



Weekly Report on the Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland

Week 3, 2022

Health Protection Surveillance Centre, HPSC
COVID-19 Epidemiology Team, 24/01/2022

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 3, 2022 (16th January to 22nd January) – 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 24/01/2022
- Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.

Notes on data during this surge period



- Since 22nd December 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. The notification of cases on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting system (CIDR) has continued. Given the ongoing surge in cases in early January and its impact on reporting time, 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 the surge period and until reporting time returns to normal.
- Since 14th January 2022, a confirmatory PCR test is no longer necessary for some groups of people testing positive on an antigen test, see [guidance](#). Since January 14th, both positive PCR confirmed cases and positive antigen tests have been reported, this can be seen in [Figure 1a](#) and [Figure 1b](#).
- All other case-based data in this report are based on confirmed PCR positive cases notified on CIDR.
- The weekly number of notifications on CIDR since week 51, 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 22nd December 2021.
- 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). For this reason, notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 were artificially reduced compared to the number of cases diagnosed during this period. Notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during week 3, due to the ongoing processing of cases diagnosed during previous weeks.
- Reporting time will return to previous levels in the coming weeks as cases diagnosed during the surge are processed and case numbers fall.
- To account for the current increased reporting time, additional trend data on total cases ([Figure 2](#) and [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.
- The change to the testing policy on 14th January for some groups (see above), will affect notifications for some age-groups. However, the full effect may not yet be evident in this report due to the current increased reporting time.

Daily reported cases of COVID-19 in Ireland

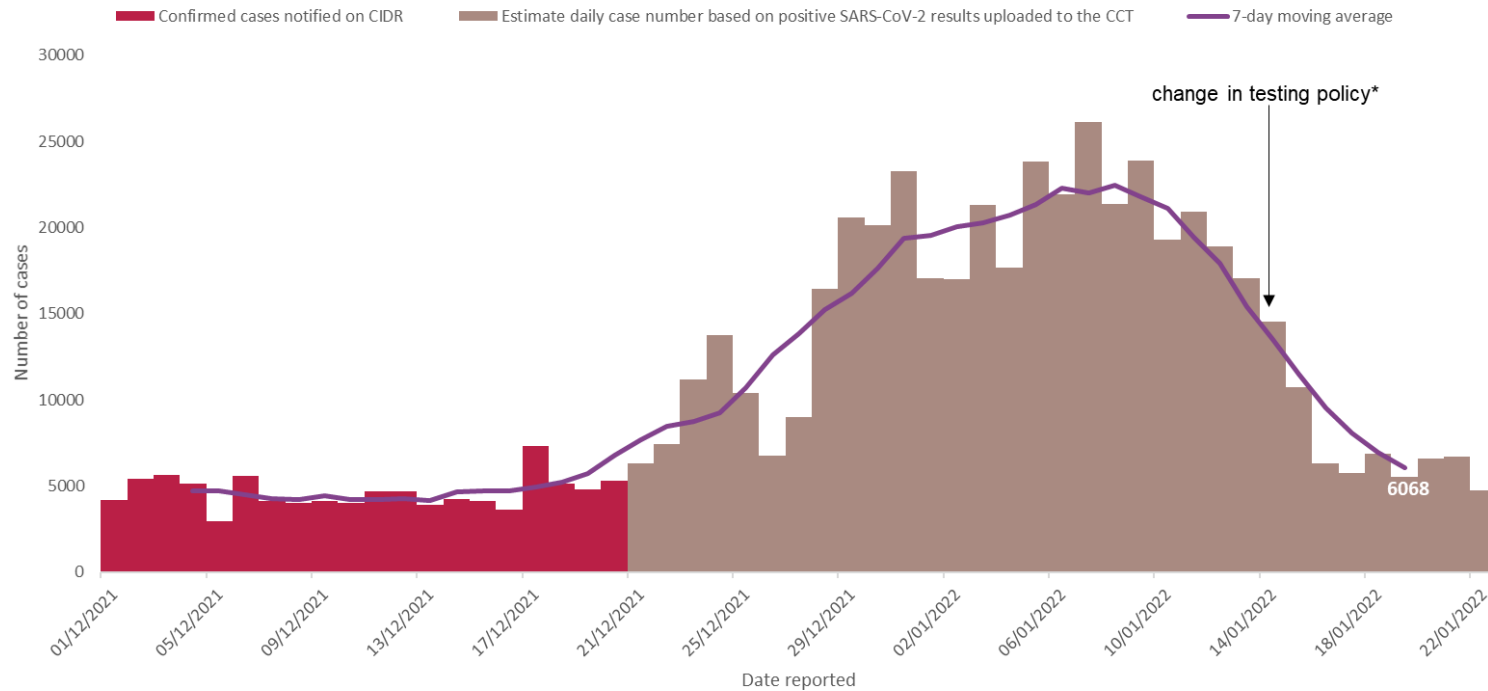


Figure 1a: Number of PCR positive reported cases** of COVID-19 in Ireland by day, 1st December 2021 to 22th January 2022

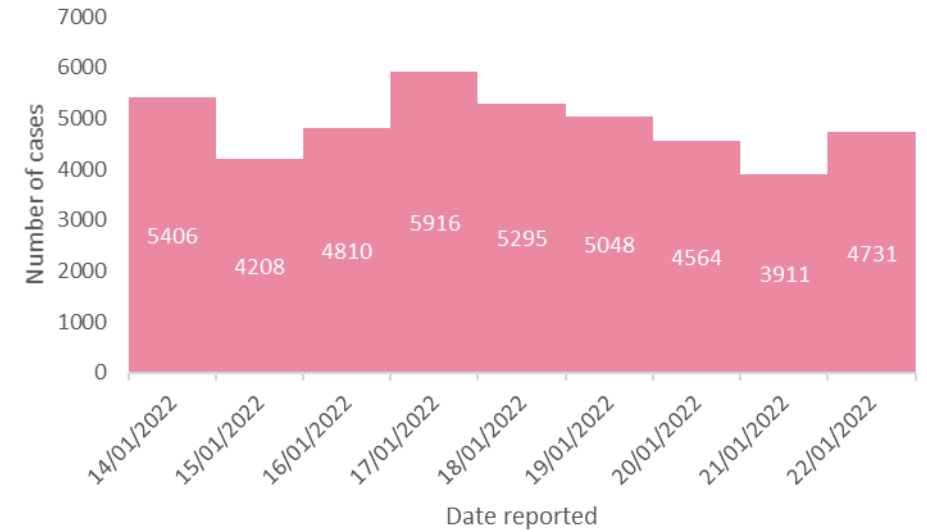


Figure 1b: Number of positive antigen test results self-reported to the antigen portal, 14th December 2021 to 22th January 2022

*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.

The following figures and tables are based on notified cases with positive PCR tests extracted from CIDR and presented by week of notification and do not include cases diagnosed by antigen tests.

Due to the surge in case numbers during week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022, the overall reporting time (time from when a case is diagnosed to when they are notified) has increased since week 51. For this reason, notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 were artificially reduced compared to the number of cases diagnosed during this period. Notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during week 3, due to the ongoing processing of cases diagnosed during previous weeks.

Data on cases diagnosed in the past week are still subject to reporting delays and therefore may not be complete. Cases diagnosed during this period will be reflected in notifications during subsequent weeks.

Summary characteristics of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 5th wave

	Total (week 26, 2021-week 3, 2022)		Week 3, 2022 [§]	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases	769,054		99,062	
Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population	16150.3		2080.3	
Number of cases hospitalised	9,335	1.2	531*	0.5
Number of cases admitted to ICU	821	0.1	6**	0.01
Number of deaths among confirmed cases	1,049	0.1	11**	0.01
Case fatality ratio (CFR %)	0.1		0.01	
Incidence rate of confirmed deaths per 100,000 population	22.0		0.23	
Males	374,572	48.7	47,352	47.8
Females	394,185	51.3	51,628	52.1
M:F ratio	0.95		0.92	
Median (years)	30		32	
Mean age (years)	32		33	
Age range (years)	0-108		0-103	

[§]Notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during week 3, 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 no longer necessary for some groups. Due to the increased reporting time, the affect of this change may not be evident yet.

*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 increased reporting time of cases.

Epidemic curve of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland

The 5th pandemic wave in Ireland commenced in week 51, 2021. This time point was designated based on when the omicron variant of concern was estimated to have become the dominant circulating variant in Ireland, and when the incidence of COVID-19 markedly increased.

