



Weekly Report on the Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland

Week 50, 2021

Health Protection Surveillance Centre, HPSC
COVID-19 Epidemiology Team, 20/12/2021

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 (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 50 2021 (12th December to 18th December 2021) – most recent epidemiological week
- Data for this report is based on cases notified on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) up to the 18th December
- Data was extracted from CIDR system on 20/12/2021
- Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.

Summary characteristics of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland



	Total (week 10, 2020-week 50, 2021)		Week 50, 2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases	656,589		33,012	
Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population	13788.5		693.3	
Number of cases hospitalised	21,430	3.3	262*	0.8
Number of cases admitted to ICU	2,267	0.3	9*	0.03
Number of deaths among confirmed cases	5,600	0.9	8*	0.02
Case fatality ratio (CFR %)	0.9		0.02	
Incidence rate of confirmed deaths per 100,000 population	117.6		0.17	
Males	321,954	49.0	16,513	50.0
Females	334,231	50.9	16,436	49.8
M:F ratio	0.96		1.00	
Median (years)	33		31	
Mean age (years)	35		32	
Age range (years)	0-108		0-99	

** 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

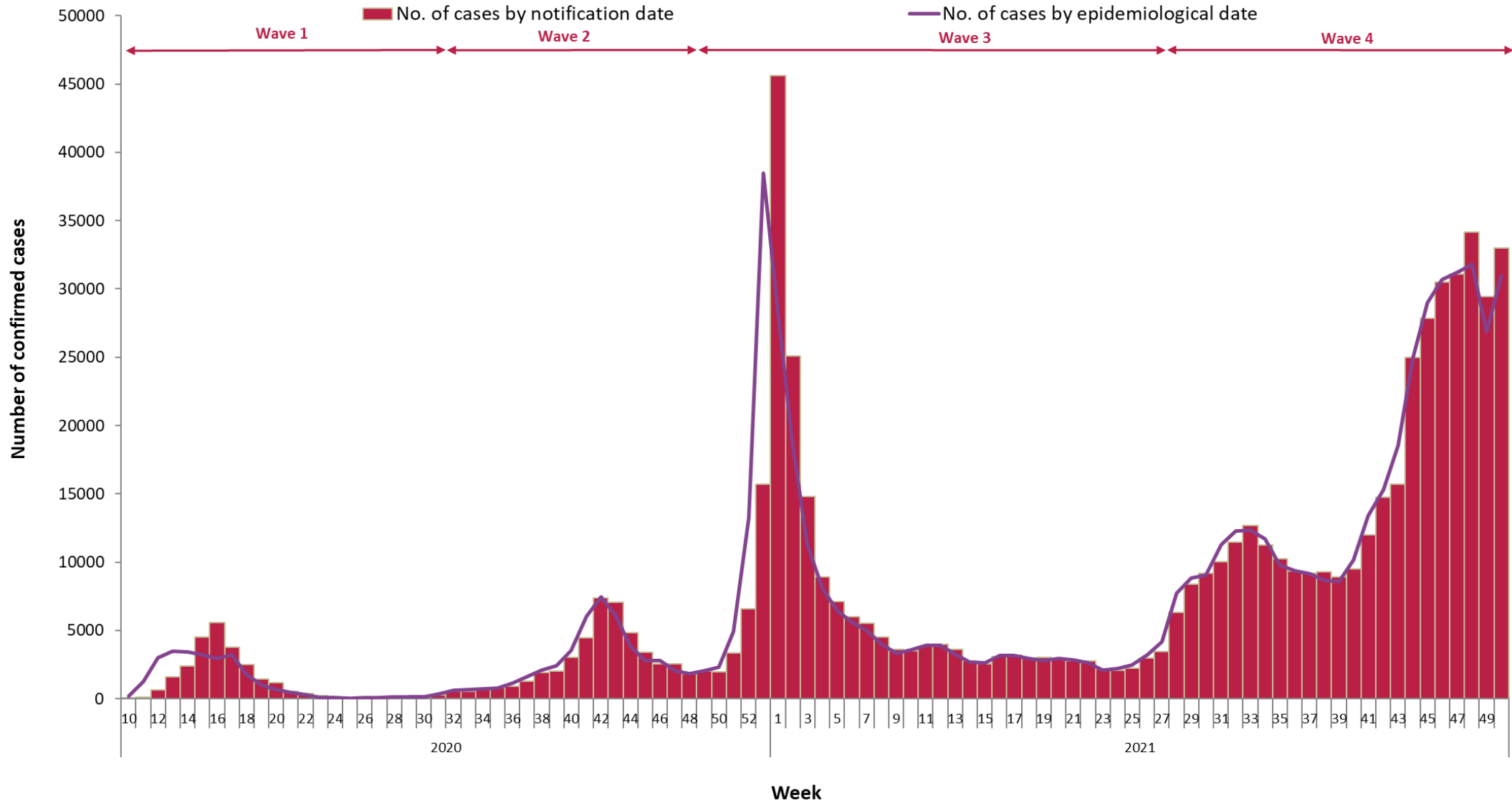


Figure 1: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week and [epidemiological date](#) in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 50, 2021

Epidemic curve of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4th wave

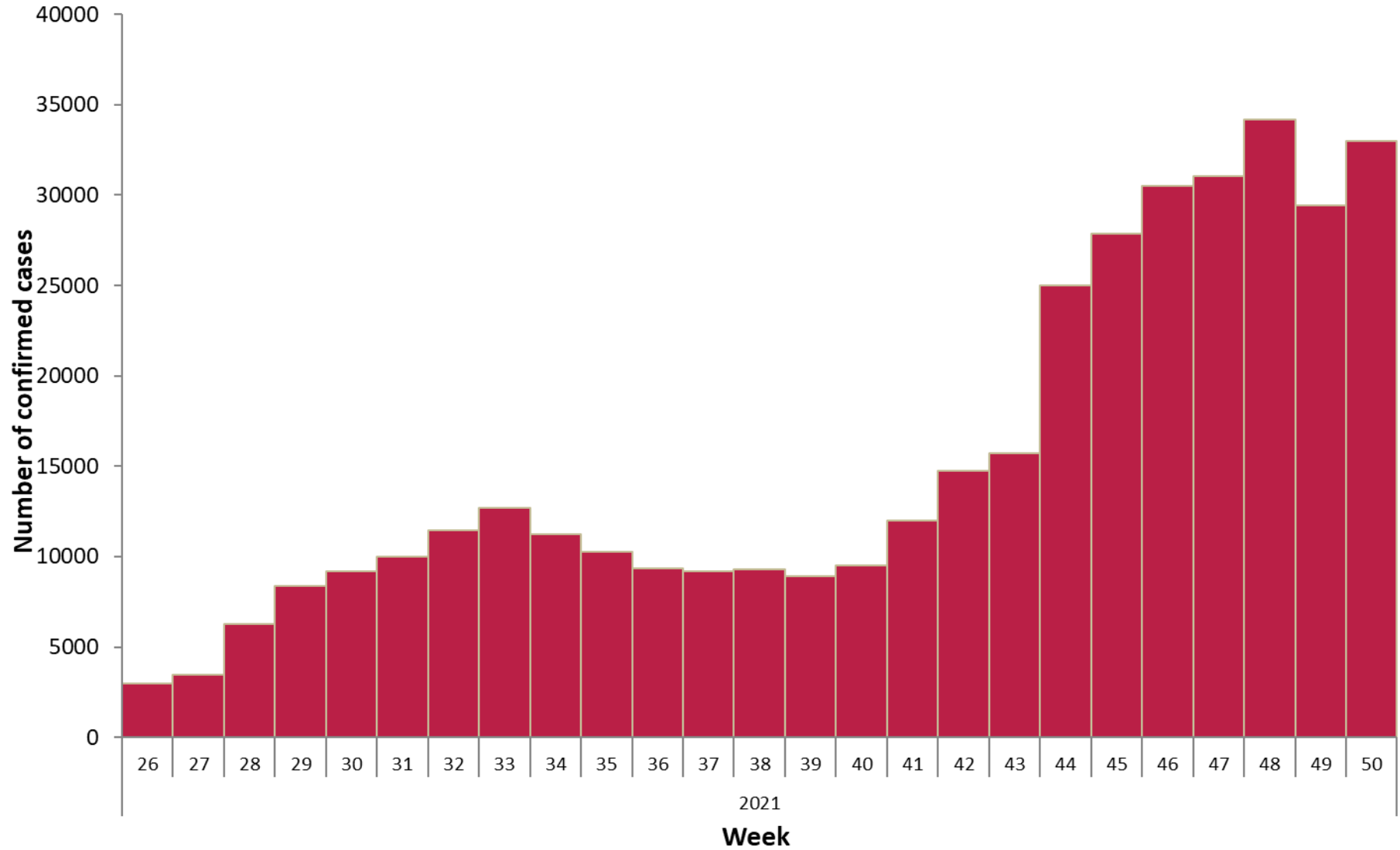


Figure 2: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week in Ireland for the 4th wave from week 26, 2021 to week 50, 2021

