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Weekly Report on the Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland

Week 37, 2021

Health Protection Surveillance Centre, HPSC
COVID-19 Epidemiology Team, 20/09/2021

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 (26th June to 3rd July 2021) – the beginning of the 4th wave
 - Week 37, 2021 (12th to 18th September 2021) – most recent epidemiological week
- Data for this report is based on case notified on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) up to the 18th September
- Data was extracted from CIDR system on 20/09/2021
- CIDR data were merged with data from the HSE COVID care tracker to report on some enhanced variables
- Data are provisional and subject to ongoing review, validation and update. As a result, figures in this report may differ from previously published figures.

Note



- On 14 May 2021 the HSE suffered a major cyber-attack on its IT systems. While HSE-HPSC and CIDR were not directly compromised by the cyber-attack, our surveillance partners (Departments of Public Health, laboratories, and others) were. As an interim measure after the cyber-attack, the reported daily number of COVID-19 cases was based on data uploaded to the HSE-CovidCare Tracker (CCT). The data extracted from CCT did not represent notified cases and had not undergone the extent of data validation which is undertaken by Departments of Public Health and HPSC. All cases were retrospectively notified to CIDR and reporting on the number of cases from CIDR recommenced on 2 September.
- The number of cases reported from CIDR for the period affected by the cyber-attack will differ from the estimates reported based on interim arrangements.
- Not all surveillance processes have returned to normal. The transfer of information gathered during the patient interview from the CCT to CIDR is not yet restored. For this reason CIDR data has been merged with CCT data to report on some variables.
- Further information is available [here](#).

Summary characteristics of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland



| | Total (week 10, 2020-week 37, 2021) | | Week 37, 2021 | |
|---|--|---------|---------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Total number of confirmed cases | 375,363 | | 9,233 | |
| Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population | 7882.7 | | 193.9 | |
| Number of cases hospitalised | 16,229 | 4.3 | 119 | 1.3 |
| Number of cases admitted to ICU | 1,818 | 0.5 | <5* | |
| Number of deaths among confirmed cases | 4,920 | 1.3 | <5* | |
| Case fatality ratio (CFR %) | 1.3 | | | |
| Incidence rate of confirmed deaths per 100,000 population | 103.3 | | | |
| Number of cases in healthcare workers | 32770 | 8.7 | 249 | 2.7 |
| Males | 182,972 | 48.7 | 4,519 | 48.9 |
| Females | 192,287 | 51.2 | 4,702 | 50.9 |
| M:F ratio | 0.95 | | 0.96 | |
| Median (years) | 33 | | 25 | |
| Mean age (years) | 36 | | 29 | |
| Age range (years) | 0-108 | | 0-103 | |

** 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

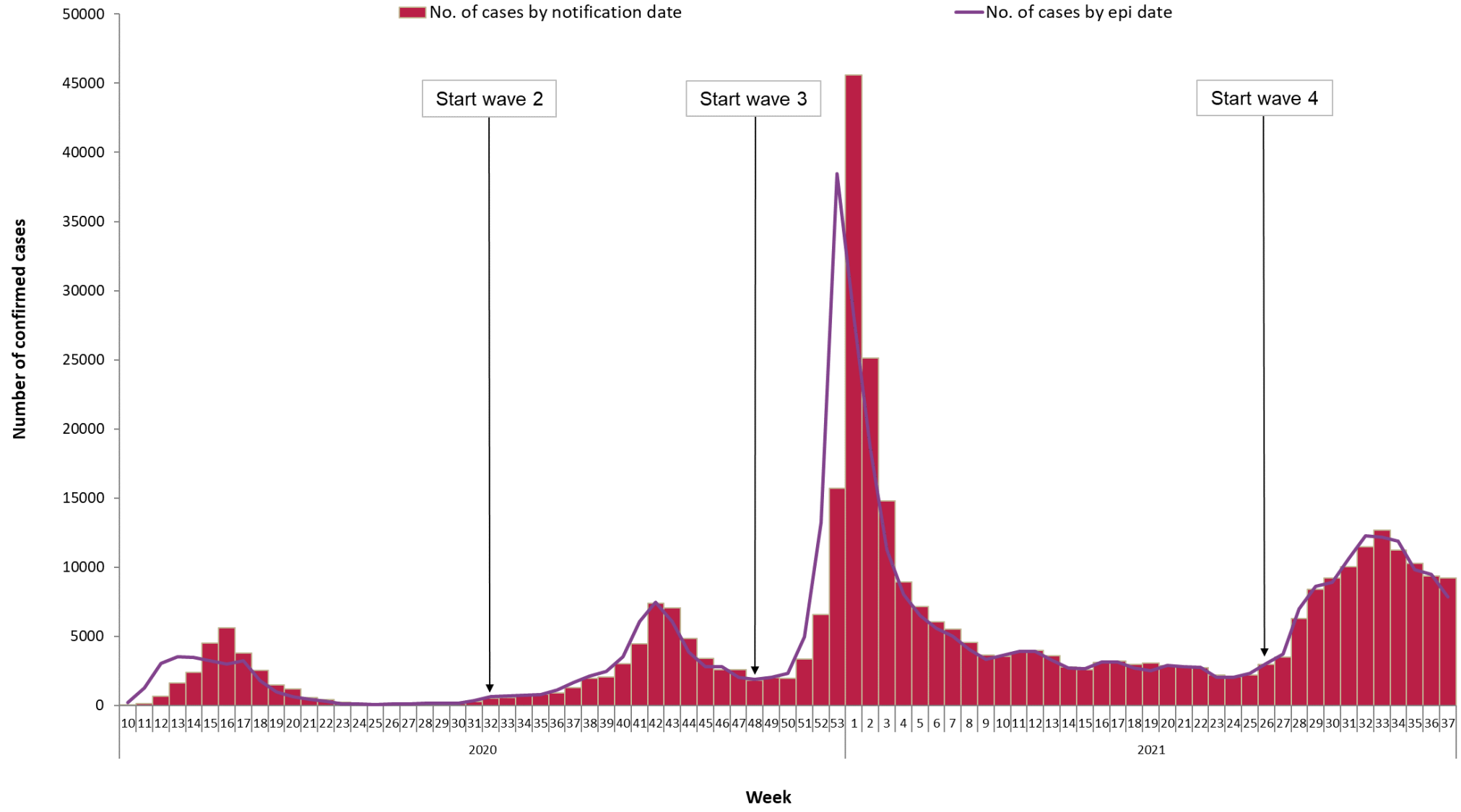


Figure 1: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week and [epidemiological date](#) in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 37, 2021

