



Weekly report on the epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland

Week 10, 2023

- 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 2020-2023.
- Data for this report are based on cases notified on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) and HSE Positive Antigen Portal up to midnight 11/03/2023. Data were extracted from CIDR system on 14/03/2023. Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.
- A confirmed case of COVID-19 is any person for whom SARS-CoV-2 is detected by PCR. At present, antigen testing undertaken outside the governance of the public laboratory service is not recognised for the purpose of notification of COVID-19. For surveillance purposes, a self-administered positive antigen test registered on the HSE Antigen Portal is not considered to be a confirmed COVID-19 case as it is not subject to data validation and linkage to previous or subsequent PCR results is not feasible.
- In this report, confirmed cases notified on CIDR and cases who have registered a positive antigen test result on the HSE Antigen Portal are presented separately.
- Data from both sources (CIDR and the HSE Antigen Portal) should be interpreted in the context of the current testing policy. Testing policies can affect the number and age distribution of confirmed cases notified on CIDR. Information on the current testing policy in Ireland can be found [here](#)

Key points

Notified confirmed cases

- In week 10 (between March 05 and March 11 2023) there were 848 new confirmed COVID-19 cases reported on CIDR. This is an increase of 55.3% compared to week 9 when there were 546 confirmed COVID-19 cases notified.
- The highest number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases in week 10 was in the age group of 75-84 years with 17.1% of notified cases in week 10.

Laboratory data of SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests

- In week 10, a total of 8,908 SARS-CoV-2 tests were performed, of which 862 (9.7%) were positive. This is an increase compared to the previous week, 9, when 7.7% were positive.

Self-reported antigen positive cases

- In week 10, a total of 1,755 positive antigen test results were registered on the HSE Positive Antigen Portal. This is an increase of 19.4% reported results compared to week 9 when 1,470 cases were registered.

Deaths

- Since the start of the pandemic 8,715 COVID-19 deaths among notified COVID-19 cases have been reported on CIDR. Of these, one had a date of death in week 10.

Table 1: Summary characteristics of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 10, 2023 and 2023 to date

	Week 10, 2023		Total 2023	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Total number of confirmed cases	848		11,437	
Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population	17.8		240.2	
Healthcare workers	105	12.40	1,455	12.72
Healthcare workers where known		21.10		22.31
Severe cases				
Number of cases hospitalised	292*	34.43	3,490*	30.51
Number of cases admitted to ICU	1*	0.12	47*	0.41
Number of deaths among confirmed cases	1*	0.12	171*	1.50

* 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

Confirmed cases of COVID-19

Since the start of 2023, 11,437 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been notified on CIDR. In the past week, week 10 2023, 848 confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported on CIDR. This is an increase of 55.3% compared to week 9 when 546 confirmed COVID-19 cases were notified. Figure 1 shows the epidemiological curve of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland from week 1 2022 to week 10 2023. Data since the start of the pandemic is available on the [Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland infohub](#).

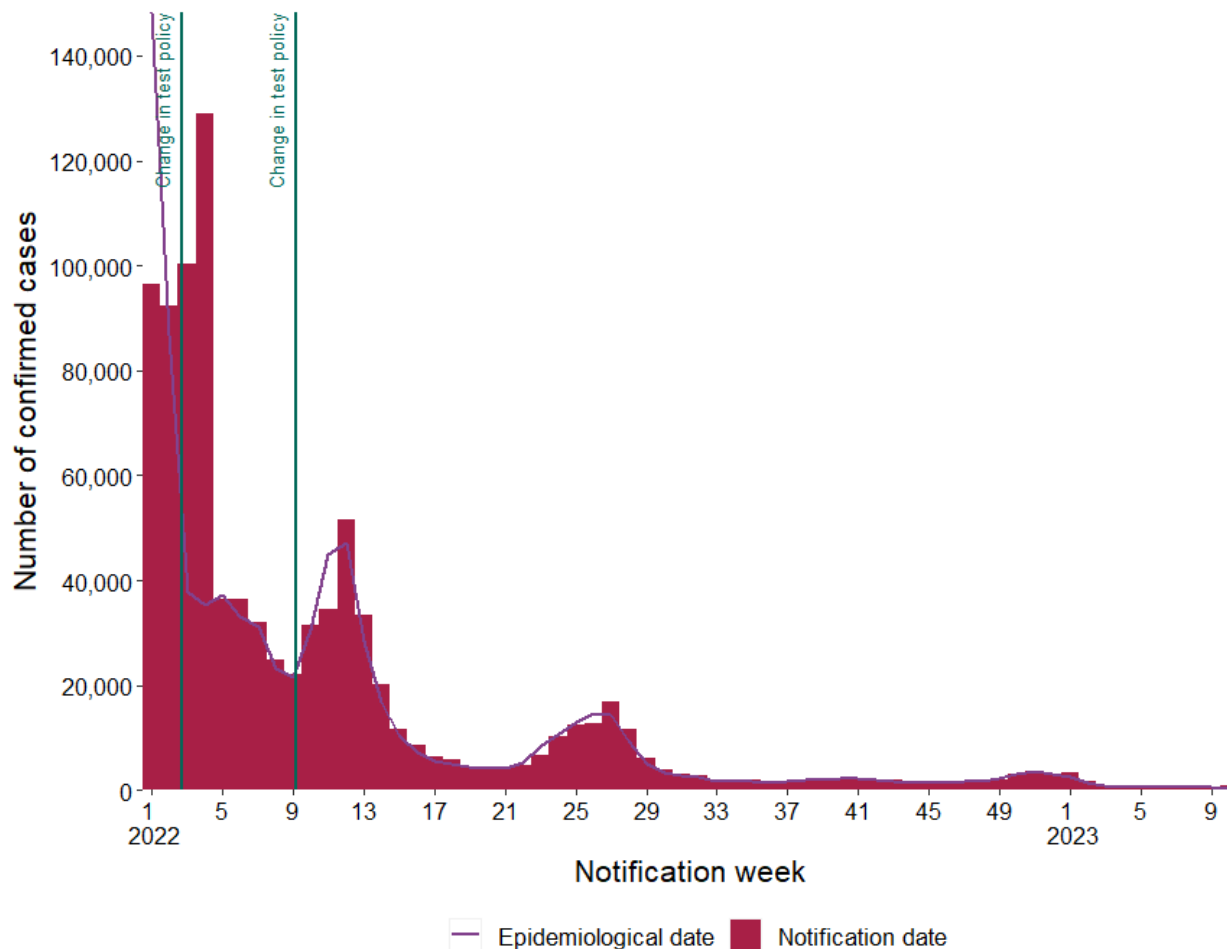


Figure 1a: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week and epidemiological date in Ireland between week 1, 2022 and week 10, 2023. The red bars represent the number of confirmed cases by notification date. The purple line represents the number of cases by epidemiological date. The dark blue horizontal lines indicate a change in test policy^{1 2 3}

¹ Since 14/01/2022 (week 2, 2022), a confirmatory PCR test after a positive antigen test was no longer needed for those in the community aged between 4 and 39 years of age outside of a risk group.

