



# Weekly report on the epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland

## Week 13, 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) up to midnight 01/04/2023. Data were extracted from CIDR system on 04/04/2023. Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.
- Data 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

**Community COVID-19 testing centres closed from 30th March 2023, therefore, a decrease in number of confirmed COVID-19 cases is expected from week 13 (26/03/2023 to 01/04/2023).**

**Surveillance of COVID-19 is continuing across other systems not impacted by community testing (hospitalised cases, ICU, mortality, wastewater). Further information is available [here](#).**

**Self-administered positive antigen test registered on the HSE Antigen Portal will no longer be included in this report as HSE no longer provides a service for people to order antigen tests.**

### Notified confirmed cases

- In week 13 (between March 26 and April 01 2023) there were 1,151 new confirmed COVID-19 cases reported on CIDR. This is a decrease of 10.4% compared to week 12 when there were 1,285 confirmed COVID-19 cases notified.
- The highest number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases in week 13 was in the age group of 35-44 years with 14.4% of notified cases in week 13.

### Laboratory data of SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests

- In week 13, a total of 9,110 SARS-CoV-2 tests were performed, of which 1,179 (12.9%) were positive. This is a decrease compared to the previous week, 12, when 13.8% were positive.

### Deaths

- Since the start of the pandemic 8,781 COVID-19 deaths among notified COVID-19 cases have been reported on CIDR. Of these, 3 had a date of death in week 13.

**Table 1:** Summary characteristics of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 13, 2023 and 2023 to date

	Week 13, 2023		Total 2023	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Total number of confirmed cases	1,151		14,632	
Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population	24.2		307.3	
Healthcare workers	110	9.60	1,823	12.46
Healthcare workers where known		27.80		22.41
<b>Severe cases</b>				
Number of cases hospitalised	339*	29.45	4,526*	30.93
Number of cases admitted to ICU	3*	0.26	58*	0.40
Number of deaths among confirmed cases	2*	0.17	206*	1.41

\* 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, 14,632 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been notified on CIDR. In the past week, week 13 2023, 1,151 confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported on CIDR. This is a decrease of 10.4% compared to week 12 when 1,285 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 13 2023. Data since the start of the pandemic is available on the [Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland infohub](#).

