



Weekly Report on the Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland

Week 52, 2021

Health Protection Surveillance Centre, HPSC
COVID-19 Epidemiology Team, 06/01/2022

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 52 2021 (26th December 2021 to 01st January 2022) – most recent epidemiological week
- Data for this report is based on cases notified on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting system (CIDR)
- Data was extracted from CIDR system on 06/01/2022
- 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 22/12/2021 the daily COVID-19 case number reported publicly is an estimate based on positive SARS-CoV-2 results uploaded to the HSE COVID Care Tracker 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, the daily case number reported continues to be an estimate. These data are provisional and do not represent notified cases. They serve to provide an up-to-date picture of trends during this surge period. The notification of cases on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting system (CIDR) has continued.
- [Figure 1](#) displays the daily COVID-19 case number reported since 1st December, 2021, including the estimated daily case number.
- All other case-based data in this report are based on confirmed cases notified on CIDR.
- The weekly number of notifications on CIDR since week 51 (19th to 25th December 2021) and the cumulative number of cases reported here, will differ from those obtained by adding the reported daily COVID-19 case number due to the reporting of an estimate daily case number since 22/12/2022.
- As was anticipated, due to reduced capacity over the Christmas period, the number of COVID-19 notifications on CIDR for weeks 51 and 52, 2021 are artificially reduced. A technical issue experienced over the Christmas weekend further impacted notifications for these weeks. Cases diagnosed during this period will be reflected in notifications during subsequent weeks.
- Due to the backlog of cases awaiting processing which emerged as a result of the technical issue, along with the ongoing surge in positive cases, the overall reporting time (time from when a case is diagnosed to when they are notified) has increased.
- To account for this increased reporting time, additional trend data on total cases ([Figure 14](#)) and cases by age group ([Figure 15](#)) are presented by [epidemiological date](#). Epidemiological 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. However, data for the most recent week may still not be complete and are provisional.

Daily reported cases of COVID-19 in Ireland

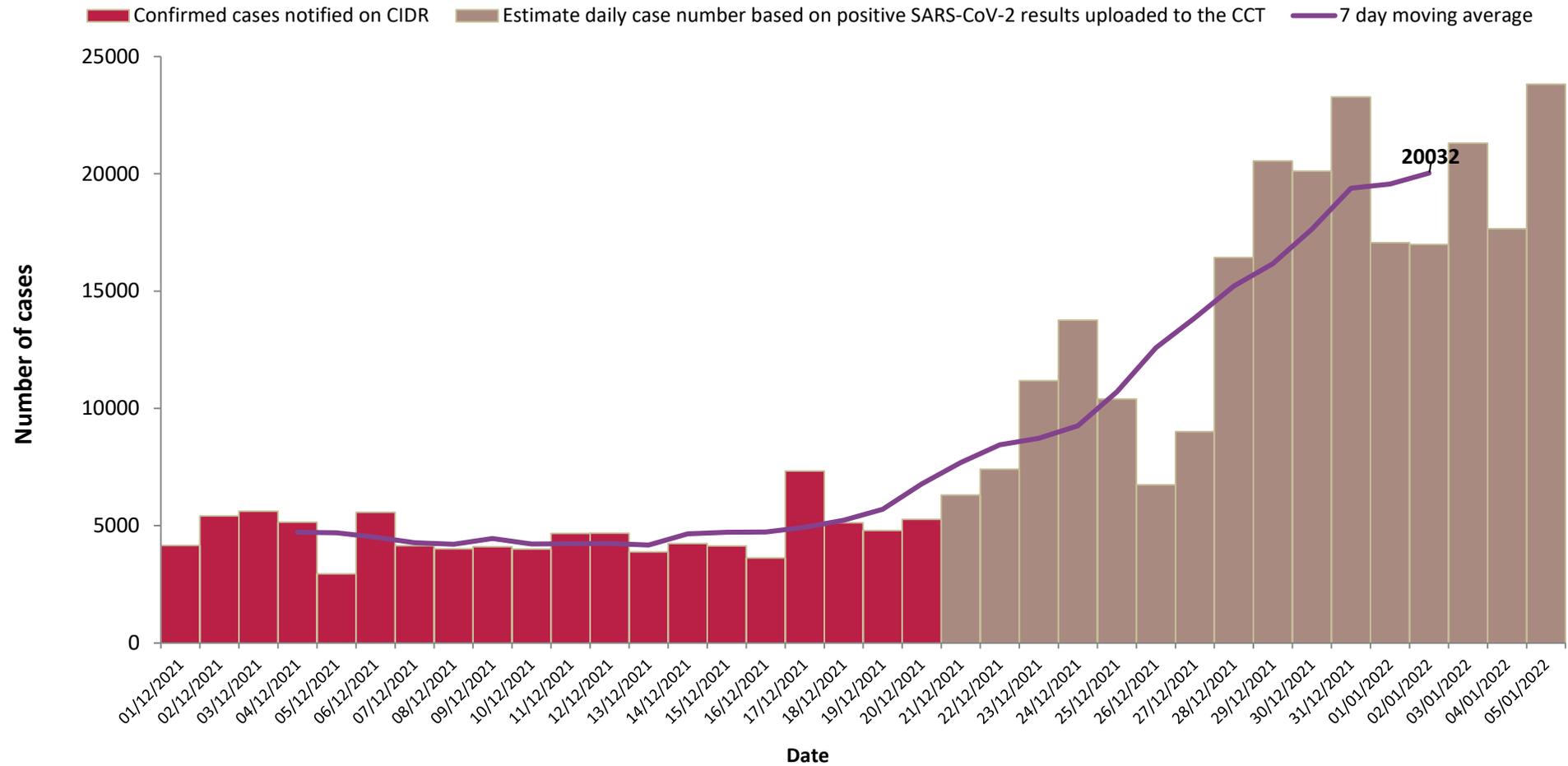


Figure 1: Number of reported cases* of COVID-19 in Ireland by day, 1st December 2021 to 5th January 2022

* 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.

The following figures and tables are based on cases notified on CIDR and presented by week of notification.

Due to a backlog of cases awaiting processing which emerged as a result of a technical issue over the Christmas weekend, notifications in weeks 51 and 52 were artificially reduced. Cases diagnosed during this period will be reflected in notifications during subsequent weeks.

In addition, due to the ongoing surge in positive cases, the overall reporting time (time from diagnosis to notification) has increased since week 51.

Summary characteristics of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland

	Total (week 10, 2020-week 52, 2021)		Week 52, 2021 ^{\$}	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases	761,850		65,044	
Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population	15999.0		1365.9	
Number of cases hospitalised	22,218	2.9	381*	0.6
Number of cases admitted to ICU	2,335	0.3	7* [#]	0.01
Number of deaths among confirmed cases	5,686	0.7	<5* [#]	
Case fatality ratio (CFR %)	0.7		0.00	
Incidence rate of confirmed deaths per 100,000 population	119.4		0.04	
Males	372,506	48.9	30,980	47.6
Females	389,068	51.1	33,974	52.2
M:F ratio	0.96		0.91	
Median (years)	32		30	
Mean age (years)	34		32	
Age range (years)	0-108		0-98	

^{\$}Notifications in week 52 are artificially reduced.

*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.

[#]Notifications of deaths and ICU admissions to HPSC may be impacted by the extended Christmas and New Year weekends.

Epidemic curve of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland

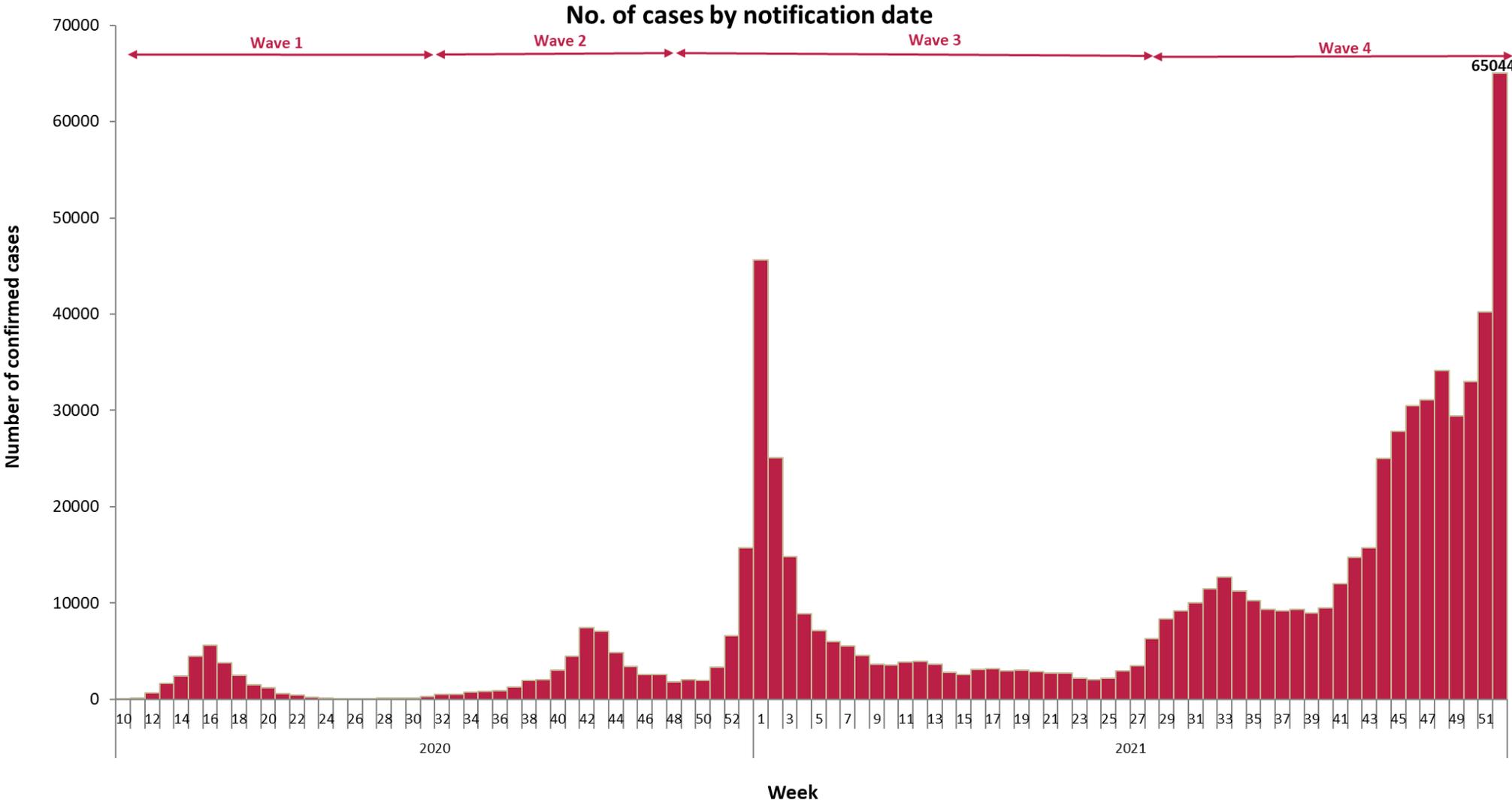


Figure 2: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by week of notification in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 52*, 2021

*Notifications in week 51 and 52 are artificially reduced.