² Since 28/02/2022 (week 9, 2022), PCR testing was only needed for symptomatic people in the community within certain risk groups: those who have not had booster vaccination and are aged 55 years and older; those with a high-risk medical conditions; those who are immunocompromised; those who live in the same household as a person who is immunocompromised; those who provide care or support for person they know to be immunocompromised; those who are pregnant; Healthcare Workers.

³ Data for late December 2021 and January 2022 do not accurately reflect trends. Due to a surge in case numbers the turnaround time for processing notifications increased. Notifications between 19/12/2021 and 15/01/2022 (week 51, 2021 to week 2, 2022) are reduced, while notifications between 16/01/2022 and 29/01/2022 (weeks 3 and 4, 2022) are inflated compared to cases diagnosed during these weeks.

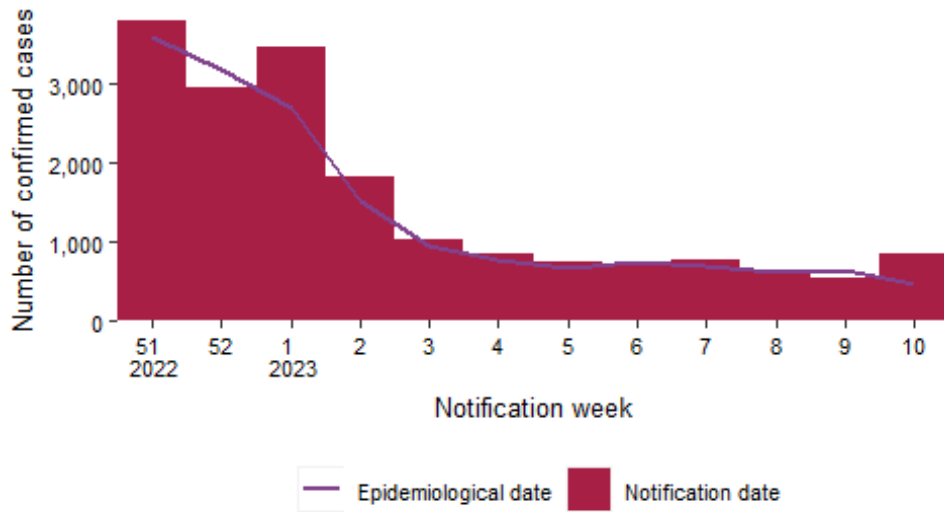
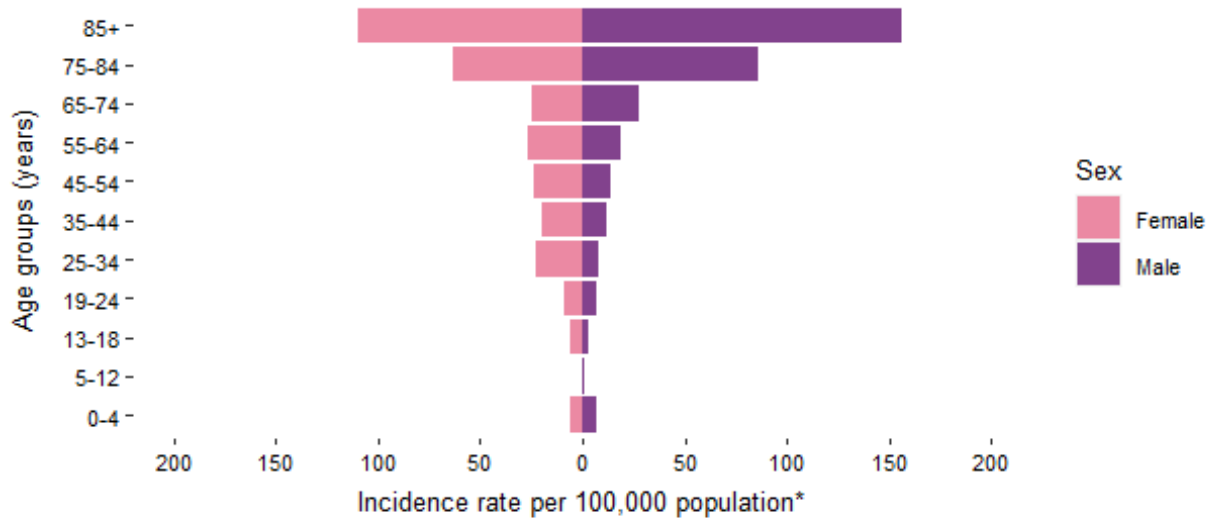


Figure 1b: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week and epidemiological date in Ireland in the last 12 weeks. The red bars represent the number of confirmed cases by notification date. The purple line represents the number of cases by epidemiological date.

Confirmed COVID-19 cases by age and sex

Table 2: Summary characteristics by age and sex of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 10, 2023 and 2023 to date

	Week 10, 2023		Total 2023	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Gender				
Males	355	41.9	4,558	39.9
Females	493	58.1	6,879	60.1
M:F ratio	0.72		0.66	
Age (years)				
Mean age	56		53	
Median age	56		52	
Age range	0 - 101		0 - 102	
Age groups (years)				
0-4	22	2.6	345	3.0
5-12	3	0.4	132	1.2
13-18	16	1.9	168	1.5
19-24	26	3.1	489	4.3
25-34	102	12.0	1,435	12.5
35-44	118	13.9	1,812	15.8
45-54	117	13.8	1,697	14.8
55-64	115	13.6	1,469	12.8
65-74	99	11.7	1,226	10.7
75-84	145	17.1	1,512	13.2
85+	85	10.0	1,149	10.0
Unknown	NA	0.0	3	0.0



*Excluding 0 for whom age is unknown, 0 for whom sex is unknown and 0 for whom both are unknown

Figure 2: Cumulative age and sex specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population for current week 10, 2023