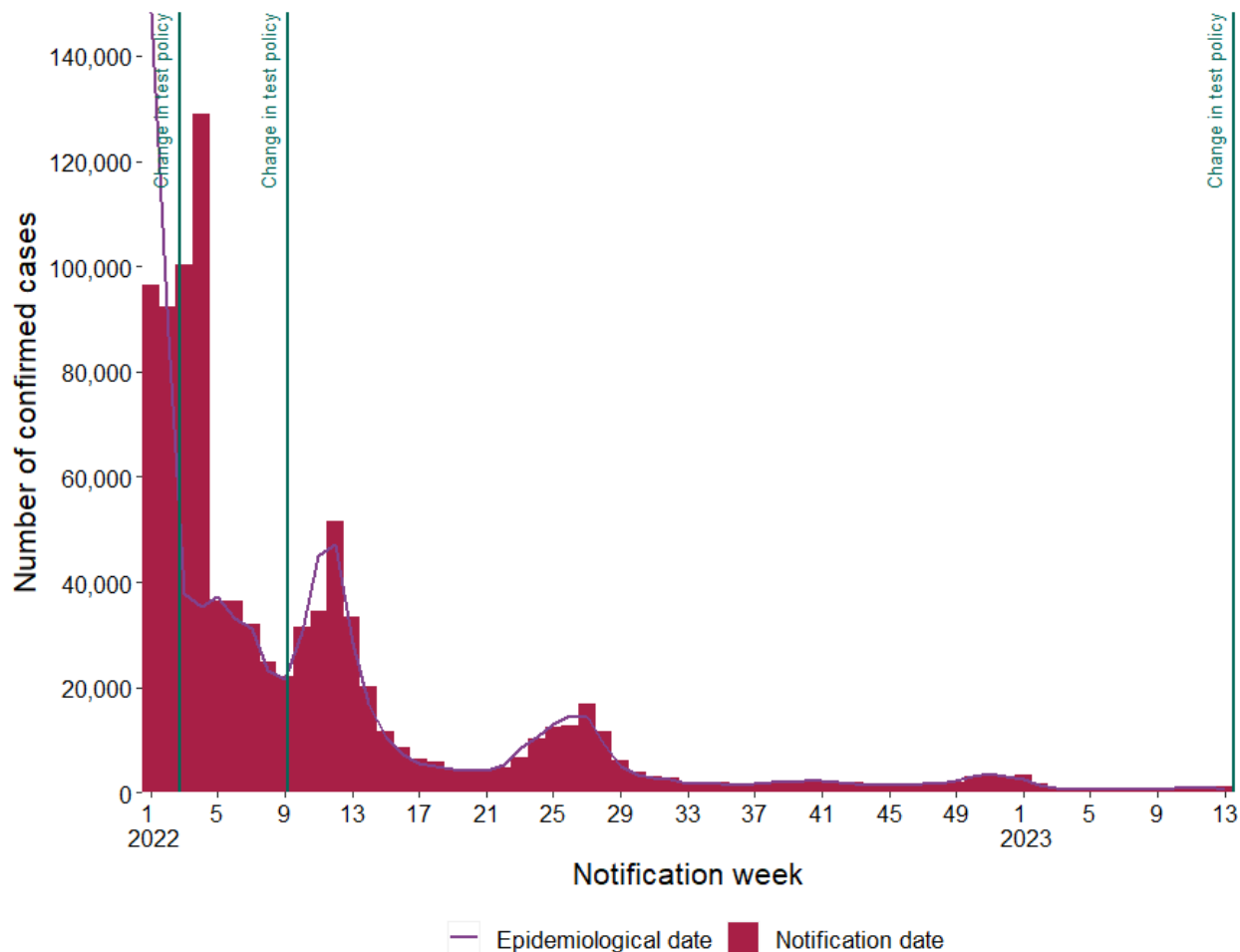


Figure 1a: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week and epidemiological date in Ireland between week 1, 2022 and week 13, 2023. The red bars represent the number of confirmed cases by notification date. The purple line represents the number of cases by epidemiological date. The dark blue horizontal lines indicate a change in test policy<sup>1 2 3 4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Since 30/03/2023 (week 13, 2023), community test centres closed and PCR testing was only performed based on clinical assessment.

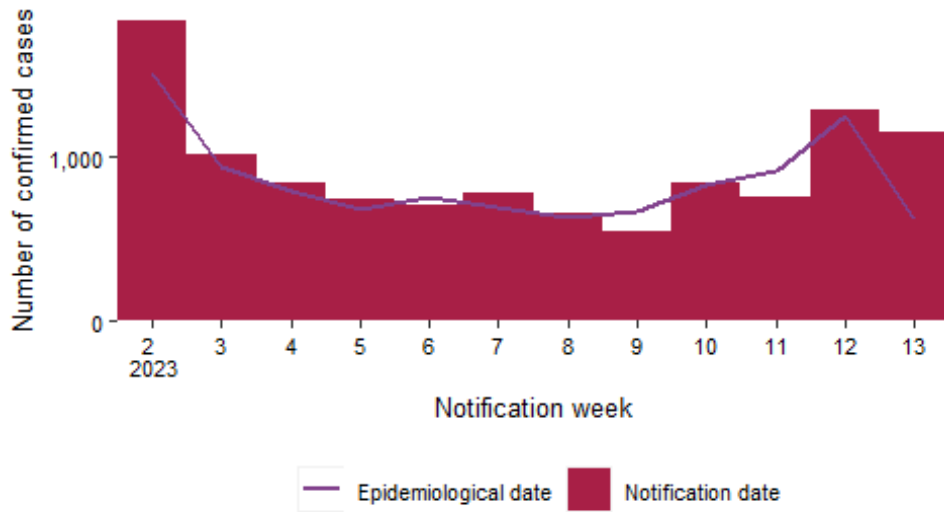
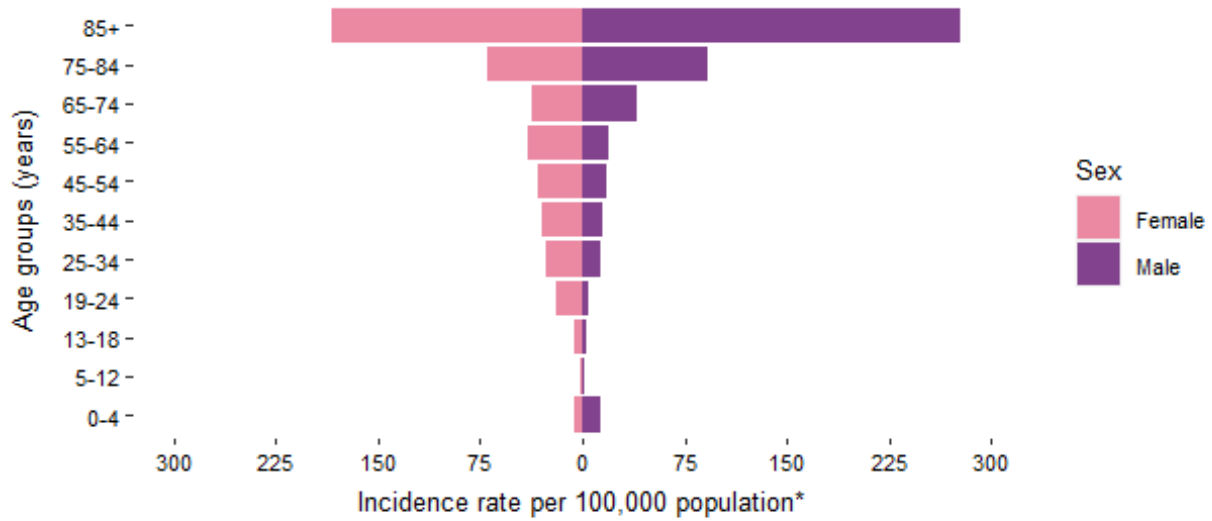


Figure 1b: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week and epidemiological date in Ireland in the last 12 weeks. The red bars represent the number of confirmed cases by notification date. The purple line represents the number of cases by epidemiological date.