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

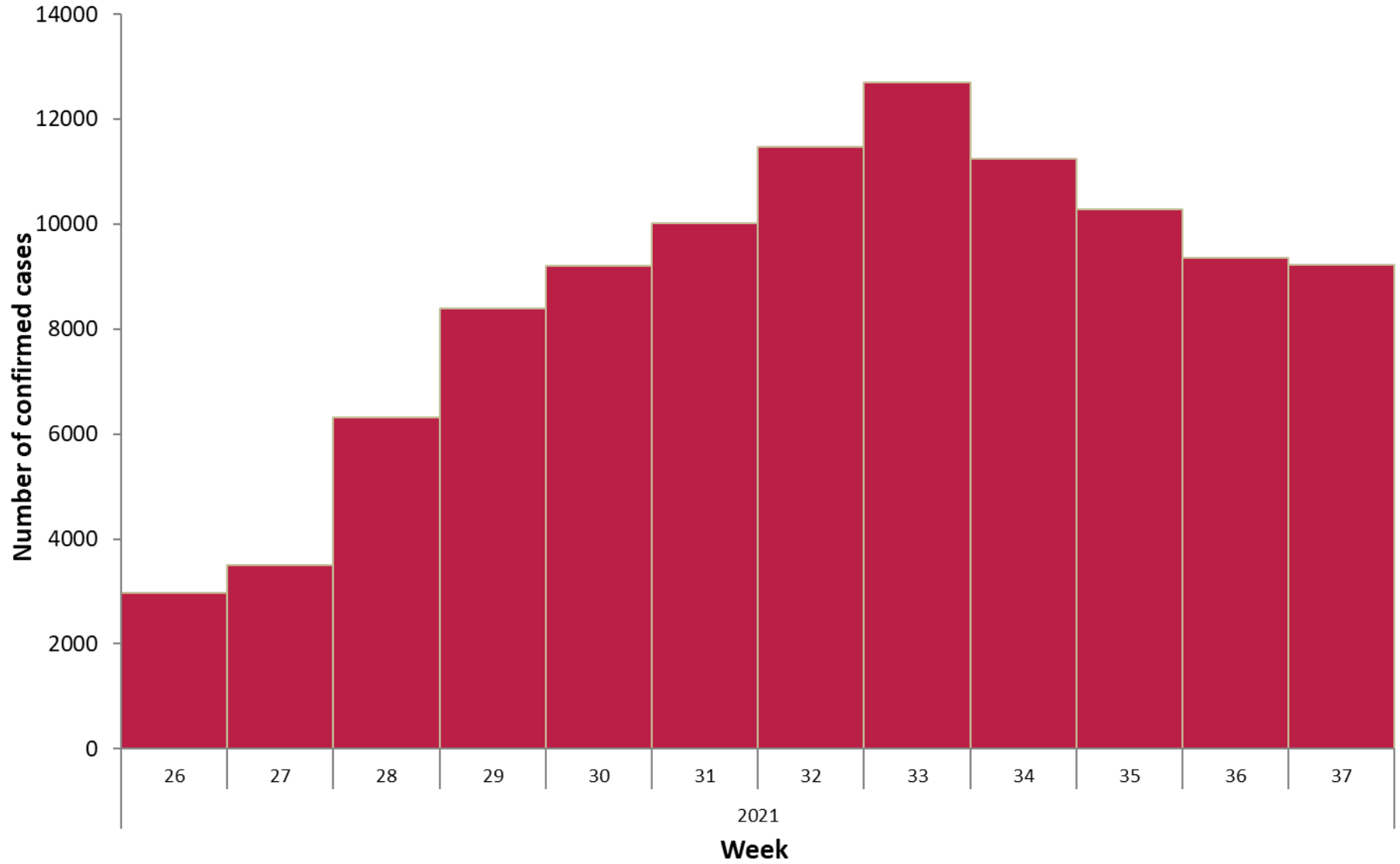


Figure 2: Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week in Ireland for the 4th wave from week 26, 2021 to week 37, 2021

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



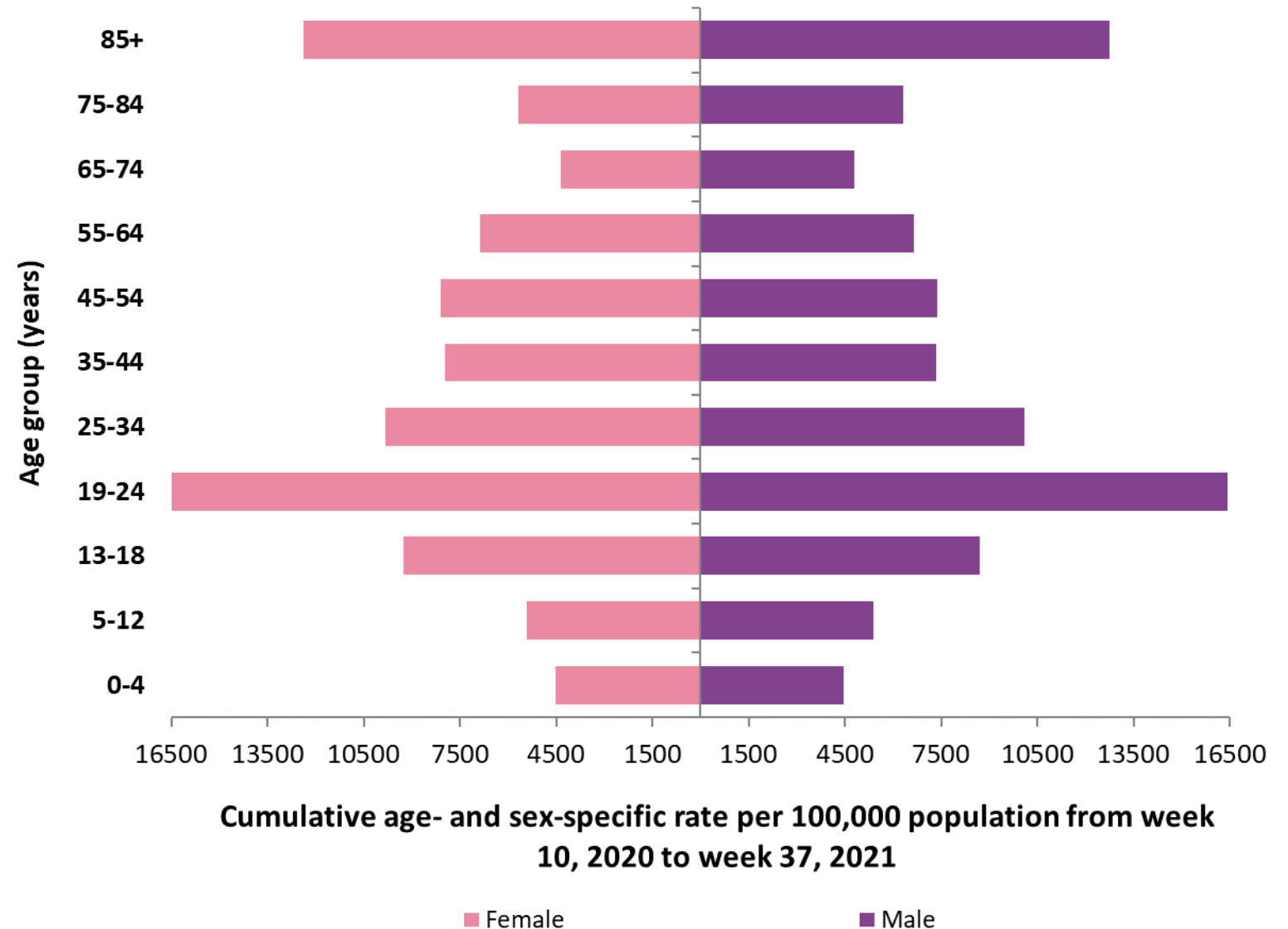
Table 1: Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 37, 2021