Summary characteristics of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 52, 2021

Table 1: Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 52*, 2021

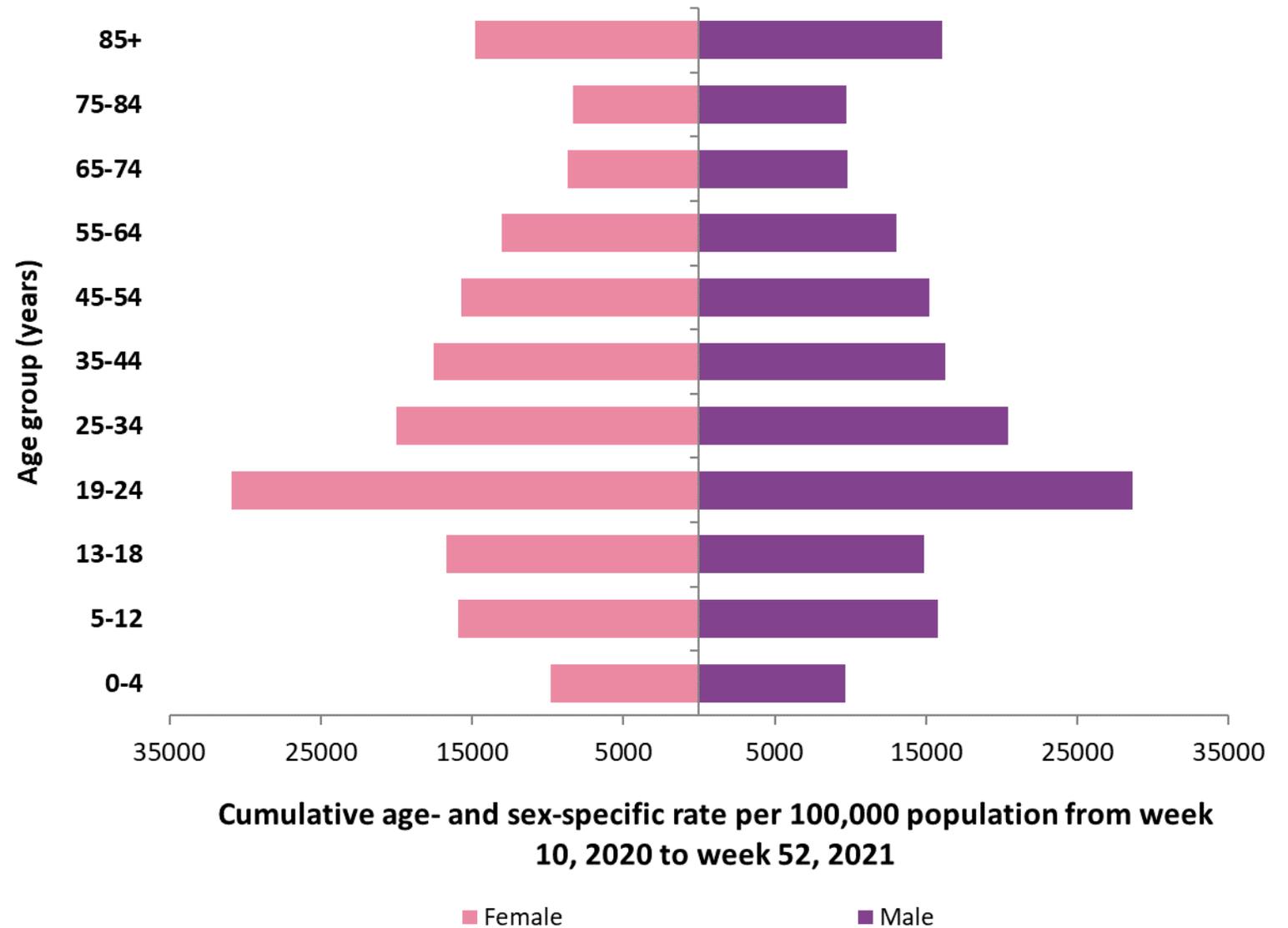
Characteristic		Week 52	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases		65,044	100
Sex	Male:Female ratio	0.91	
	Male	30,980	47.6
	Female	33,974	52.2
	Unknown	90	0.2
Age	Mean age (years)	32	
	Median age (years)	30	
	Age range (years)	0-98	
	0-4 yrs	1973	3.0
	5-12 yrs	5,449	8.4
	13-18 yrs	5,757	8.9
	19-24 yrs	11,080	17.0
	25-34 yrs	14,679	22.6
	35-44 yrs	11,560	17.8
	45-54 yrs	8,003	12.3
	55-64 yrs	4,329	6.7
	65-74 yrs	1,463	2.2
	75-84 yrs	581	0.9
	85+ yrs	170	0.3
Unknown	0	0.0	

*Notifications in week 52 are artificially reduced.

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 52, 2021

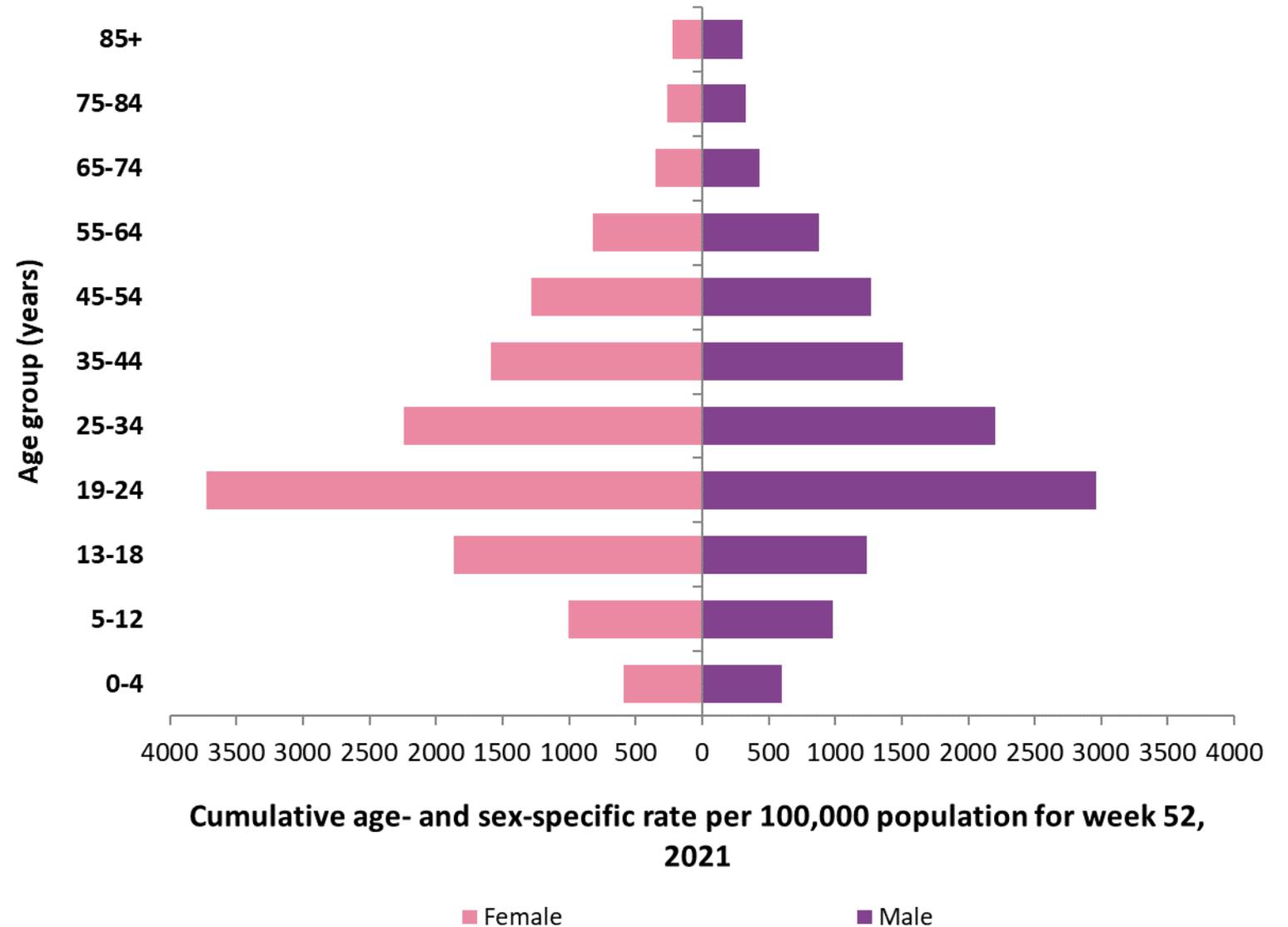
(excluding 88 cases for whom age is unknown, 275 cases for whom sex is unknown and one case for whom both are unknown)



Age and sex pyramid for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 52, 2021

Figure 3b: Cumulative age and sex-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population notified in Ireland during week 52*, 2021

(excluding 90 cases for whom sex is unknown)



*Notifications in week 52 are artificially reduced.

Proportion of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland across age groups during the 4th wave

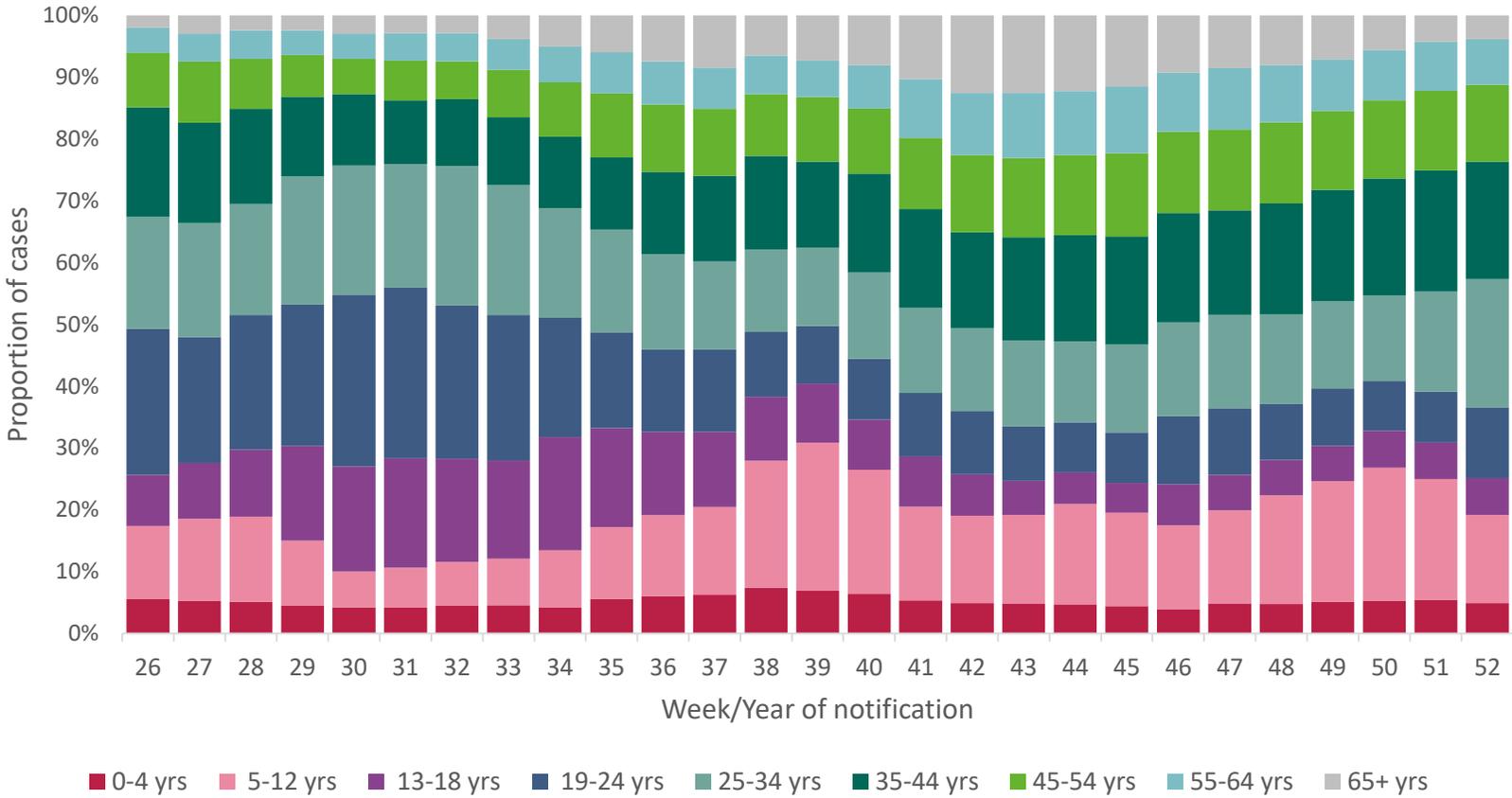


Figure 4: Proportion of confirmed COVID-19 cases by age group in Ireland **by week of notification** for the 4th wave from week 26, 2021 to week 52*, 2021