## 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 13, 2023 and 2023 to date

	Week 13, 2023		Total 2023	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>				
Males	459	39.9	5,868	40.1
Females	691	60.0	8,762	59.9
M:F ratio	0.66		0.67	
<b>Age (years)</b>				
Mean age	56		54	
Median age	56		53	
Age range	0 - 98		0 - 102	
<b>Age groups (years)</b>				
0-4	32	2.8	420	2.9
5-12	9	0.8	159	1.1
13-18	16	1.4	216	1.5
19-24	40	3.5	609	4.2
25-34	136	11.8	1,839	12.6
35-44	166	14.4	2,313	15.8
45-54	157	13.6	2,152	14.7
55-64	150	13.0	1,871	12.8
65-74	143	12.4	1,589	10.9
75-84	156	13.6	1,982	13.5
85+	146	12.7	1,479	10.1
Unknown	NA	0.0	3	0.0



\*Excluding 0 for whom age is unknown, 1 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 13, 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 13, 2023\*

County	Number of cases	Percent	Incidence rate per 100,000
Westmeath	40	3.5	45.1
Longford	16	1.4	39.1
Offaly	30	2.6	38.5
Cavan	28	2.4	36.8
Carlow	16	1.4	28.1
Limerick	54	4.7	27.7
Donegal	44	3.8	27.6
Sligo	18	1.6	27.5
Tipperary	43	3.7	27.0
Dublin	352	30.6	26.1
Laois	22	1.9	26.0
Kildare	56	4.9	25.2
Louth	32	2.8	24.8
Wexford	36	3.1	24.0
Mayo	31	2.7	23.8
Wicklow	33	2.9	23.2
Meath	44	3.8	22.6
Leitrim	7	0.6	21.8
Monaghan	12	1.0	19.5
Cork	103	8.9	19.0
Kerry	28	2.4	19.0
Waterford	22	1.9	18.9
Roscommon	12	1.0	18.6
Galway	41	3.6	15.9
Clare	17	1.5	14.3
Kilkenny	14	1.2	14.1

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



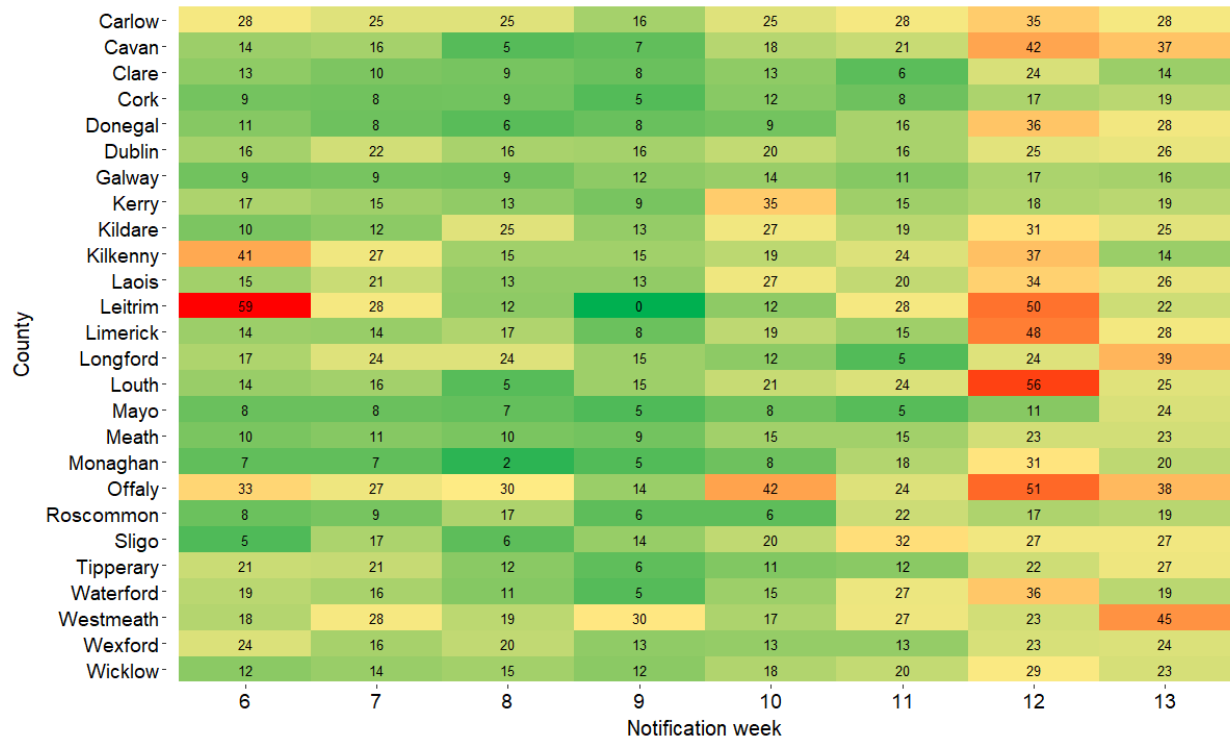


Figure 4: Heat map of weekly incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population, by county, notified in Ireland for the last 8 weeks

## Hospitalisations

A total of 339 hospitalised confirmed COVID-19 cases were recorded in the latest epidemiological week, week 13 2023.