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



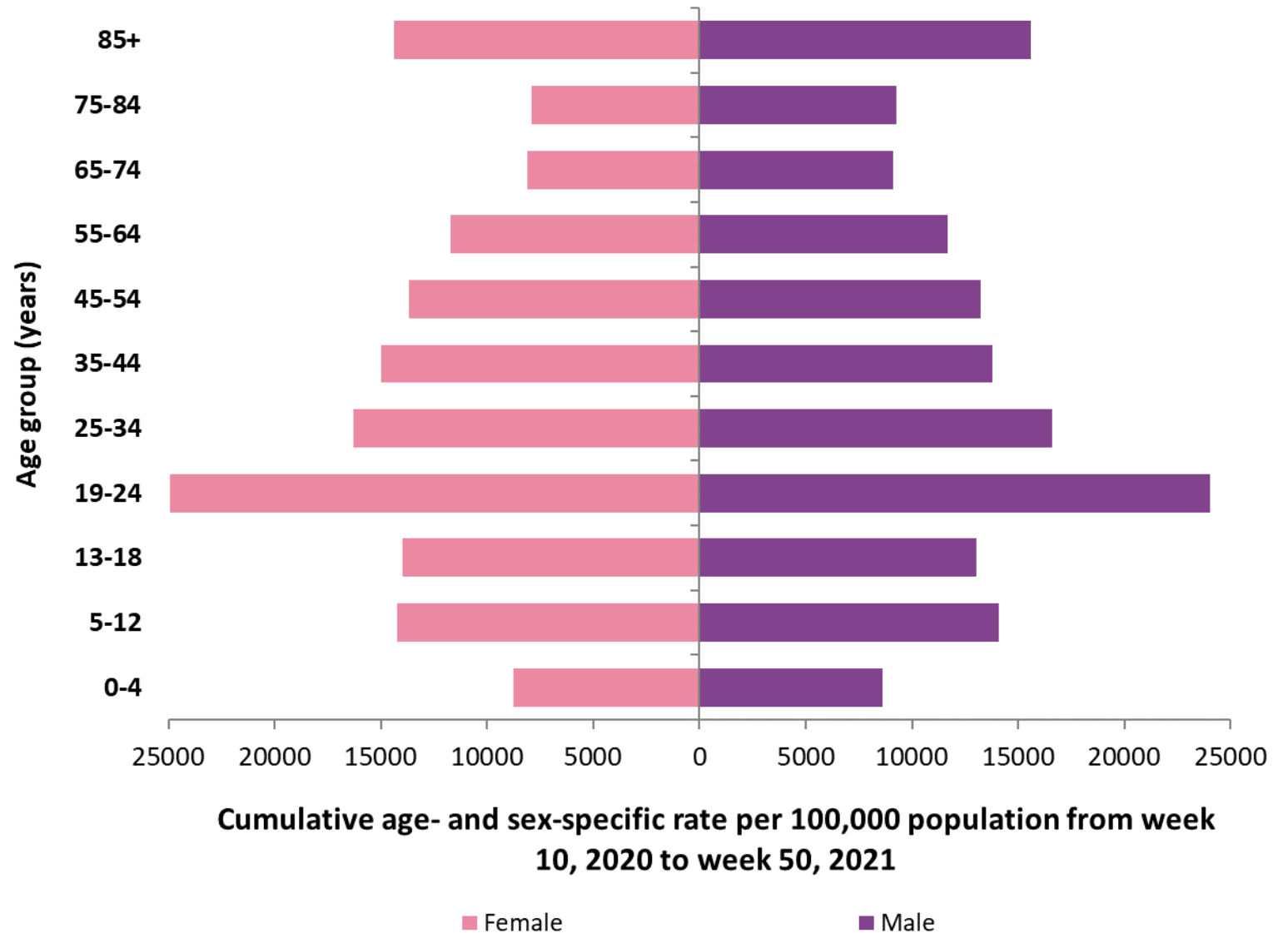
Table 1: Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 50, 2021

Characteristic		Week 50	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases		33,012	100
Sex	Male:Female ratio	1.00	
	Male	16,513	50.0
	Female	16,436	49.8
	Unknown	63	0.2
Age	Mean age (years)	32	
	Median age (years)	31	
	Age range (years)	0-99	
	0-4 yrs	1607	4.9
	5-12 yrs	4,726	14.3
	13-18 yrs	1,955	5.9
	19-24 yrs	3,780	11.5
	25-34 yrs	6,866	20.8
	35-44 yrs	6,265	19.0
	45-54 yrs	4,105	12.4
	55-64 yrs	2,439	7.4
	65-74 yrs	942	2.9
	75-84 yrs	224	0.7
	85+ yrs	103	0.3
Unknown	0	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 50, 2021

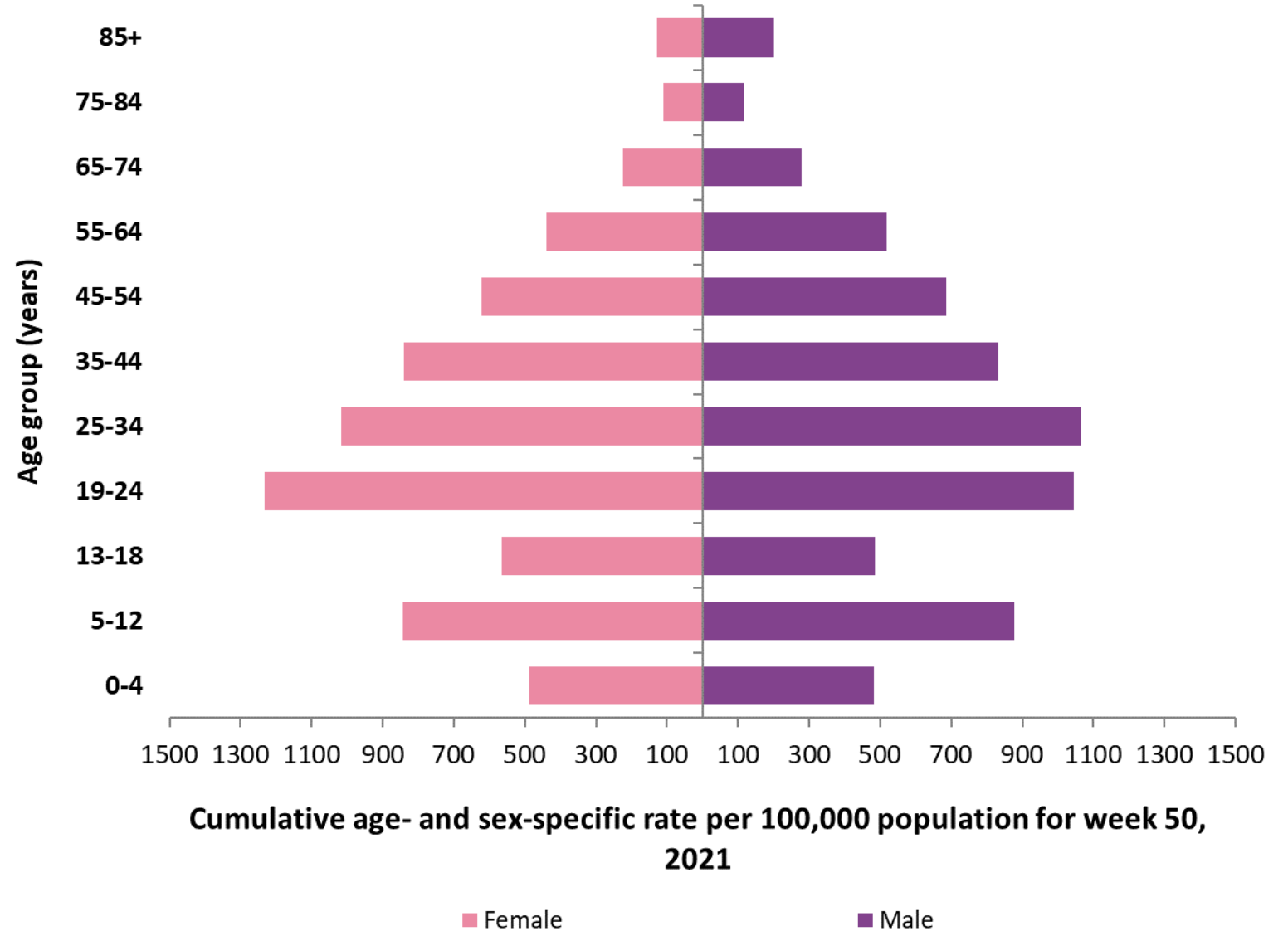
(excluding 82 cases for whom age is unknown, 403 cases for whom sex is unknown and one case for whom both are unknown)