| Characteristic | | Week 37 | Percent |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Total number of confirmed cases | | 9,233 | 100 |
| Sex | Male:Female ratio | 0.96 | |
| | Male | 4,519 | 48.9 |
| | Female | 4,702 | 50.9 |
| | Unknown | 12 | 0.2 |
| Age | Mean age (years) | 29 | |
| | Median age (years) | 25 | |
| | Age range (years) | 0-103 | |
| | 0-4 yrs | 636 | 6.9 |
| | 5-12 yrs | 2,209 | 23.9 |
| | 13-18 yrs | 886 | 9.6 |
| | 19-24 yrs | 863 | 9.3 |
| | 25-34 yrs | 1,161 | 12.6 |
| | 35-44 yrs | 1,290 | 14.0 |
| | 45-54 yrs | 966 | 10.5 |
| | 55-64 yrs | 542 | 5.9 |
| | 65-74 yrs | 380 | 4.1 |
| | 75-84 yrs | 194 | 2.1 |
| | 85+ yrs | 105 | 1.1 |
| Unknown | 1 | 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 37, 2021

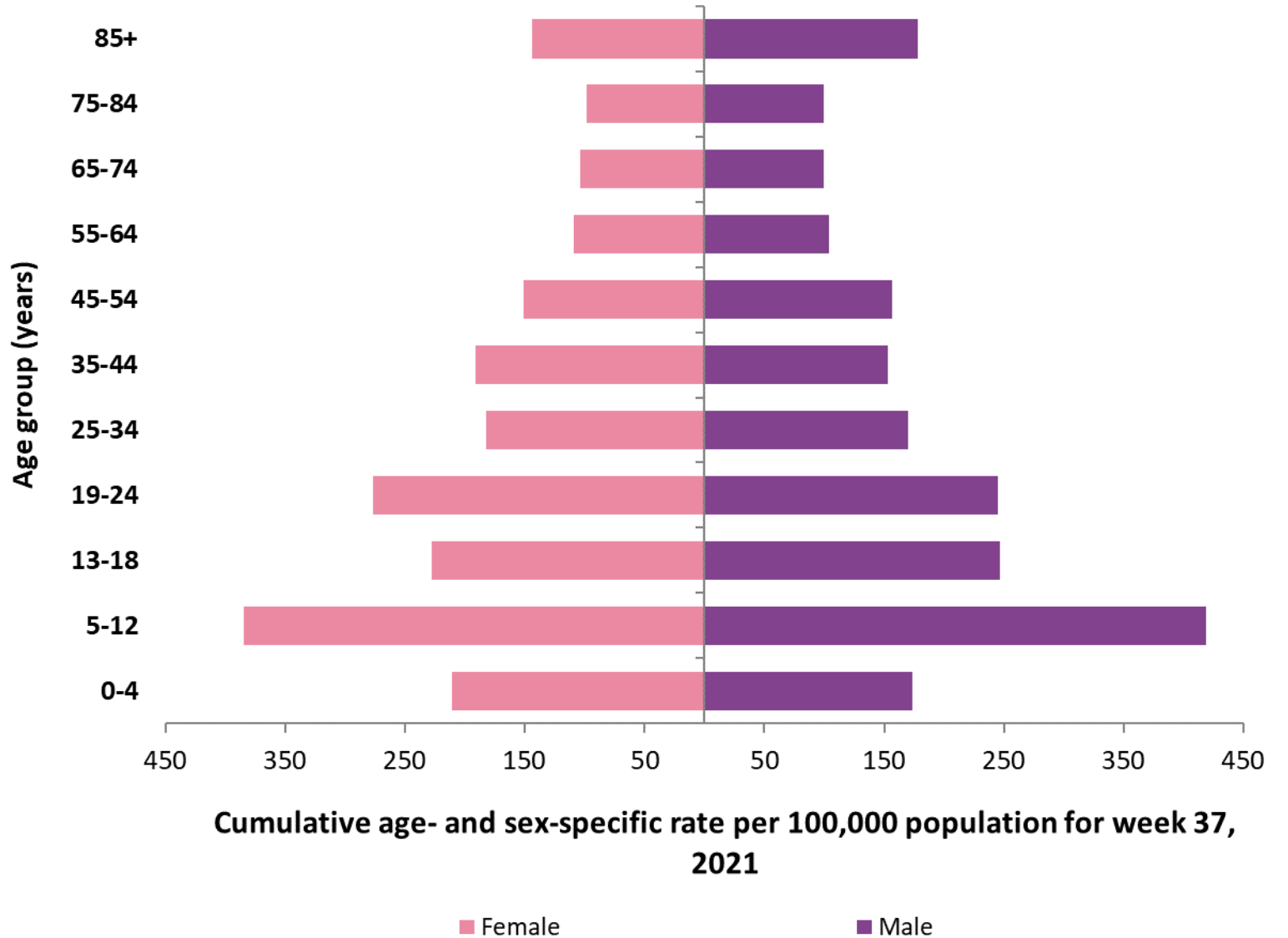
(excluding 50 cases for whom age is unknown, 102 cases for whom sex is unknown and two cases for whom both are unknown)



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 37, 2021

(excluding one case for whom age is unknown and 12 cases for whom sex is unknown)