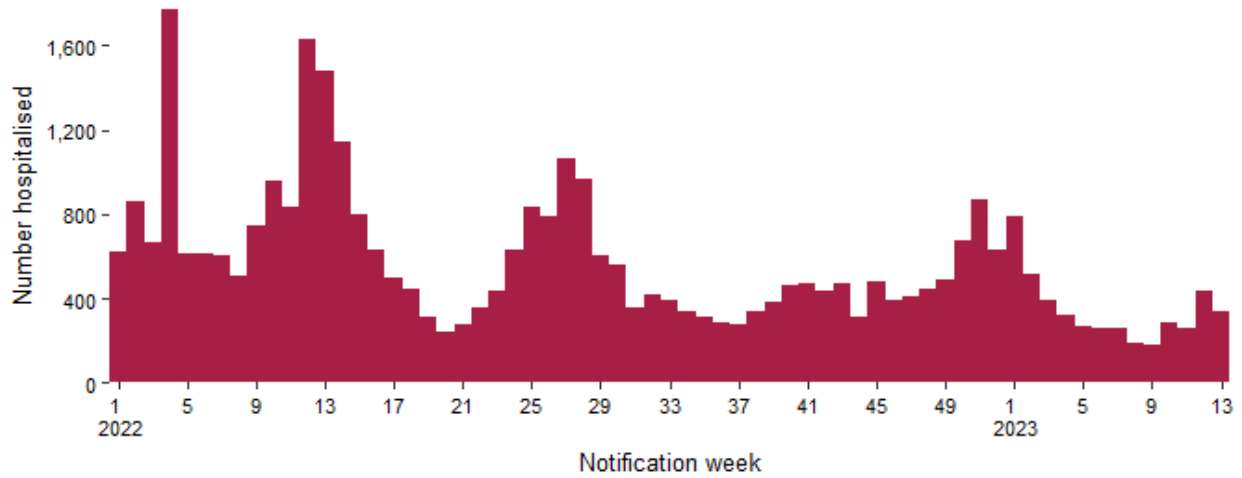


Figure 5: Hospitalisations among confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR in Ireland between week 1, 2022 and week 13, 2023

**Table 4:** Number of COVID-19 cases and hospital admissions by age group in Ireland for week<sup>5</sup> 13, 2023 based on week of notification<sup>6</sup>

Age group	Week 13, 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	32	17	53.1	420	228	54.3
5-12	9	3	33.3	159	50	31.4
13-18	16	2	12.5	216	49	22.7
19-24	40	5	12.5	609	87	14.3
25-34	136	14	10.3	1,839	204	11.1
35-44	166	16	9.6	2,313	233	10.1
45-54	157	20	12.7	2,152	289	13.4
55-64	150	26	17.3	1,871	443	23.7
65-74	143	65	45.5	1,589	869	54.7
75-84	156	86	55.1	1,982	1,240	62.6
85+	146	85	58.2	1,479	834	56.4
Unknown	0	0	0.0	3	0	0.0

<sup>5</sup> Hospitalisations may be underestimated for recent weeks as the outcome may not yet have occurred or may not yet have been reported to CIDR

<sup>6</sup> Data are based on the date the case was notified on CIDR, and not the date of hospital admission