Age and sex pyramid for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland 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 50, 2021

(excluding 63 cases for whom sex is unknown)



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

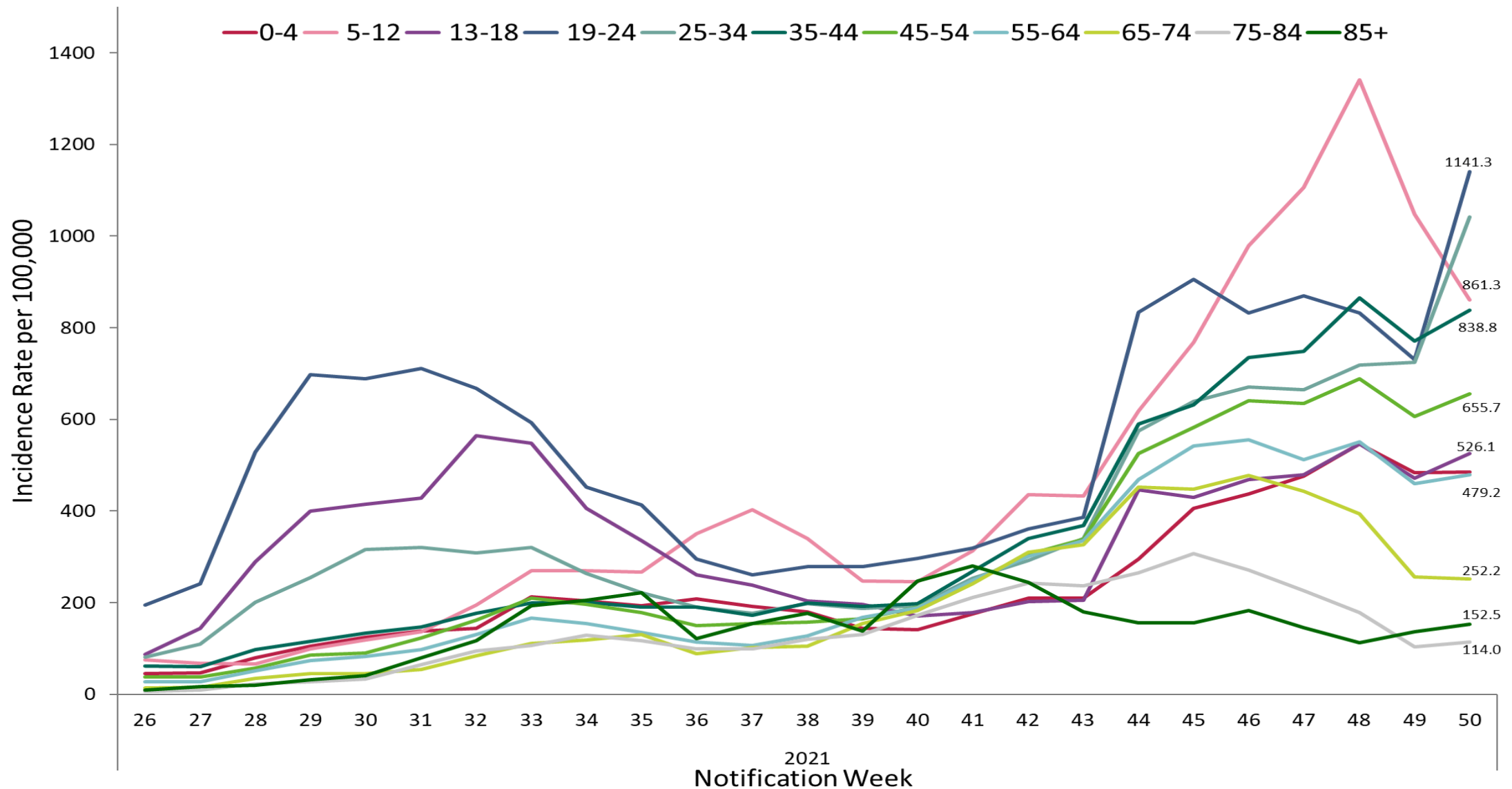


Figure 4: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland for the 4th wave from week 26, 2021 to week 50, 2021