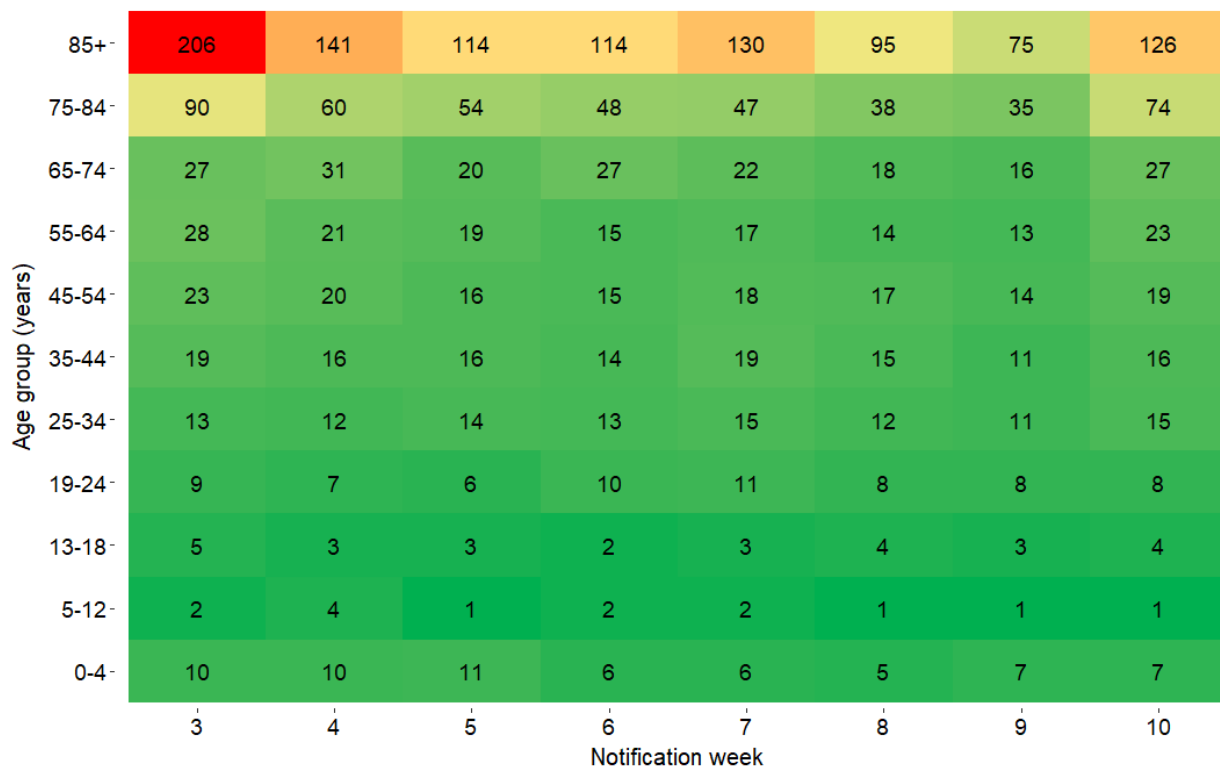


Figure 3: Heat map of weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland for the last 8 weeks

Cases and incidence by county

Table 3: Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases by county and descending incidence rate per 100,000 notified in Ireland, during week 10, 2023*

County	Number of cases	Percent	Incidence rate per 100,000
Offaly	33	3.9	42.3
Kerry	53	6.2	35.9
Kildare	61	7.2	27.4
Carlow	15	1.8	26.3
Laois	22	2.6	26.0
Westmeath	20	2.4	22.5
Louth	28	3.3	21.7
Dublin	272	32.1	20.2
Sligo	13	1.5	19.8
Kilkenny	19	2.2	19.1
Cavan	14	1.7	18.4
Limerick	35	4.1	18.0
Wicklow	25	2.9	17.6
Galway	36	4.2	14.0
Meath	27	3.2	13.8
Waterford	16	1.9	13.8
Wexford	20	2.4	13.4
Clare	15	1.8	12.6
Leitrim	4	0.5	12.5
Cork	67	7.9	12.3
Longford	5	0.6	12.2
Tipperary	16	1.9	10.0
Donegal	14	1.7	8.8
Mayo	11	1.3	8.4
Monaghan	5	0.6	8.1
Roscommon	2	0.2	3.1

* County data may not be accurately reflected in the most recent week due to ongoing data validations

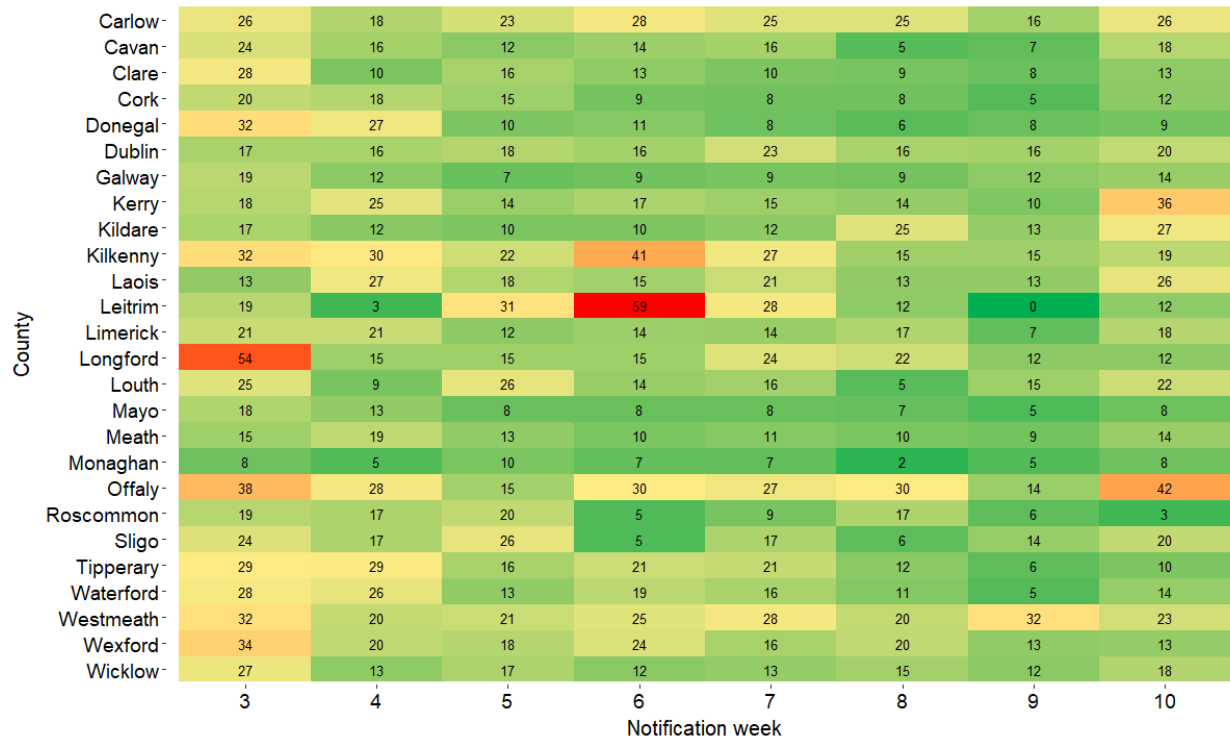


Figure 4: Heat map of weekly incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population, by county, notified in Ireland for the last 8 weeks

Hospitalisations

A total of 292 hospitalised confirmed COVID-19 cases were recorded in the latest epidemiological week, week 10 2023.