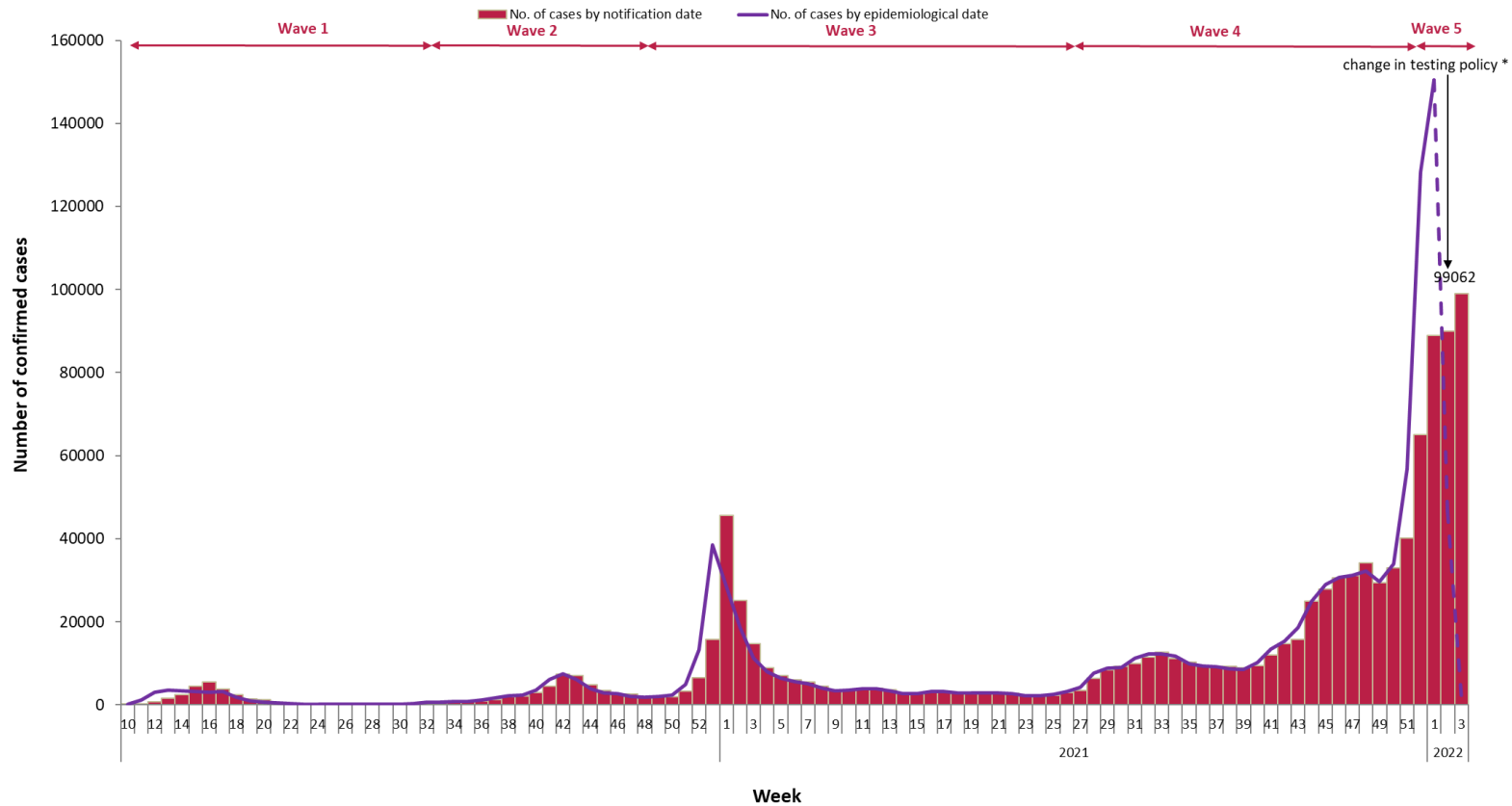


Figure 2: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by week by notification and epidemiological date in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 3^{**}, 2022

**There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer necessary for some groups. Due to the increased reporting time, the affect of this change may not be evident yet.*

***Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.*

****The increased discrepancy between the number of cases by notification date and epidemiological date since week 51 is due to the increased reporting time during this surge period. A similar increase in reporting time occurred during the January 2021 surge. Data by epidemiological date is still incomplete for weeks 1 and 2, 2022.*

Summary characteristics of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 3, 2022

Table 1: Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 3*, 2022

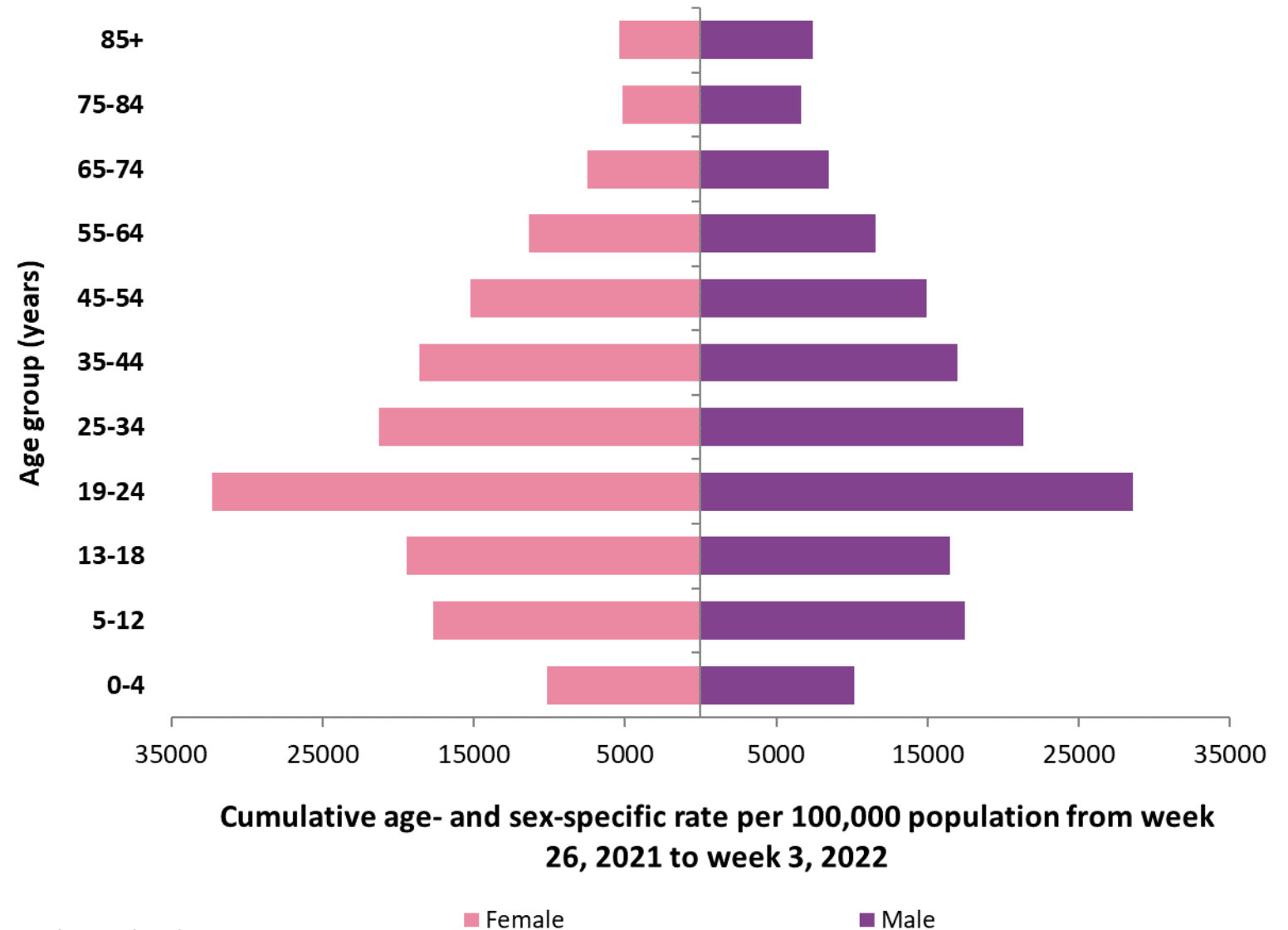
Characteristic		Week 3	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases		99,062	100
Sex	Male:Female ratio	0.92	
	Male	47,352	47.8
	Female	51,628	52.1
	Unknown	82	0.1
Age	Mean age (years)	33	
	Median age (years)	32	
	Age range (years)	0-103	
	0-4 yrs	4707	4.8
	5-12 yrs	11,051	11.2
	13-18 yrs	10,229	10.3
	19-24 yrs	11,176	11.3
	25-34 yrs	17,235	17.4
	35-44 yrs	18,151	18.3
	45-54 yrs	13,305	13.4
	55-64 yrs	7,405	7.5
	65-74 yrs	3,658	3.7
	75-84 yrs	1,534	1.5
	85+ yrs	610	0.6
	Unknown	1	0.0

*Notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during week 3, due to the ongoing processing of cases diagnosed during previous weeks.

Age and sex pyramid for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 5th wave

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 3, 2022

(excluding 52 cases for whom age is unknown, 297 cases for whom sex is unknown)

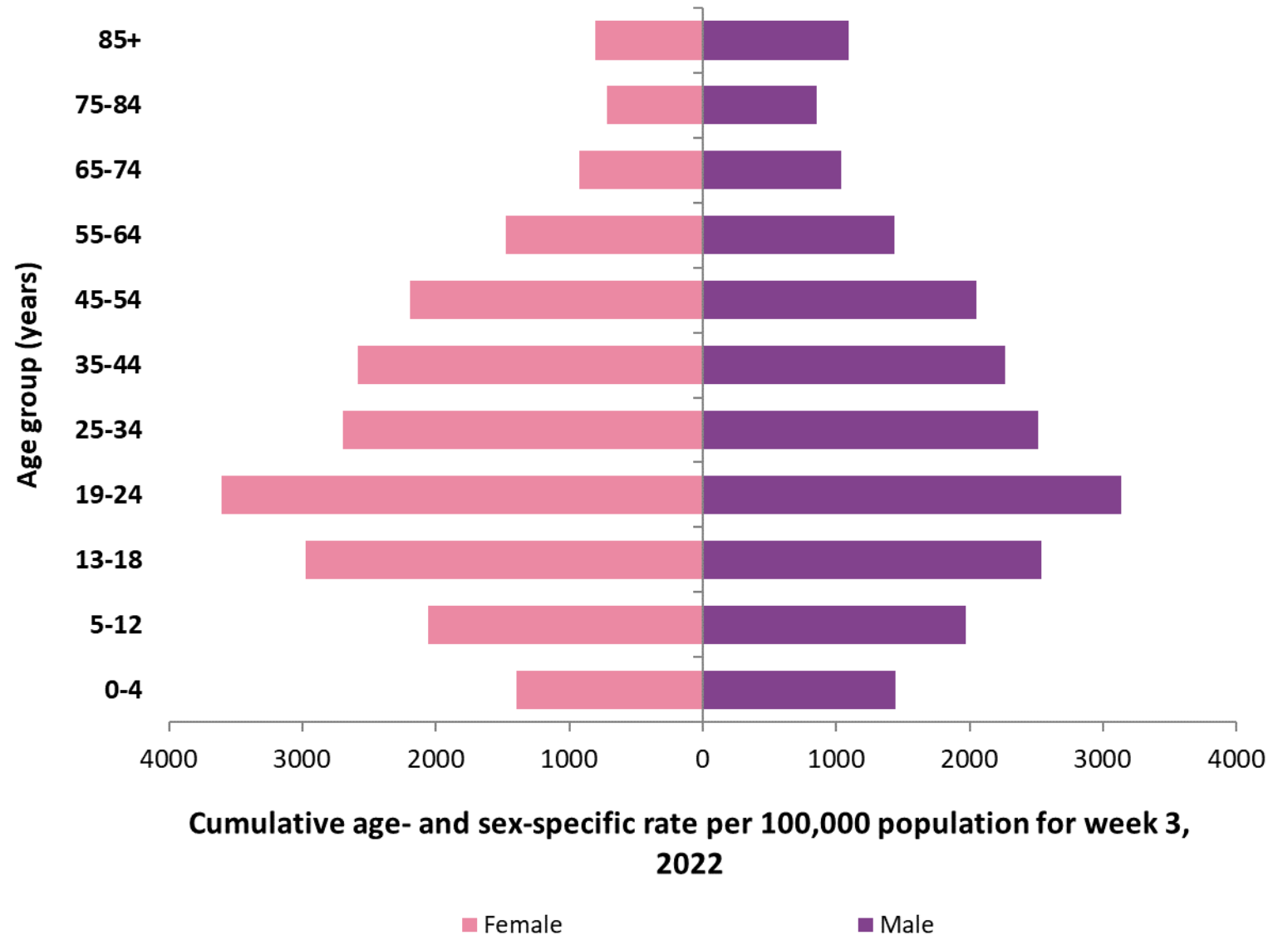


*Notifications since week 51, 2021 are artificially reduced due to the increased reporting time.