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

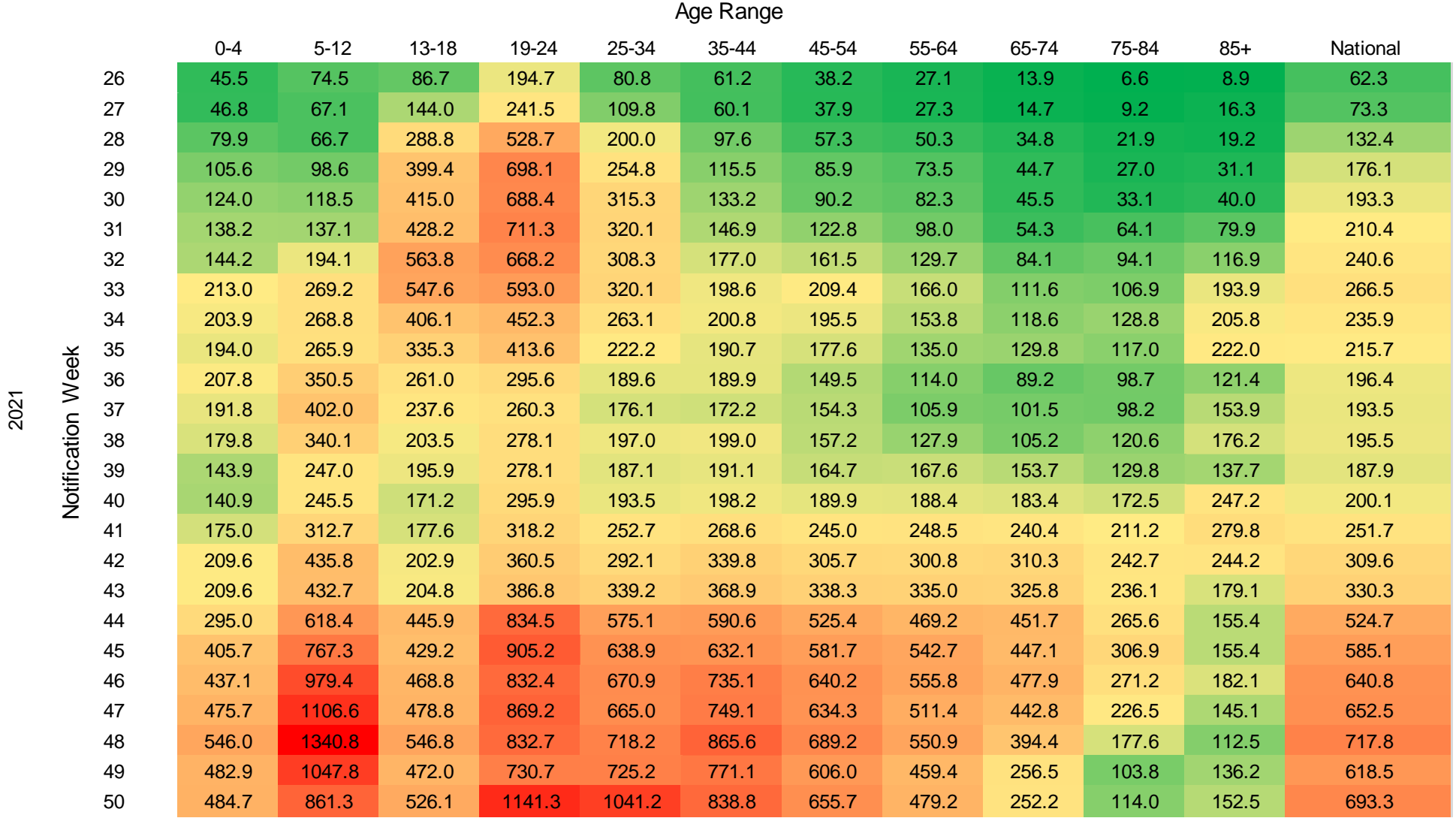


Figure 5: Heat map of weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland for the 4th wave between week 26, 2021 and week 50, 2021

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

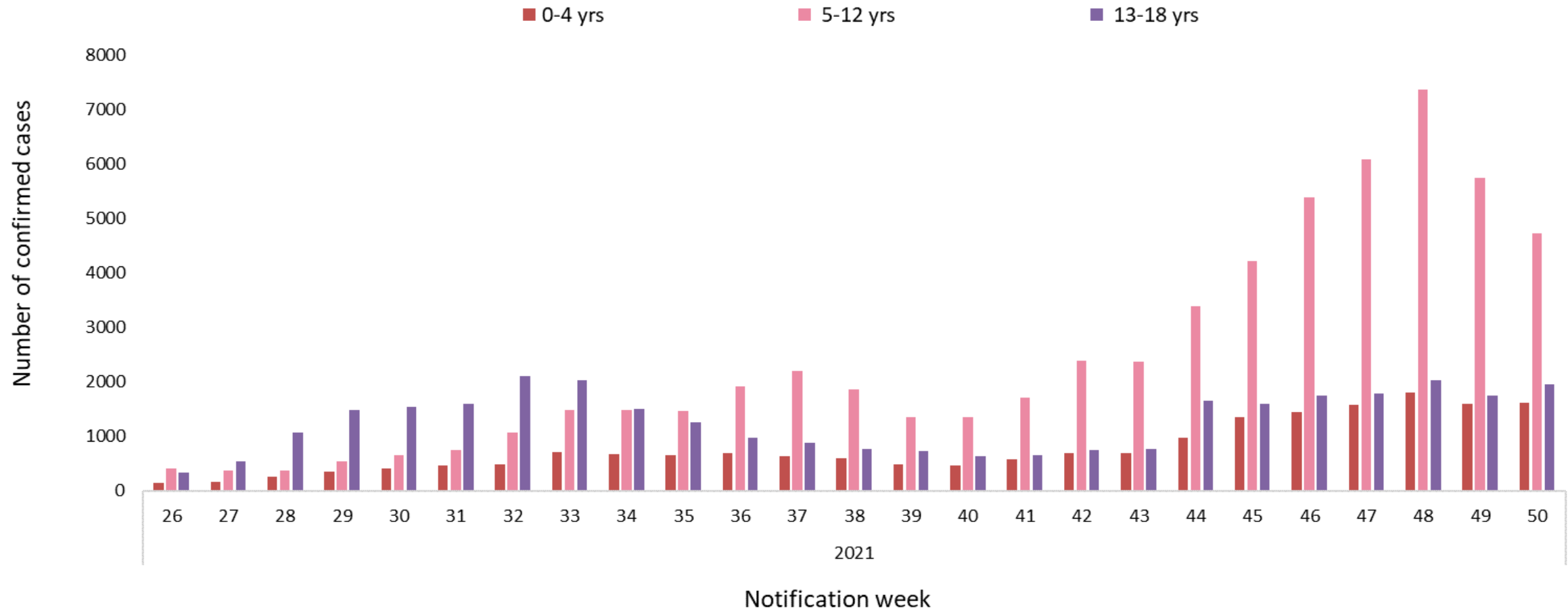


Figure 6a: Weekly number of age-specific confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week in Ireland for the 4th wave between week 26, 2021 and week 50, 2021

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

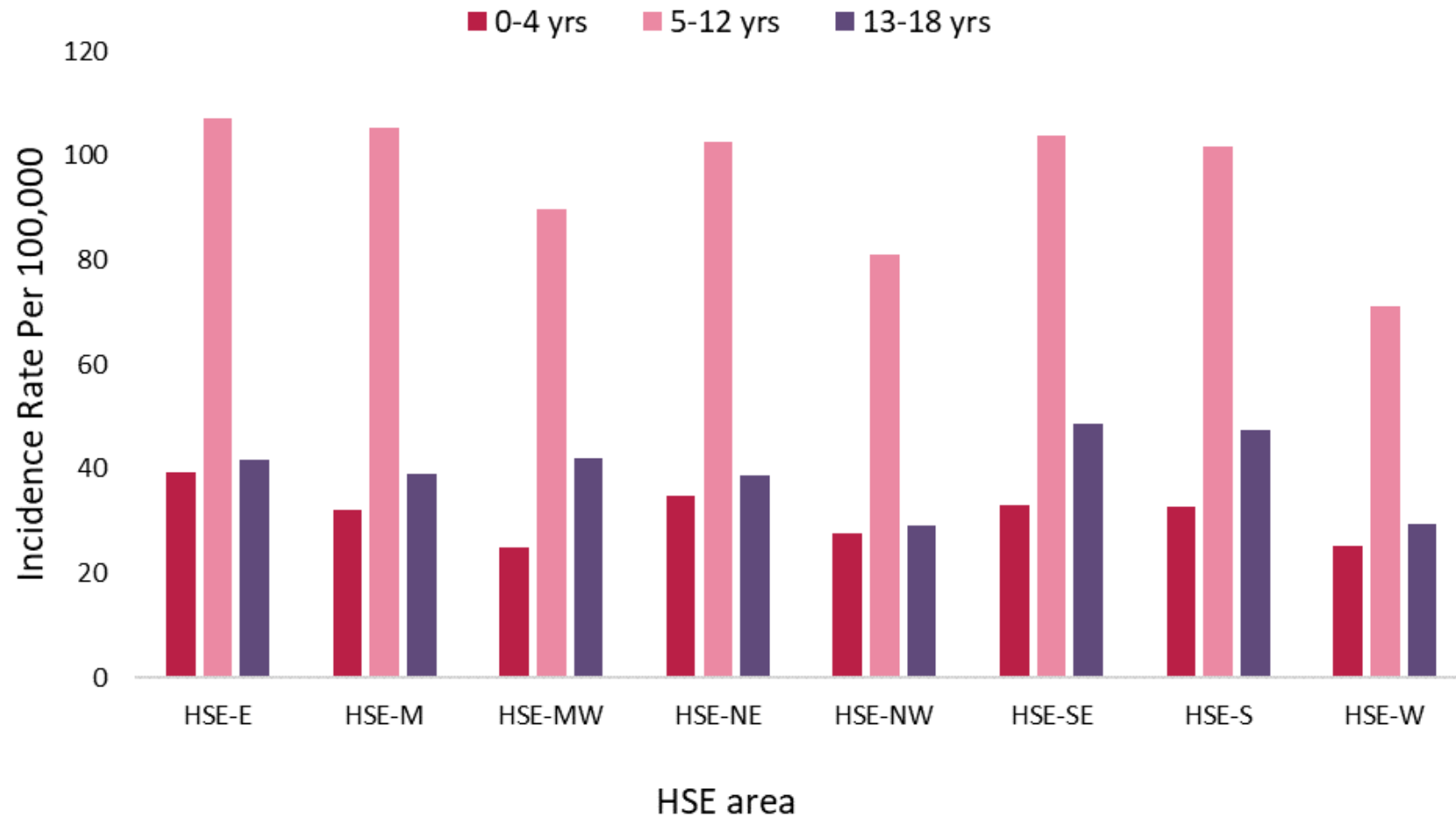


Figure 6b: Age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population, by HSE area, notified in Ireland during week 50, 2021