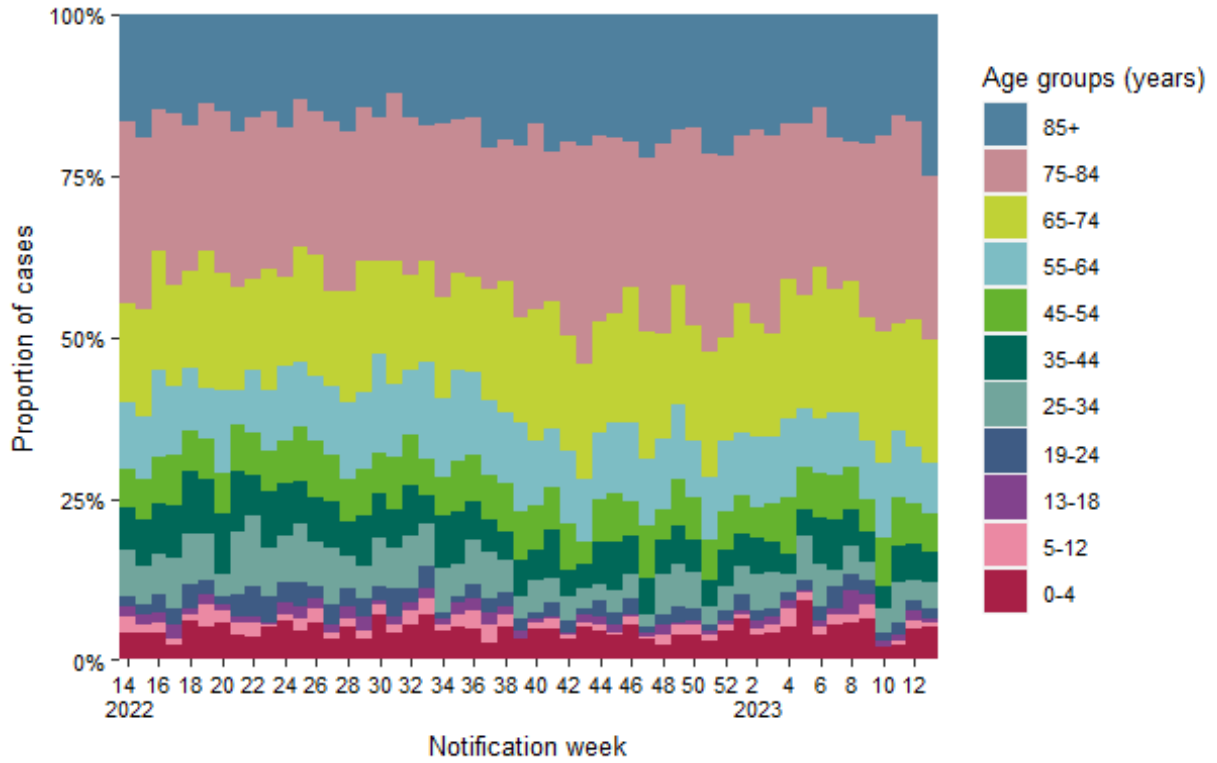


Figure 6: Age distribution of hospitalised confirmed COVID-19 cases notified on CIDR in Ireland between week 14, 2022 and week 13, 2023

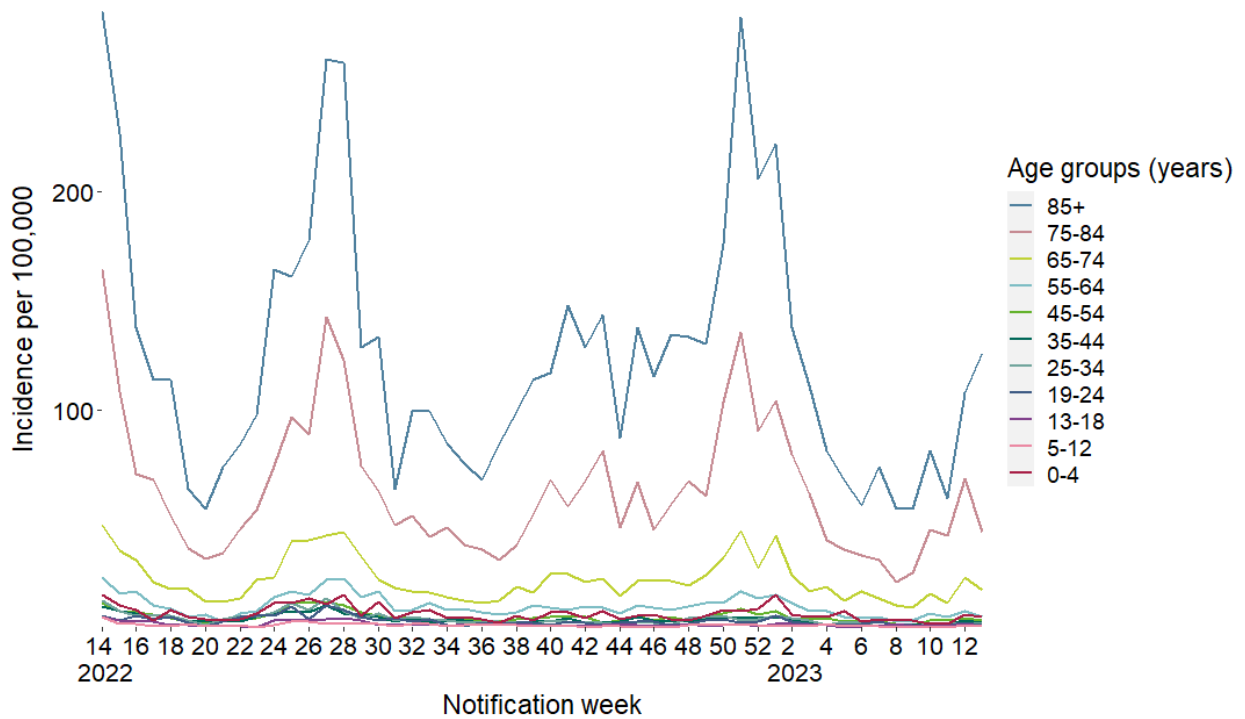


Figure 7: Incidence rate by age group of hospitalisations among confirmed COVID-19 cases on CIDR in Ireland between week 14, 2022 and week 13, 2023

## ICU admissions

A total of 3 COVID-19 cases were admitted to ICU in the latest epidemiological week<sup>6</sup>, week 13 2023.