Age and sex pyramid for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 3, 2022

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

(excluding 1 cases for whom age is unknown and 82 cases for whom sex is unknown)



*Notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during week 3, due to the ongoing processing of cases diagnosed during previous weeks.

Proportion of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland by age groups during the 4th and 5th waves

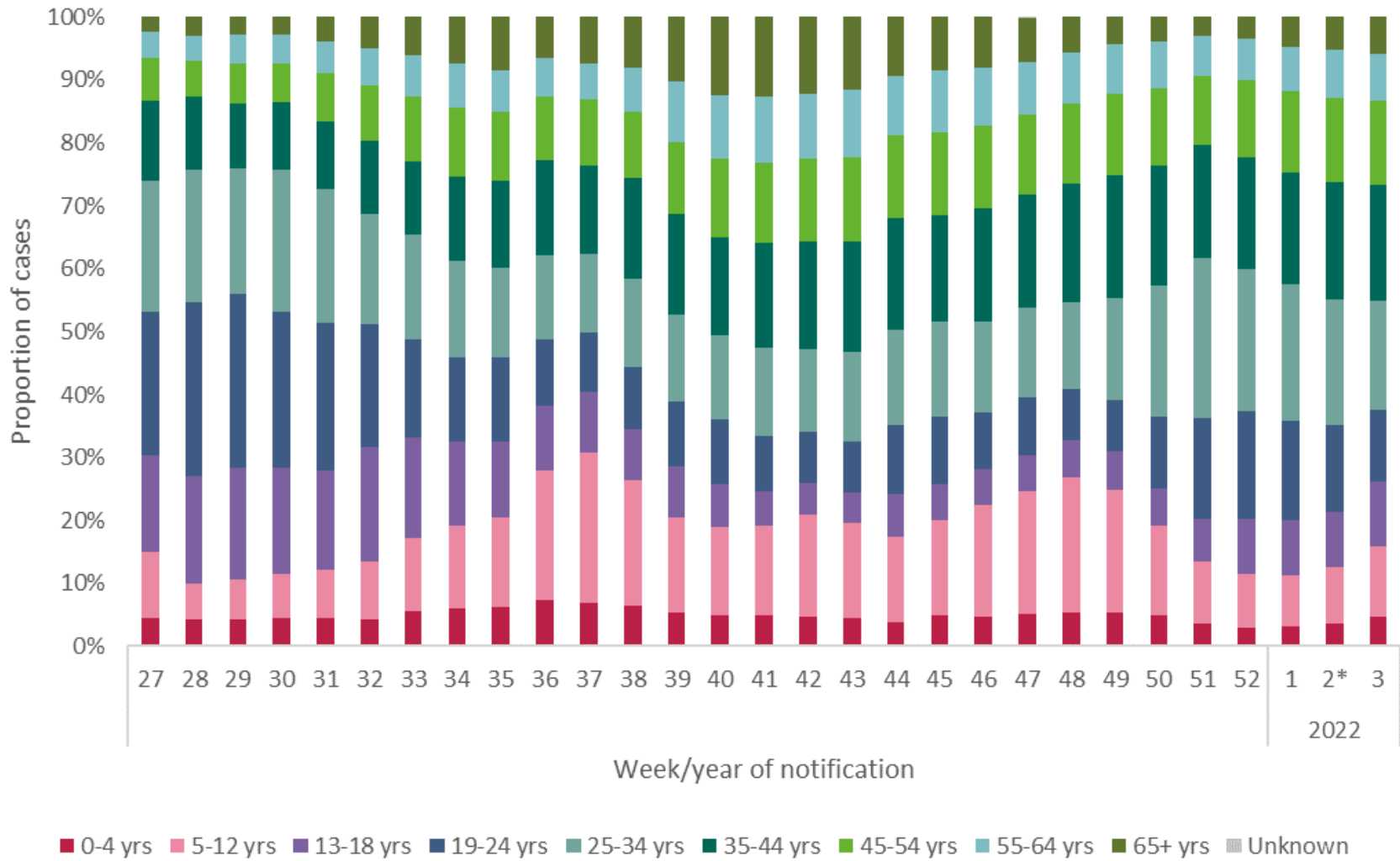


Figure 4: Proportion of confirmed COVID-19 cases by age group in Ireland **by week of notification** from week 26, 2021 to week 3**, 2022

*There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer necessary for some groups. Due to the increased reporting time, the effect of this change may not be evident yet.

**Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.

Incidence rates by age group for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4th and 5th waves

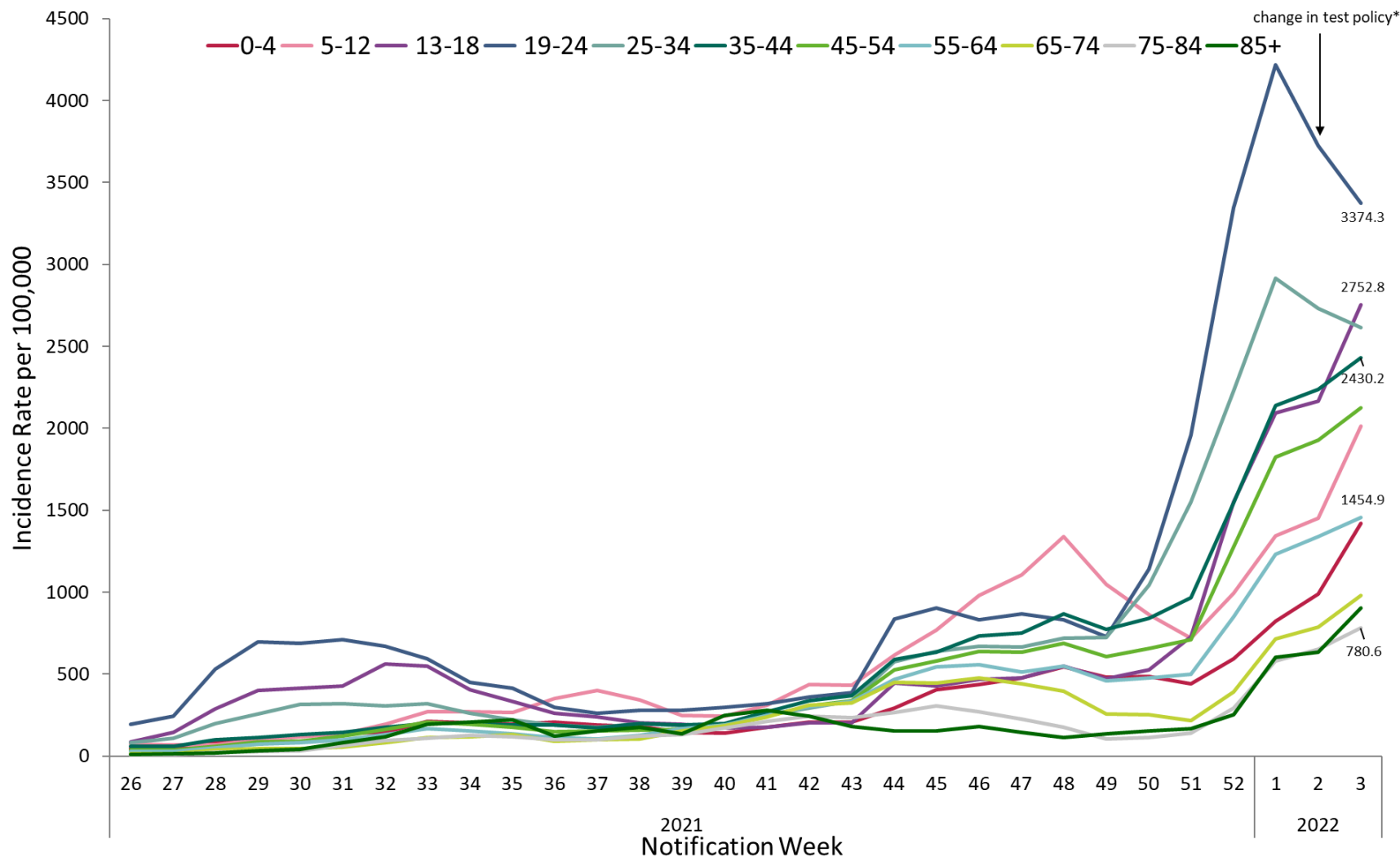


Figure 5: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland by week of notification from week 26, 2021 to week 3, 2022**

*There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer necessary for some groups. Due to the increased reporting time, the effect of this change may not be evident yet.

**Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.

Incidence by age group for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland, latest 8 weeks



		Age Range											
		0-4	5-12	13-18	19-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	National
2021	Notification Week 48	546.0	1340.8	546.8	832.7	718.2	865.5	689.2	550.9	394.4	177.6	112.5	717.8
	Notification Week 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
	Notification Week 50	484.7	861.0	526.1	1141.3	1040.8	838.6	655.5	479.2	252.2	113.5	152.5	693.1
	Notification Week 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
	Notification Week 52	595.1	993.1	1549.3	3345.3	2226.1	1547.8	1278.3	850.6	391.7	295.2	251.6	1365.9
2022	Notification Week 1	824.4	1341.9	2095.1	4218.8	2913.8	2136.2	1822.7	1232.5	714.3	580.6	604.0	1867.4
	Notification Week 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
	Notification Week 3	1419.8	2014.1	2752.8	3374.3	2613.7	2430.2	2125.2	1454.9	979.4	780.6	903.0	2080.3

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 48, 2021 to week 3**, 2022

*There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer necessary for some groups. Due to the increased reporting time, the effect of this change may not be evident yet.

**Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.

COVID-19 cases in children aged 18 years and under by notification date during the 4th and 5th waves

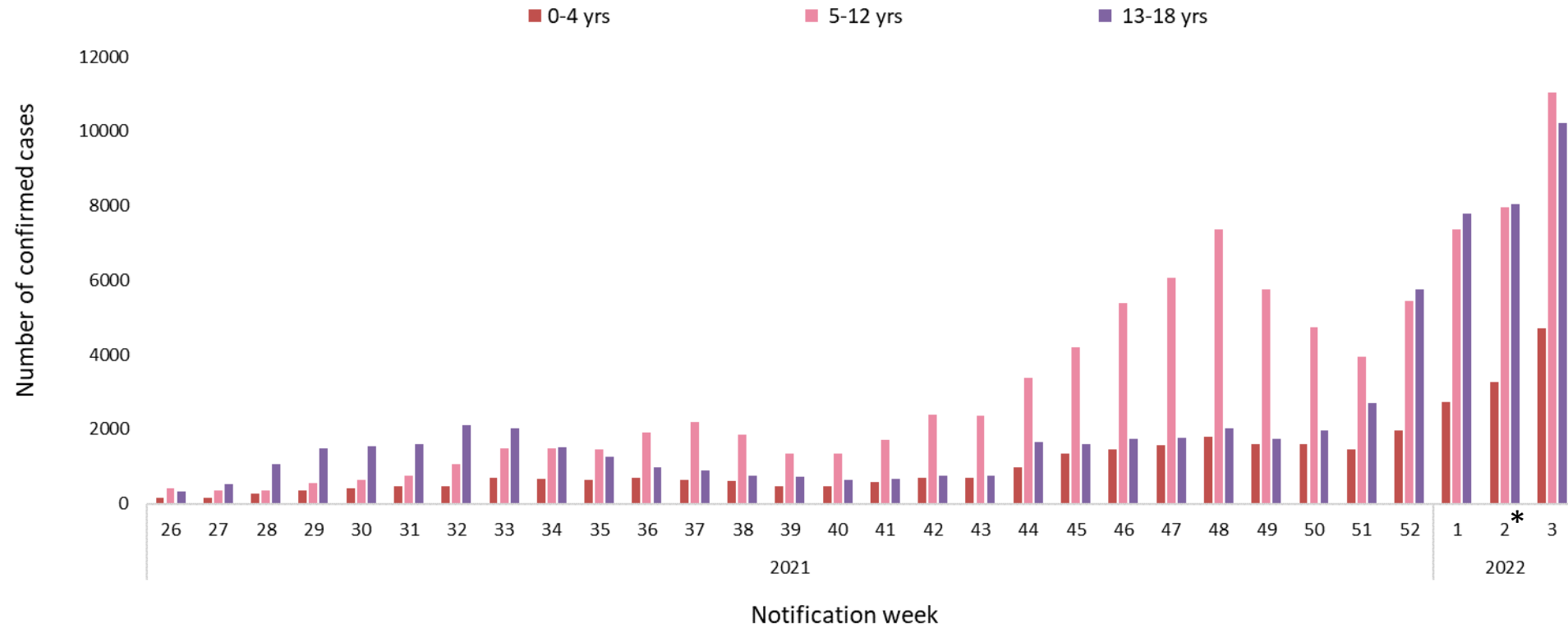


Figure 7: Weekly number of age-specific confirmed COVID-19 cases by week of notification in Ireland from week 26, 2021 to week 3, 2022**

*There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer necessary for some groups. Due to the increased reporting time, the effect of this change may not be evident yet.

**Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.

COVID-19 weekly incidence rate among children aged 0-18 years in Ireland during the 4th and 5th waves

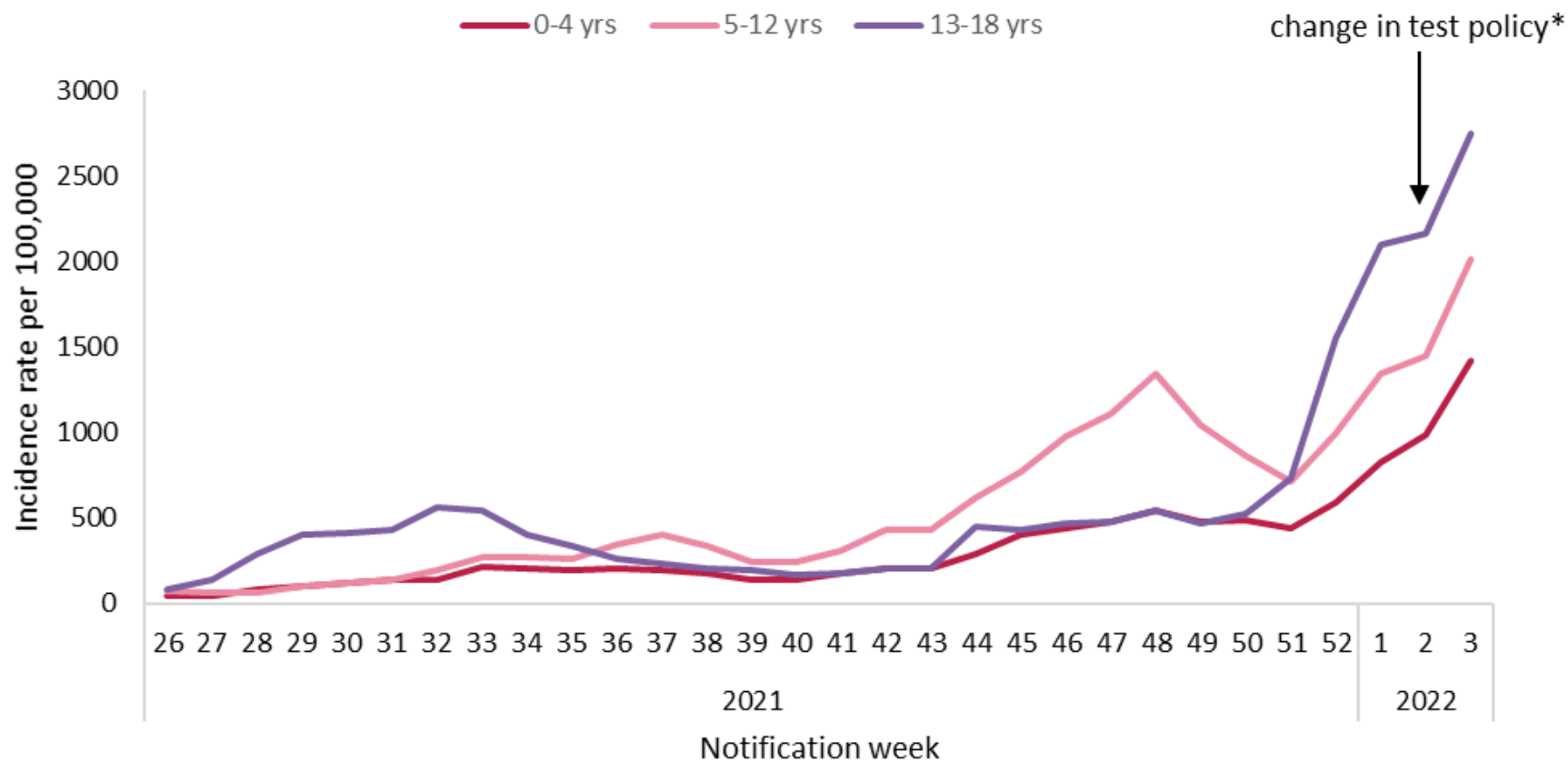


Figure 8: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population among children aged 0-18 years in from week 26, 2021 to week 3**, 2022

*There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer necessary for some groups. Due to the increased reporting time, the effect of this change may not be evident yet.

**Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.

Characteristics for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland by county during week 3, 2022

Table 2: Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases by county notified in Ireland, during week 3*, 2022

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.

County	Cases		M:F ratio	Median age	Incidence Rate per 100,000
	N	%		(years)	
Westmeath	4021	4.1	1.0	32	4529.7
Clare	3518	3.6	0.9	31	2960.9
Kildare	6462	6.5	1.0	32	2904.2
Roscommon	1863	1.9	0.9	33	2886.4
Cavan	2012	2.0	0.9	33	2641.3
Donegal	4102	4.1	0.9	33	2576.8
Louth	3308	3.3	0.9	33	2566.6
Monaghan	1562	1.6	1.0	33	2544.6
Wexford	3677	3.7	0.9	32	2455.9
Longford	995	1.0	1.1	33	2434.4
Sligo	1493	1.5	1.0	30	2278.2
Wicklow	3173	3.2	0.9	31	2227.8
Leitrim	701	0.7	1.1	33	2187.6
Galway	5643	5.7	1.0	32	2186.7
Mayo	2735	2.8	0.9	33	2095.7
Meath	3964	4.0	0.9	31	2032.4
Carlow	1143	1.2	0.9	30	2007.7
Dublin	25962	26.2	0.9	31	1926.9
Waterford	2157	2.2	0.9	33	1856.7
Tipperary	2907	2.9	0.9	33	1822.0
Offaly	1379	1.4	0.9	32	1768.8
Kilkenny	1692	1.7	1.0	33	1705.1
Laois	1436	1.4	1.0	31	1695.5
Cork	8536	8.6	0.9	31	1572.4
Limerick	2911	2.9	0.9	33	1493.6
Kerry	1710	1.7	0.8	32	1157.7

**Notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during week 3, due to the ongoing processing of cases diagnosed during previous weeks.*

Incidence rates by county for COVID-19 cases notified, 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.

	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	48	1024.0	539.5	596.7	743.6	550.3	754.7	615.8	595.1	879.5	742.7	830.0	586.7	513.1	672.8	834.9	542.5	760.9	594.6	637.5	653.8	659.2	843.0	711.9	941.8	676.6	746.4	717.8
	49	714.9	452.9	565.6	636.3	486.8	744.8	488.3	499.0	778.0	654.0	746.2	480.6	407.9	467.3	602.9	358.6	599.9	496.9	555.4	350.1	401.3	637.4	649.9	761.5	523.0	519.6	618.5
	50	681.5	442.4	478.9	725.2	457.3	911.3	560.7	586.3	729.0	673.2	621.0	605.4	554.1	584.7	746.4	380.1	694.2	480.6	538.7	429.2	383.0	611.7	748.0	654.5	527.6	598.9	693.1
	51	706.1	624.9	678.4	662.2	788.4	1091.7	858.3	647.9	1007.6	1153.9	560.8	680.3	717.8	841.6	1143.7	567.0	807.5	995.3	533.6	740.6	546.3	734.6	480.3	1294.4	408.8	596.8	844.9
	52	1798.6	1076.5	1976.1	1110.6	1588.6	1412.1	1529.1	884.2	1157.3	1857.3	1716.7	1273.2	1251.4	1622.1	1548.7	1247.4	1273.0	1212.0	1682.9	1518.3	1013.2	1229.7	1042.4	2941.3	956.4	1130.4	1365.9
	2022	1	2671.6	1451.9	2625.0	1292.0	2208.7	2070.8	1596.2	1123.2	1919.5	2138.4	1622.3	1522.9	1512.1	2160.4	2549.6	1767.0	1946.7	1625.8	2154.9	2073.0	1815.8	1730.5	1354.8	3433.6	1435.3	1936.5
2*		2778.8	1390.2	3309.3	1787.9	1971.2	1604.2	2778.1	1199.0	2087.2	1763.5	1557.3	2440.4	1627.5	2911.5	2167.1	1968.5	1717.0	1503.6	2337.1	1995.5	1983.7	1596.3	1175.8	4863.1	1676.4	1600.8	1887.8
3		2007.7	2641.3	2960.9	1572.4	2576.8	1926.9	2186.7	1157.7	2904.2	1705.1	1695.5	2187.6	1493.6	2434.4	2566.6	2095.7	2032.4	2544.6	1768.8	2886.4	2278.2	1822.0	1856.7	4529.7	2455.9	2227.8	2080.3

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 3*, 2022

*There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer necessary for some groups. Due to the increased reporting time, the effect of this change may not be evident yet.

**Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.

Hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths during waves 1 - 5

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	80	0.2	29	0.1
	3	179381	4615	2.6	570	0.3	275	0.2
	4	358597	4059	1.1	477	0.1	185**	0.05
	5	365044	1744	0.5	42	0.0	16**	0.00
	Total		962588	12817	1.3	1446	0.2	614
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	2602	12.4
	4	27263	2716	10.0	279	1.0	769**	2.8
	5	18098	813	4.5	23	0.1	78**	0.4
	Total		77042	11361	14.7	945	1.2	5230

* 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.

#Notifications since week 51, 2021 (wave 5) are artificially reduced due to the increased reporting time.

Hospitalisations among COVID-19 cases during the 4th and 5th waves

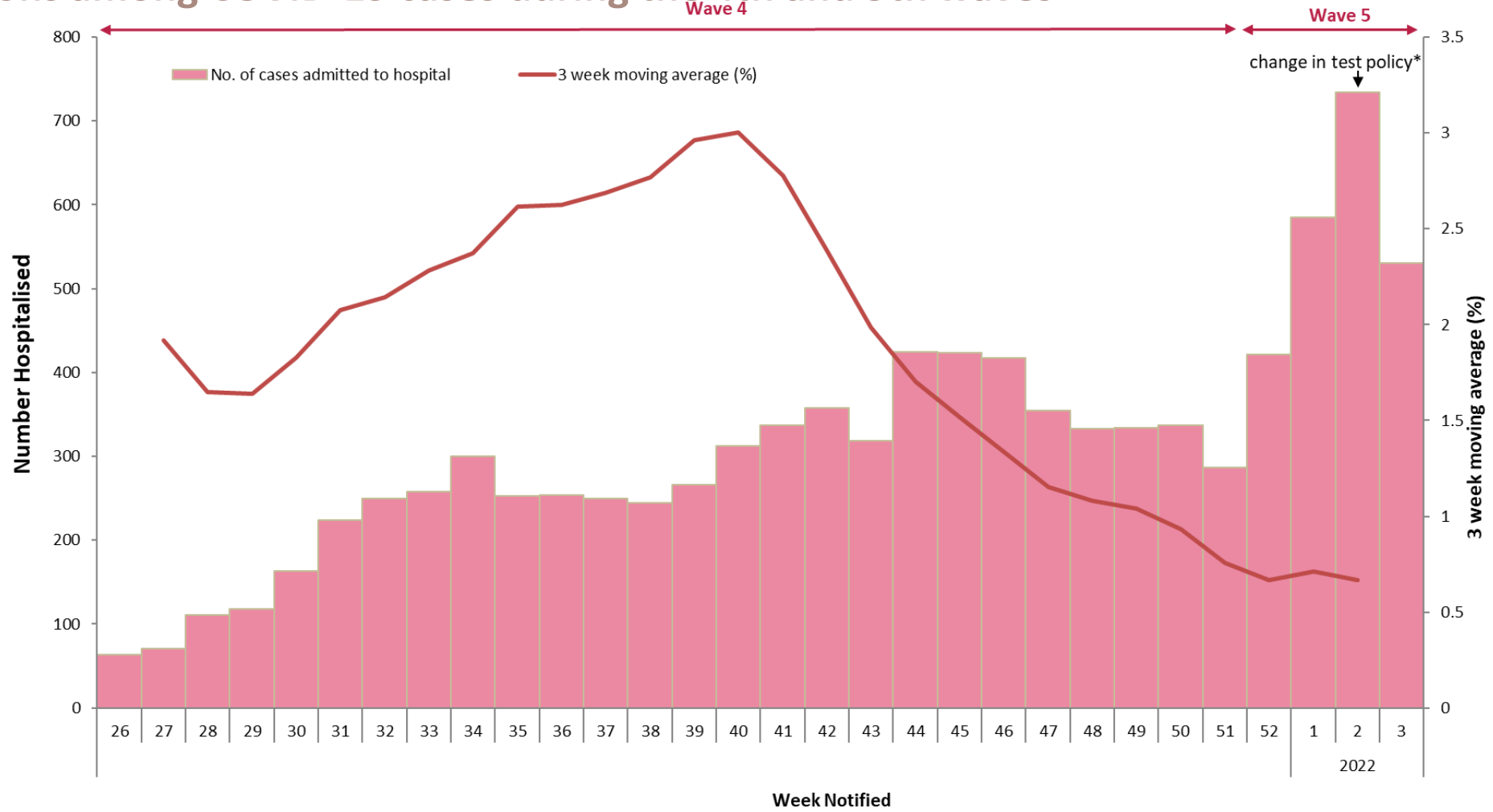


Figure 10: Number* of hospitalised COVID-19 cases** and 3 week moving average (%) of overall cases hospitalised in Ireland between week 26, 2020 and week 3***, 2022 based on week of notification

*There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer necessary for some groups. Due to the increased reporting time, the effect of this change may not be evident yet.

**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 week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.

ICU admissions among COVID-19 cases during the 4th and 5th waves

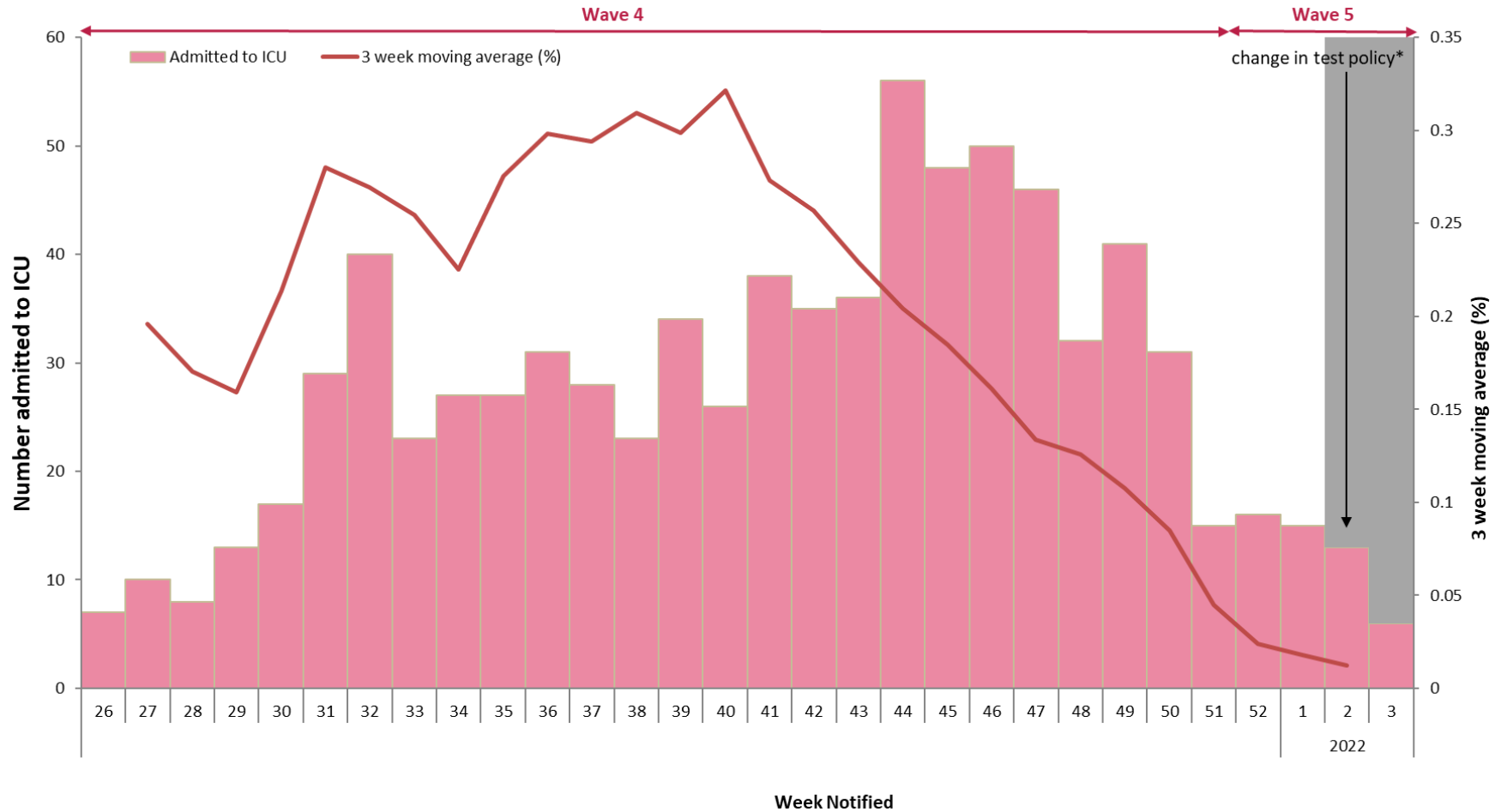


Figure 11: Number of ICU admissions in COVID-19 cases and 3 week moving average (%) of ICU admissions of overall case numbers in Ireland between week 26, 2020 and week 3***, 2022 based on week of notification**

*There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer necessary for some groups. Due to the increased reporting time, the effect of this change may not be evident yet.

**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. The increased reporting time of cases may also impact the reporting of ICU admissions. The greyed area indicates that data for these weeks in particular is likely not complete and an underestimate.

***Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.

Hospitalisations and ICU admissions by age group among COVID-19 cases in week 3, 2022

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	4707	4.8	24	4.5	0	0.0
5-12 yrs	11051	11.2	12	2.3	0	0.0
13-18 yrs	10229	10.3	25	4.7	<5	-
19-24 yrs	11176	11.3	41	7.7	0	0.0
25-34 yrs	17235	17.4	64	12.1	0	0.0
35-44 yrs	18151	18.3	70	13.2	0	0.0
45-54 yrs	13305	13.4	39	7.3	<5	-
55-64 yrs	7405	7.5	57	10.7	0	0.0
65-74 yrs	3658	3.7	66	12.4	<5	-
75-84 yrs	1534	1.5	71	13.4	0	0.0
85+ yrs	610	0.6	62	11.7	0	0.0
Unknown	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	99062	100	531	100	6	100

Table 4: Number of hospitalisations and ICU admissions* in COVID-19 cases in Ireland between for week 3**, 2022 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. The increased reporting time of cases may also impact the reporting of ICU admissions. The greyed area indicates that data for these weeks in particular is likely not complete and an underestimate.

**Notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during week 3, due to the ongoing processing of cases diagnosed during previous weeks.