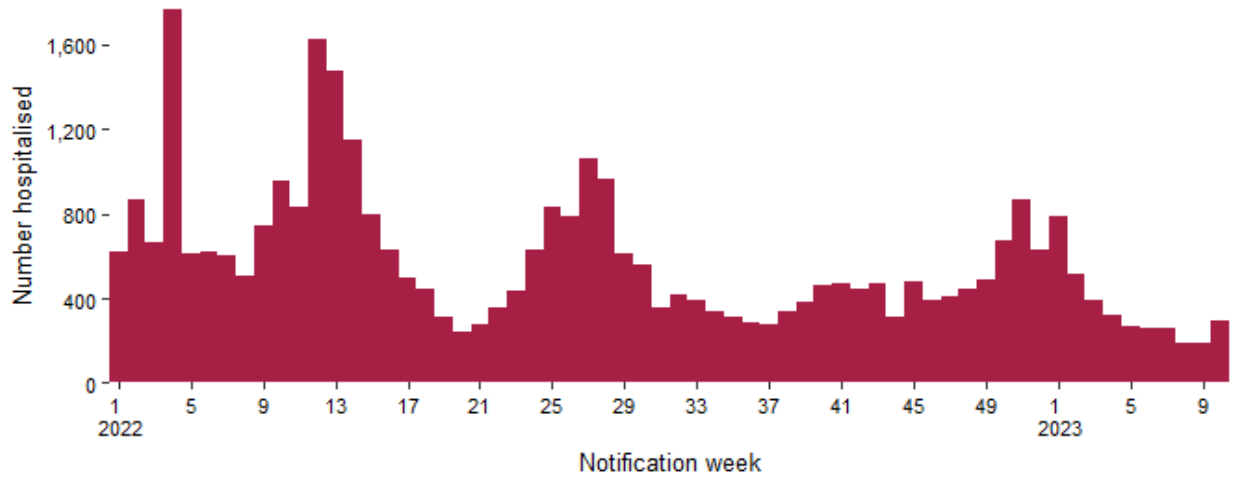


Figure 5: Hospitalisations among confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR in Ireland between week 1, 2022 and week 10, 2023

Table 4: Number of COVID-19 cases and hospital admissions by age group in Ireland for week⁴ 10, 2023 based on week of notification⁵

Age group	Week 10, 2023			Total 2023		
	Total cases	Hospitalised cases		Total cases	Hospitalised cases	
	Number of cases	Number of cases	Percentage	Number of cases	Number of cases	Percentage
0-4	22	6	27.3	345	184	53.3
5-12	3	0	0.0	132	39	29.5
13-18	16	3	18.8	168	39	23.2
19-24	26	4	15.4	489	70	14.3
25-34	102	11	10.8	1,435	161	11.2
35-44	118	10	8.5	1,812	177	9.8
45-54	117	21	17.9	1,697	221	13.0
55-64	115	36	31.3	1,469	355	24.2
65-74	99	58	58.6	1,226	673	54.9
75-84	145	88	60.7	1,512	937	62.0
85+	85	55	64.7	1,149	634	55.2
Unknown	0	0	0.0	3	0	0.0

⁴ Hospitalisations may be underestimated for recent weeks as the outcome may not yet have occurred or may not yet have been reported to CIDR

⁵ Data are based on the date the case was notified on CIDR, and not the date of hospital admission

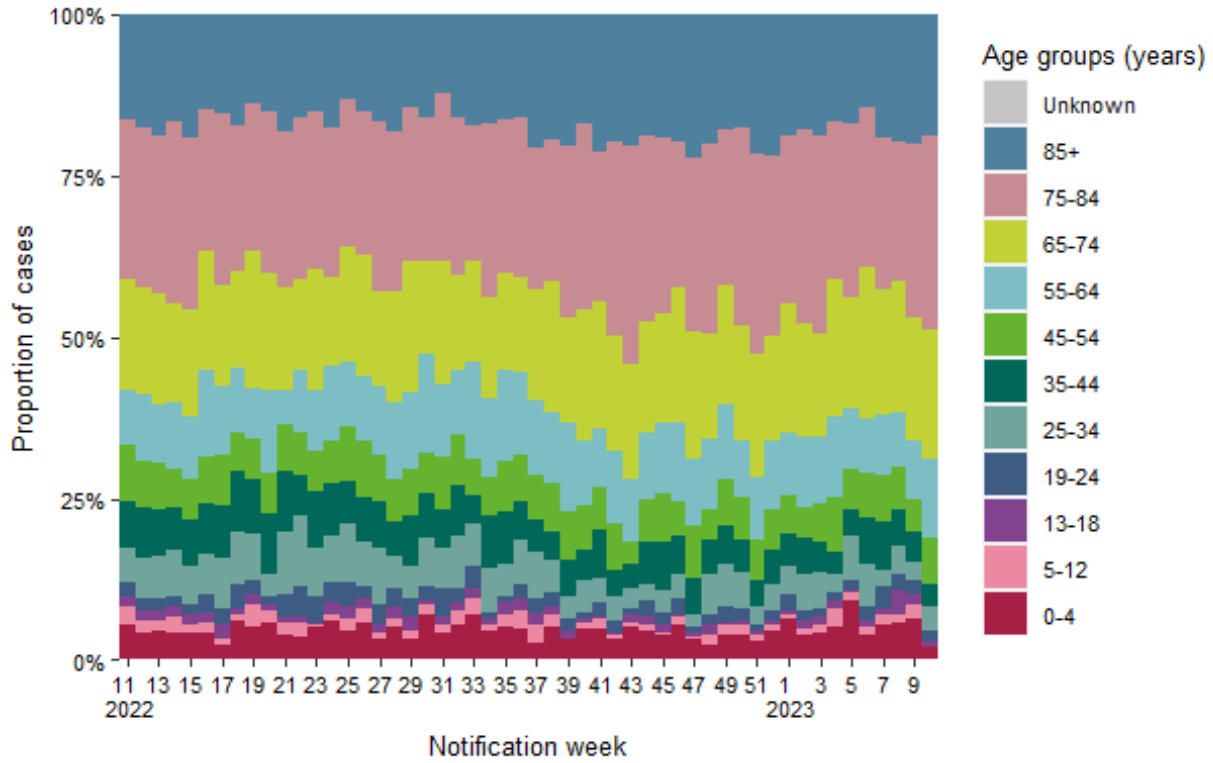


Figure 6: Age distribution of hospitalised confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR in Ireland between week 11, 2022 and week 10, 2023