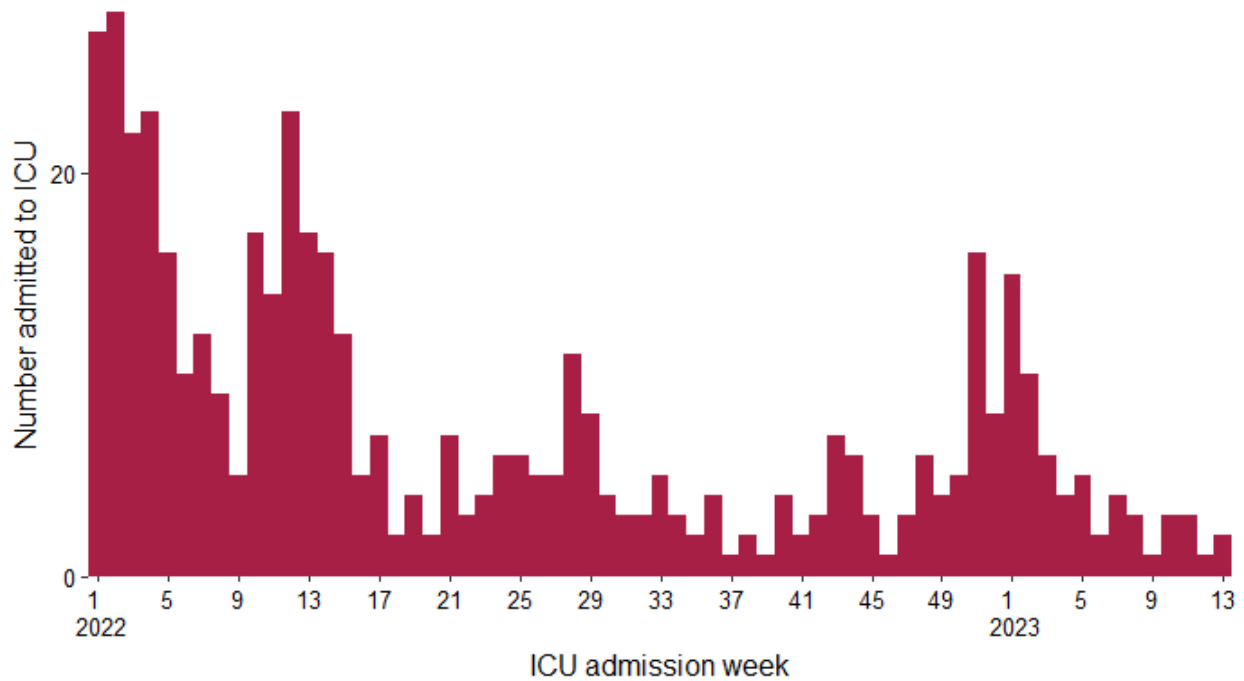


Figure 8: Number of ICU COVID-19 ICU admissions in Ireland by week of ICU admission, between week 1, 2022 and week 13, 2023<sup>7</sup>

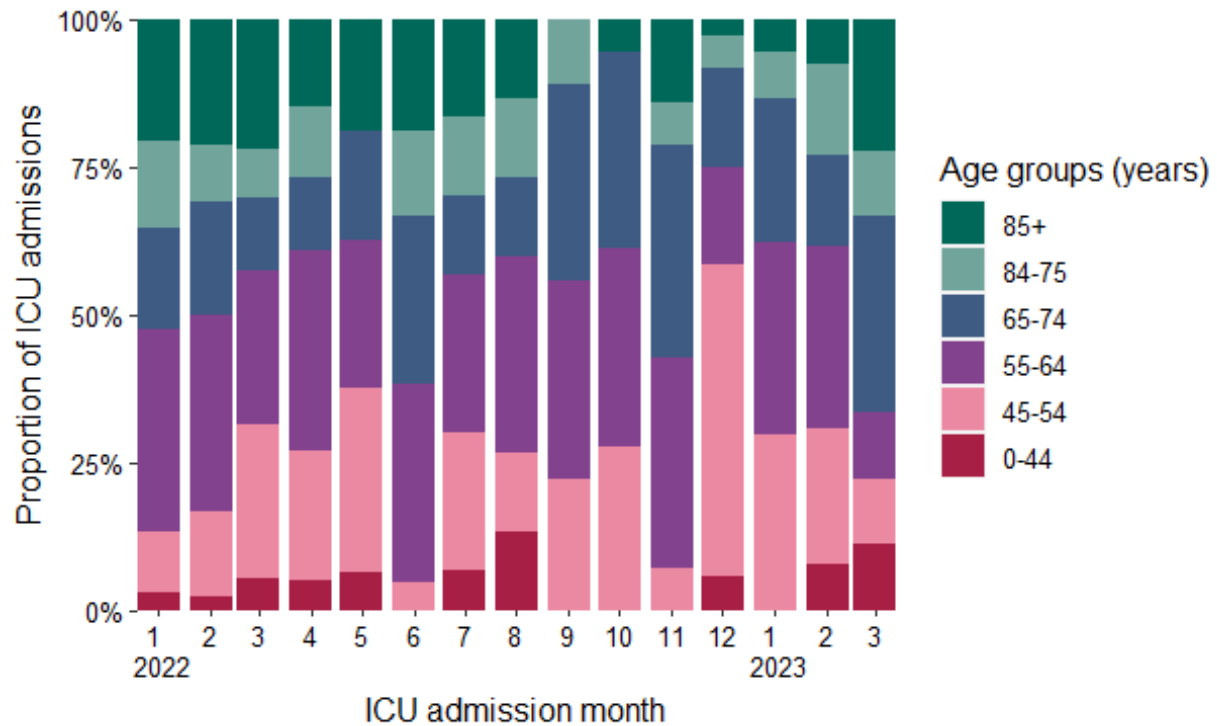


Figure 9: Age distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases admitted to by month of admission January, 2021 and March, 2023

<sup>7</sup> 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.