*Notifications in weeks 51 and 52 are artificially reduced.

Incidence rates by age group for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4th wave

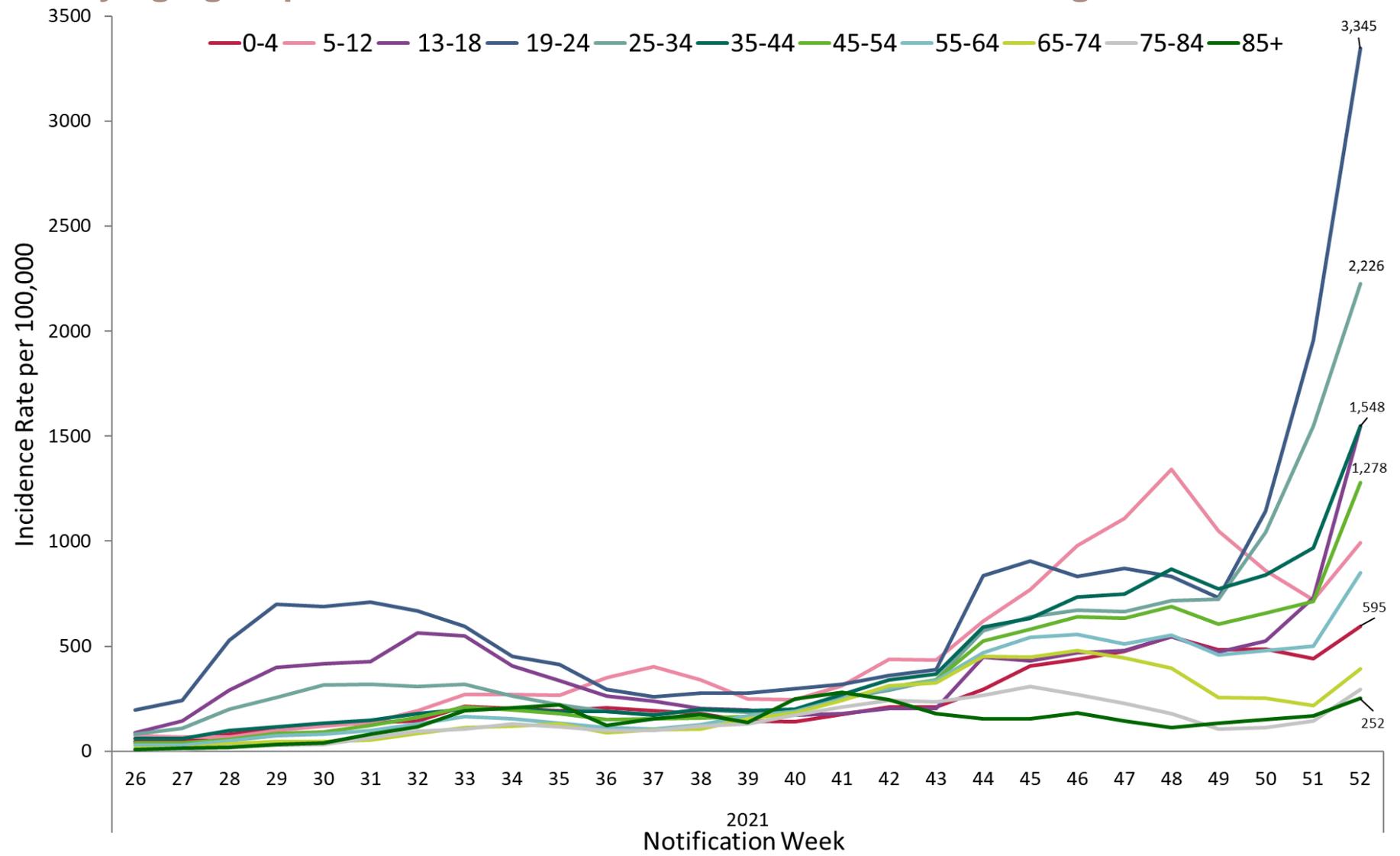


Figure 5: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland **by week of notification** for the 4th wave from week 26, 2021 to week 52*, 2021

*Notifications in weeks 51 and 52 are artificially reduced.

Incidence by age groups for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4th wave

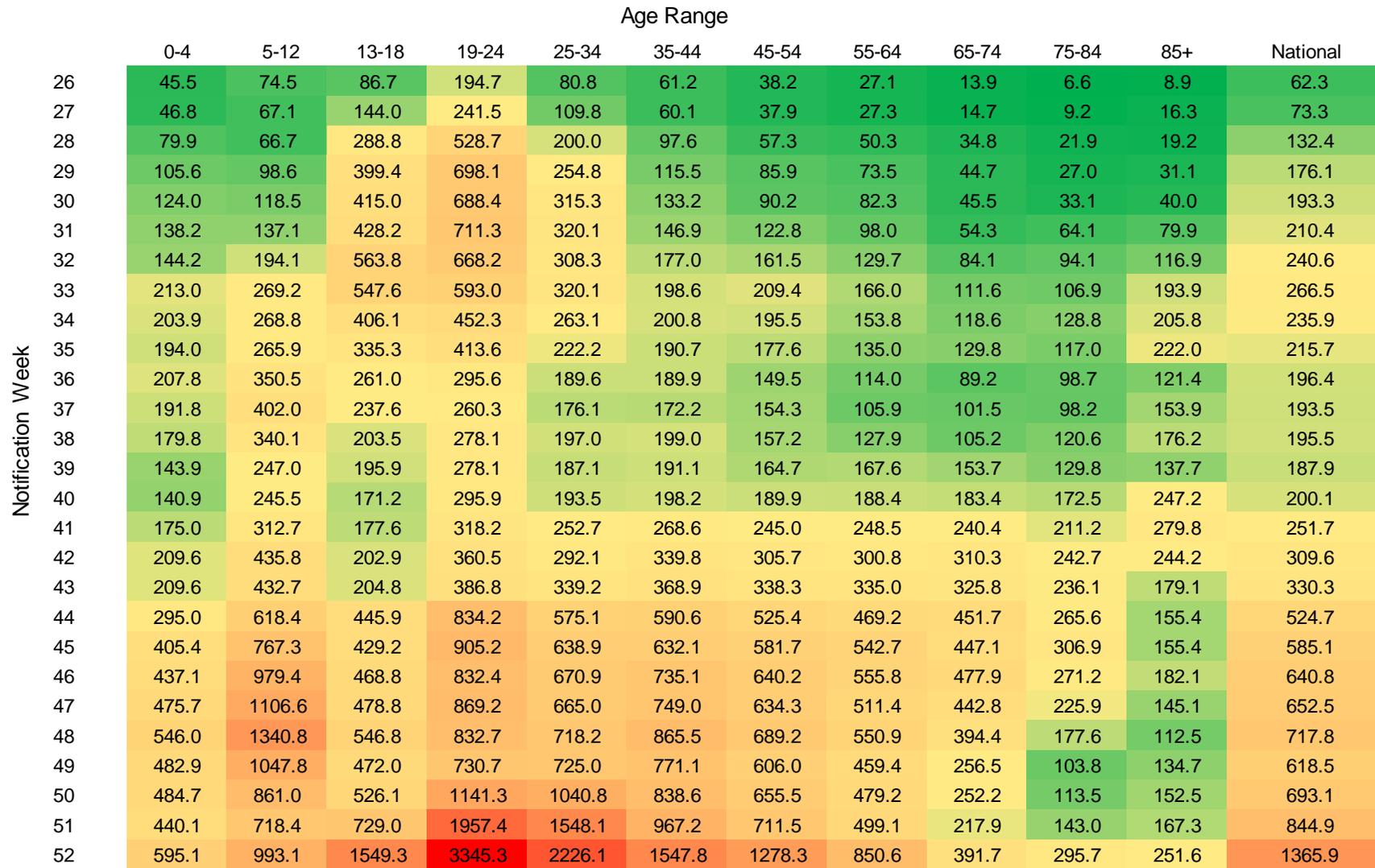


Figure 6: Heat map of weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland by week of notification for the 4th wave between week 26, 2021 and week 52*, 2021

*Notifications in weeks 51 and 52 are artificially reduced.

