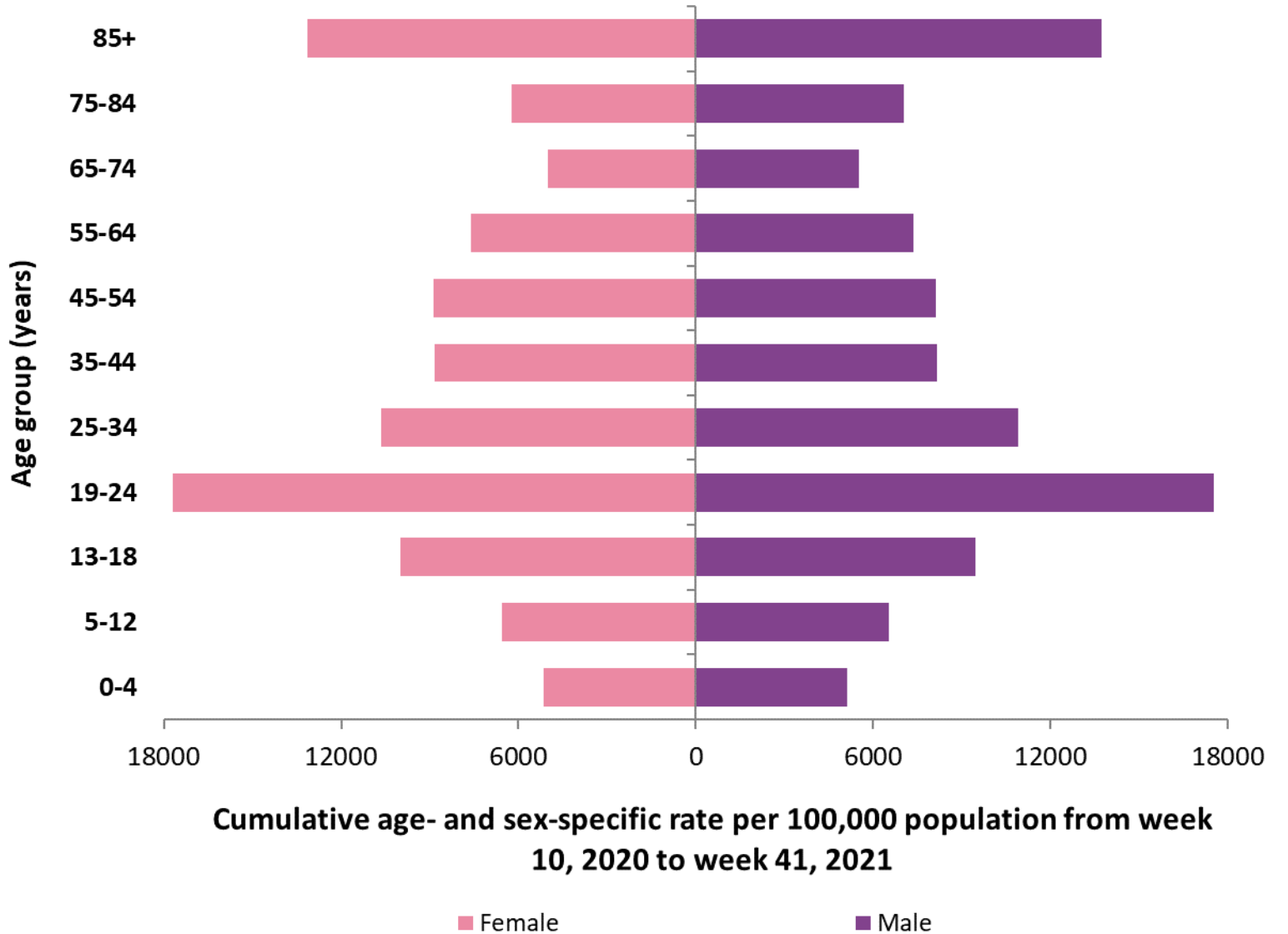
**Table 1:** Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 41, 2021

Characteristic		Week 41	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases		11,986	100
<b>Sex</b>	Male:Female ratio	0.95	
	Male	5,832	48.7
	Female	6,138	51.2
	Unknown	16	0.2
<b>Age</b>	Mean age (years)	37	
	Median age (years)	36	
	Age range (years)	0-100	
	0-4 yrs	580	4.8
	5-12 yrs	1,716	14.3
	13-18 yrs	660	5.5
	19-24 yrs	1,053	8.8
	25-34 yrs	1,667	13.9
	35-44 yrs	2,006	16.7
	45-54 yrs	1,535	12.8
	55-64 yrs	1,265	10.6
	65-74 yrs	898	7.5
	75-84 yrs	415	3.5
	85+ yrs	190	1.6
Unknown	1	0.0	

# Age and sex pyramid for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland

**Figure 3a:** Cumulative age and sex-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population notified in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 41, 2021