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 50, 2021

County	Cases		M:F ratio	Median age	Incidence Rate per 100,000
	N	%		(years)	
Dublin	12265	37.2	1.0	30	910.3
Louth	971	2.9	1.0	33	753.4
Waterford	868	2.6	1.1	30	747.1
Cork	3944	11.9	1.1	31	726.5
Kildare	1590	4.8	1.1	29	714.6
Meath	1366	4.1	0.9	32	700.4
Carlow	389	1.2	1.1	29	683.3
Kilkenny	667	2.0	1.2	31	672.2
Westmeath	591	1.8	1.0	32	665.8
Laois	550	1.7	0.9	27	649.4
Tipperary	967	2.9	1.1	31	606.1
Wicklow	853	2.6	0.9	32	598.9
Leitrim	191	0.6	1.1	34	596.1
Longford	240	0.7	1.1	31	587.2
Kerry	866	2.6	1.0	34	586.3
Galway	1434	4.3	1.0	29	555.7
Limerick	1075	3.3	1.0	31	551.6
Offaly	426	1.3	1.0	33	546.4
Wexford	790	2.4	1.0	31	527.6
Clare	587	1.8	0.8	29	494.0
Monaghan	295	0.9	0.8	30	480.6
Donegal	729	2.2	1.0	31	457.9
Cavan	340	1.0	1.0	27	446.3
Roscommon	275	0.8	1.3	32	426.1
Sligo	250	0.8	0.9	29	381.5
Mayo	493	1.5	1.1	30	377.8

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	89.5	29.1	33.9	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	220.3	283.7	199.7	137.1	99.8	178.3	234.1	190.9	124.8	377.9	301.1	178.9	252.5	94.9	232.4	212.1	127.9	105.0	143.1	92.8	157.3	193.3
	31	172.1	233.7	144.8	163.0	321.0	238.7	303.4	205.1	152.4	105.8	181.8	159.2	178.6	181.0	269.2	314.2	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	256.1	286.4	204.5	135.0	230.2	215.3	296.6	208.0	373.2	272.8	240.5	829.2	202.7	379.6	196.8	296.5	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	207.6	193.8	225.4	151.5	166.3	211.3	405.7	228.8	259.3	262.3	245.2	196.4	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	229.2	198.5	321.1	312.1	285.3	494.2	291.7	187.7	289.7	268.8	144.9	257.2	221.3	209.3	461.4	272.6	162.3	181.9	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	623.8	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	573.3	547.8	667.5	713.6	866.3	533.7	492.2	640.8
	47	902.8	531.7	573.2	654.9	523.3	757.1	550.7	463.1	671.9	723.6	608.0	527.4	500.3	753.6	753.4	498.1	611.7	462.6	469.5	484.9	505.1	745.8	738.5	911.3	620.5	493.6	652.5
	48	1076.7	539.5	596.7	743.6	550.3	755.1	615.8	595.1	872.8	757.8	815.8	586.7	513.1	672.8	834.9	542.5	758.3	594.6	637.5	655.4	659.2	843.6	717.0	941.8	667.2	737.9	717.8
	49	714.9	455.5	566.4	636.3	486.8	745.1	488.3	499.0	777.5	654.0	746.2	474.3	407.9	467.3	602.1	358.6	598.8	496.9	555.4	350.1	402.8	636.8	651.6	761.5	523.0	519.6	618.5
	50	683.3	446.3	494.0	726.5	457.9	910.3	555.7	586.3	714.6	672.2	649.4	596.1	551.6	587.2	753.4	377.8	700.4	480.6	546.4	426.1	381.5	606.1	747.1	665.8	527.6	598.9	693.3

Figure 7: Heat map of weekly incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population, by county, notified in Ireland for the 4th wave between week 26, 2021 and week 50, 2021

Data are still being processed and are not yet available this week.

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	1522	7.8	277	1.4	109	0.6
	2	39954	873	2.2	79	0.2	29	0.1
	3	179381	4612	2.6	570	0.3	273	0.2
	4	358612	3915	1.1	424	0.1	150**	0.04
	Total	597559	10922	1.8	1350	0.2	561	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	2601	12.4
	4	27266	2670	9.8	251	0.9	656**	2.4
	Total	58947	10502	17.8	917	1.6	5038	8.5

* 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.

Hospitalisations among COVID-19 cases during waves 3 and 4

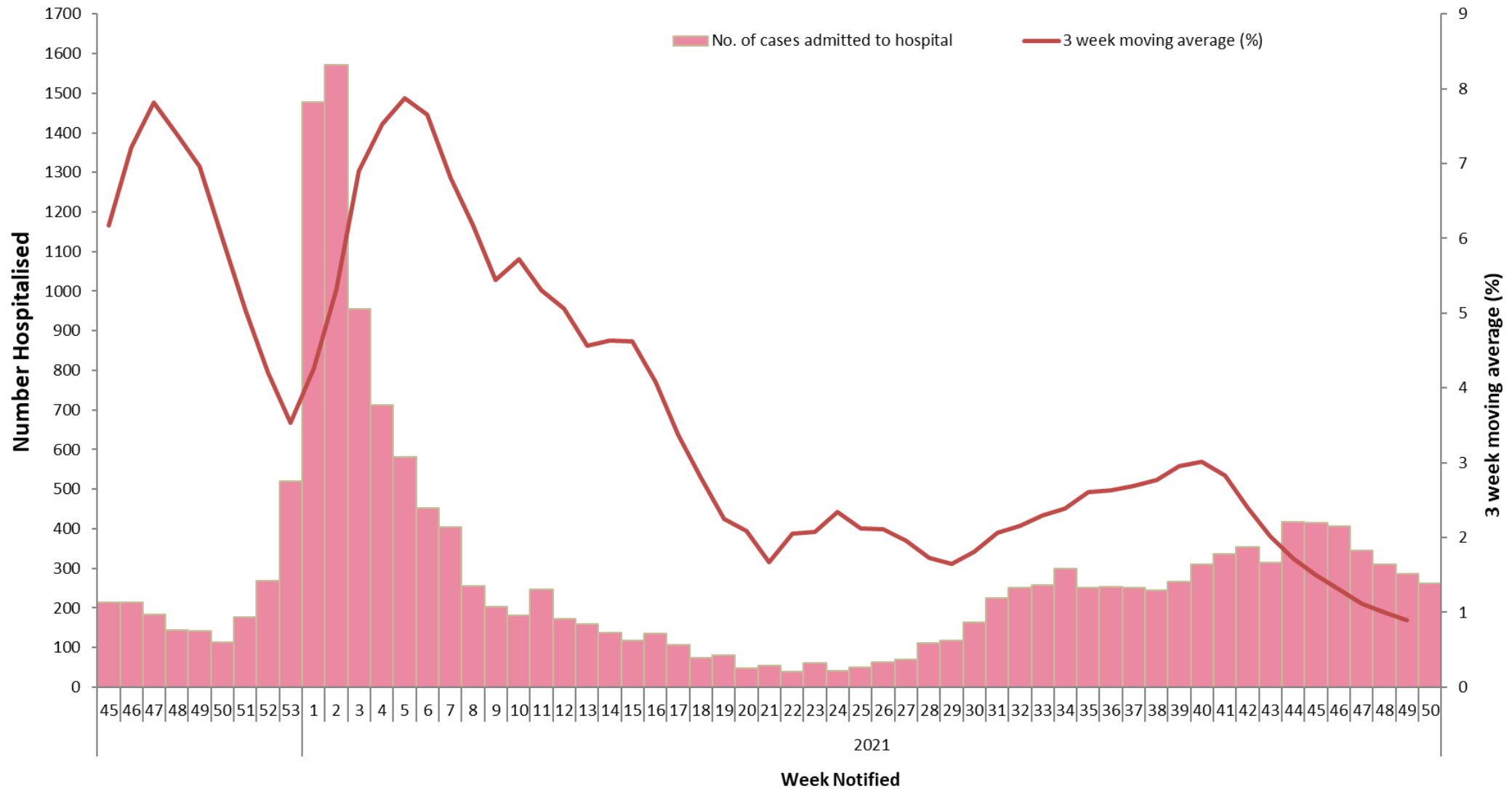


Figure 9: Number of hospitalised COVID-19 cases and 3 week moving average (%) of overall cases hospitalised in Ireland between week 45, 2020 and week 50, 2021 based on week of notification