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

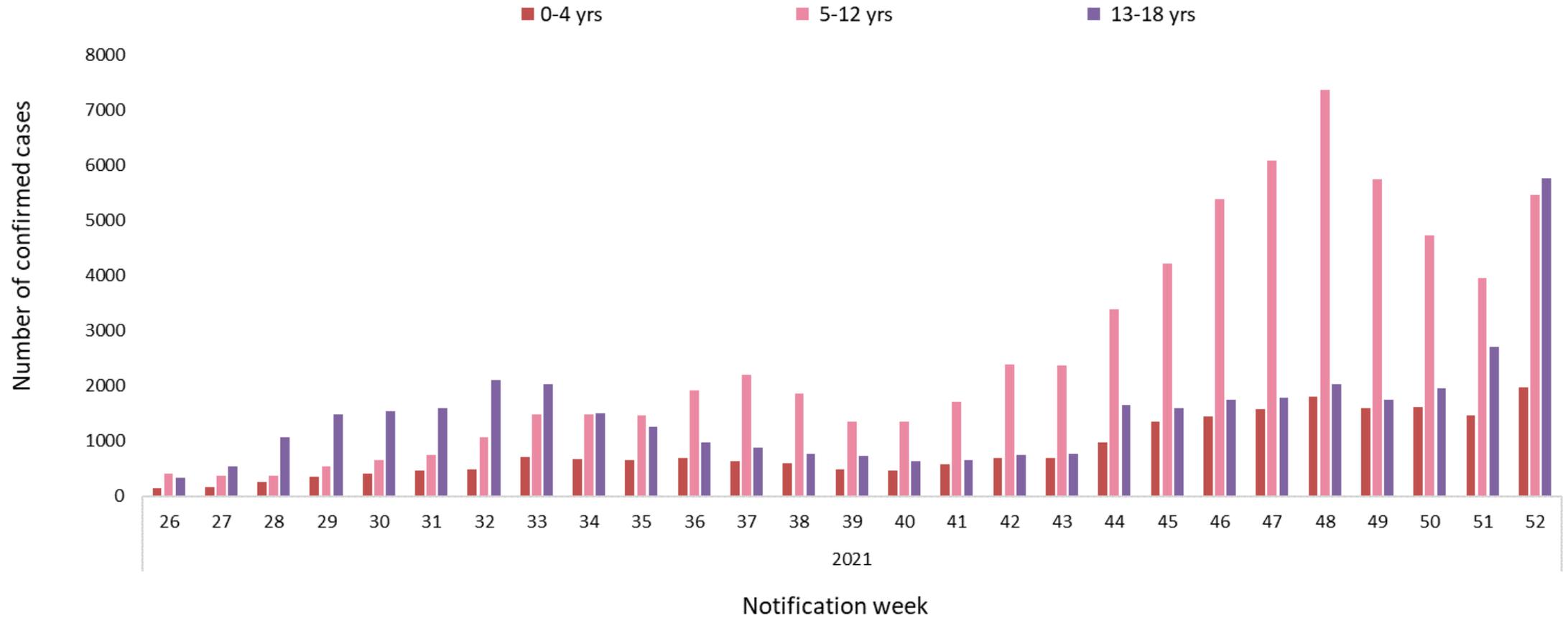


Figure 7: Weekly number of age-specific confirmed COVID-19 cases **by week of notification** in Ireland for the 4th wave between week 26, 2021 and week 52*, 2021

**Notifications in weeks 51 and 52 are artificially reduced.*

COVID-19 weekly incidence rate among children aged 0-18 years in Ireland during the 4th wave

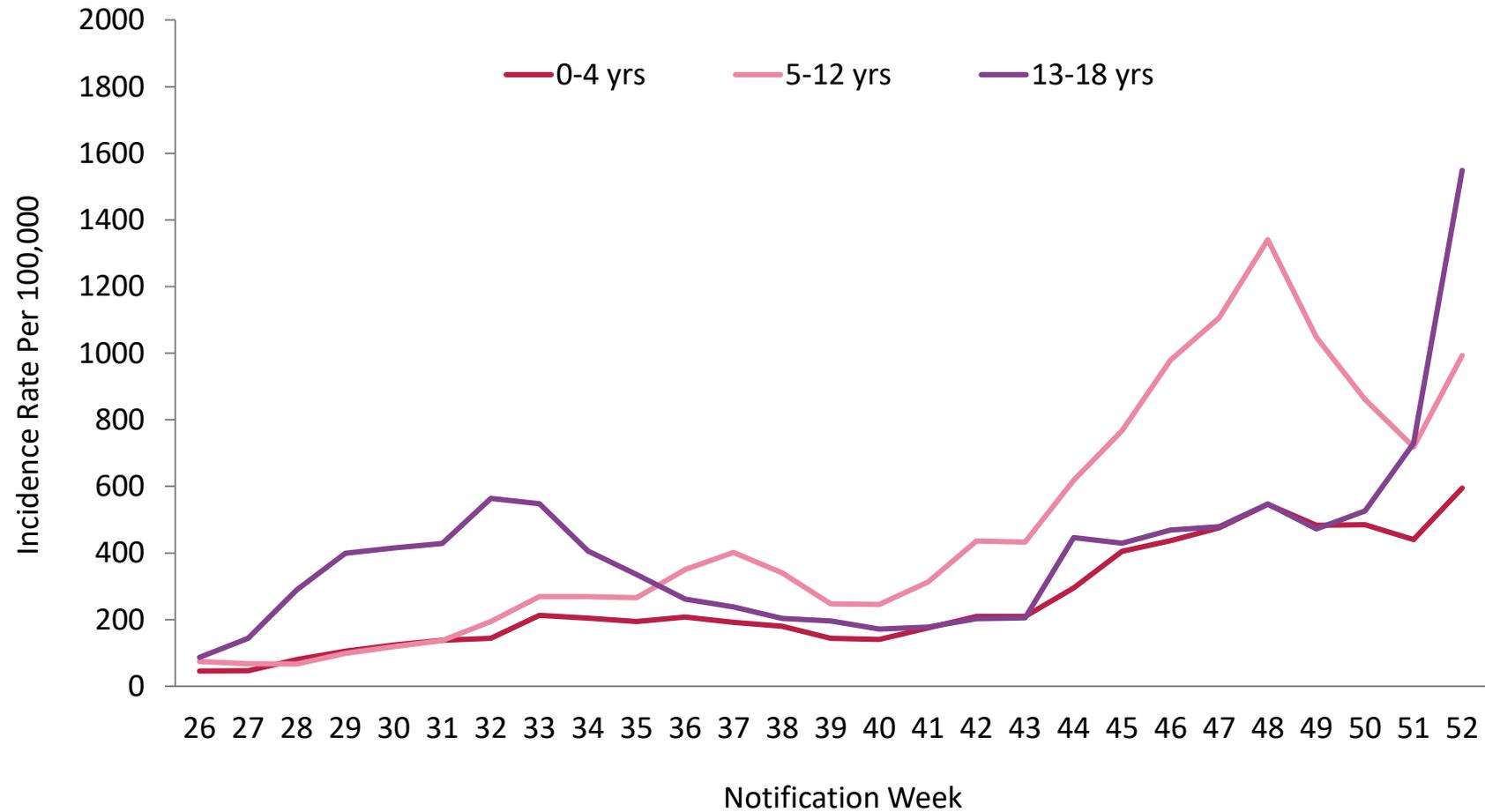


Figure 8: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population among children aged 0-18 years in Ireland **by week of notification** for the 4th wave from week 26, 2021 to week 52*, 2021

**Notifications in weeks 51 and 52 are artificially reduced.*

Characteristics for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland by county during week 52, 2021

Table 2: Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases by county notified in Ireland, during week 52*, 2021

County	Cases		M:F ratio	Median age	Incidence Rate per 100,000
	N	%		(years)	
Westmeath	2713	4.2	0.9	29	3056.2
Clare	2346	3.6	0.9	29	1974.5
Kilkenny	1841	2.8	0.9	29	1855.2
Longford	744	1.1	0.8	30	1820.3
Carlow	1024	1.6	0.9	31	1798.6
Laois	1464	2.3	0.9	29	1728.5
Offaly	1317	2.0	1.0	29	1689.3
Donegal	2537	3.9	0.9	29	1593.7
Louth	1994	3.1	0.9	30	1547.1
Galway	3933	6.0	0.9	29	1524.1
Dublin	19025	29.2	0.9	31	1412.0
Roscommon	890	1.4	1.0	29	1378.9
Leitrim	415	0.6	0.8	30	1295.1
Limerick	2438	3.7	0.9	31	1250.9
Sligo	817	1.3	1.0	29	1246.7
Meath	2404	3.7	1.0	31	1232.5
Tipperary	1958	3.0	0.9	27	1227.2
Monaghan	741	1.1	1.0	28	1207.1
Mayo	1530	2.4	0.9	28	1172.4
Kildare	2522	3.9	1.0	30	1133.5
Wicklow	1606	2.5	0.9	29.5	1127.6
Cork	6029	9.3	1.0	29	1110.6
Cavan	806	1.2	0.8	28	1058.1
Waterford	1211	1.9	0.9	29	1042.4
Wexford	1432	2.2	0.9	28	956.4
Kerry	1307	2.0	0.7	28	884.9

*Notifications in week 52 are artificially reduced.