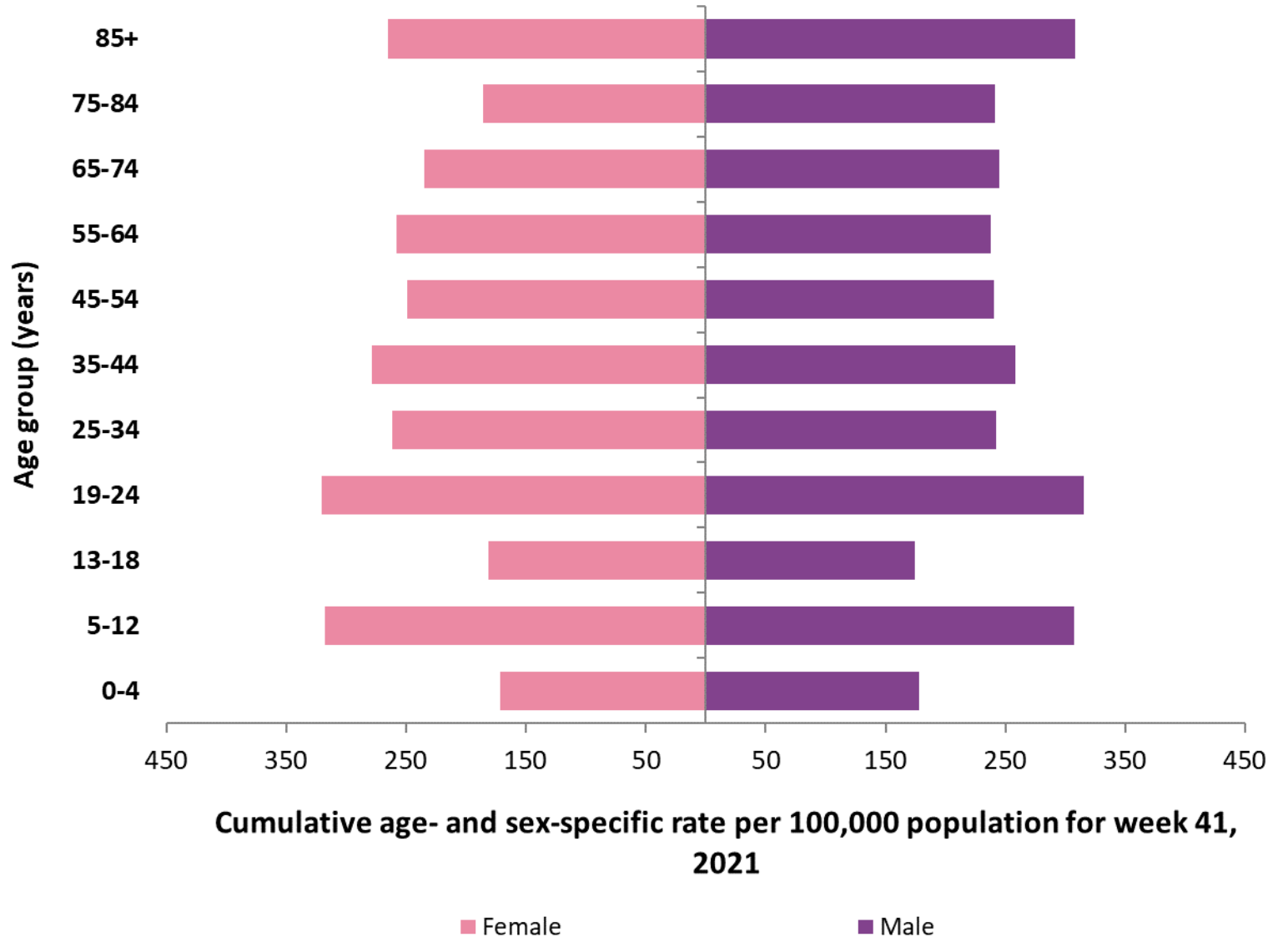
(excluding 56 cases for whom age is unknown, 79 cases for whom sex is unknown and two cases for whom both are unknown)



# Age and sex pyramid for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland for the latest epidemiological week

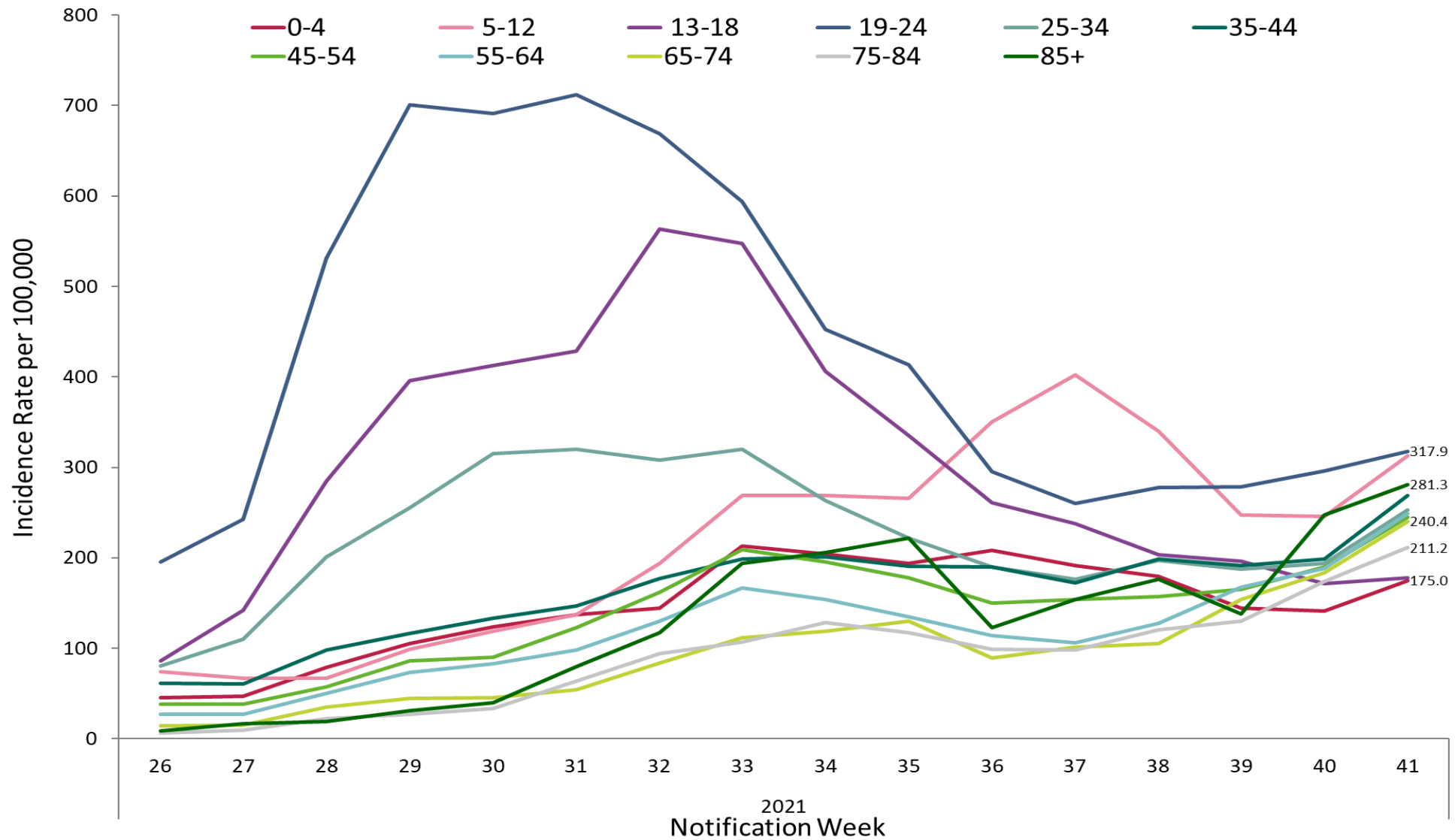
**Figure 3b:** Cumulative age and sex-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population notified in Ireland during week 41, 2021

(excluding 1 case for whom age is unknown and 16 cases for whom sex is unknown)