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

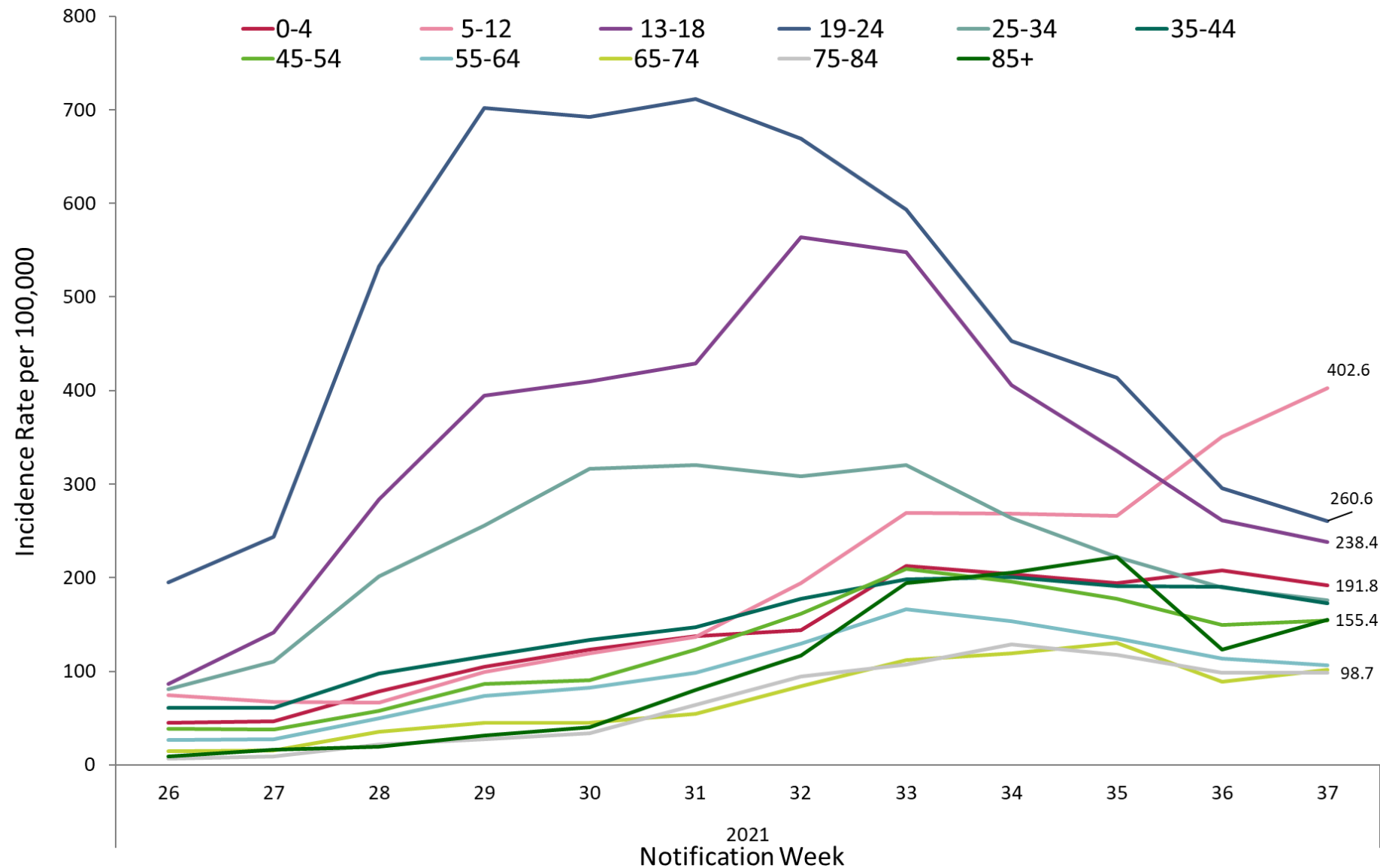


Figure 4: Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland for the 4th wave from week 26, 2021 to week 37, 2021

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

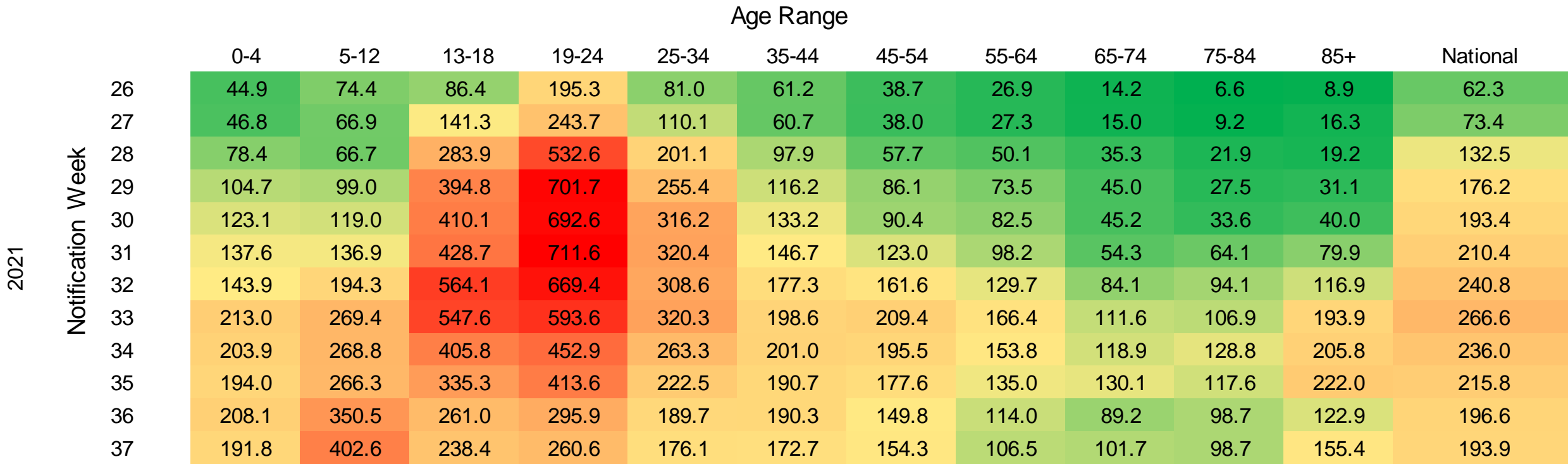


Figure 5: Heat map of weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland for the 4th wave between week 26, 2021 and week 37, 2021