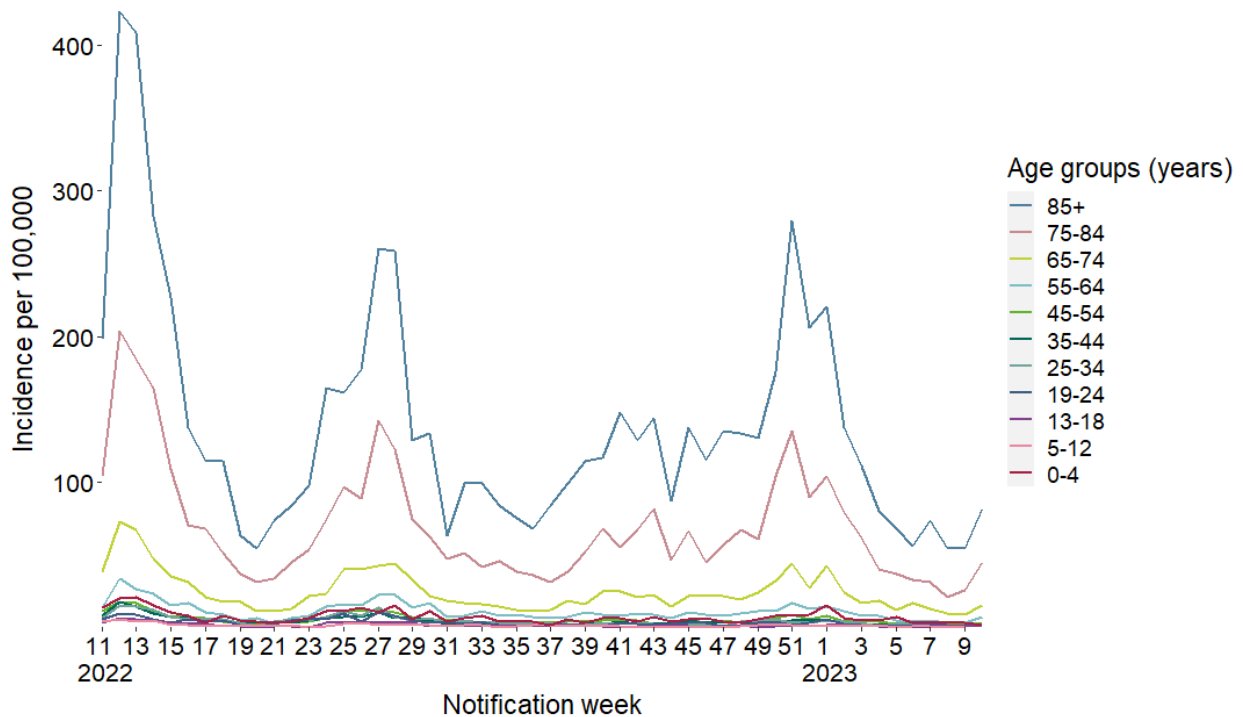


Figure 7: Incidence rate by age group of hospitalisations among confirmed COVID-19 cases on CIDR in Ireland between week 11, 2022 and week 10, 2023

ICU admissions

A total of 1 COVID-19 cases were admitted to ICU in the latest epidemiological week⁶, week 10 2023.

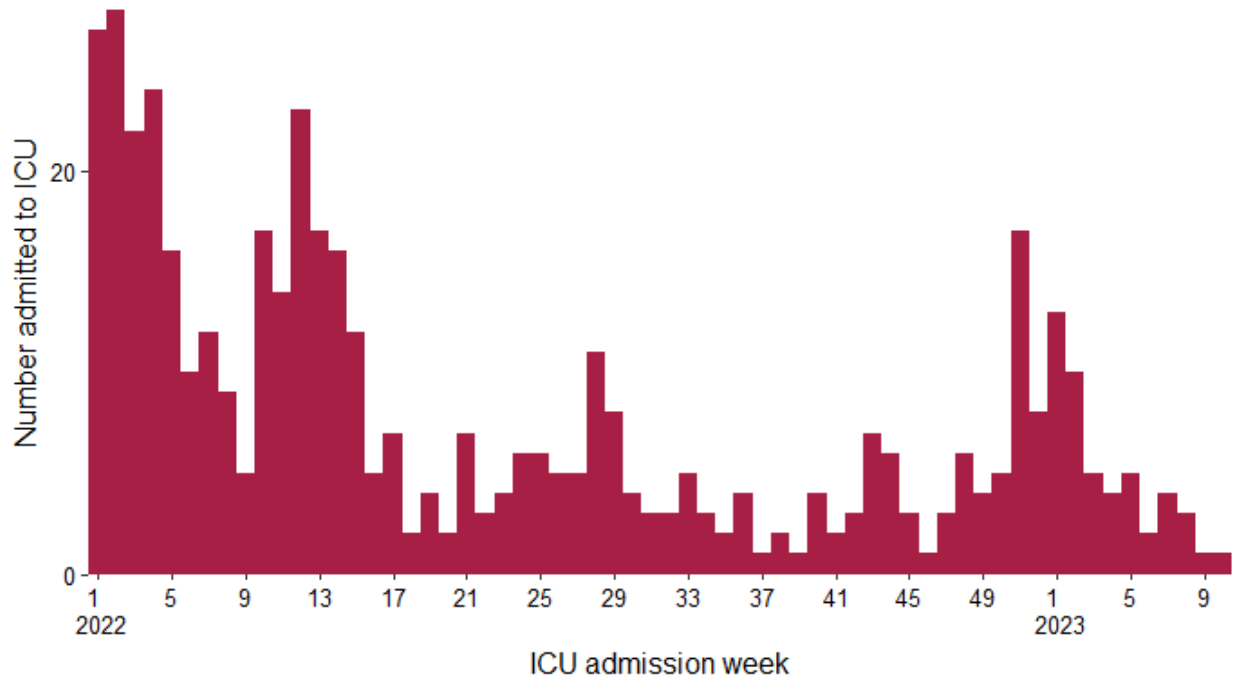


Figure 8: Number of ICU COVID-19 ICU admissions in Ireland by week of ICU admission, between week 1, 2022 and week 10, 2023⁶