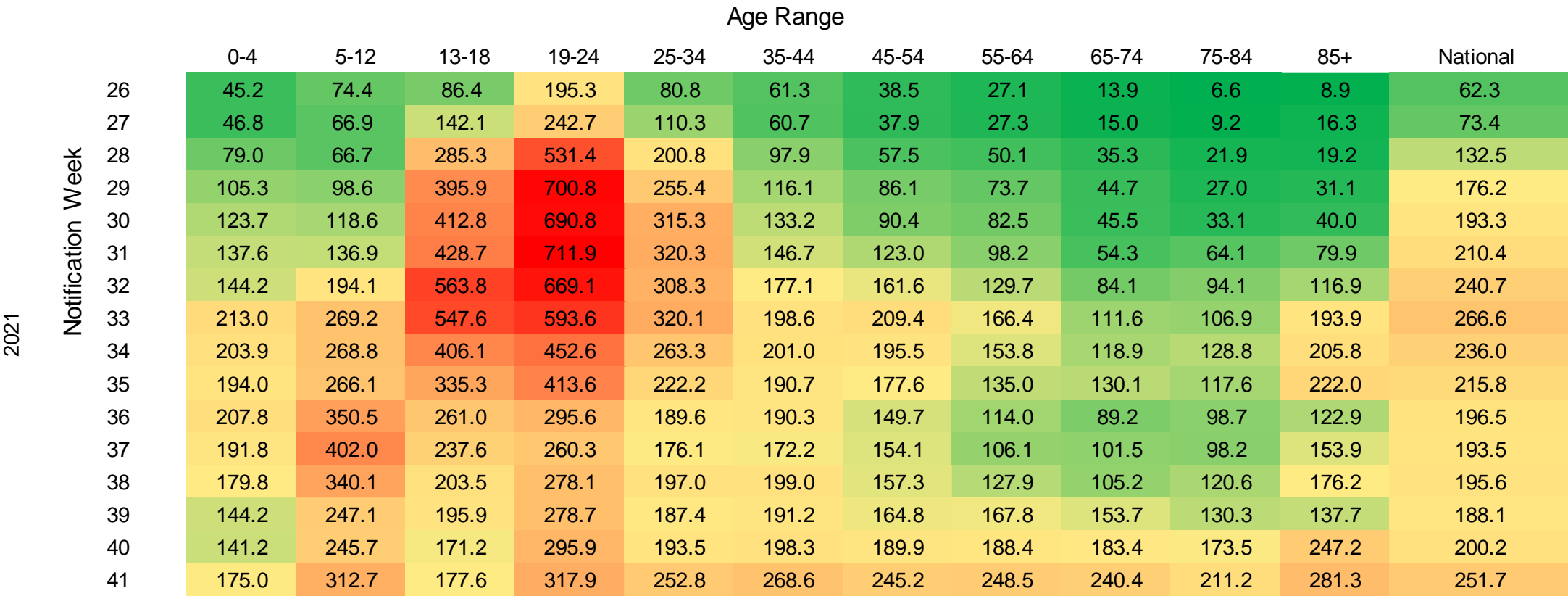


# Incidence rates by age group for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4<sup>th</sup> wave



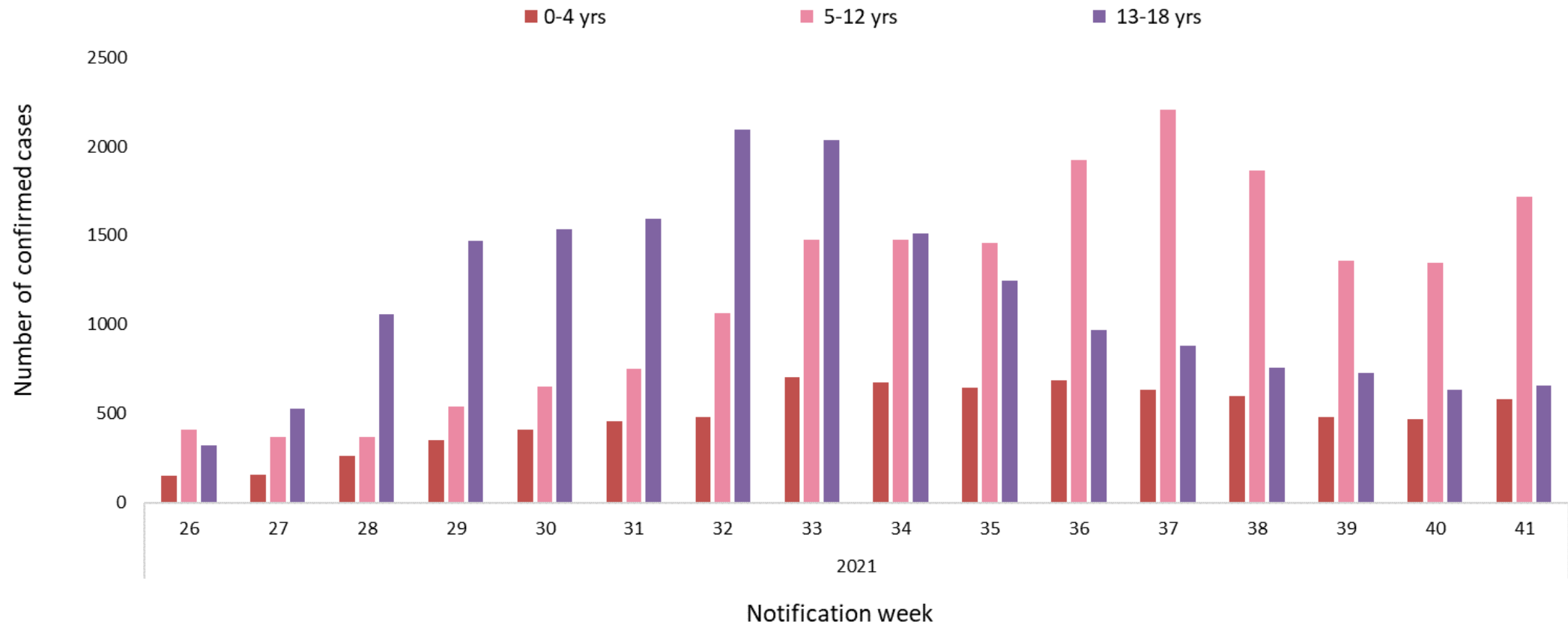
**Figure 4:** Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland for the 4<sup>th</sup> wave from week 26, 2021 to week 41, 2021