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

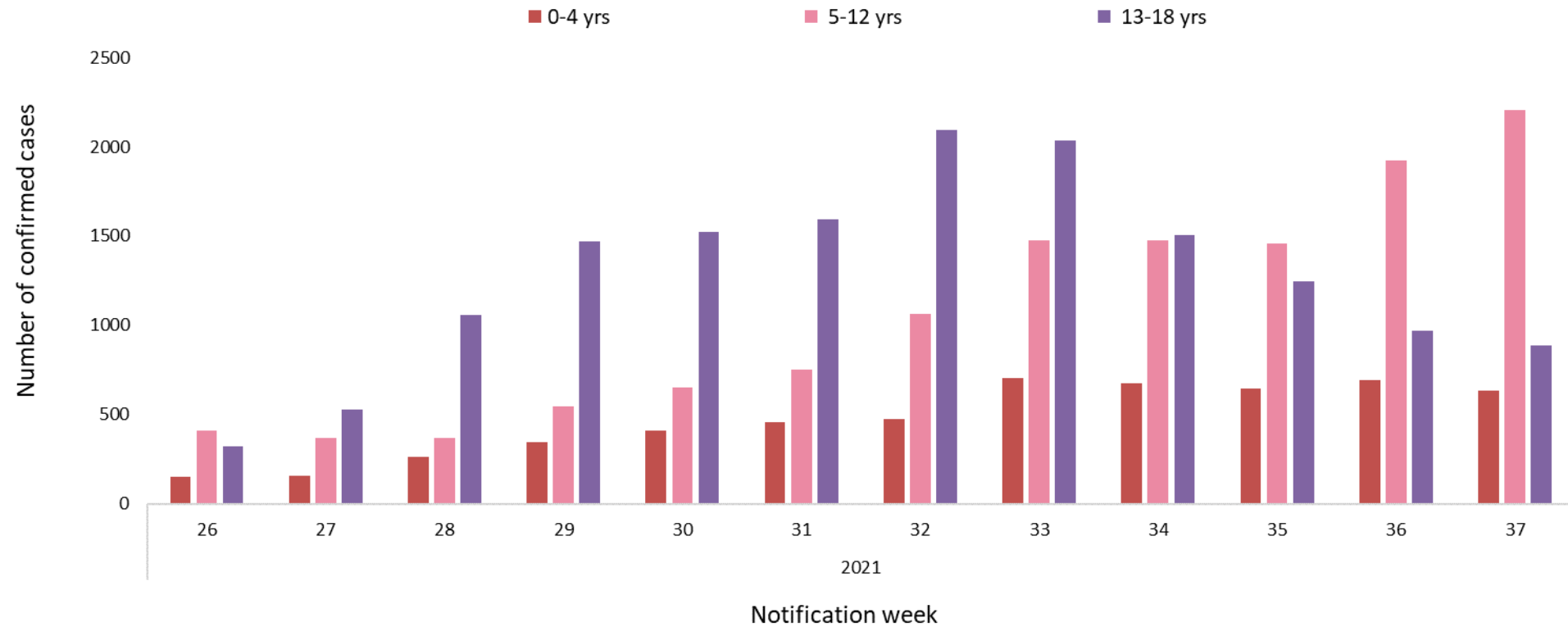


Figure 6a: Weekly number of age-specific confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week in Ireland for the 4th wave between week 26, 2021 and week 37, 2021

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

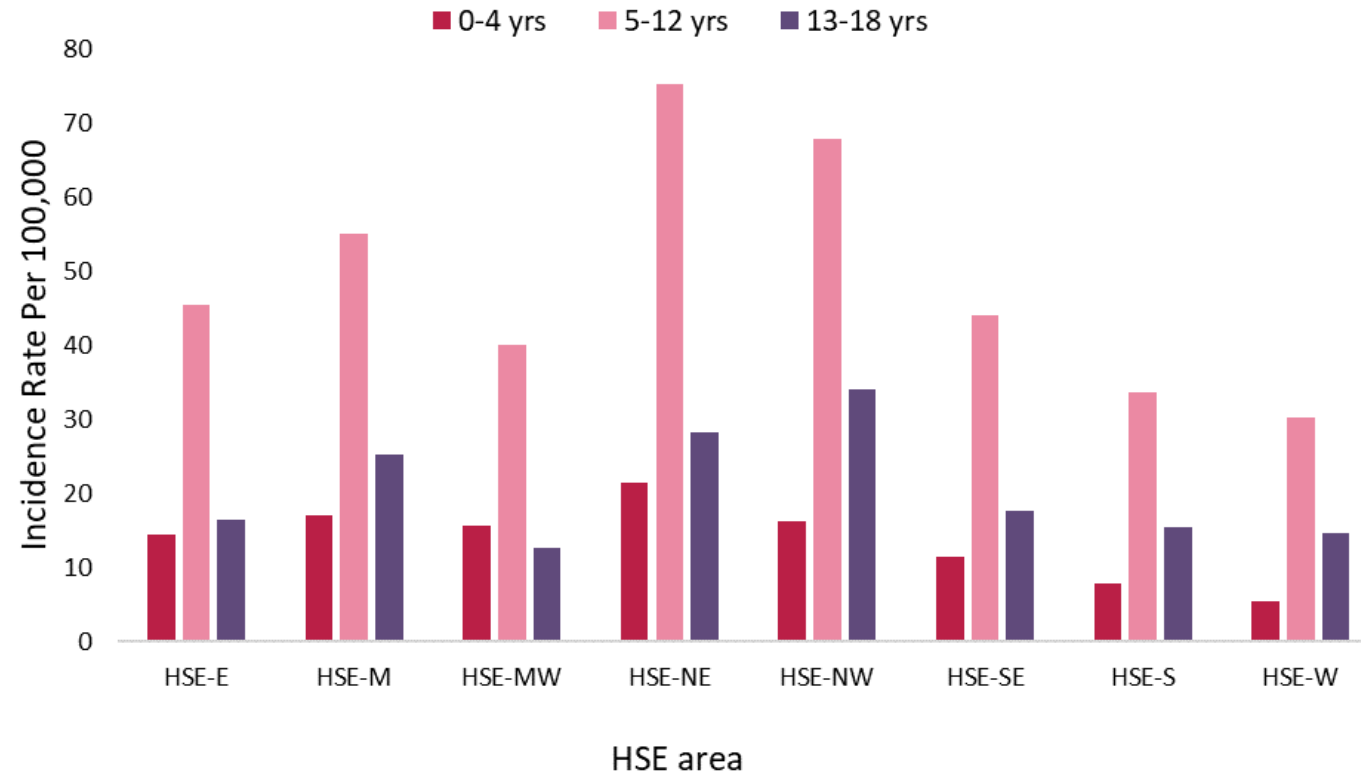


Figure 6b: Age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population, by HSE area, notified in Ireland during week 37, 2021

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 37, 2021

| County | Cases | | M:F ratio | Median age | Incidence Rate per 100,000 |
|-----------|-------|------|-----------|------------|----------------------------|
| | N | % | | (years) | |
| Monaghan | 259 | 2.8 | 0.9 | 20 | 421.9 |
| Donegal | 621 | 6.7 | 1.1 | 24 | 390.1 |
| Louth | 477 | 5.2 | 0.9 | 27 | 370.1 |
| Carlow | 184 | 2.0 | 0.8 | 28 | 323.2 |
| Laois | 214 | 2.3 | 1.1 | 19 | 252.7 |
| Longford | 91 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 24 | 222.6 |
| Cavan | 169 | 1.8 | 0.9 | 31 | 221.9 |
| Westmeath | 188 | 2.0 | 0.8 | 30 | 211.8 |
| Dublin | 2848 | 30.8 | 1.0 | 25 | 211.4 |
| Meath | 390 | 4.2 | 1.0 | 20.5 | 200.0 |
| Limerick | 370 | 4.0 | 0.8 | 28 | 189.8 |
| Offaly | 146 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 19.5 | 187.3 |
| Kerry | 270 | 2.9 | 1.1 | 23 | 182.8 |
| Mayo | 228 | 2.5 | 0.9 | 25 | 174.7 |
| Roscommon | 110 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 21 | 170.4 |
| Kildare | 364 | 3.9 | 1.0 | 24 | 163.6 |
| Tipperary | 260 | 2.8 | 1.0 | 21 | 163.0 |
| Kilkenny | 160 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 18 | 161.2 |
| Waterford | 180 | 1.9 | 0.9 | 23.5 | 154.9 |
| Wexford | 218 | 2.4 | 0.8 | 26 | 145.6 |
| Leitrim | 46 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 21.5 | 143.6 |
| Cork | 777 | 8.4 | 0.9 | 28 | 143.1 |
| Clare | 168 | 1.8 | 0.9 | 20 | 141.4 |
| Sligo | 88 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 18 | 134.3 |
| Galway | 315 | 3.4 | 1.2 | 27 | 122.1 |
| Wicklow | 92 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 32 | 64.6 |