Hospitalisations and ICU admissions by age group among COVID-19 cases during the 4th and 5th waves

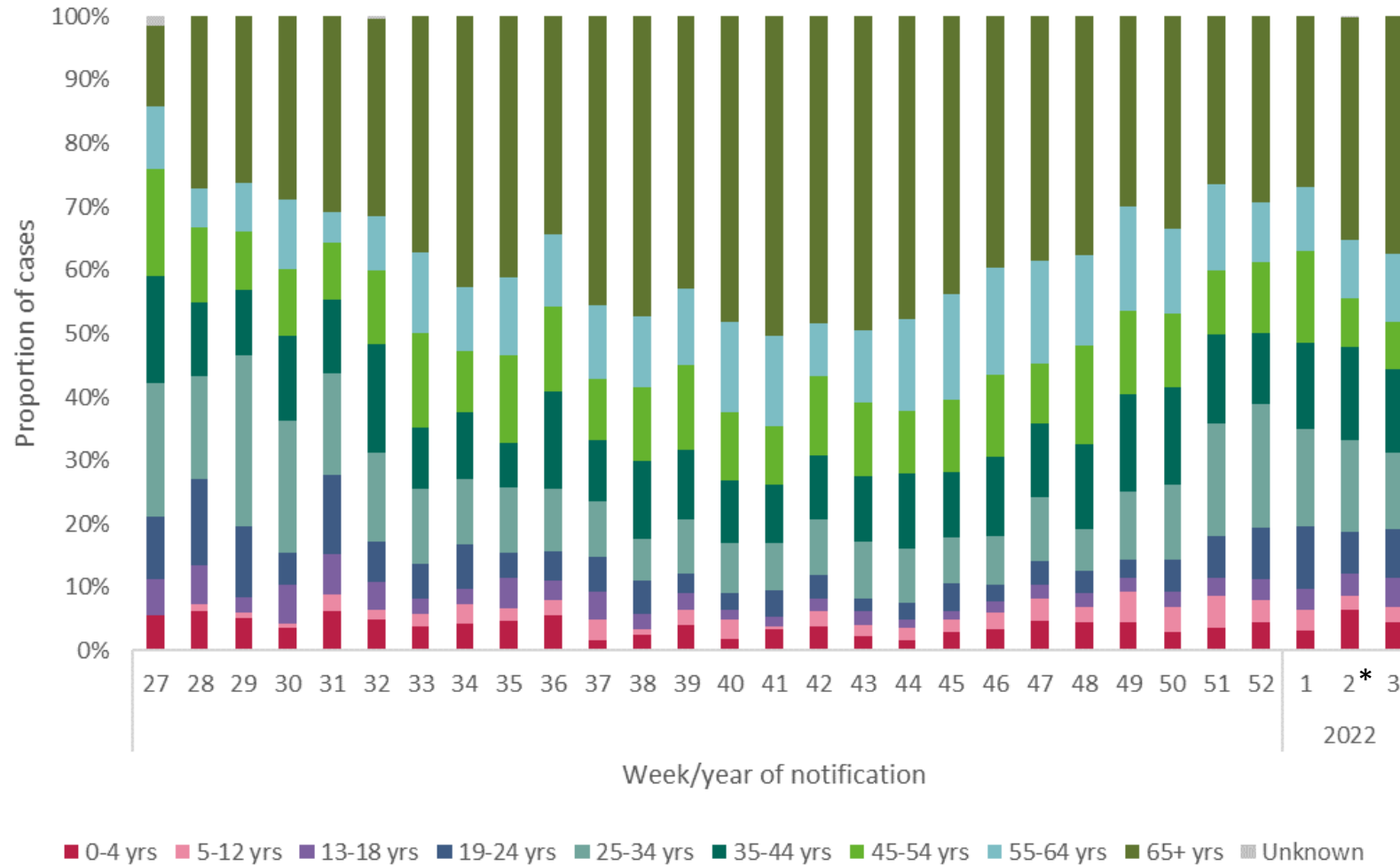


Figure 12: Proportion of hospitalised COVID-19 cases by age group in Ireland **by week of notification** from week 26, 2021 to week 3**, 2022

*There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer necessary for some groups. Due to the increased reporting time, the effect of this change may not be evident yet.

**Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.

Deaths among COVID-19 cases

	Number	Percent
Total number of deaths	6,120	
confirmed	5,845	95.5
probable	97	1.6
possible	178	2.9
Number hospitalised who died	3,481	56.9
admitted to ICU who died	782	12.8
not admitted to ICU who died	5,338	87.2
Number of HCWs who died	21	0.3
Number with underlying conditions who died	5,141	84.0
Males who died	3,292	53.8
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 3, 2022

Age group (years)	Female	Male	Total	Percent
<45 yrs	67	50	117	2
45-54 yrs	52	105	157	3
55-64 yrs	141	253	394	6
65-74 yrs	373	661	1034	17
75-84 yrs	866	1169	2035	33
85+ yrs	1326	1053	2379	39
Unknown	3	1	4	0
Total	2828	3292	6120	100.0
Percent	46.2	53.8		

Table 6: Number of deaths in all COVID-19 cases by sex and age group notified in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 3, 2022

Deaths among COVID-19 cases

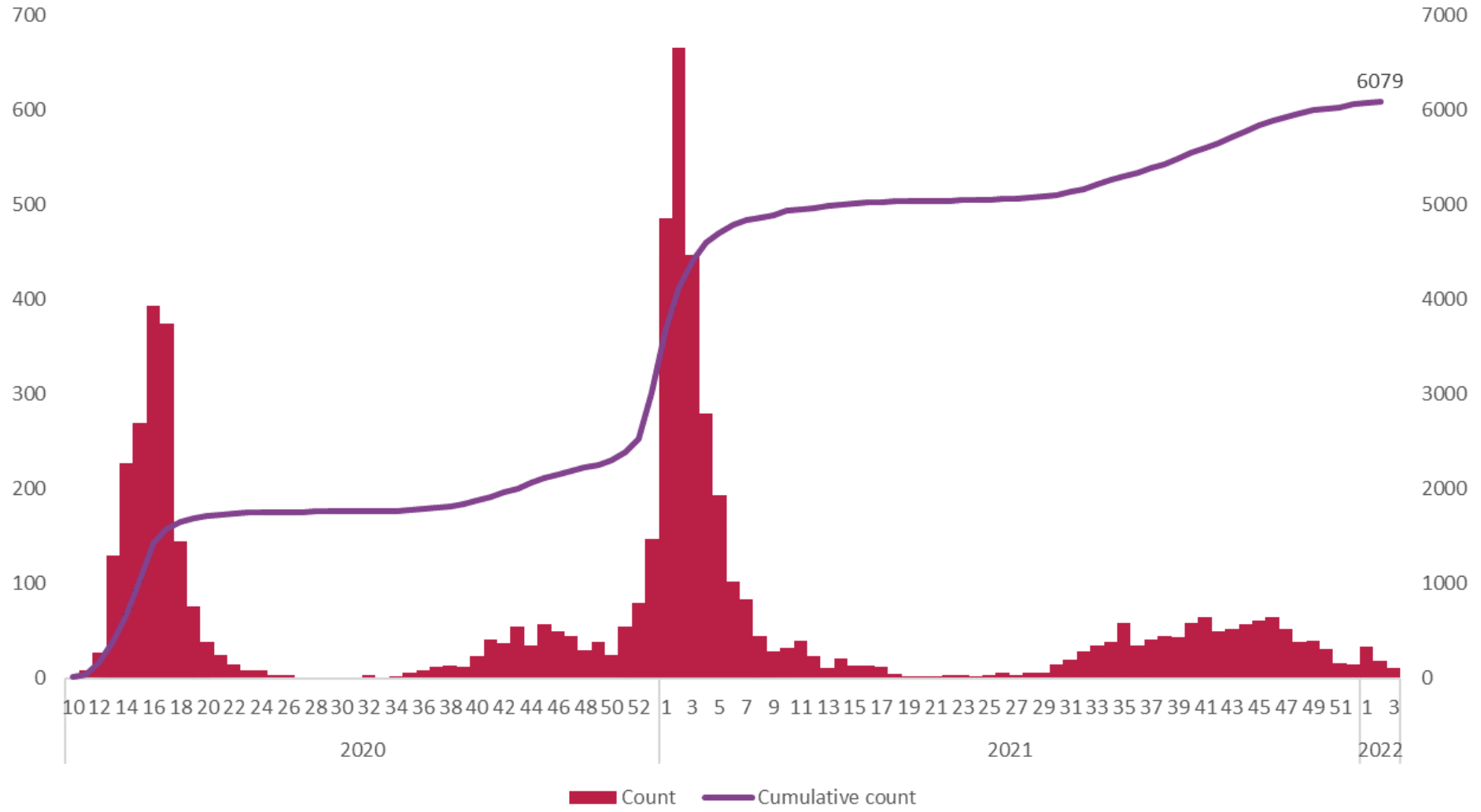


Figure 13: Total number* of COVID-19 deaths notified in and cumulative number by week of death, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 22/01/2021. Date of death was not available for 30 deaths.