# Incidence by age groups for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4<sup>th</sup> wave



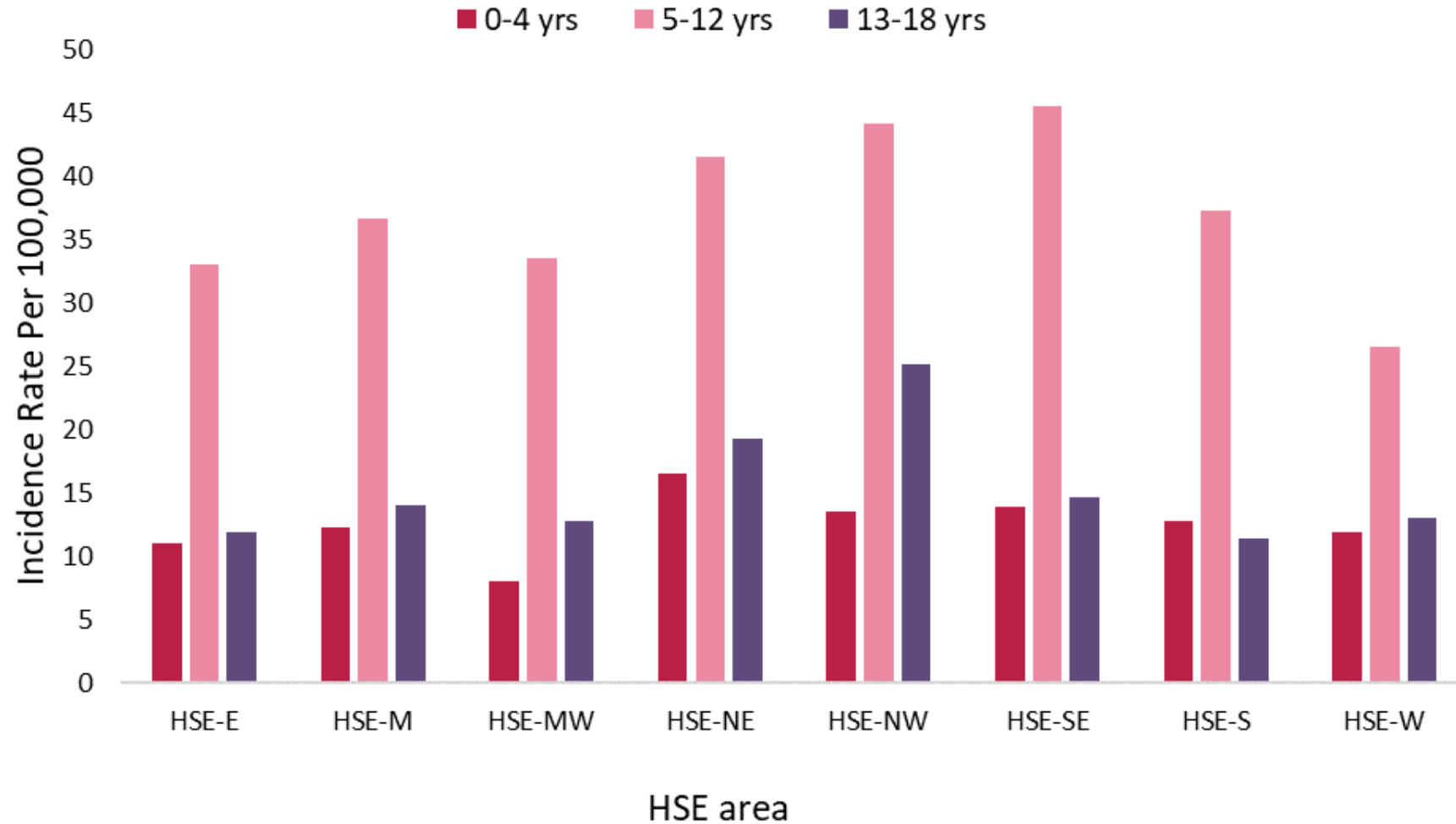
**Figure 5:** Heat map of weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland for the 4<sup>th</sup> wave between week 26, 2021 and week 41, 2021

# COVID-19 cases in children 18 years and under by notification date



**Figure 6a:** Weekly number of age-specific confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week in Ireland for the 4<sup>th</sup> wave between week 26, 2021 and week 41, 2021

# COVID-19 incidence rate by HSE area in children 18 years and under



**Figure 6b:** Age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population, by HSE area, notified in Ireland during week 41, 2021

# Characteristics for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland by county for the latest epidemiological week