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 | 90.5 | 29.1 | 33.9 | 47.6 | 23.2 | 62.6 | 18.7 | 82.1 | 34.3 | 66.0 | 37.5 | 60.0 | 31.0 | 42.3 | 88.3 | 76.3 | 21.9 | 104.2 | 75.5 | 25.4 | 31.6 | 62.3 |
| | Notification Week 27 | 49.2 | 53.8 | 38.7 | 29.3 | 213.0 | 96.8 | 50.8 | 62.3 | 76.0 | 40.3 | 40.1 | 31.2 | 122.1 | 34.3 | 95.4 | 76.6 | 68.2 | 55.4 | 59.0 | 71.3 | 126.6 | 23.2 | 36.2 | 83.4 | 48.1 | 42.8 | 73.4 |
| | Notification Week 28 | 133.5 | 106.3 | 70.7 | 75.3 | 392.0 | 167.1 | 129.4 | 94.8 | 128.5 | 48.4 | 133.4 | 103.0 | 126.2 | 71.0 | 296.4 | 118.0 | 124.6 | 107.5 | 116.7 | 100.7 | 90.0 | 48.9 | 57.7 | 121.7 | 54.1 | 112.3 | 132.5 |
| | Notification Week 29 | 203.8 | 153.6 | 70.7 | 118.1 | 537.7 | 192.9 | 258.5 | 126.6 | 156.0 | 69.5 | 275.1 | 259.0 | 140.1 | 141.9 | 250.6 | 196.2 | 151.2 | 229.7 | 137.2 | 137.9 | 151.1 | 99.7 | 80.9 | 147.6 | 87.5 | 165.0 | 176.2 |
| | Notification Week 30 | 130.0 | 182.5 | 104.4 | 120.8 | 378.8 | 222.9 | 283.7 | 198.4 | 122.2 | 99.8 | 196.0 | 212.2 | 190.9 | 149.2 | 378.6 | 301.1 | 168.7 | 252.5 | 111.6 | 206.1 | 212.1 | 127.2 | 104.2 | 171.2 | 90.2 | 148.1 | 193.4 |
| | Notification Week 31 | 172.1 | 232.4 | 143.9 | 163.4 | 321.6 | 240.8 | 302.6 | 203.8 | 141.6 | 105.8 | 184.2 | 137.3 | 179.6 | 225.1 | 269.2 | 314.9 | 184.1 | 351.9 | 173.2 | 275.8 | 177.0 | 129.1 | 125.7 | 166.7 | 173.0 | 186.1 | 210.4 |
| | Notification Week 32 | 212.5 | 466.0 | 137.2 | 148.1 | 581.1 | 250.9 | 295.7 | 208.5 | 184.7 | 145.1 | 192.5 | 190.4 | 189.3 | 181.0 | 246.0 | 314.9 | 205.6 | 645.1 | 207.8 | 426.1 | 291.4 | 168.0 | 170.4 | 312.0 | 187.7 | 173.4 | 240.8 |
| | Notification Week 33 | 228.3 | 744.3 | 155.7 | 188.1 | 599.9 | 254.8 | 256.1 | 295.2 | 193.7 | 134.0 | 229.1 | 230.9 | 296.6 | 217.7 | 378.6 | 272.0 | 232.8 | 821.0 | 203.9 | 365.6 | 199.9 | 296.5 | 220.4 | 277.1 | 167.0 | 180.4 | 266.6 |
| | Notification Week 34 | 175.6 | 508.0 | 131.3 | 163.8 | 556.6 | 215.0 | 239.5 | 304.7 | 181.6 | 199.5 | 124.0 | 358.9 | 253.5 | 327.8 | 237.4 | 287.3 | 229.2 | 768.9 | 241.1 | 334.7 | 271.6 | 246.9 | 158.4 | 218.5 | 146.3 | 163.6 | 236.0 |
| | Notification Week 35 | 230.1 | 341.3 | 197.8 | 184.6 | 497.5 | 207.9 | 194.9 | 233.6 | 150.6 | 166.3 | 217.2 | 405.7 | 224.2 | 264.2 | 262.3 | 244.4 | 192.3 | 485.5 | 228.3 | 300.6 | 181.6 | 184.9 | 99.0 | 175.7 | 155.0 | 161.5 | 215.8 |
| | Notification Week 36 | 217.8 | 288.8 | 149.8 | 130.1 | 409.6 | 223.5 | 171.3 | 155.0 | 168.1 | 166.3 | 271.6 | 227.8 | 173.9 | 313.2 | 255.3 | 211.5 | 179.4 | 470.8 | 228.3 | 227.8 | 151.1 | 137.3 | 128.3 | 165.6 | 108.9 | 102.5 | 196.6 |
| | Notification Week 37 | 323.2 | 221.9 | 141.4 | 143.1 | 390.1 | 211.4 | 122.1 | 182.8 | 163.6 | 161.2 | 252.7 | 143.6 | 189.8 | 222.6 | 370.1 | 174.7 | 200.0 | 421.9 | 187.3 | 170.4 | 134.3 | 163.0 | 154.9 | 211.8 | 145.6 | 64.6 | 193.9 |

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 37, 2021

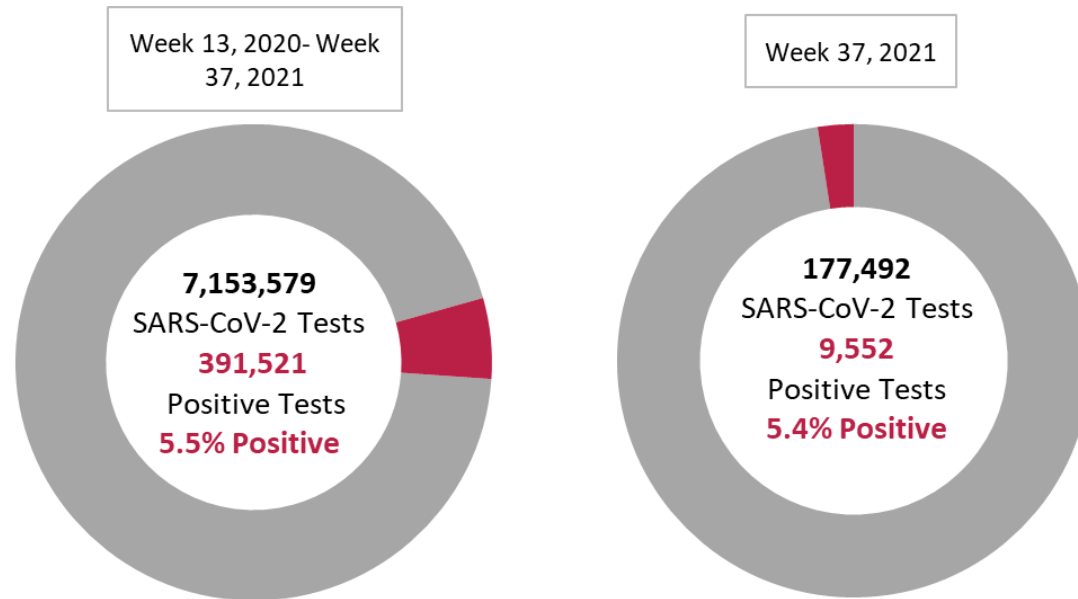


Figure 8a: Number of SARS-CoV-2 tests and positive tests* in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 37, 2021