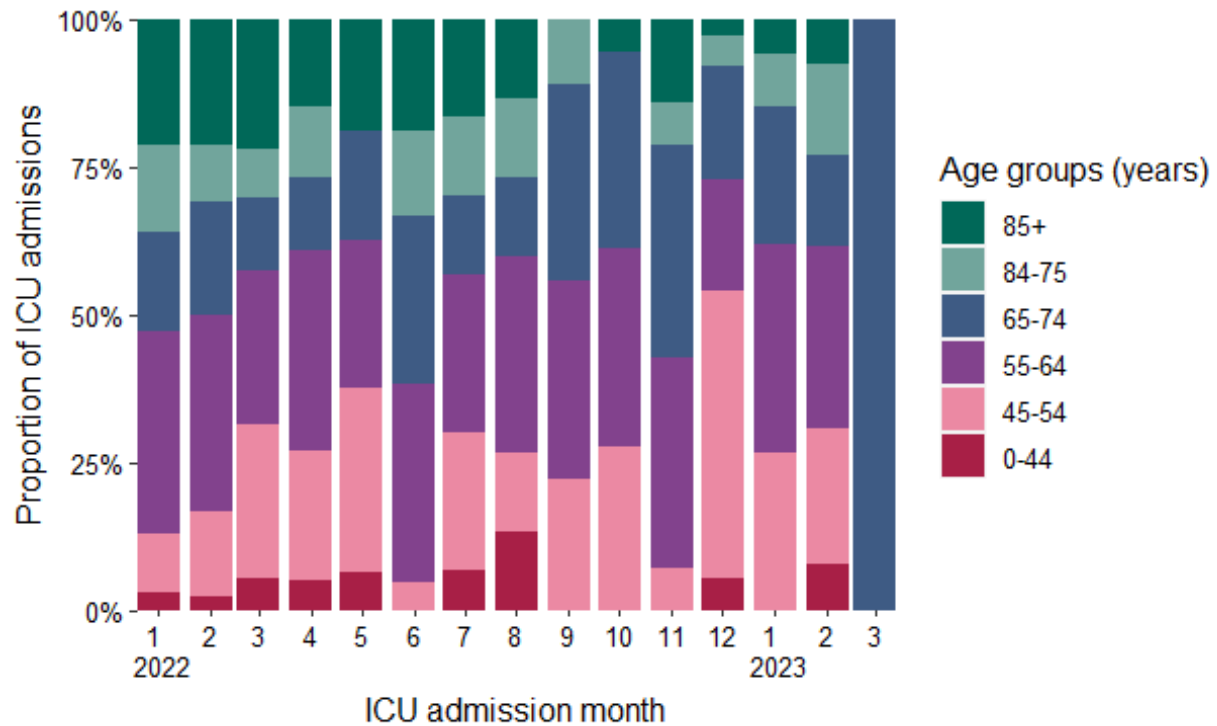


Figure 9: Age distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases admitted to ICU by month of admission January, 2021 and March, 2023

⁶ Please note that most recent weeks may not yet reflect all admissions

Deaths

Please note the below figures and tables include all cases (confirmed, probable and possible) who have died. One case had a date of death in the latest epidemiological week, 10.

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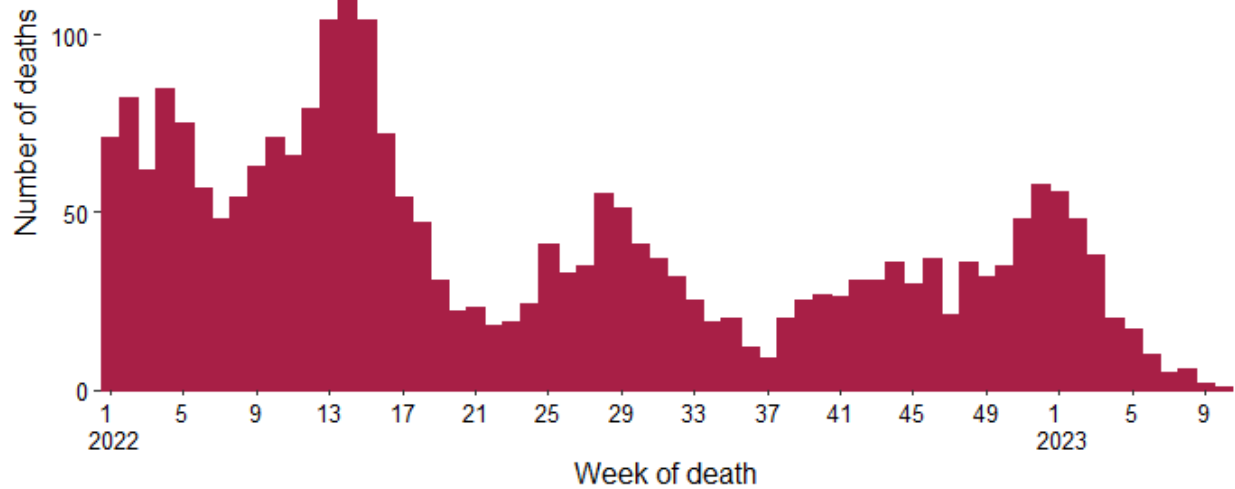


Figure 10: Total number of COVID-19 deaths notified by week of death, cases with a date of notification from week 1, 2022 to 10, 2023⁷. Date of death missing for none of the reported deaths