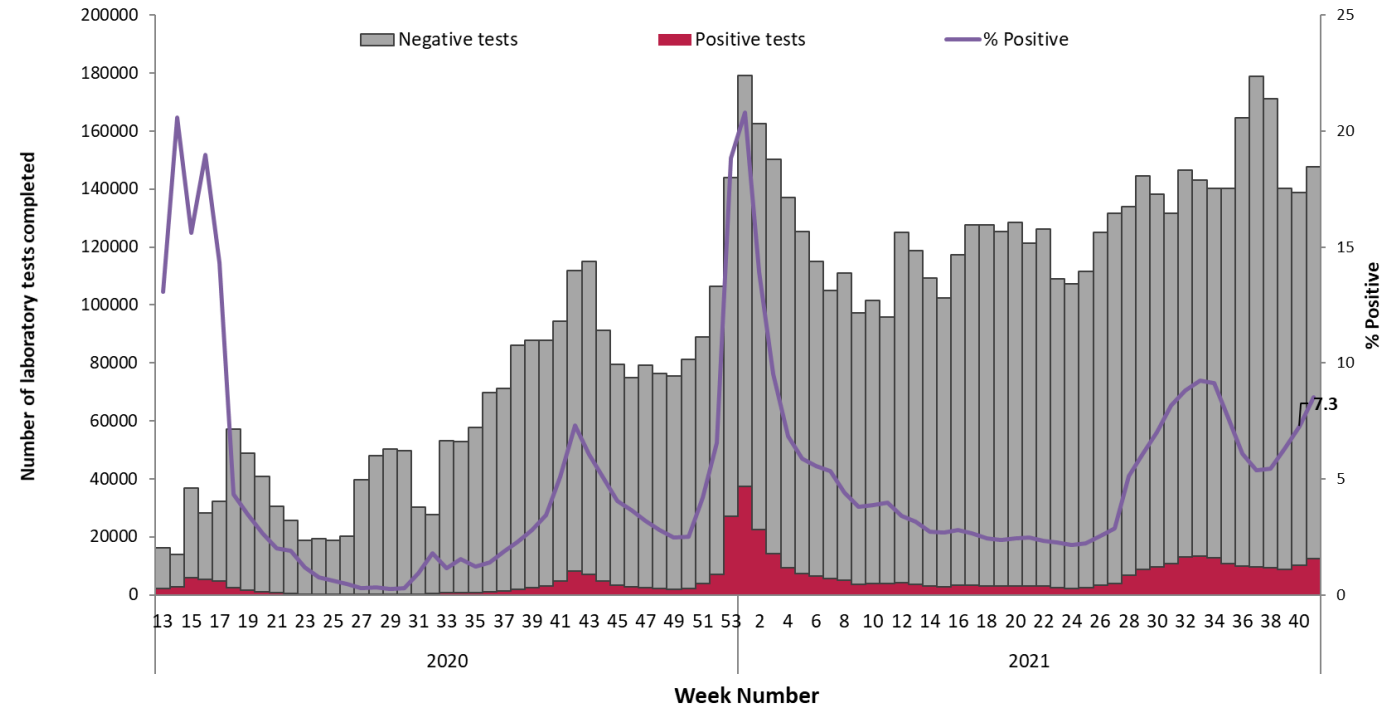
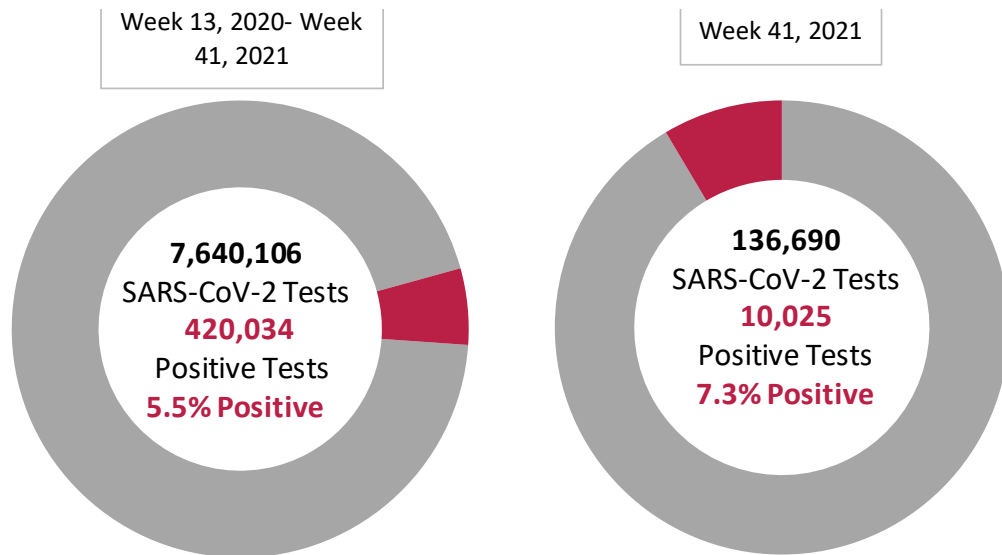
**Table 2:** Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases by county notified in Ireland, during week 41, 2021

County	Cases		M:F ratio	Median age	Incidence Rate per 100,000
	N	%		(years)	
Longford	207	1.7	0.8	33	506.4
Carlow	269	2.2	0.9	30	472.5
Waterford	539	4.5	1.1	36	464.0
Kerry	641	5.3	1.1	40	434.0
Leitrim	98	0.8	0.8	38	305.8
Donegal	482	4.0	1.0	33	302.8
Louth	389	3.2	0.9	36	301.8
Laois	254	2.1	1.2	40	299.9
Clare	344	2.9	1.0	39	289.5
Westmeath	254	2.1	0.9	37	286.1
Limerick	552	4.6	0.9	40	283.2
Meath	548	4.6	0.9	38	281.0
Cavan	206	1.7	1.0	39.5	270.4
Monaghan	161	1.3	0.9	34	262.3
Roscommon	162	1.4	0.7	39.5	251.0
Dublin	3190	26.6	1.0	34	236.8
Sligo	146	1.2	0.7	30	222.8
Cork	1193	10.0	0.9	38	219.8
Kildare	476	4.0	1.1	34.5	213.9
Tipperary	331	2.8	0.9	41	207.5
Galway	501	4.2	0.9	35	194.1
Kilkenny	190	1.6	1.0	41	191.5
Mayo	245	2.0	0.8	42	187.7
Wicklow	248	2.1	0.9	37	174.1
Wexford	244	2.0	1.0	36	163.0
Offaly	116	1.0	1.0	42.5	148.8

# Incidence rates by county for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4<sup>th</sup> wave

		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	Notification Week 26	14.1	40.7	48.0	19.7	215.5	89.6	29.1	33.9	51.2	23.2	62.6	18.7	82.1	34.3	66.0	37.5	60.0	31.0	42.3	88.3	76.3	21.9	104.2	75.5	25.4	34.4	62.3
	Notification Week 27	49.2	51.2	38.7	29.3	213.0	96.0	50.8	62.3	79.1	40.3	40.1	31.2	122.1	34.3	95.4	76.6	70.2	58.6	59.0	72.8	126.6	23.2	36.2	80.0	48.1	43.5	73.4
	Notification Week 28	133.5	107.6	70.7	75.3	392.0	166.1	129.4	94.8	130.8	48.4	133.4	103.0	125.7	66.1	296.4	117.2	125.1	107.5	116.7	100.7	91.6	48.9	57.7	121.7	54.1	118.7	132.5
	Notification Week 29	203.8	151.0	70.7	118.1	537.7	191.1	258.5	126.6	161.3	69.5	273.9	259.0	140.1	137.0	250.6	196.2	152.8	234.6	137.2	144.1	149.5	99.7	80.9	145.3	87.5	171.3	176.2
	Notification Week 30	130.0	182.5	104.4	120.8	378.8	220.3	283.7	198.4	133.0	99.8	194.8	206.0	190.4	146.8	378.6	300.4	170.2	252.5	107.7	212.3	213.6	127.9	104.2	169.0	90.2	155.2	193.3
	Notification Week 31	172.1	236.3	143.9	163.4	321.6	239.4	302.6	203.8	149.2	105.8	181.8	156.0	179.6	181.0	269.2	314.9	189.2	351.9	173.2	291.3	177.0	129.1	125.7	149.8	173.0	192.4	210.4
	Notification Week 32	205.5	467.3	137.2	148.1	580.4	250.6	295.7	207.2	188.8	145.1	194.8	190.4	190.4	156.6	245.2	314.9	213.3	651.6	206.5	441.6	291.4	168.0	170.4	285.0	187.7	173.4	240.7
	Notification Week 33	228.3	739.1	155.7	189.0	599.3	254.4	256.1	295.2	196.9	134.0	226.7	234.1	296.6	205.5	377.9	272.0	238.4	830.8	210.4	371.8	199.9	296.5	220.4	251.2	167.0	180.4	266.6
	Notification Week 34	175.6	502.8	131.3	163.8	559.1	214.7	239.5	304.0	181.1	199.5	124.0	330.8	254.0	327.8	237.4	287.3	231.2	777.1	241.1	348.6	271.6	246.9	158.4	214.0	146.3	163.6	236.0
	Notification Week 35	230.1	334.8	196.1	184.6	498.8	207.8	194.1	228.2	151.5	166.3	211.3	402.6	228.8	259.3	262.3	245.2	195.9	498.5	225.8	309.9	172.4	185.5	99.0	167.8	156.3	161.5	215.8
	Notification Week 36	216.0	292.7	149.8	129.9	410.2	223.5	171.7	145.6	171.2	168.3	263.3	221.6	181.1	305.8	251.4	212.2	185.6	478.9	219.3	233.9	149.5	137.3	127.4	152.1	108.9	102.5	196.5
	Notification Week 37	242.4	216.6	140.6	142.6	389.5	210.9	119.7	180.1	196.9	163.3	229.1	137.3	193.9	215.3	345.3	185.4	222.0	423.5	160.3	159.6	135.8	162.3	148.1	201.6	145.6	74.4	193.5
	Notification Week 38	254.7	248.1	109.4	146.4	321.6	234.2	144.5	146.2	247.6	140.1	186.5	221.6	203.7	249.6	253.7	252.9	201.0	290.0	136.0	141.0	151.1	145.4	169.6	187.0	82.8	95.5	195.6
	Notification Week 39	274.0	259.9	186.0	142.4	282.7	200.9	156.6	258.6	163.6	108.8	165.3	218.4	225.8	393.9	173.0	113.4	208.2	247.6	144.9	196.8	174.0	156.1	324.5	144.2	124.9	113.0	188.1
	Notification Week 40	332.0	204.8	161.6	183.5	285.8	194.9	220.5	270.1	167.6	172.3	219.6	171.6	243.2	315.6	211.8	160.9	168.7	259.0	148.8	162.7	152.6	146.0	366.7	192.6	142.3	159.4	200.2
	Notification Week 41	472.5	270.4	289.5	219.8	302.8	236.8	194.1	434.0	213.9	191.5	299.9	305.8	283.2	506.4	301.8	187.7	281.0	262.3	148.8	251.0	222.8	207.5	464.0	286.1	163.0	174.1	251.7