*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 the 4th and 5th waves

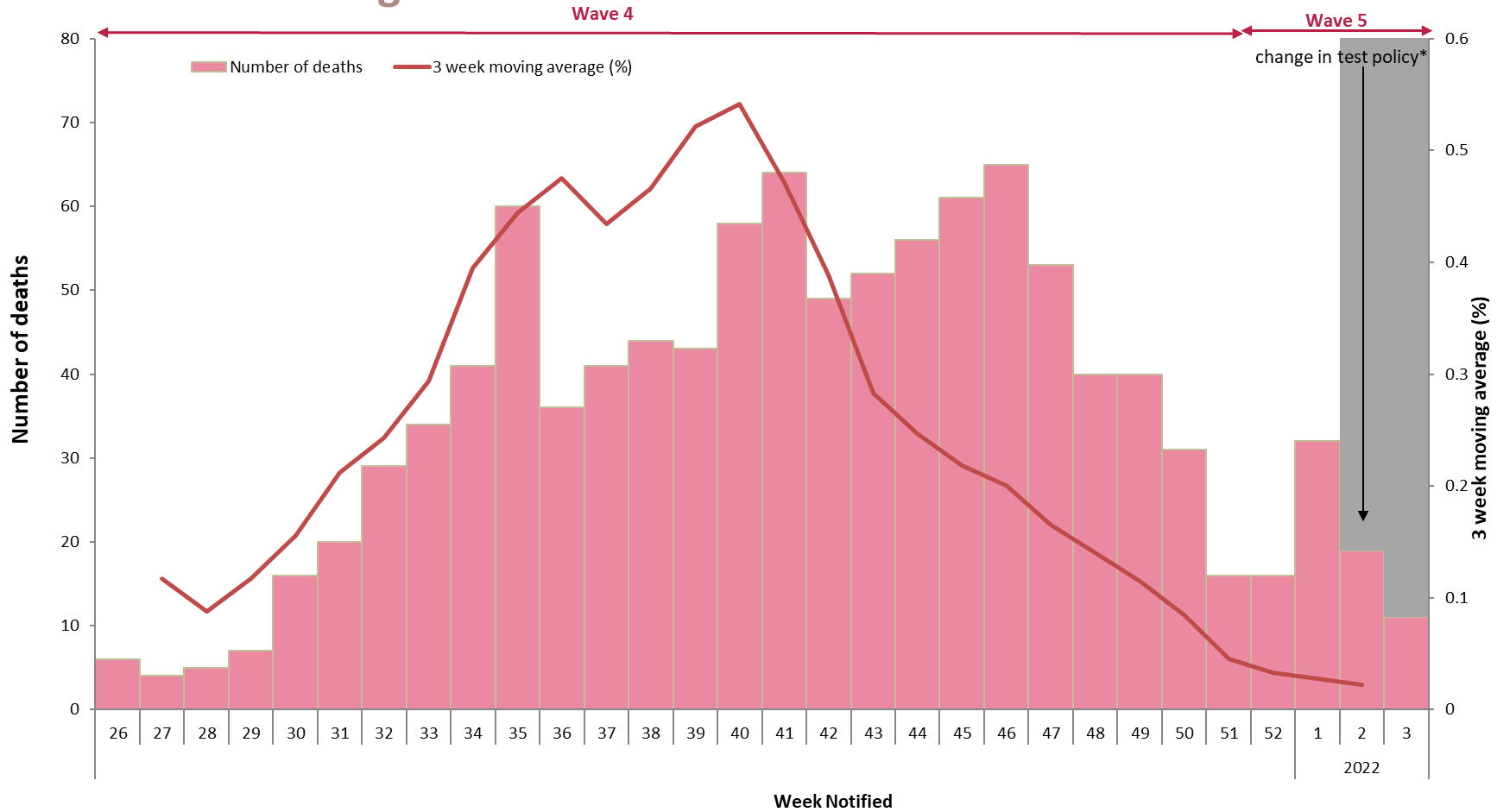


Figure 14: Number of deaths** in confirmed COVID-19 cases and 3 week moving average (%) of deaths of overall case numbers in Ireland between week 26, 2020 and week 3***, 2022 based on week of notification

*There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer necessary for some groups. Due to the increased reporting time, the effect of this change may not be evident yet.

**Deaths may be underestimated for recent weeks as the outcome may not yet have occurred or may not yet have been reported to CIDR. The increased reporting time of cases may also impact the reporting of deaths. The greyed area indicates that data for these weeks in particular is likely not complete and an underestimate.

***Notifications in week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 are artificially reduced, while notifications in week 3, 2022 are artificially inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.

Due to the surge in case numbers during week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022 the overall reporting time has increased.

Figure 14 includes data presented by epidemiological date of COVID cases who are PCR confirmed and extracted from CIDR. Epidemiological date is based on the earliest of dates available on the case. In recent weeks it is primarily the date of specimen collection (i.e. the date the case was swabbed).

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 are not complete and are provisional.

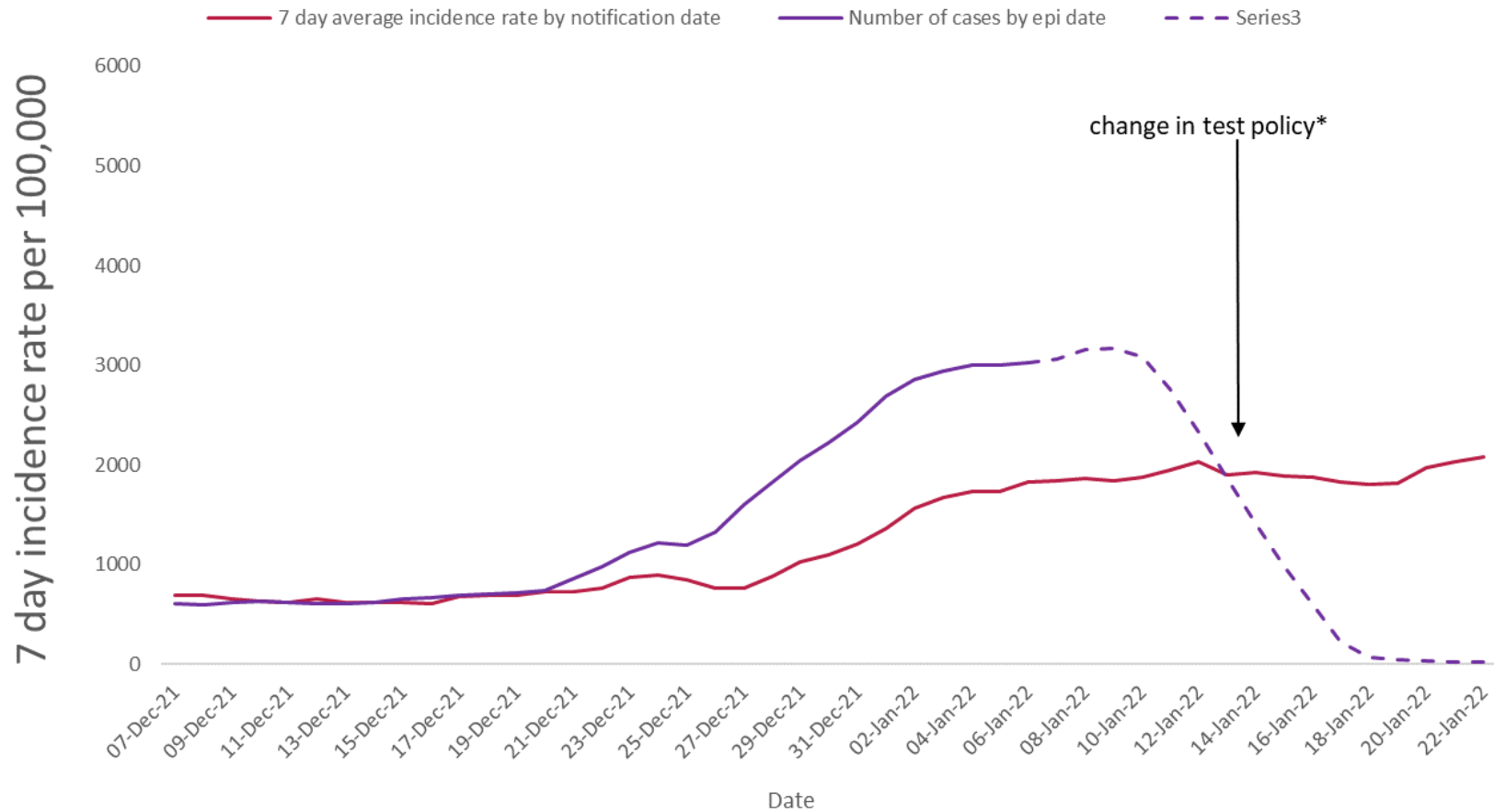


Figure 15: 7 day incidence rate of cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population in Ireland by week of notification* and week of [epidemiological date](#)** , 07/12/2021 and 22/01/2022. The dashed line indicates that data are incomplete.

*There was a change to testing policy in week 2, 2022. Confirmatory PCR tests are no longer necessary for some groups. Due to the increased reporting time, the effect of this change may not be evident yet.

**Notifications since week 51, 2021 (wave 5) are artificially reduced due to the increased reporting time.

***The increased discrepancy between the incidence rate by notification date and epidemiological date since week 51 relates is due to the increased processing time during this surge period. Data by epidemiological date is still incomplete for the last 7 days (dashed purple line).

Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 testing

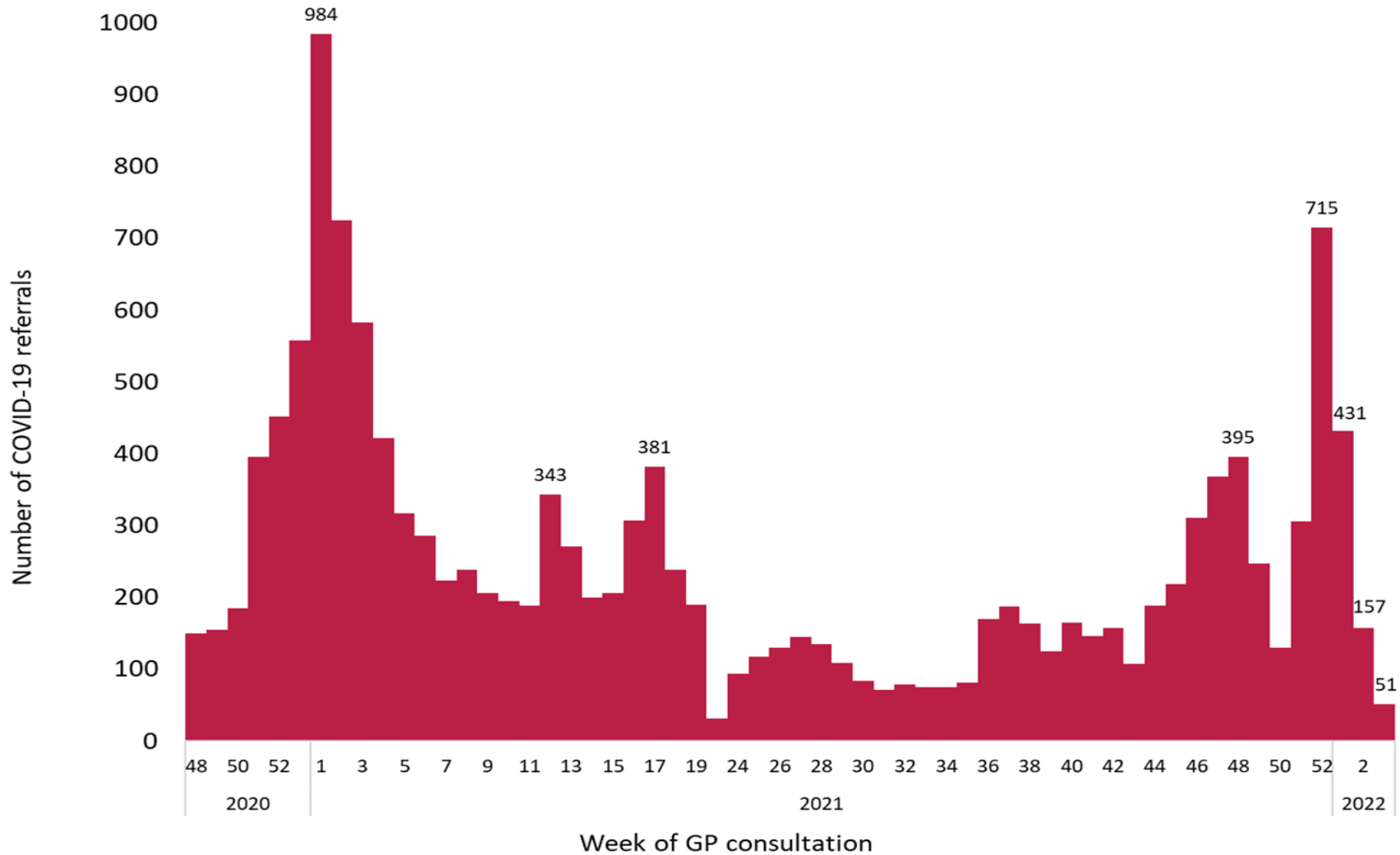


Figure 16: Number of sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals by week of consultation, week 48, 2020 – week 52, 2021, week 1 - week 3 2022