Incidence rates by county for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4th 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	33.2	51.2	23.2	57.9	18.7	81.1	34.3	66.0	37.5	60.0	31.0	42.3	91.4	76.3	21.9	104.2	72.1	28.7	35.1	62.3
	27	49.2	51.2	38.7	29.3	212.3	96.1	50.8	63.0	79.1	40.3	42.5	34.3	121.1	29.4	94.7	76.6	72.3	58.6	55.2	85.2	125.1	23.2	36.2	66.5	48.8	43.5	73.3
	28	131.7	114.2	70.7	75.5	392.0	166.0	129.8	94.1	135.7	48.4	129.9	93.6	125.2	46.5	296.4	117.2	129.2	107.5	115.4	128.6	91.6	48.3	57.7	90.1	56.1	118.7	132.4
	29	202.0	152.3	70.7	118.4	533.3	191.5	259.2	124.6	165.4	69.5	278.6	246.5	140.6	127.2	249.8	196.2	160.0	236.2	114.2	170.4	145.0	99.7	80.9	118.3	90.2	171.3	176.1
	30	130.0	179.8	105.2	120.5	378.2	220.4	283.7	199.7	137.1	98.8	178.3	234.1	190.9	124.8	377.9	301.9	179.4	252.5	94.9	230.9	212.1	127.9	105.0	143.1	92.8	156.6	193.3
	31	172.1	233.7	143.9	163.0	321.0	238.6	303.4	205.1	152.4	105.8	181.8	159.2	179.1	181.0	269.2	314.9	189.7	351.9	170.6	292.8	175.5	129.1	125.7	149.8	173.0	193.8	210.4
	32	205.5	466.0	137.2	149.2	578.5	247.6	295.7	203.1	202.7	145.1	194.8	190.4	189.8	156.6	244.4	315.7	214.8	650.0	201.4	444.7	285.3	168.0	171.3	287.3	187.0	181.1	240.6
	33	226.6	740.4	155.7	191.0	598.6	253.2	256.5	286.4	204.5	135.0	230.2	215.3	296.1	208.0	373.2	272.8	240.5	829.2	202.7	378.0	196.8	297.1	218.6	252.3	167.6	183.3	266.5
	34	175.6	504.1	131.3	163.2	557.2	214.9	239.9	305.3	181.1	199.5	126.3	330.8	253.0	327.8	236.6	287.3	231.7	775.4	238.6	350.1	273.1	246.9	158.4	210.7	146.3	163.6	235.9
	35	230.1	338.7	194.4	185.3	498.1	207.5	193.8	225.4	151.9	166.3	211.3	405.7	228.8	259.3	261.5	245.2	196.9	495.2	225.8	311.4	172.4	184.9	99.0	167.8	156.3	162.2	215.7
	36	216.0	287.5	149.8	130.6	410.2	223.3	171.7	142.2	171.2	168.3	263.3	230.9	180.1	305.8	240.5	212.2	193.8	478.9	219.3	233.9	148.0	137.3	127.4	152.1	108.9	102.5	196.4
	37	242.4	215.3	140.6	144.2	389.5	211.0	119.7	173.3	196.4	163.3	229.1	143.6	193.9	215.3	322.8	185.4	234.3	430.1	160.3	159.6	135.8	162.3	148.9	201.6	145.6	74.4	193.5
	38	254.7	244.2	109.4	146.4	321.6	234.2	144.5	146.2	247.6	140.1	186.5	227.8	203.7	249.6	239.0	252.9	209.2	296.5	136.0	141.0	151.1	144.8	169.6	187.0	82.8	95.5	195.5
	39	274.0	261.2	186.0	142.2	282.0	200.8	156.9	257.3	163.6	108.8	165.3	218.4	223.7	393.9	161.4	113.4	212.3	255.8	144.9	198.3	172.4	155.4	327.1	143.1	124.2	113.0	187.9
	40	328.5	204.8	162.4	182.5	285.8	195.0	220.5	266.7	168.1	182.4	222.0	174.8	244.2	313.2	208.7	160.9	182.0	259.0	151.4	164.2	152.6	146.7	357.2	164.5	142.3	159.4	200.1
	41	354.8	273.1	291.2	221.2	302.8	236.5	194.5	427.2	228.8	198.5	321.1	312.1	285.3	499.1	291.7	187.7	289.7	268.8	144.9	257.2	221.3	209.3	461.4	270.4	162.3	182.6	251.7
	42	511.1	301.9	367.8	291.6	328.5	280.2	277.8	561.2	255.3	273.1	418.0	333.9	364.3	606.8	343.7	180.8	316.3	259.0	274.5	303.7	221.3	258.8	643.9	341.3	193.7	236.6	309.6
	43	372.4	298.0	374.5	372.5	329.2	294.1	288.3	490.8	294.8	312.4	388.4	499.3	361.7	508.9	399.6	241.4	309.2	236.2	239.9	255.6	242.6	299.0	642.1	306.4	307.9	320.2	330.3
	44	671.0	472.6	448.6	562.8	593.6	518.1	496.8	531.5	417.5	422.2	649.4	817.6	515.7	530.9	662.6	497.3	591.1	407.3	379.7	361.0	456.2	487.0	684.3	559.9	513.6	498.5	524.7
	45	764.1	611.7	542.9	579.5	569.8	594.1	574.3	563.3	541.1	622.8	690.7	808.3	505.4	623.9	884.5	515.7	662.9	373.0	602.9	435.4	622.6	539.0	589.6	808.8	402.1	478.1	585.1
	46	894.0	718.1	606.0	630.9	592.4	684.7	536.3	590.4	604.9	795.1	473.5	586.7	527.5	704.6	748.7	639.0	703.9	540.8	581.1	571.7	547.8	667.5	713.6	867.4	533.7	492.2	640.8
	47	901.1	531.7	572.3	654.9	523.3	756.9	550.7	463.1	671.9	723.6	609.2	527.4	499.7	753.6	753.4	498.1	611.7	462.6	469.5	484.9	505.1	745.8	738.5	911.3	620.5	495.7	652.5
	48	1024.0	539.5	596.7	743.6	550.3	755.0	615.8	595.1	879.5	742.7	830.0	586.7	513.1	672.8	834.9	541.7	758.3	594.6	637.5	653.8	660.7	843.0	711.9	941.8	676.6	746.4	717.8
	49	714.9	452.9	565.6	636.3	486.8	745.1	488.3	499.0	778.0	654.0	746.2	480.6	407.9	467.3	602.1	358.6	598.8	496.9	555.4	350.1	401.3	637.4	649.9	761.5	523.0	519.6	618.5
	50	683.3	442.4	478.9	725.2	457.3	911.6	560.7	586.3	729.0	673.2	621.0	605.4	554.1	584.7	745.6	380.1	692.7	480.6	538.7	429.2	383.0	611.1	748.0	654.5	527.6	598.9	693.1
	51	706.1	623.6	678.4	661.7	789.6	1092.2	857.9	650.6	1004.9	1153.9	562.0	686.6	718.3	841.6	1141.3	566.3	806.5	995.3	534.9	734.4	550.9	733.9	480.3	1301.1	408.8	594.7	844.9
	52	1798.6	1058.1	1974.5	1110.6	1593.7	1412.0	1524.1	884.9	1133.5	1855.2	1728.5	1295.1	1250.9	1820.3	1547.1	1172.4	1232.5	1207.1	1689.3	1378.9	1246.7	1227.2	1042.4	3056.2	956.4	1127.6	1365.9

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 for the 4th wave between week 26, 2021 and week 52*, 2021

*Notifications in weeks 51 and 52 are artificially reduced.

Data is not available due to the current surge in cases.

Hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths during waves 1 - 4

Table 4: Summary of hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths by age group and wave.

(This does not include 6 hospitalised cases for whom the age is unknown and 1 case who died for whom the age is also unknown)

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	873	2.2	79	0.2	29	0.1
	3	179381	4611	2.6	570	0.3	273	0.2
	4	460448	4482	1.0	471	0.1	175**	0.04
	Total	699395	11489	1.6	1397	0.2	586	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	5067	24.2	401	1.9	2599	12.4
	4	30685	2891	9.4	272	0.9	719**	2.3
	Total	62366	10723	17.2	938	1.5	5099	8.2

* 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. Notifications of ICU admissions and deaths to HPSC may be impacted by the extended Christmas and New Year weekends in particular.

Hospitalisations among COVID-19 cases during waves 3 and 4

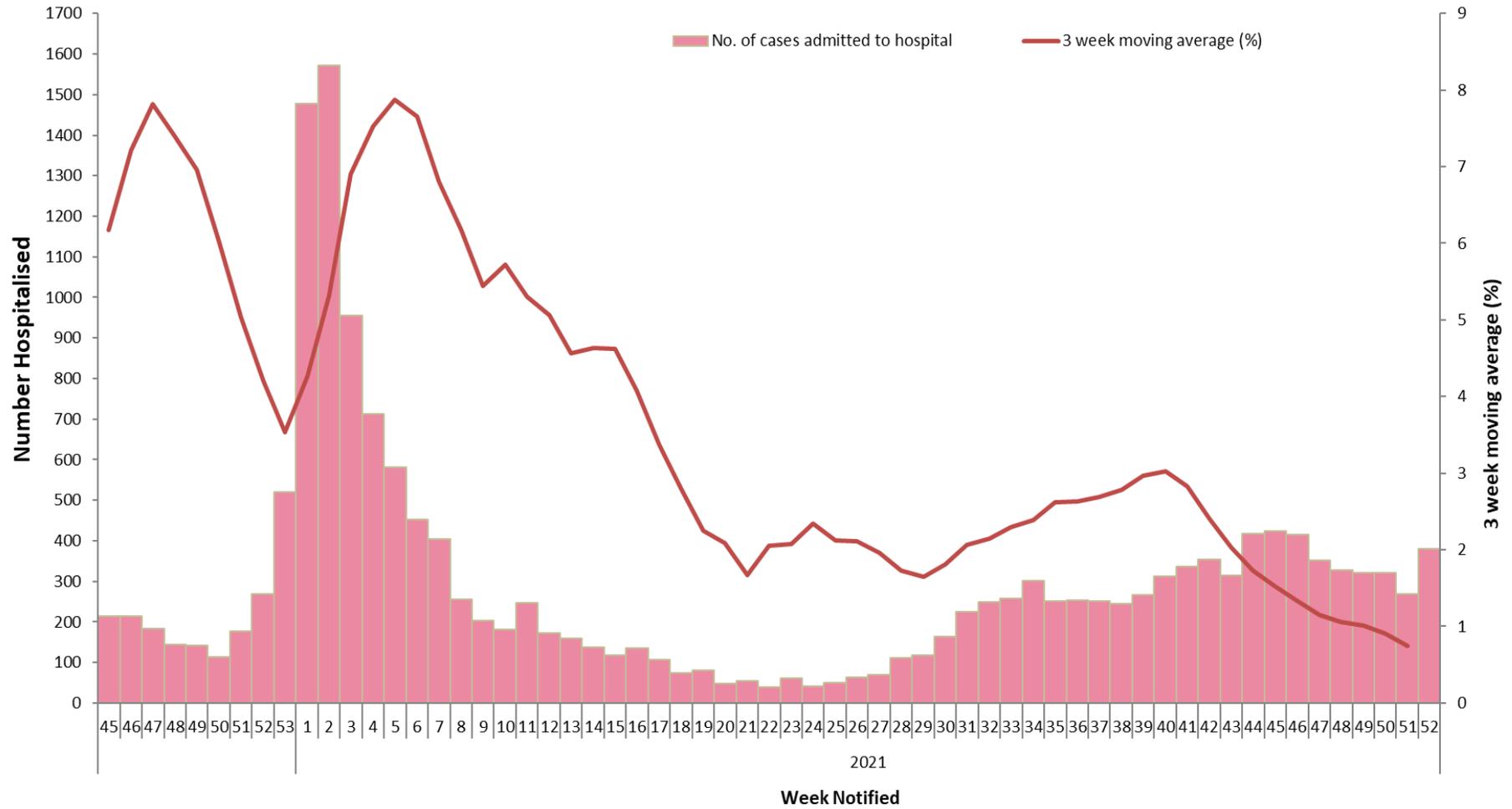


Figure 10: Number* of hospitalised COVID-19 cases* and 3 week moving average (%) of overall cases hospitalised in Ireland between week 45, 2020 and week 52**, 2021 based on week of notification

*Hospitalisations 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 weeks 51 and 52 are artificially reduced.