**Figure 7:** Heat map of weekly incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population, by county, notified in Ireland for the 4<sup>th</sup> wave between week 26, 2021 and week 41, 2021

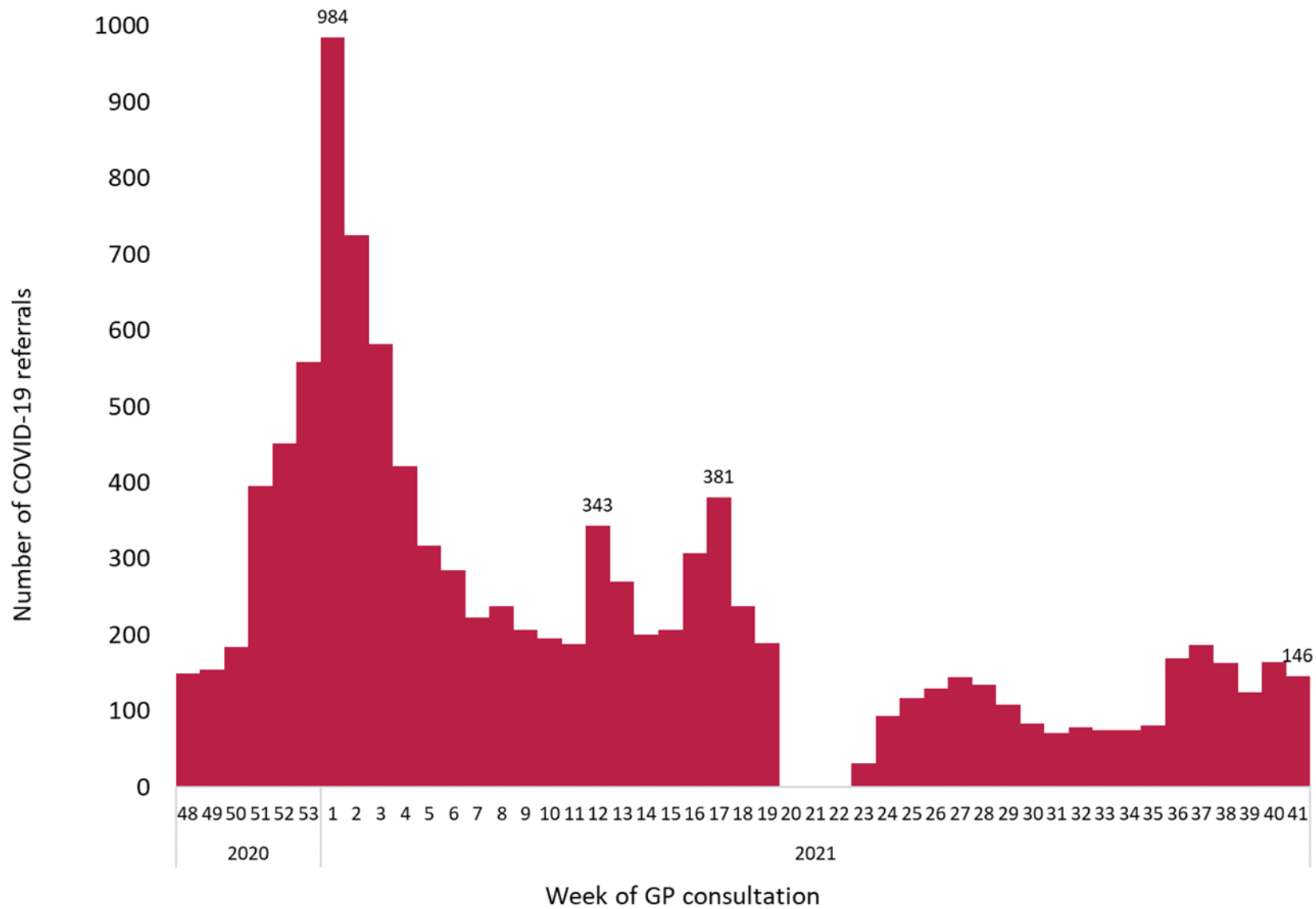


**Figure 8a:** Number of SARS-CoV-2 tests and positive tests\* in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 41, 2021

**Figure 8b:** Number of SARS-CoV-2 negative and positive tests\* completed in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 41, 2021