*Hospitalisations may be underestimated for recent weeks as the outcome may not yet have occurred or may not yet have been reported to CIDR.

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

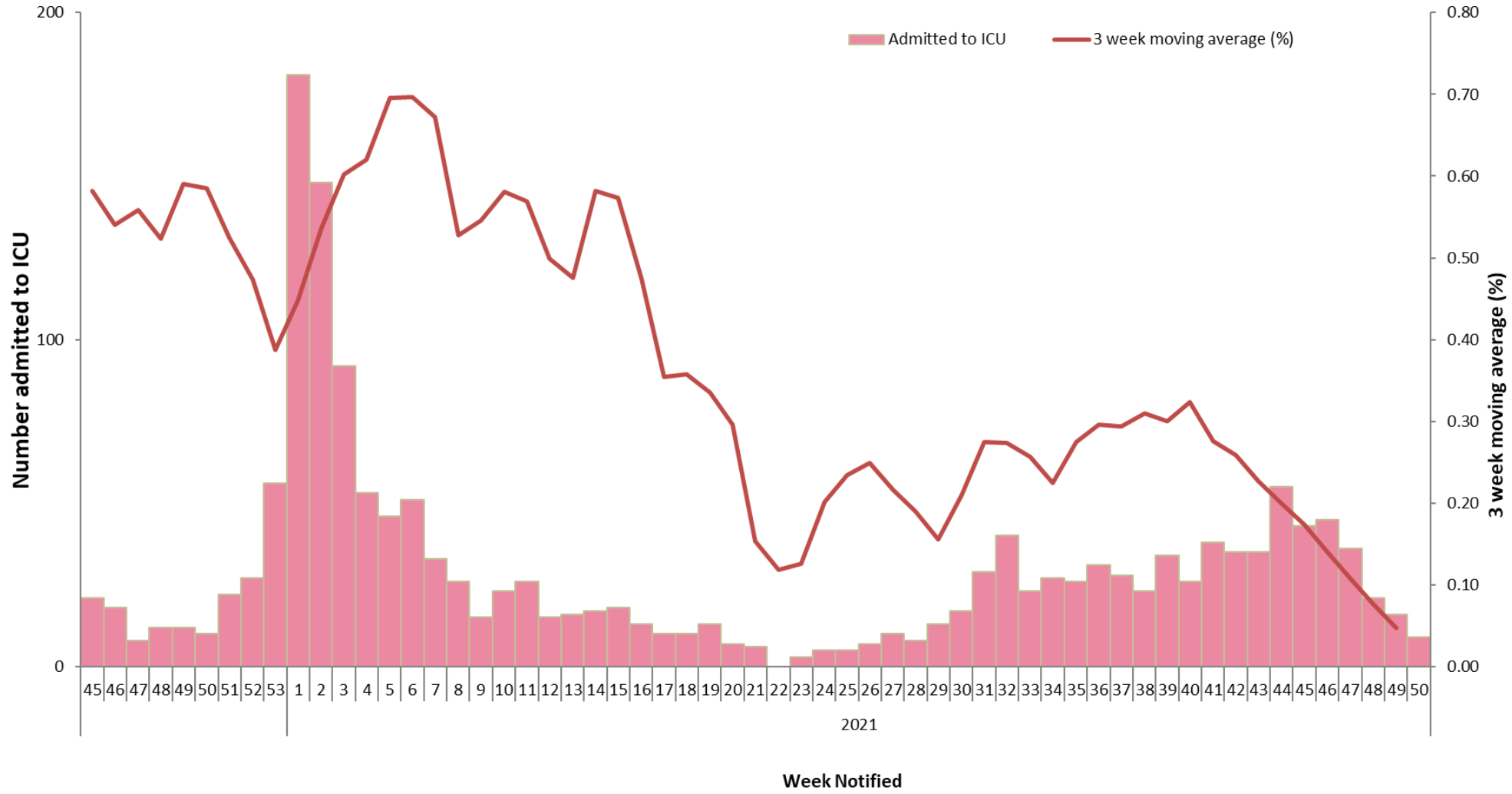


Figure10: Number of ICU admissions in COVID-19 cases and 3 week moving average (%) of ICU admissions of overall case numbers in Ireland between week 45, 2020 and week 50, 2021 based on week of notification

*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.

Deaths among COVID-19 cases

	Number	Percent
Total number of deaths	5,874	
confirmed	5,600	95.3
probable	98	1.7
possible	176	3.0
Number hospitalised who died	3,316	56.5
admitted to ICU who died	719	12.2
not admitted to ICU who died	5,155	87.8
Number of imported cases who died	17	0.3
Number of HCWs who died	19	0.3
Number with underlying conditions who died	4,978	84.7
Males who died	3,143	53.5
M:F ratio	1.15	
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 50, 2021

Age group (years)	Female	Male	Total	Percent
<45 yrs	31	40	71	1
45-54 yrs	45	91	136	2
55-64 yrs	133	234	367	6
65-74 yrs	353	620	973	17
75-84 yrs	833	1128	1961	33
85+ yrs	1333	1030	2363	40
Unknown	3	0	3	0
Total	2731	3143	5874	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 50, 2021