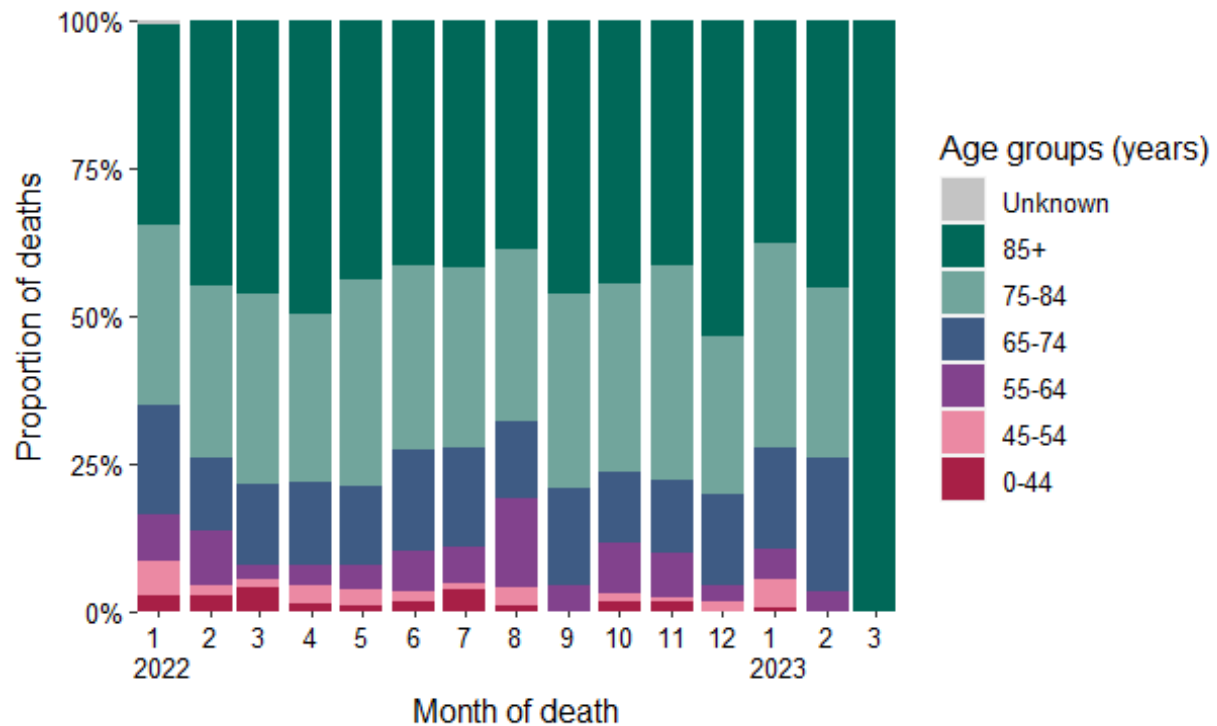


Figure 11: Age distribution of COVID-19 deaths notified on CIDR in Ireland between January, 2022 and March, 2023

⁷ Please note that most recent weeks may not yet reflect all deaths

Laboratory data of SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests

In week 10, a total of 8,908 SARS-CoV-2 tests were performed, of which 862 (9.7%) were positive.

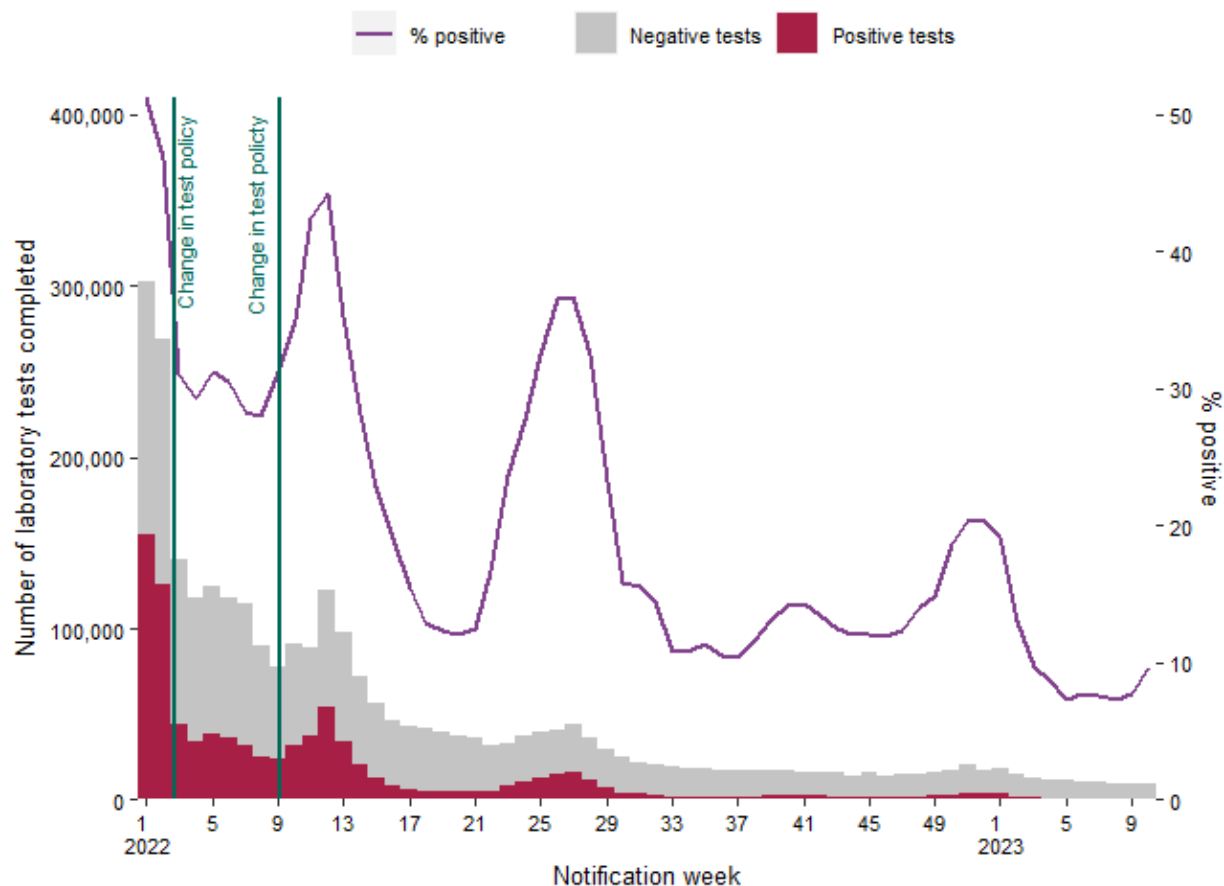


Figure 12: Number of completed laboratory tests by result and % positive tests⁸ in Ireland between week 1, 2022 and week 10, 2023. Data source: Deloitte Ireland LLP^{9, 10}

⁸ Positive tests refer to all positive specimens and includes duplicates and individuals who were retested.

⁹ Since 14/01/2022 (week 2), a confirmatory PCR test after a positive antigen test was no longer needed for those in the community aged between 4 and 39 years of age outside of a risk group.