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

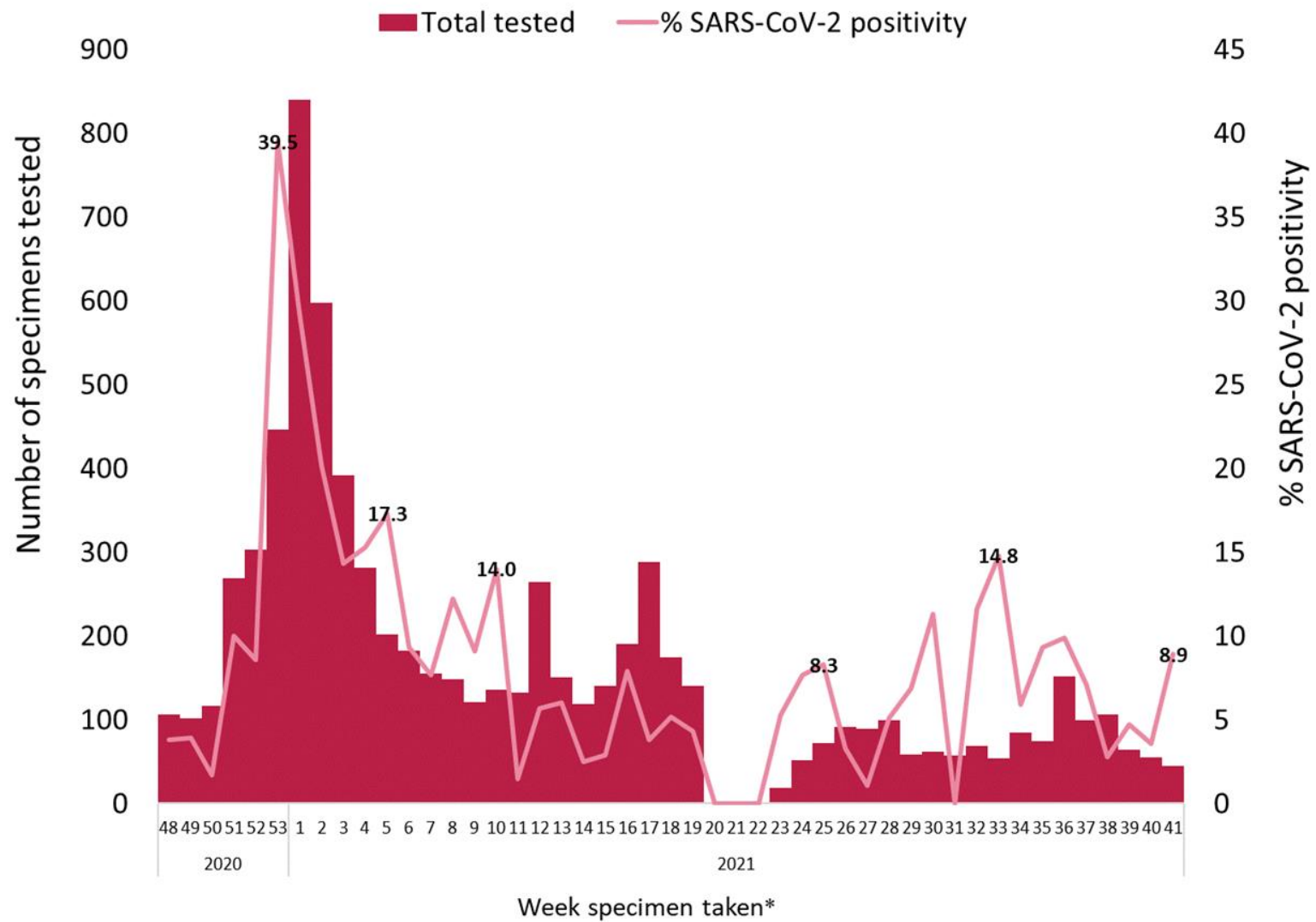
# Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 testing



\*Please note, from week 19-23 2021, the GP sentinel referral data were incomplete due to the cyber-attack



# Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 testing



**Figure 10:** % SARS-CoV-2 positivity data from sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals tested by NVRL/ENFER, 2020-2021

\*Please note, from week 19-23 2021, the GP sentinel virology data were incomplete due to the HSE cyber-attack



# Deaths among COVID-19 cases

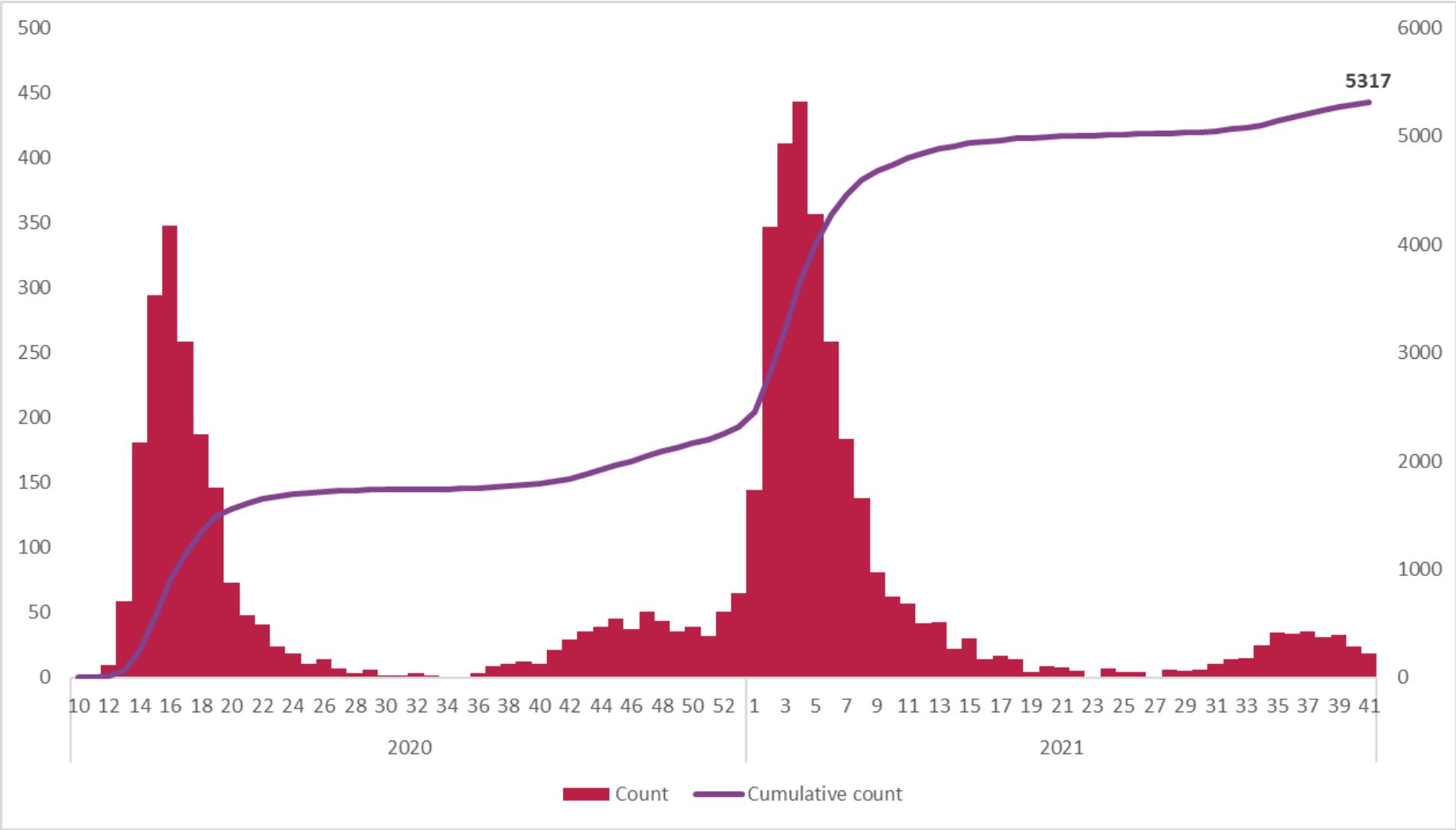
	Number	Percent
Total number of deaths	5,342	
confirmed	5,071	94.9
probable	97	1.8
possible	174	3.3
Number hospitalised who died	2,928	54.8
admitted to ICU who died	577	10.8
not admitted to ICU who died	4,765	89.2
Number of imported cases who died	12	0.2
Number of HCWs who died	18	0.3
Number with underlying conditions who died	4,619	86.5
Males who died	2,824	52.9
M:F ratio	1.12	
Median age (years)	82	
Mean age (years)	80	
Age range (years)	17-105	