Deaths among COVID-19 cases

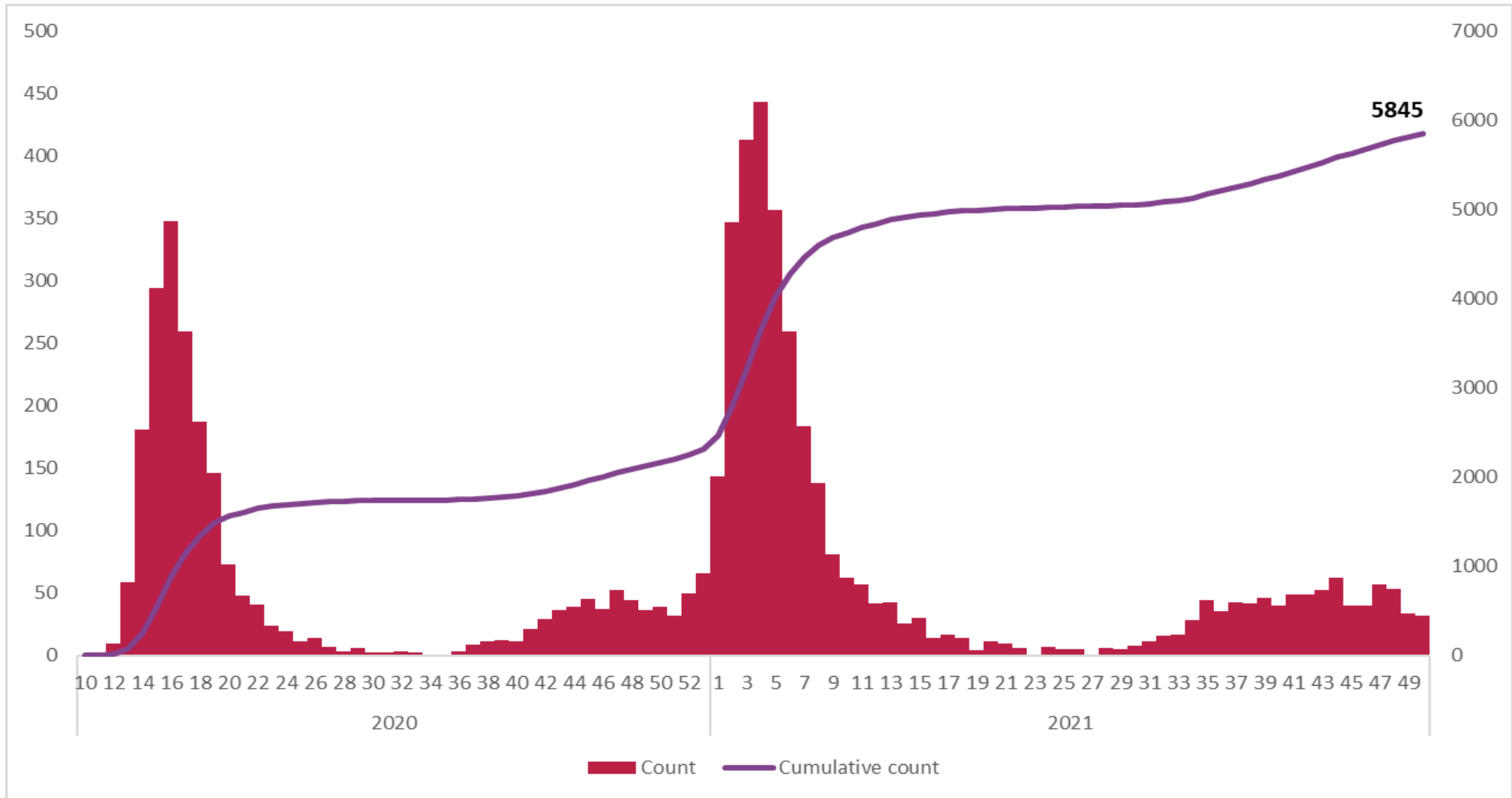


Figure 11: Total number of COVID-19 deaths notified in and cumulative number by week of death, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 18/12/2021. Date of death reported for 5,845 of deaths.

*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

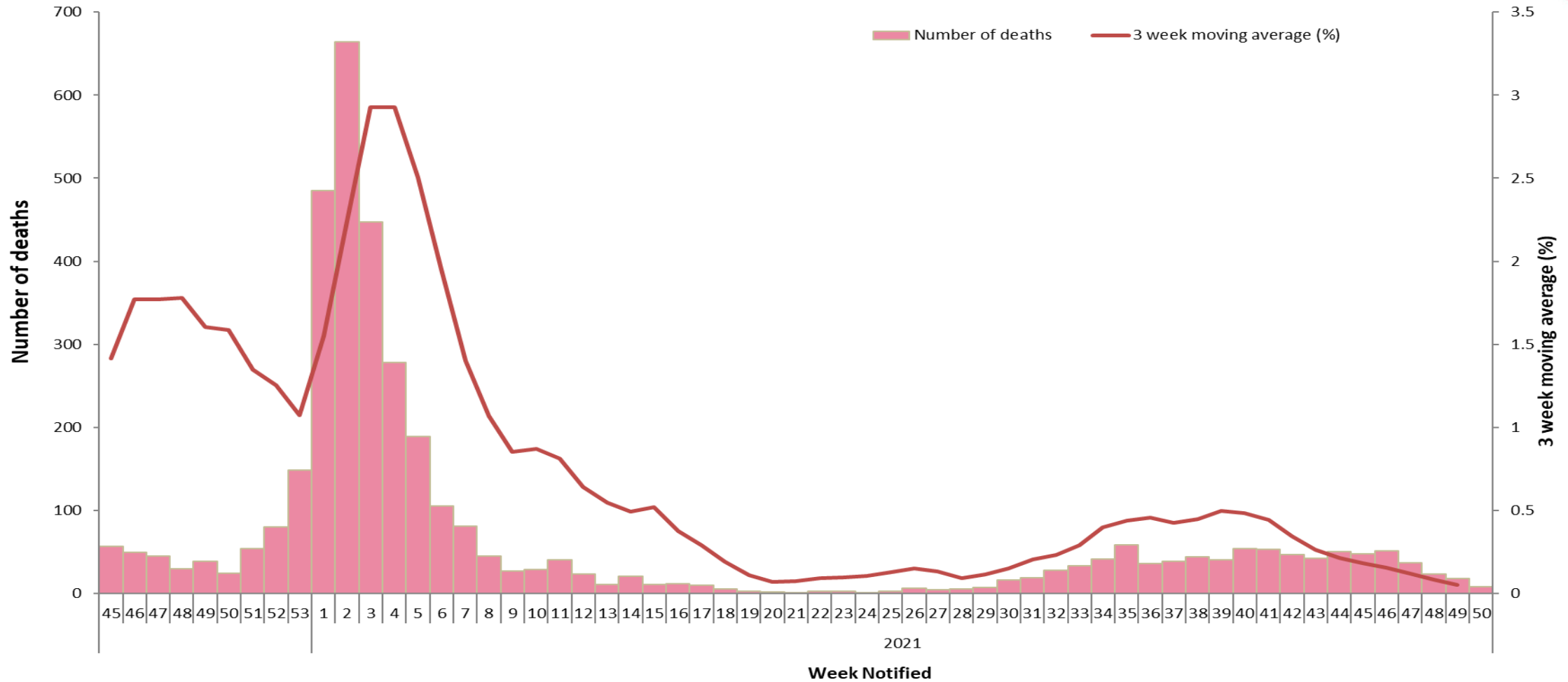


Figure 12: Number of deaths in confirmed COVID-19 cases and 3 week moving average (%) of deaths of overall case numbers in Ireland between week 45, 2020 and week 50, 2021 based on week of notification*

*Deaths may be underestimated for recent weeks as the outcome may not yet have occurred or may not yet have been reported to CIDR.

Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 testing



Figure 13: Number of sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals by week of consultation, week 26, 2021 – week 50, 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.*