ICU admissions among COVID-19 cases during waves 3 and 4

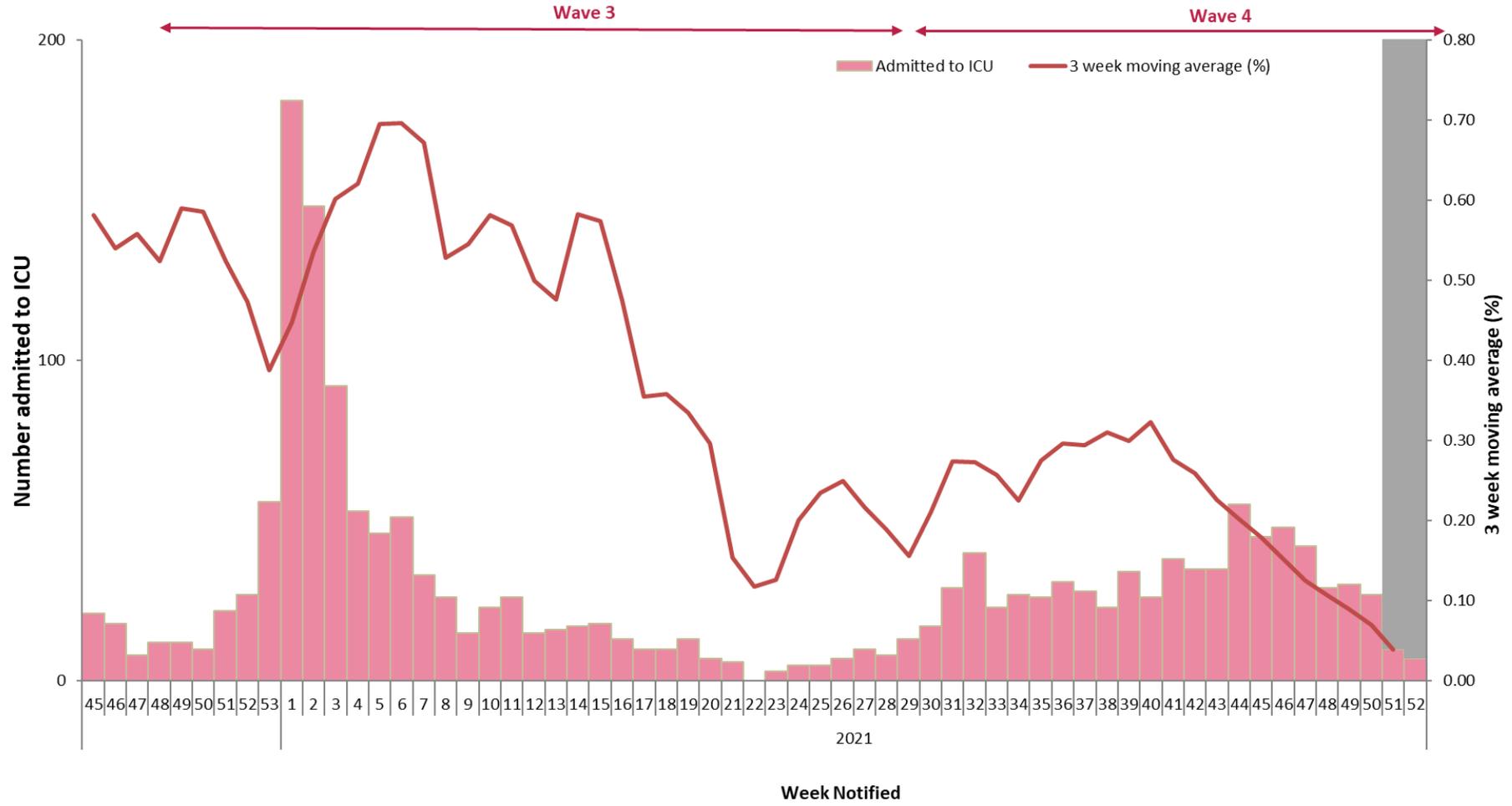


Figure 11: Number of ICU admissions* in COVID-19 cases and 3 week moving average (%) of ICU admissions of overall case numbers in Ireland between week 45, 2020 and week 52, 2021 based on week of notification

*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. Notification of ICU admissions may be more delayed due to the extended Christmas and New Year weekends. The greyed area indicates that data for these weeks in particular is likely not complete and an underestimate.

**Notifications in weeks 51 and 52 are artificially reduced.

Deaths among COVID-19 cases

	Number	Percent
Total number of deaths	5,959	
confirmed	5,686	95.4
probable	97	1.6
possible	176	3.0
Number hospitalised who died	3,382	56.8
admitted to ICU who died	751	12.6
not admitted to ICU who died	5,208	87.4
Number of imported cases who died	18	0.3
Number of HCWs who died	20	0.3
Males who died	3,190	53.5
M:F ratio	115	
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 52, 2021

Age group (years)	Female	Male	Total	Percent
<45 yrs	33	40	73	1
45-54 yrs	50	97	147	2
55-64 yrs	135	244	379	6
65-74 yrs	360	633	993	17
75-84 yrs	845	1137	1982	33
85+ yrs	1343	1039	2382	40
Unknown	3	0	3	0
Total	2769	3190	5959	100.0
Percent	46.5	53.5		

Table 6: Number of deaths in all COVID-19 cases by sex and age group notified in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 52, 2021

Deaths among COVID-19 cases

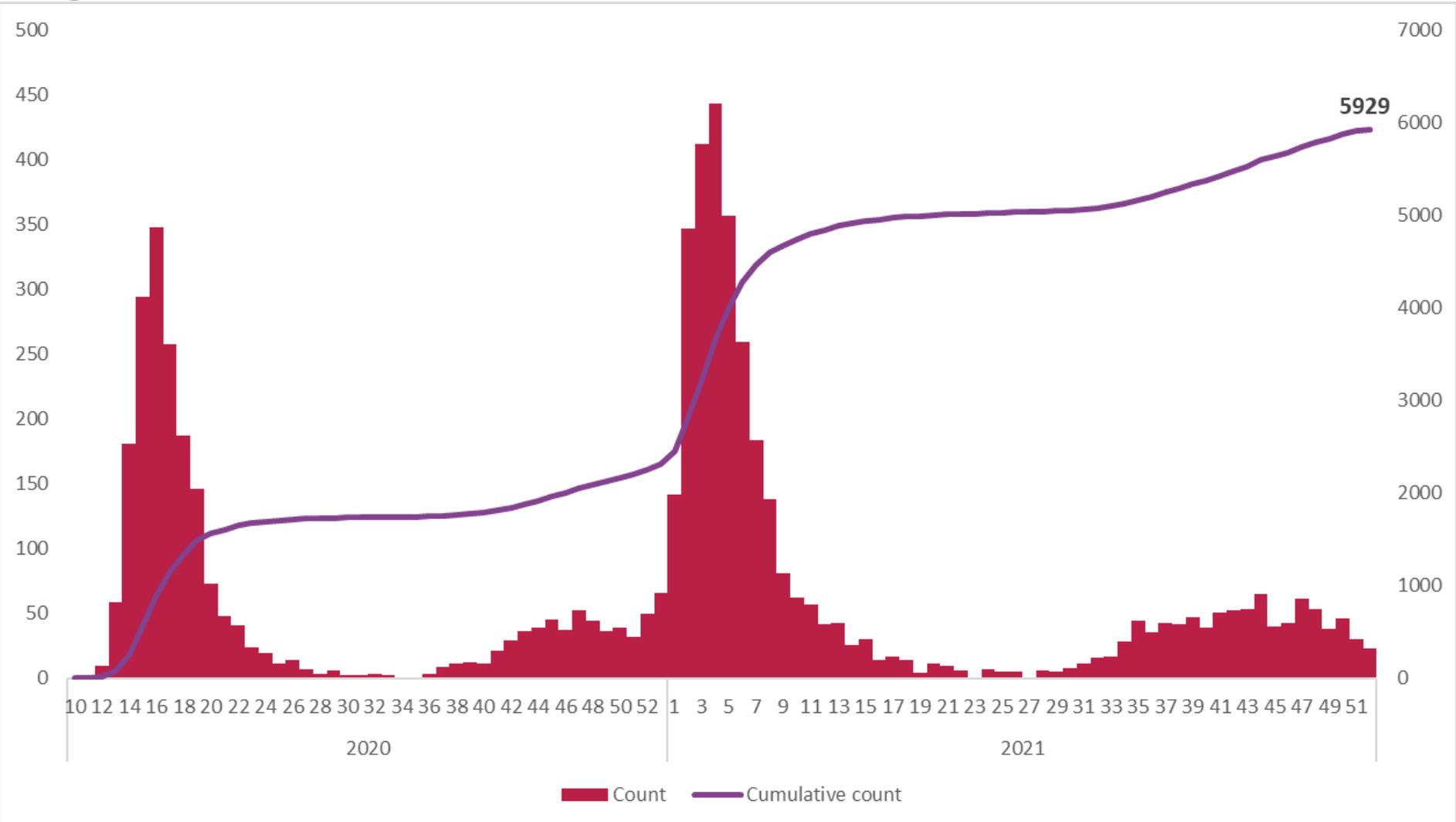


Figure 12: Total number* of COVID-19 deaths notified in and cumulative number by week of death, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 01/01/2021. Date of death was not available for 30 deaths.

*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 during waves 3 and 4

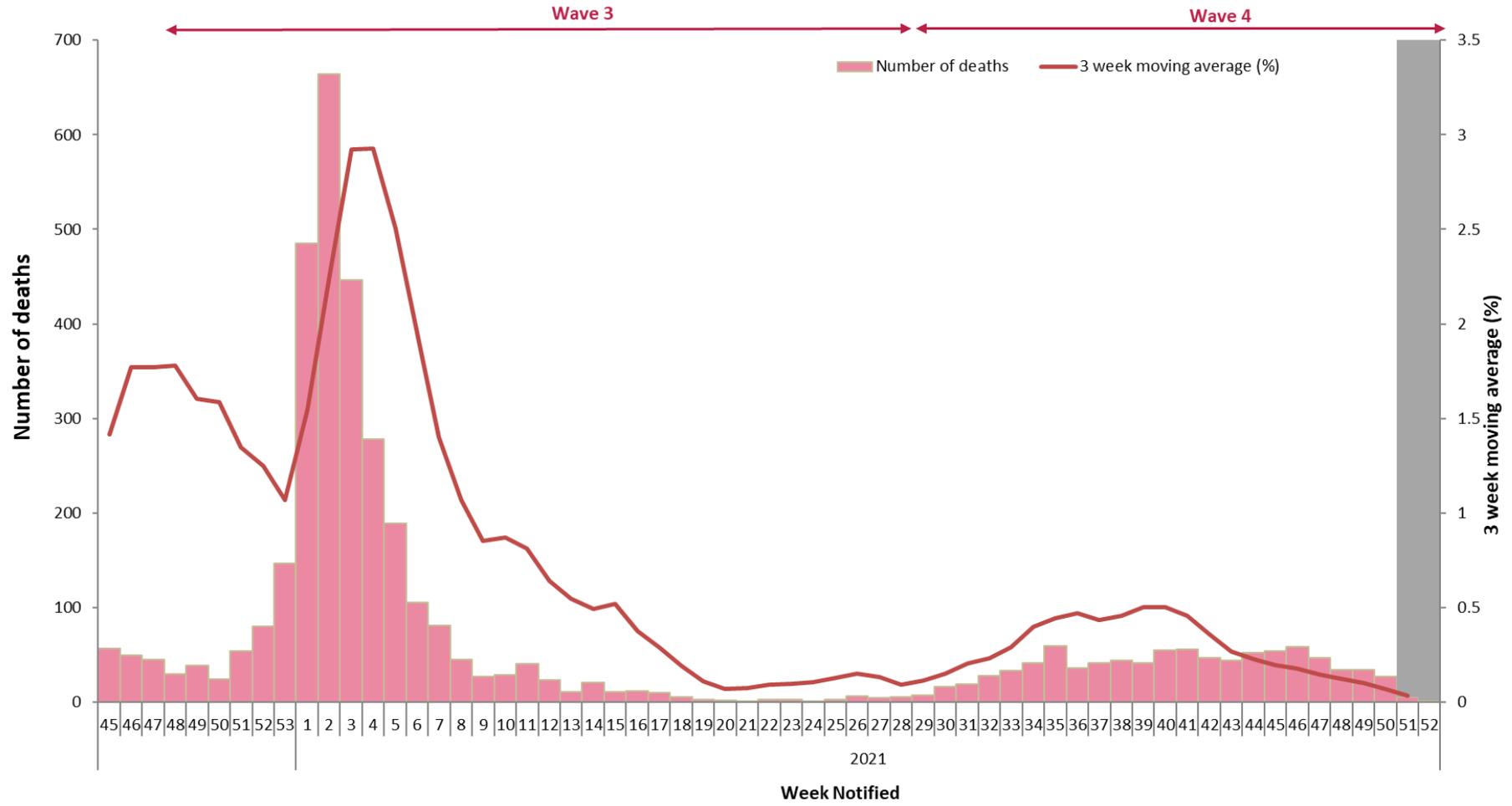


Figure 13: Number of deaths* in confirmed COVID-19 cases and 3 week moving average (%) of deaths of overall case numbers in Ireland between week 45, 2020 and week 52*, 2021 **based on week of notification**

*Deaths may be underestimated for recent weeks as the outcome may not yet have occurred or may not yet have been reported to CIDR. Notification of deaths may be more delayed due to the extended Christmas and New Year weekends. The greyed area indicates that data for these weeks in particular is likely not complete and an underestimate.