**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 testing

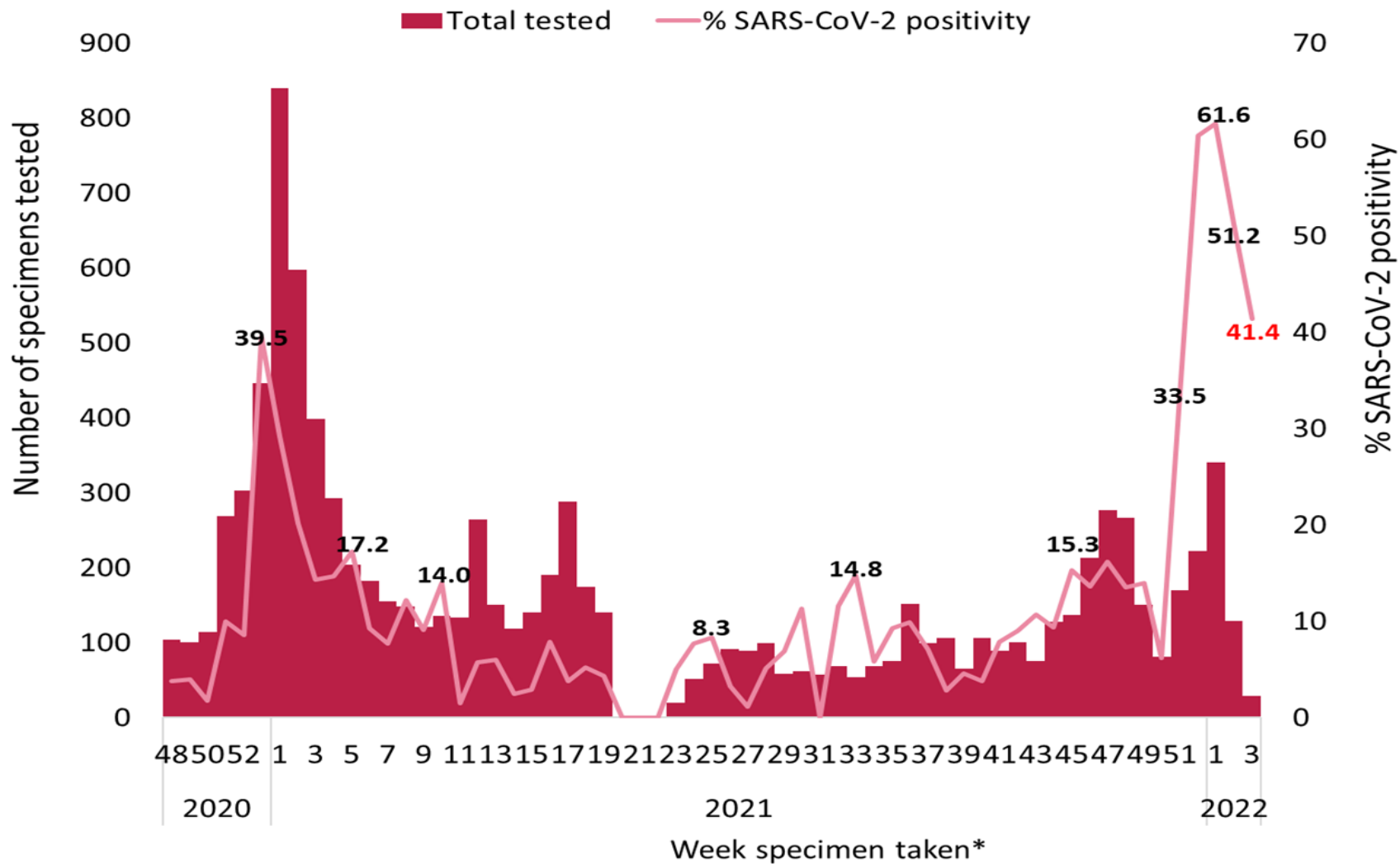


Figure 17: % SARS-CoV-2 positivity data from sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals tested by NVRL/ENFER*, 2020-2021, 2022.

*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

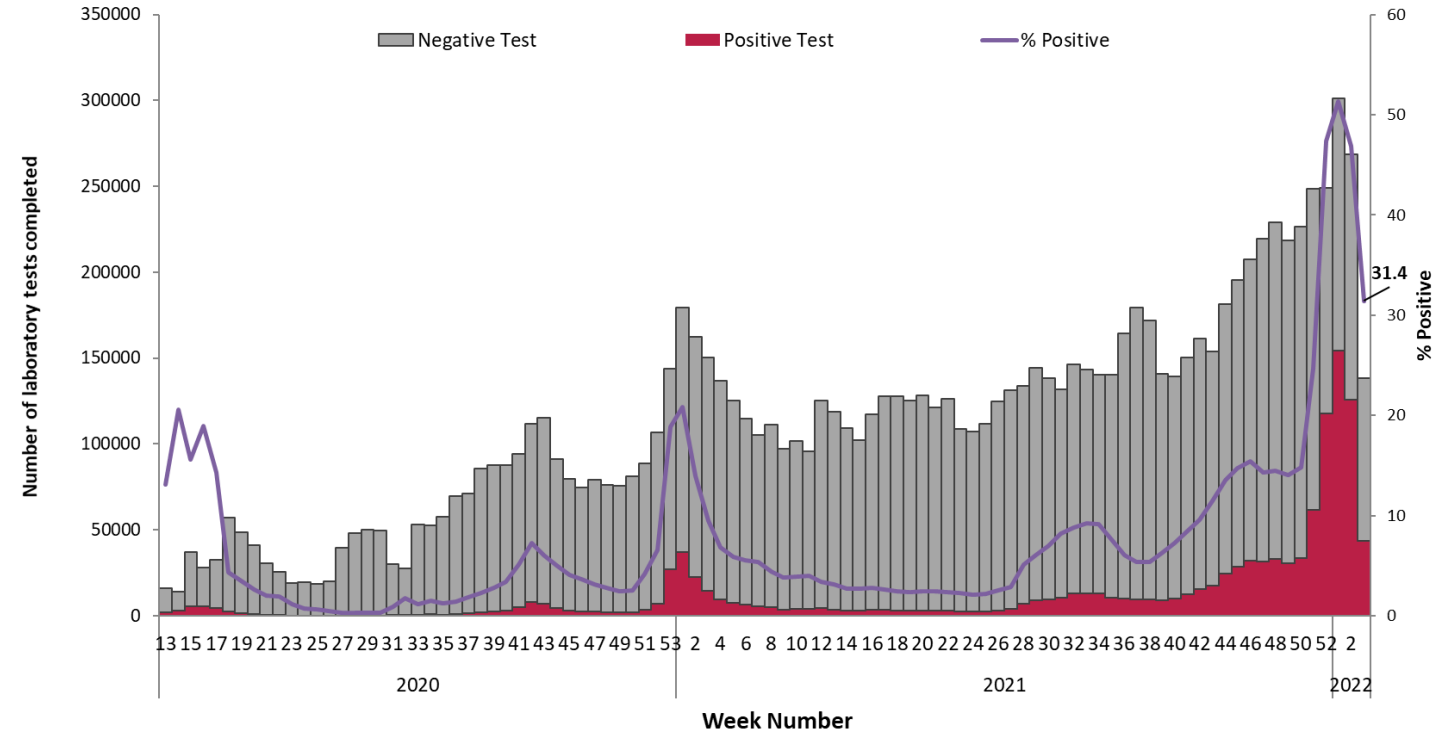
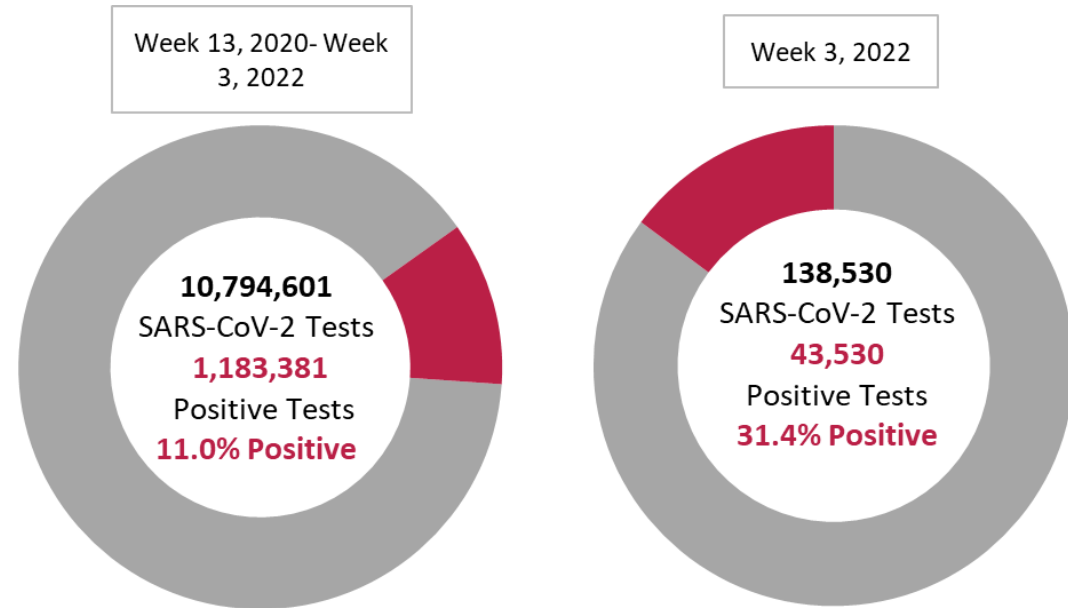


Figure 18a: Number of SARS-CoV-2 tests and positive tests* in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 3, 2022

Figure 18b: Number of SARS-CoV-2 negative and positive tests* completed in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 3, 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

- [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

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.