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 testing

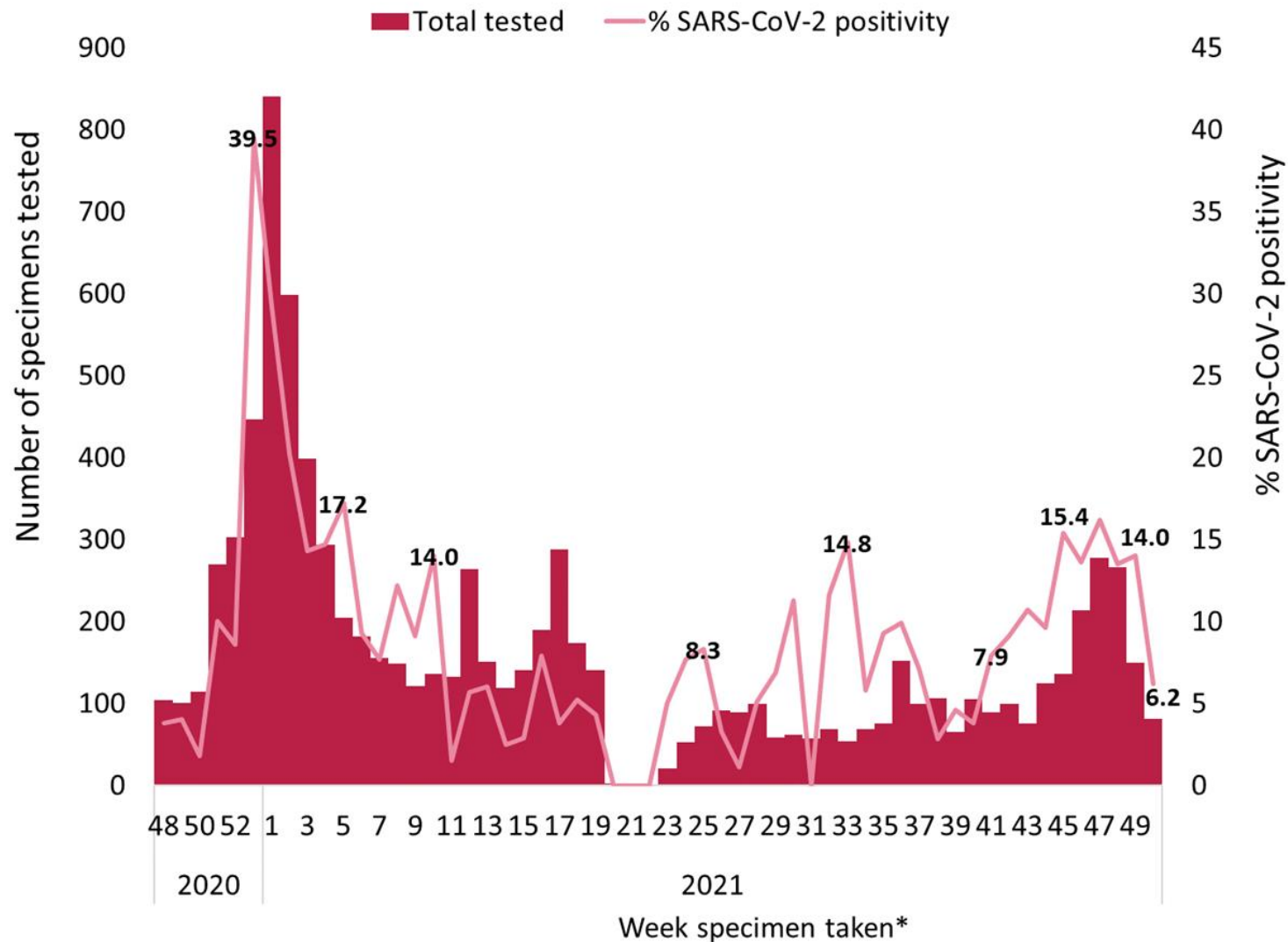


Figure 14: % SARS-CoV-2 positivity data from sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals tested by NVRL/ENFER*, 2020-2021.

*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

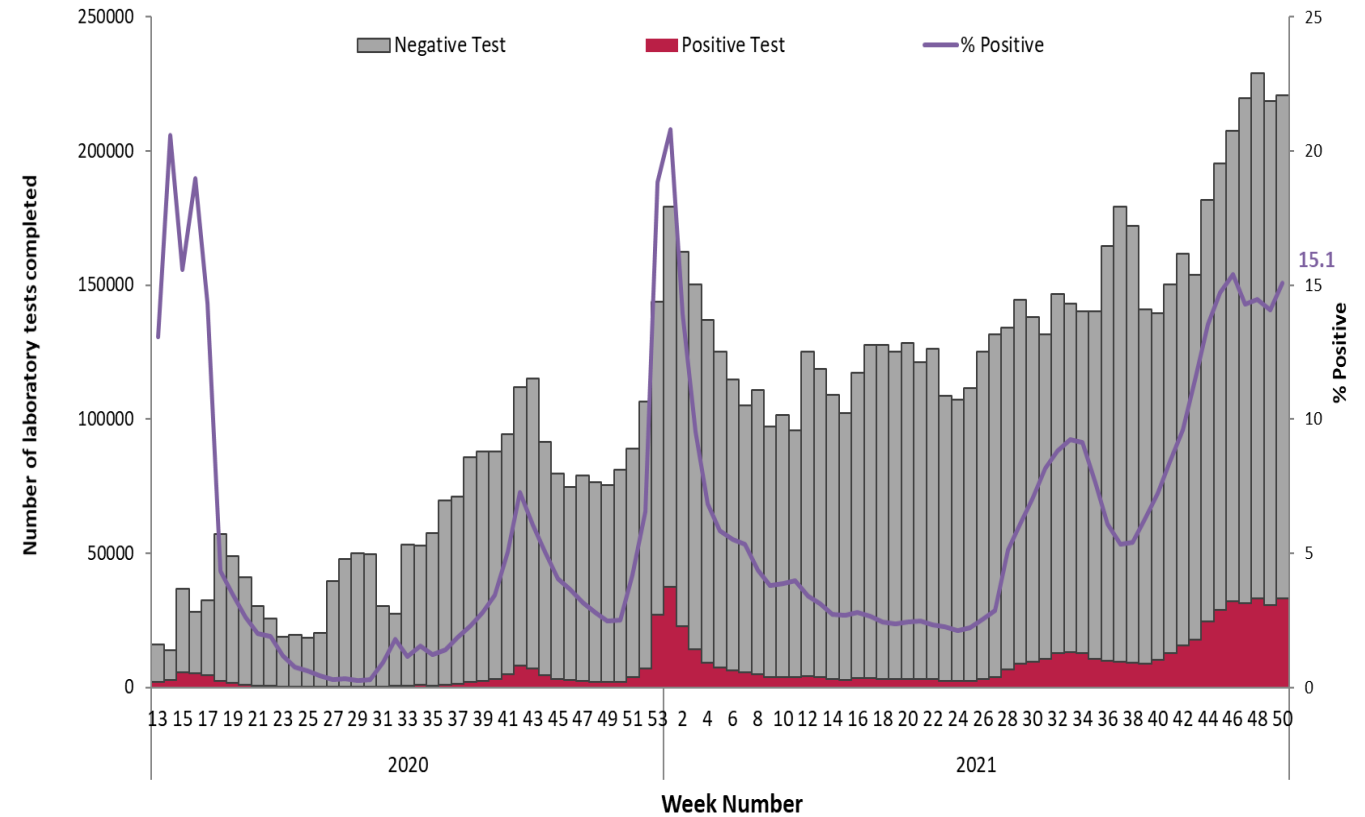
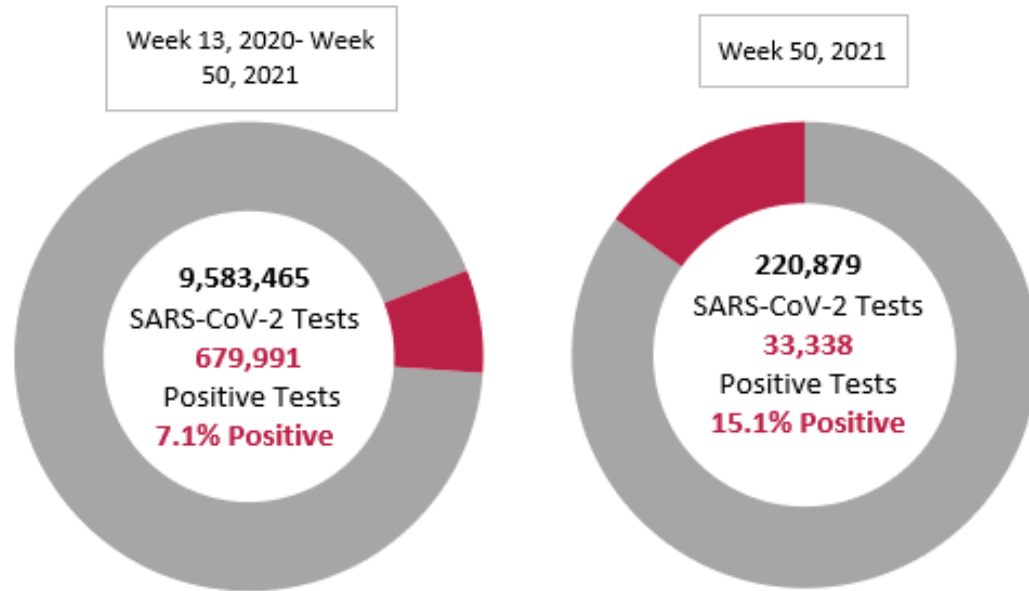


Figure 15a: Number of SARS-CoV-2 tests and positive tests* in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 50, 2021

Figure 15b: Number of SARS-CoV-2 negative and positive tests* completed in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 50, 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

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 ≥ 85 years.