**Notifications in weeks 51 and 52 are artificially reduced.

Due to the backlog of cases awaiting processing which emerged as a result of the technical issue over the Christmas weekend, along with the ongoing surge in positive cases, the overall reporting time has increased.

Figures 14 and 15 include data presented by epidemiological date. Epidemiological 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. However, data for the most recent week may still not be complete and are provisional.

Incidence rate of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland

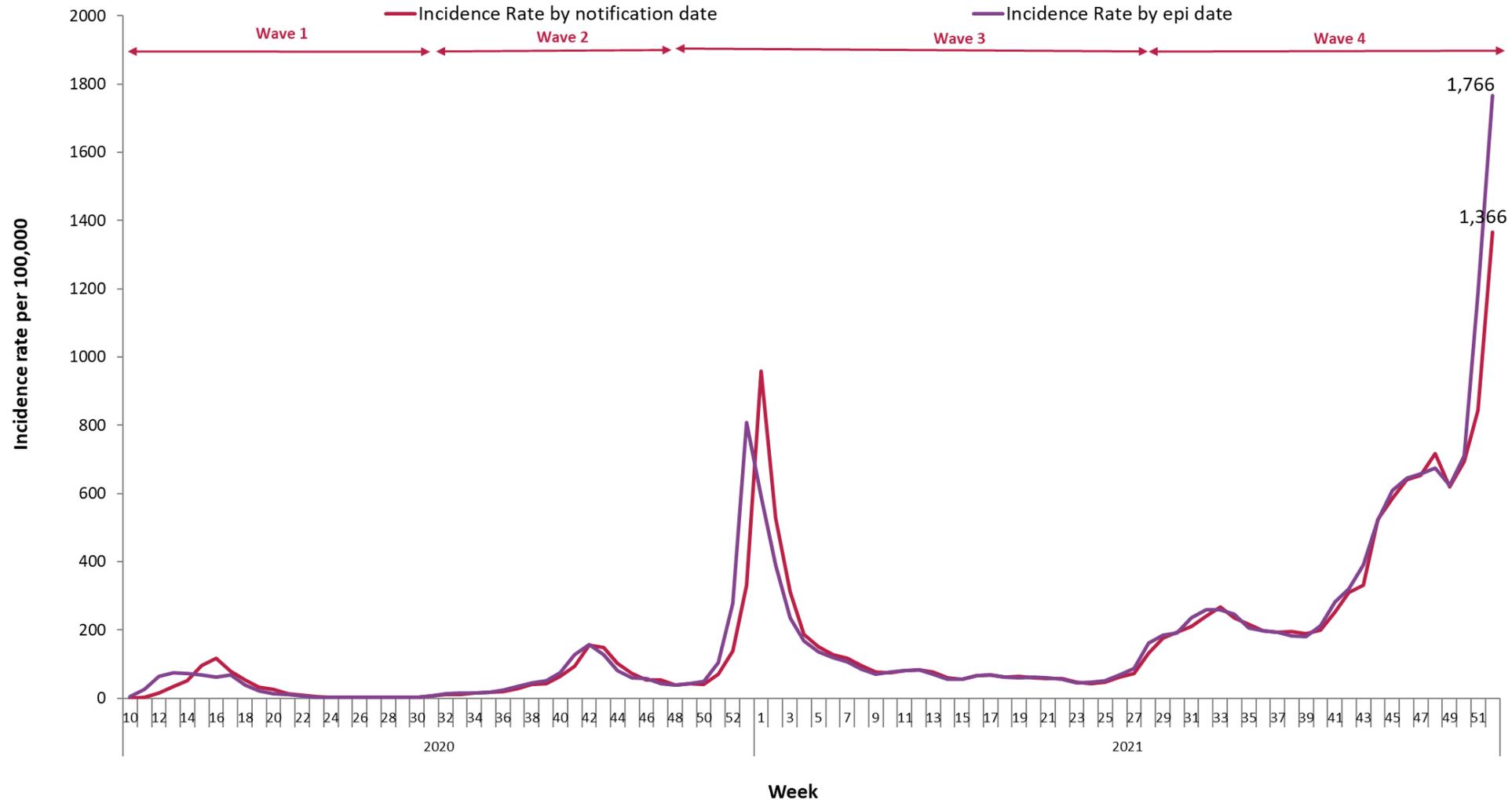


Figure 14: Incidence rate of cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population in Ireland by week of notification* and week of [epidemiological date](#)** , week 10, 2020 and week 52* , 2021

*Notifications in week 51 and 52 are artificially reduced.

**The increased discrepancy between the incidence rate by notification date and epidemiological date since week 51 relates to a technical issue over the Christmas weekend and an increased reporting time during this surge period. A similar increase in reporting time occurred during the January 2021 surge. Data by epidemiological date may still be incomplete.

Incidence rates by age group for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4th wave

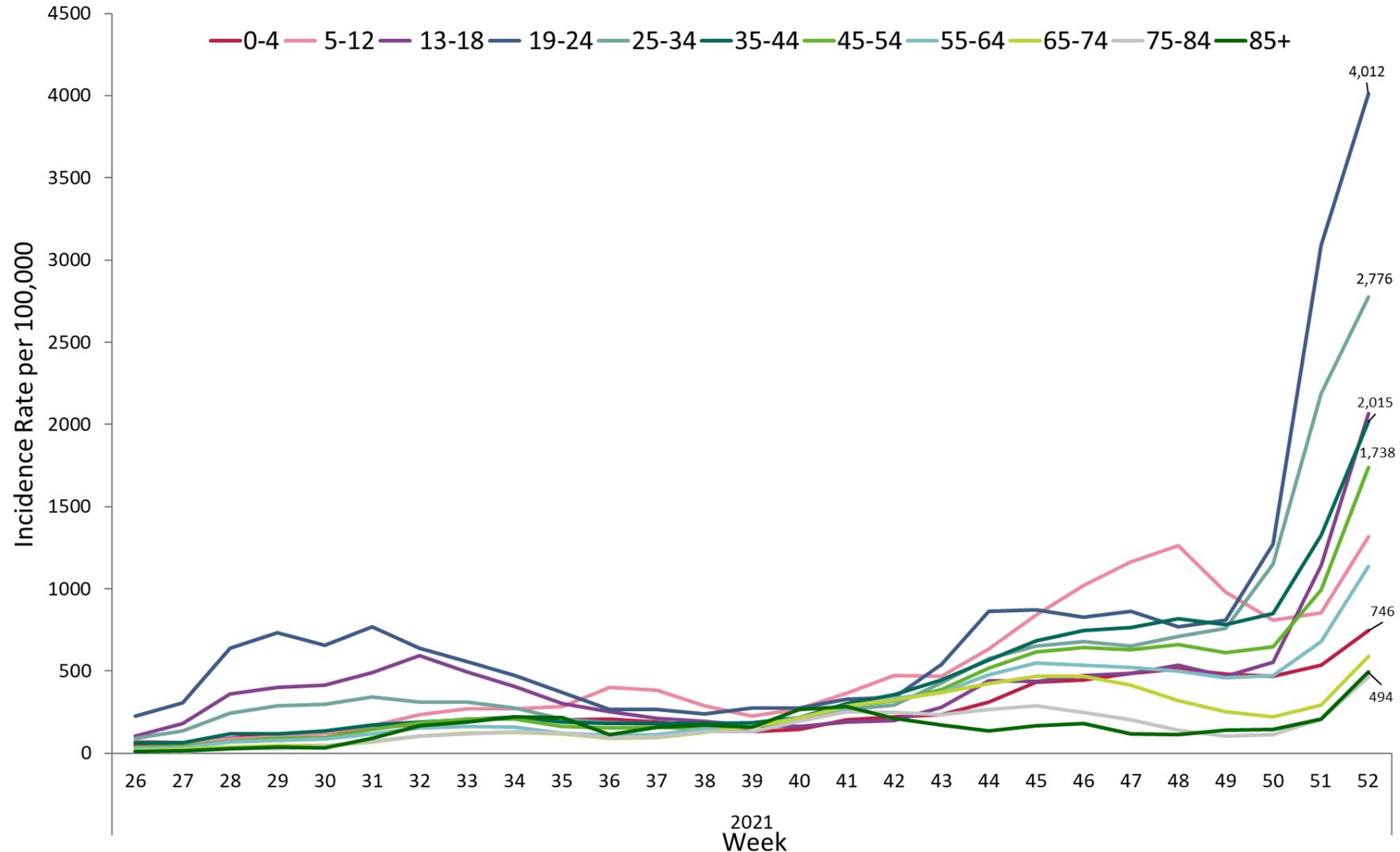


Figure 15: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of cases of COVID-19 of per 100,000 population in Ireland **by week of [epidemiological date](#)*** for the 4th wave from week 26, 2021 to week 52, 2021

**The increased discrepancy between the incidence rate by notification date and epidemiological date since week 51 relates to a technical issue over the Christmas weekend and an increased reporting time during this surge period. Data by epidemiological date may still be incomplete.*

Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 testing

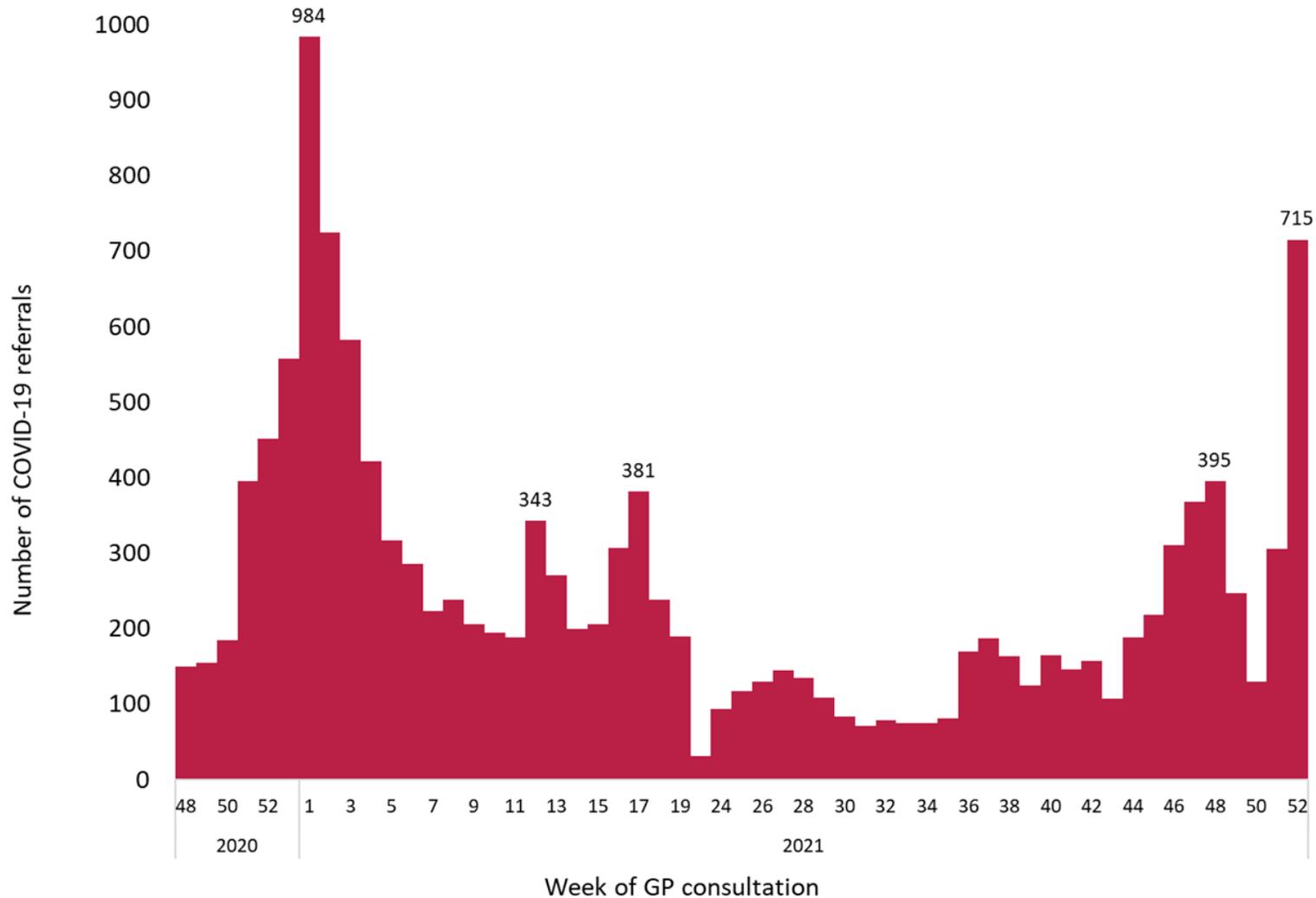


Figure 16: Number of sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals by week of consultation, week 48, 2020 – week 52, 2021