¹⁰ Since 28/02/2022 (week 9), PCR testing is only needed for symptomatic people in the community within certain risk groups: those who have not had booster vaccination and are aged 55 years and older; those with a high-risk medical conditions; those who are immunocompromised; those who live in the same household as a person who is immunocompromised; those who provide care or support for person they know to be immunocompromised; those who are pregnant; Healthcare Workers.

Self-reported antigen positive cases

The following figures and tables are based on cases who registered a self-administered positive antigen test on the HSE Positive Antigen Portal. They are not considered confirmed cases and have undergone no data validation.

Table 5: Characteristics of COVID-19 cases who registered a positive antigen test to the HSE Positive Antigen Portal

	Week 10, 2023		Total 2023	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Total number of registered cases	1,755		23,022	
Incidence rate of registered cases per 100,000 population	37		483.5	
Gender				
Males	577	32.9	7,469	32.4
Females	1,156	65.9	15,172	65.9
M:F ratio	0.5		0.49	
Age (years)				
Mean age	41		40	
Median age	41		40	
Age range	1 - 97		0 - 101	

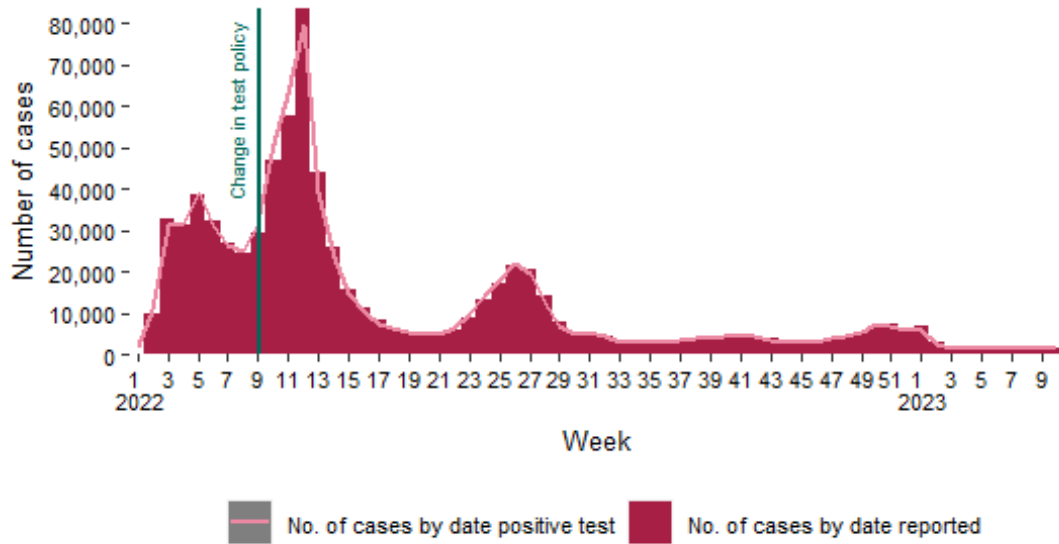


Figure 13: Number of COVID-19 cases who registered a positive antigen test on the HSE Positive Antigen Portal by week of registration¹¹, and week of epidemiological date in Ireland between week 1, 2022 and week 10, 2023¹²

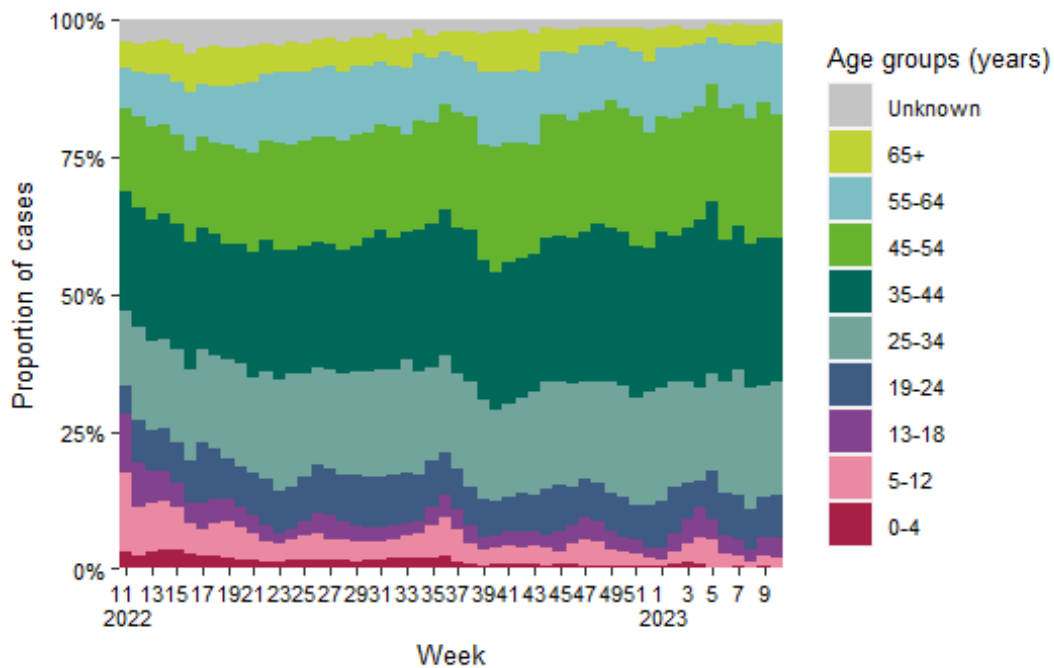


Figure 14: Age distribution of COVID-19 cases who registered a positive antigen test on the HSE Positive Antigen Portal by week of registration¹³ in Ireland between week 28⁸, 2022 and week 10, 2023

¹¹ Reporting to the HSE Positive Antigen Portal commenced on Friday 14th January 2022, and therefore week 2 only includes 2 days.

¹² Some cases reported a date of positive test much earlier than the date it was registered in the portal. Dates of positive test earlier than week 1, 2022 are not shown in the number of case by date of positive test. Dates of positive test which erroneously were reported to be later than the current epi week are excluded.

¹³ Please note, the week of registration on the HSE Positive Antigen Portal may differ from the week the positive test was obtained.

Notes

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.

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.

Please refer to the Health Protection Surveillance (HPSC) website for

- [Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland infohub](#)
- [Outbreaks/clusters in Ireland COVID-19 weekly report](#)
- [Monthly report on COVID-19 deaths reported in Ireland](#)
- [SARS-CoV-2 wastewater surveillance programme weekly reports](#)
- [Virus variants in Ireland COVID-19 summary report](#)
- [Epidemiology of intensive care admissions in cases of COVID-19 in Ireland](#)