**Table 3:** Summary of deaths in all COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 41, 2021

Age group (years)	Female	Male	Total	Percent
<45 yrs	26	30	56	<b>1</b>
45-54 yrs	37	72	109	<b>2</b>
55-64 yrs	109	189	298	<b>6</b>
65-74 yrs	310	542	852	<b>16</b>
75-84 yrs	764	1032	1796	<b>34</b>
85+ yrs	1269	959	2228	<b>42</b>
Unknown	3	0	3	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2518</b>	<b>2824</b>	<b>5342</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Percent</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>52.9</b>		

**Table 4:** Number of deaths in all COVID-19 cases by sex and age group notified in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 41, 2021

# Deaths among COVID-19 cases



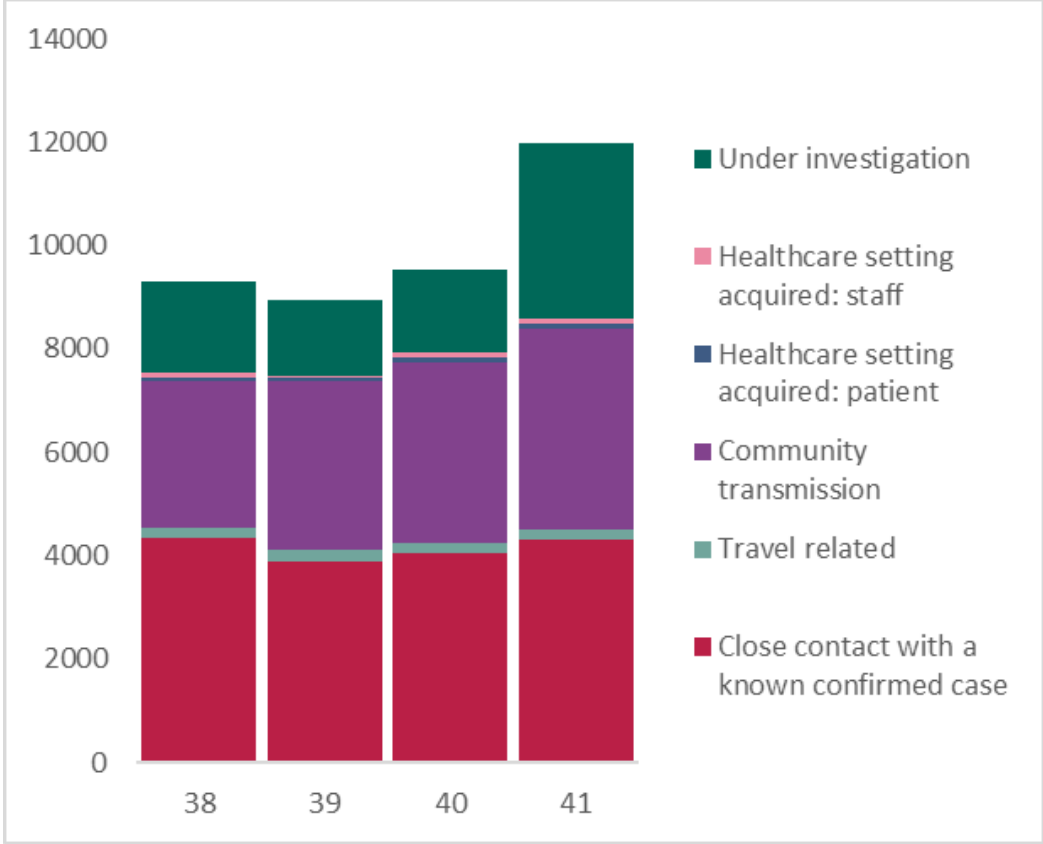
**Figure 11:** Total number of COVID-19 deaths notified in and cumulative number by week of death, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 16/10/2021. Date of death reported for 5,317 of deaths.

# Most likely transmission source of COVID-19 cases

**Table 5:** Most likely transmission source for cases notified in week 41, 2021. Data based on CCT/PPA data.

Most likely transmission source for 41, 2021	Number of cases	Percent
Close contact with a known confirmed case	4312	36.0
Travel related	194	1.6
Community transmission	3872	32.3
Healthcare setting acquired: patient	113	0.9
Healthcare setting acquired: staff	85	0.7
Under investigation*	3410	28.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>11986</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Includes cases without a matching record for CCT/PPA



**Figure 12:** Most likely transmission source by week, from week 38 - week 41, 2021. Data based on CCT/PPA data

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

- [14 Day report](#) epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland
- [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

**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.
- 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  $\geq 85$  years.