A total of 3 cases had a date of death in the latest epidemiological week, 13. The mean and median age of those who died in the previous epidemiological week was 72 and 85 years respectively.

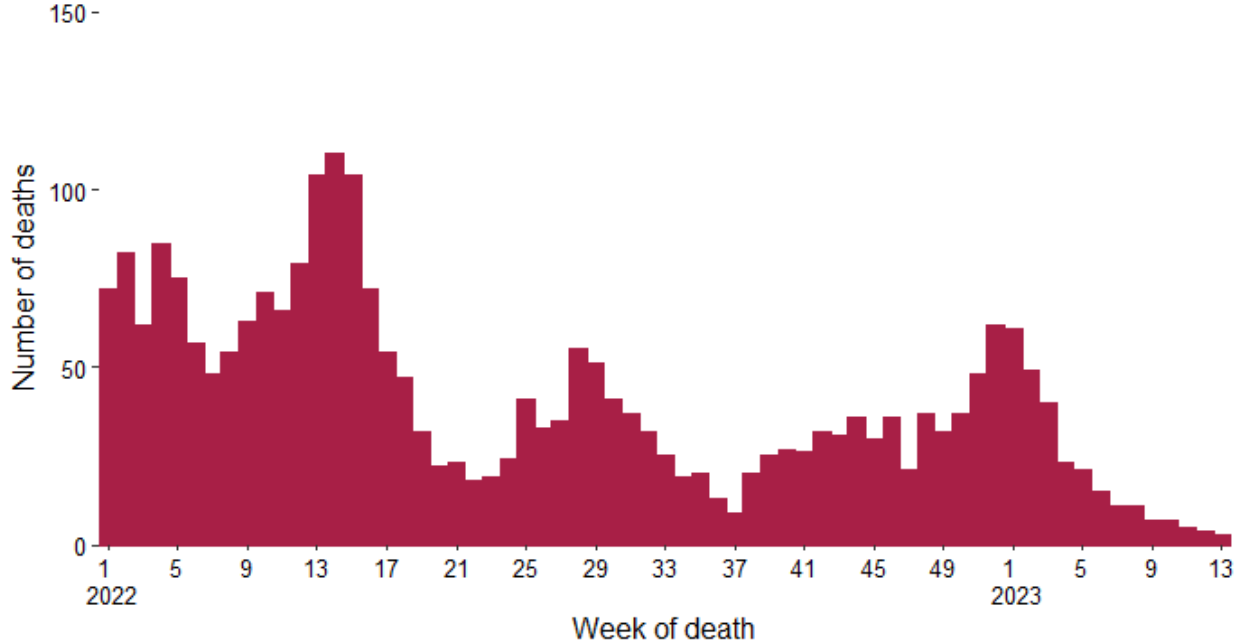


Figure 10: Total number of COVID-19 deaths notified by week of death, cases with a date of notification from week 1, 2022 to 13, 2023<sup>8</sup>. Date of death missing for 0 of the reported deaths