**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.*





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Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 testing

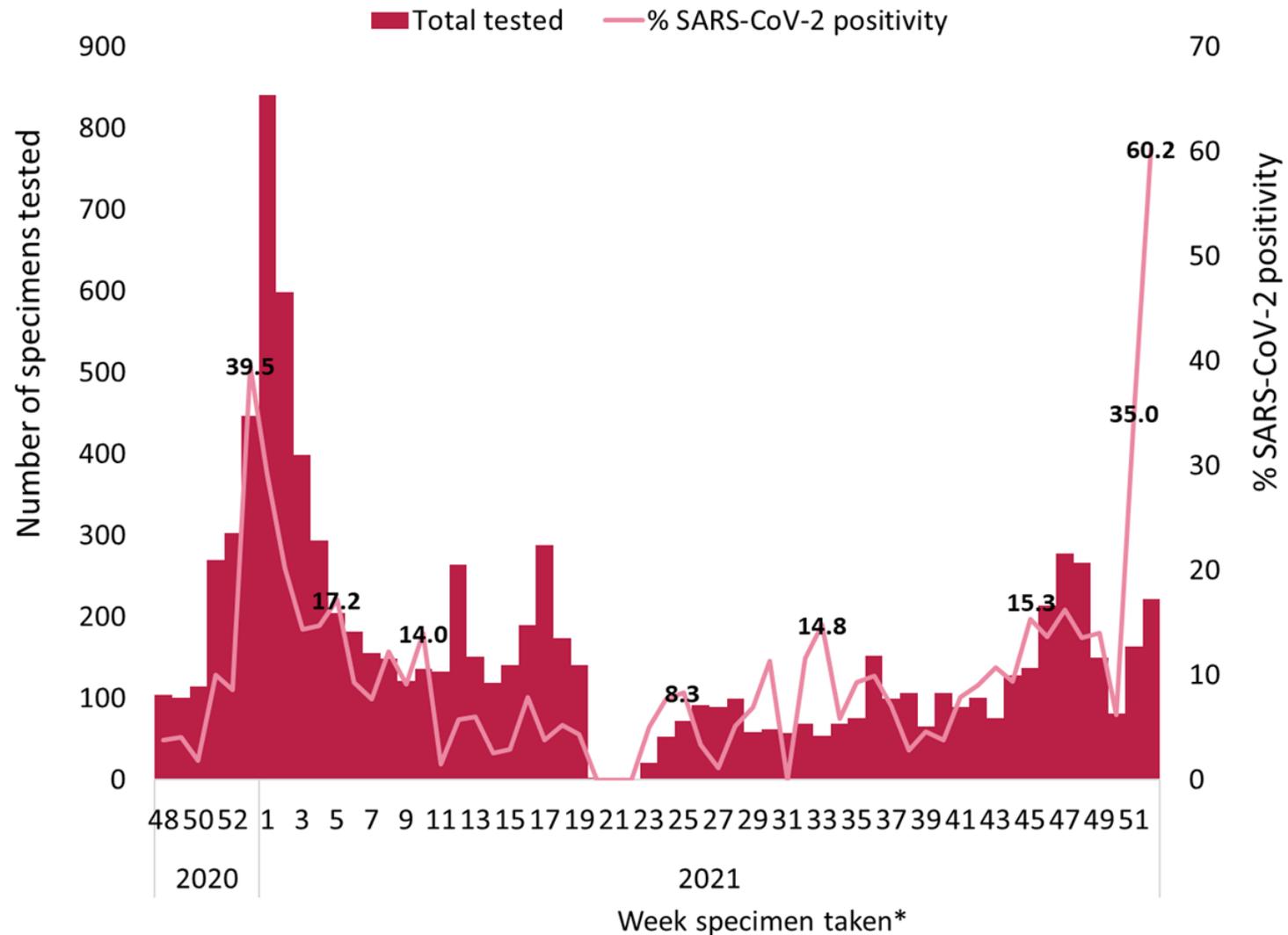


Figure 17: % SARS-CoV-2 positivity data from sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals tested by NVRL/ENFER*, 2020-2021.

**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

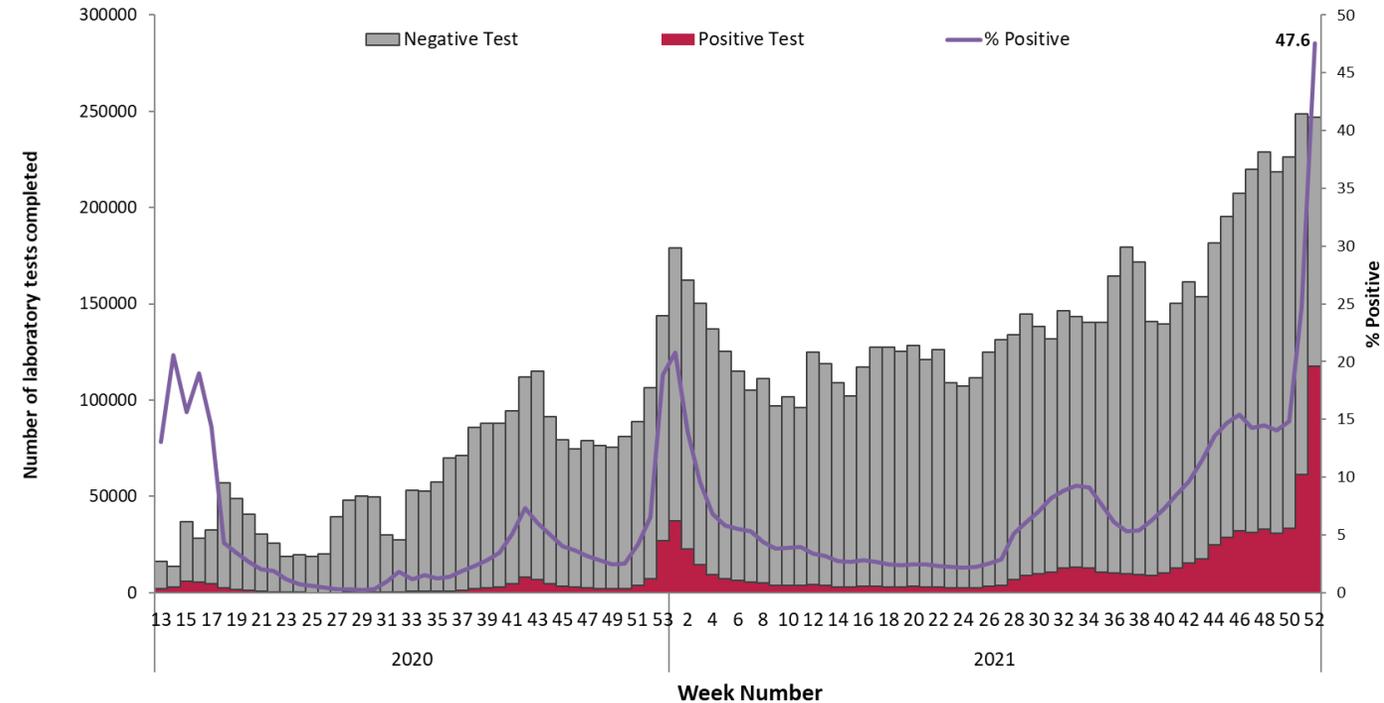
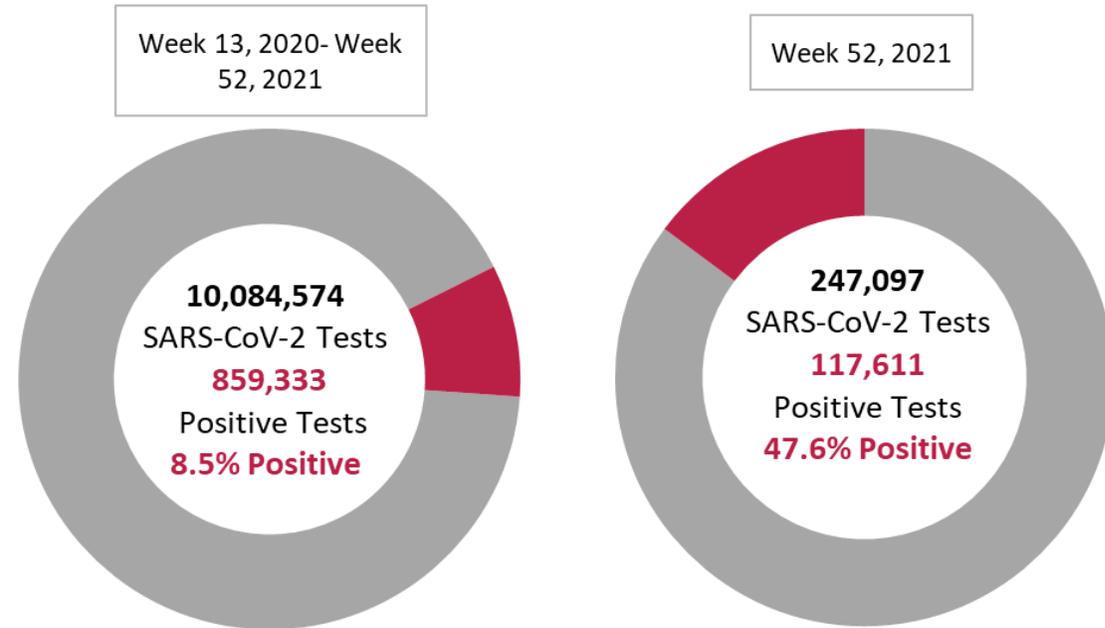


Figure 18a: Number of SARS-CoV-2 tests and positive tests* in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 52, 2021

Figure 18b: Number of SARS-CoV-2 negative and positive tests* completed in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 52, 2021

*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

- [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
- [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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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 ≥ 85 years.