<sup>8</sup> Please note that most recent weeks may not yet reflect all deaths

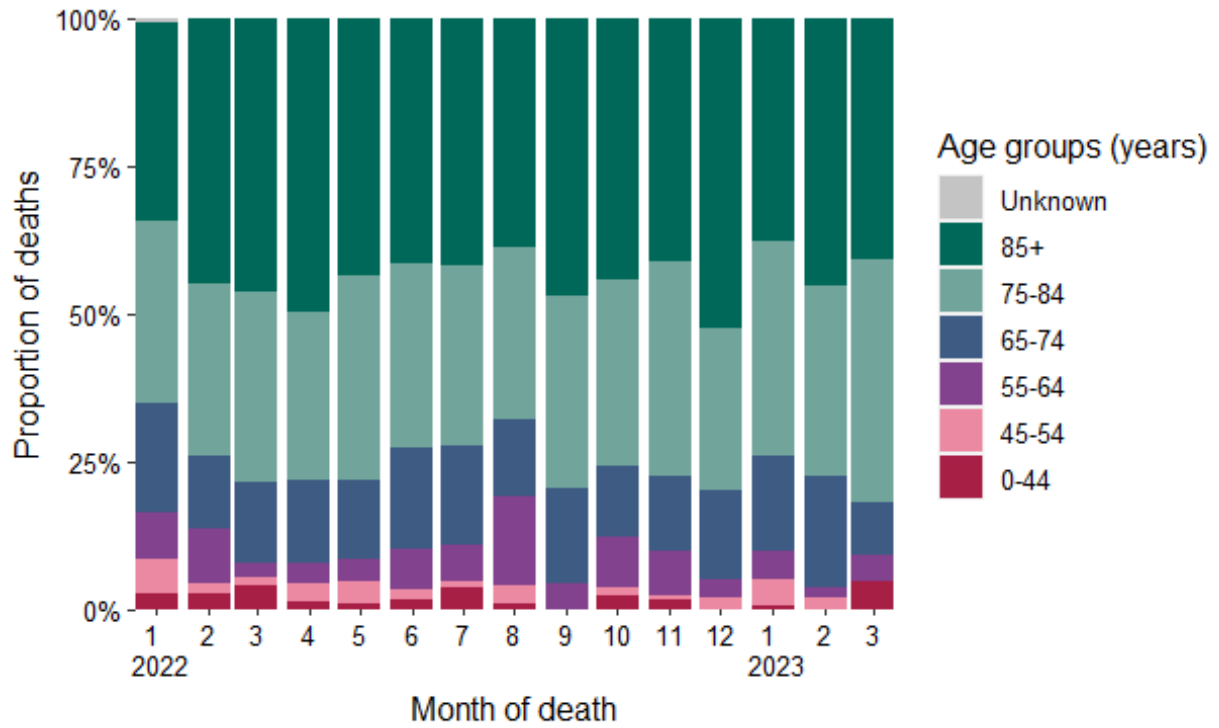


Figure 11: Age distribution of COVID-19 deaths notified on CIDR in Ireland between January, 2022 and March, 2023

## Laboratory data of SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests

In week 13, a total of 9,110 SARS-CoV-2 tests were performed, of which 1,179 (12.9%) were positive.

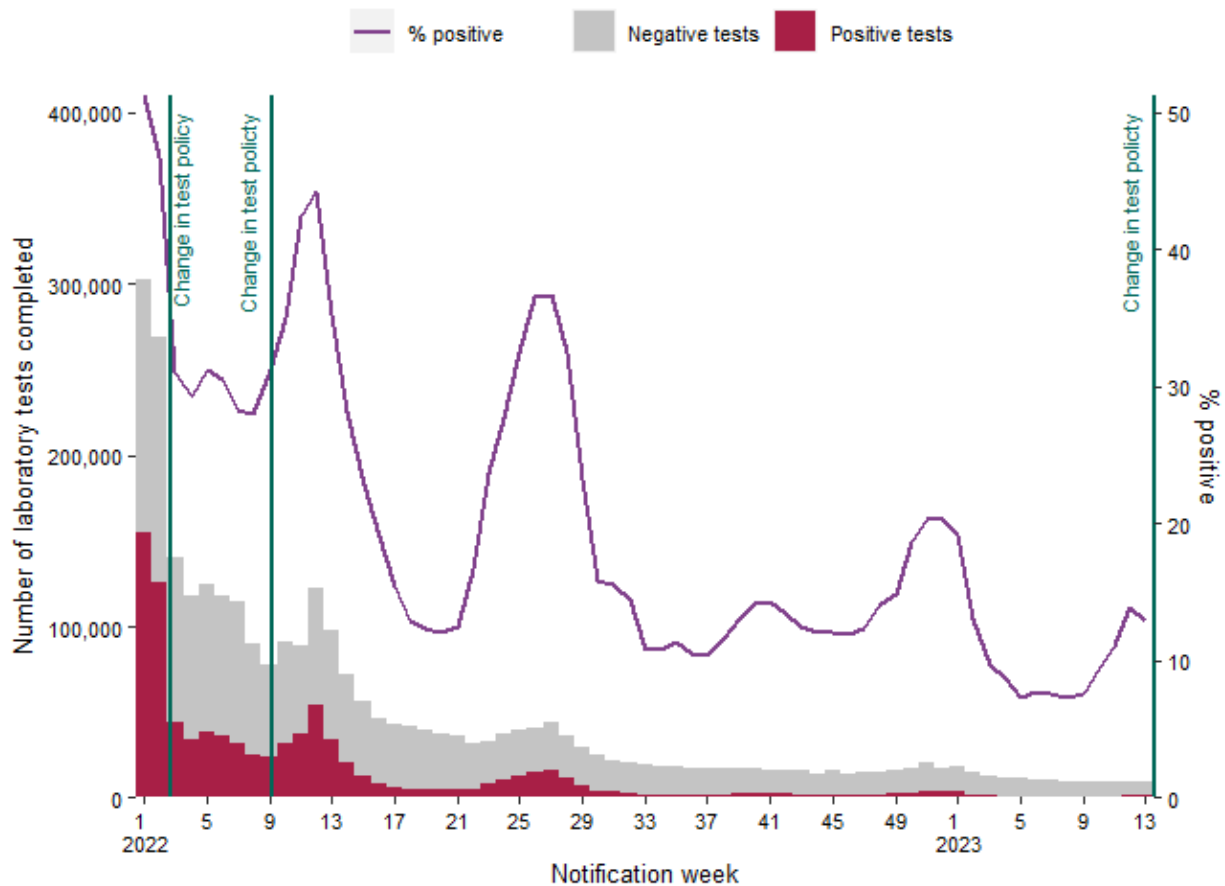


Figure 12: Number of completed laboratory tests by result and % positive tests<sup>9</sup> in Ireland between week 1, 2022 and week 13, 2023. Data source: Deloitte Ireland LLP<sup>10, 11 12</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Positive tests refer to all positive specimens and includes duplicates and individuals who were retested.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> Since 30/03/2023 (week 13, 2023), community test centres closed and PCR testing was only performed based on clinical assessment.



## 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  $\geq 85$  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](#)