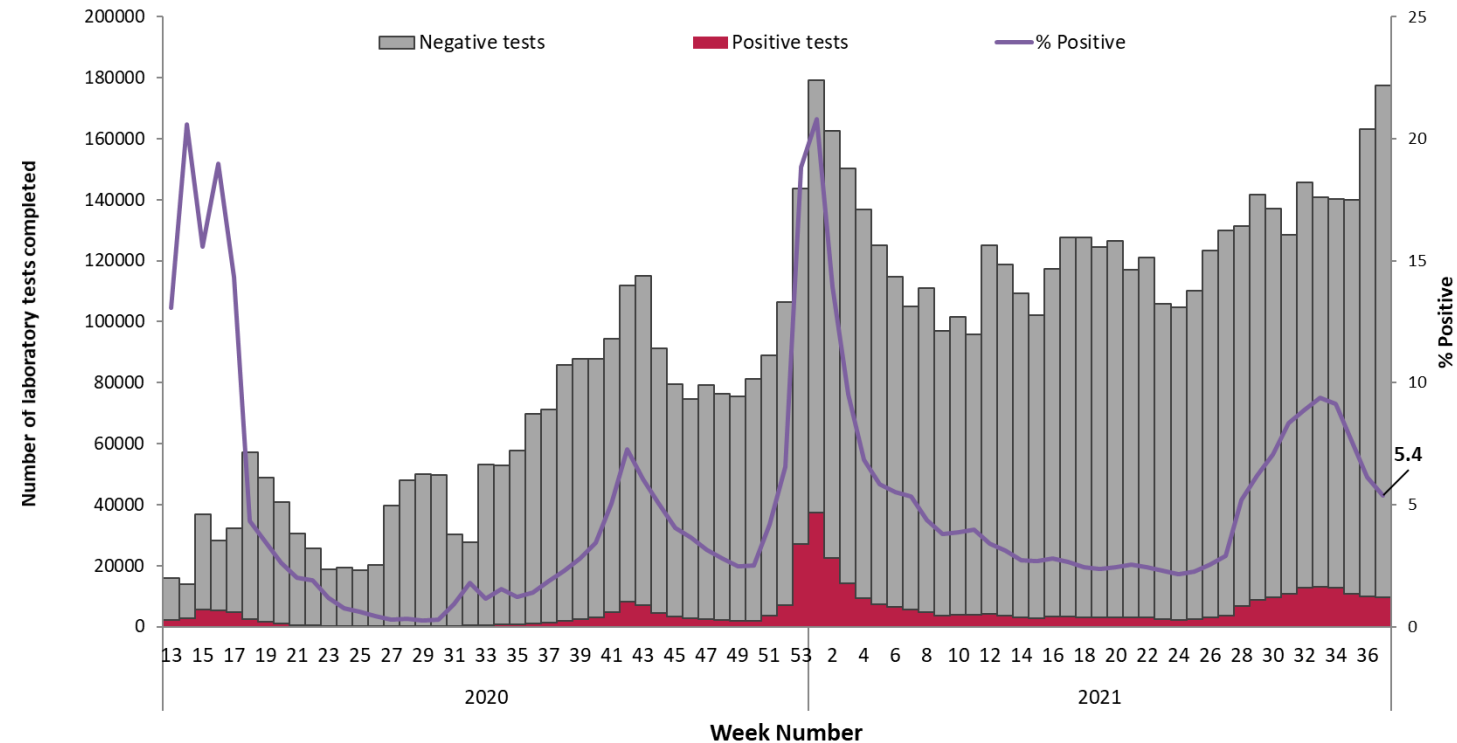


Figure 8b: Number of SARS-CoV-2 negative and positive tests* completed in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 37, 2021

*Positive tests refers to all positive specimens and includes duplicates and individuals who were retested

Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 testing

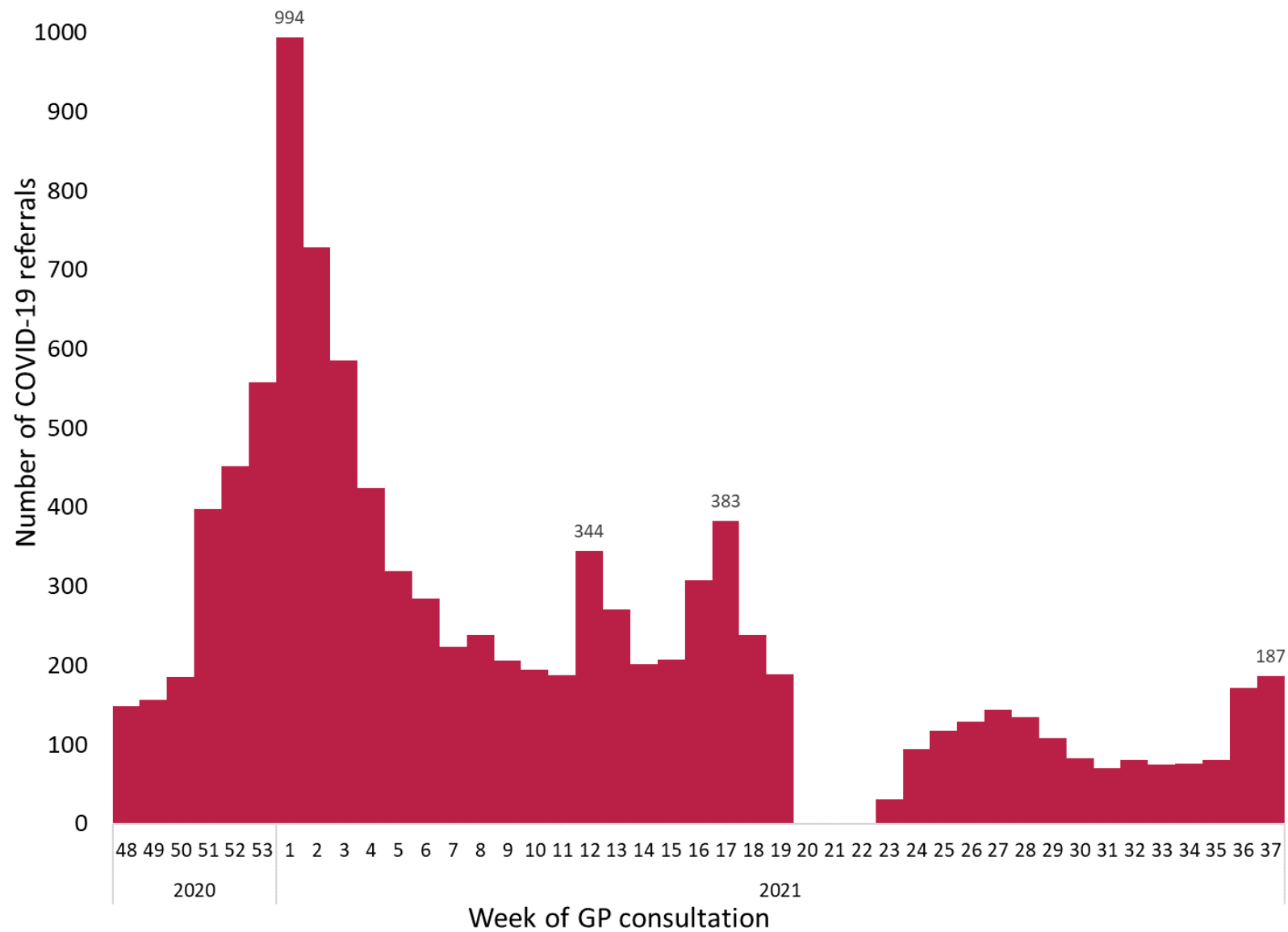


Figure 9: Number of sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals by week of consultation, 2020-2021

*Please note, from weeks 19-23 2021, the GP sentinel referral data were incomplete due to the cyber-attack



Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 testing

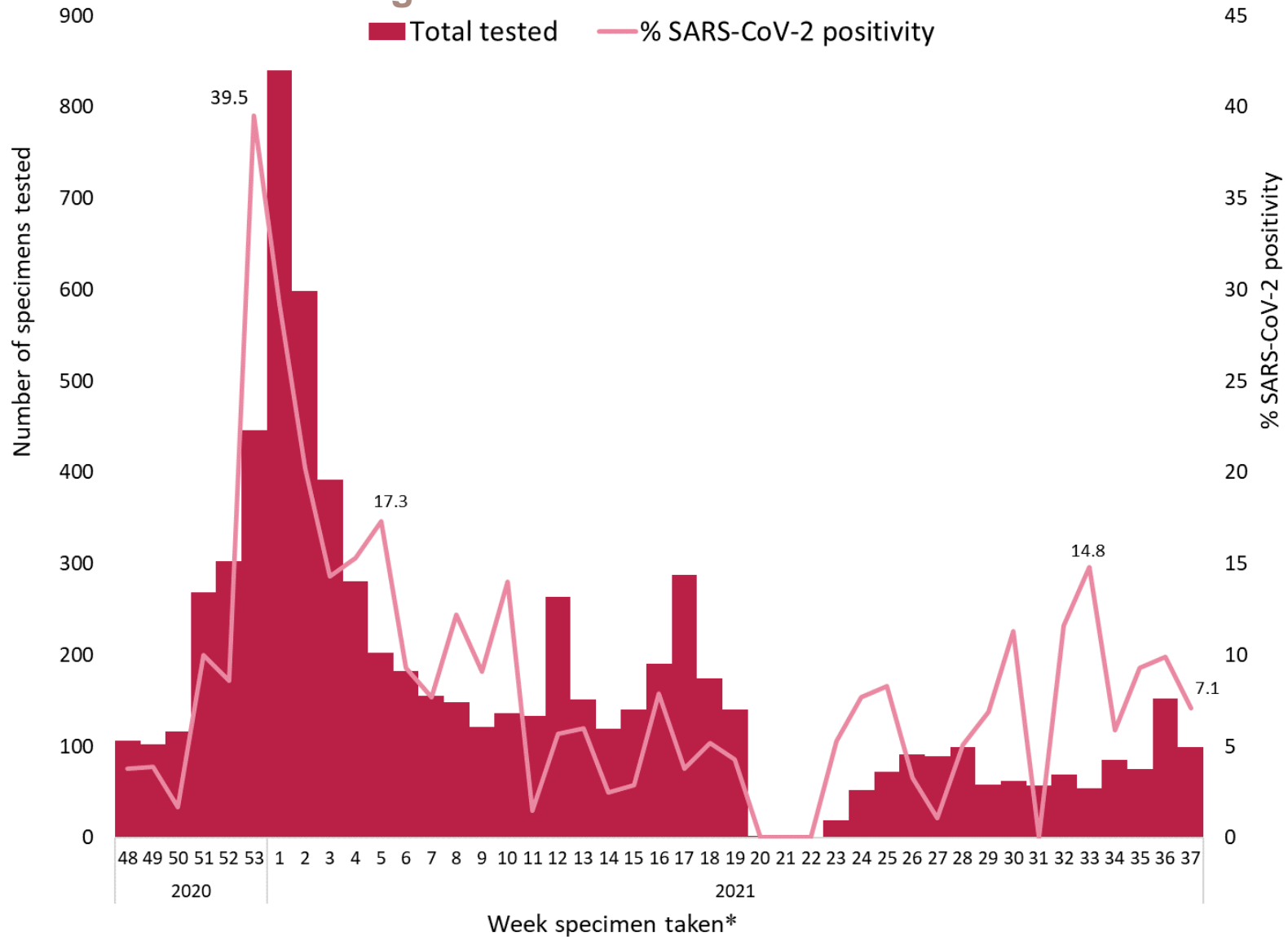


Figure 10: % SARS-CoV-2 positivity data from sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals tested by NVRL/ENFER, 2020-2021

*Please note, from weeks 19-23 2021, the GP sentinel virology data were incomplete due to the HSE cyber-attack



Deaths among COVID-19 cases

| | Number | Percent |
|--|--------|---------|
| Total number of deaths | 5,193 | |
| confirmed | 4,920 | 94.7 |
| probable | 96 | 1.8 |
| possible | 177 | 3.4 |
| Number hospitalised who died | 2,831 | 54.5 |
| admitted to ICU who died | 544 | 10.5 |
| not admitted to ICU who died | 4,649 | 89.5 |
| Number of imported cases who died | 11 | 0.2 |
| Number of HCWs who died | 18 | 0.3 |
| Number with underlying conditions who died | 4,517 | 87.0 |
| Males who died | 2,733 | 52.6 |
| M:F ratio | 1.11 | |
| Median age (years) | 82 | |
| Mean age (years) | 80 | |
| Age range (years) | 0-105 | |

Table 3: Summary of deaths in all COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 37, 2021

| Age group (years) | Female | Male | Total | Percent |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| <45 yrs | 26 | 30 | 56 | 1 |
| 45-54 yrs | 35 | 66 | 101 | 2 |
| 55-64 yrs | 109 | 179 | 288 | 6 |
| 65-74 yrs | 300 | 520 | 820 | 16 |
| 75-84 yrs | 755 | 1006 | 1761 | 34 |
| 85+ yrs | 1232 | 932 | 2164 | 42 |
| Unknown | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Total | 2460 | 2733 | 5193 | 100.0 |
| Percent | 47.4 | 52.6 | | |

Table 4: Number of deaths in all COVID-19 cases by sex and age group notified in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 37, 2021

Deaths among COVID-19 cases

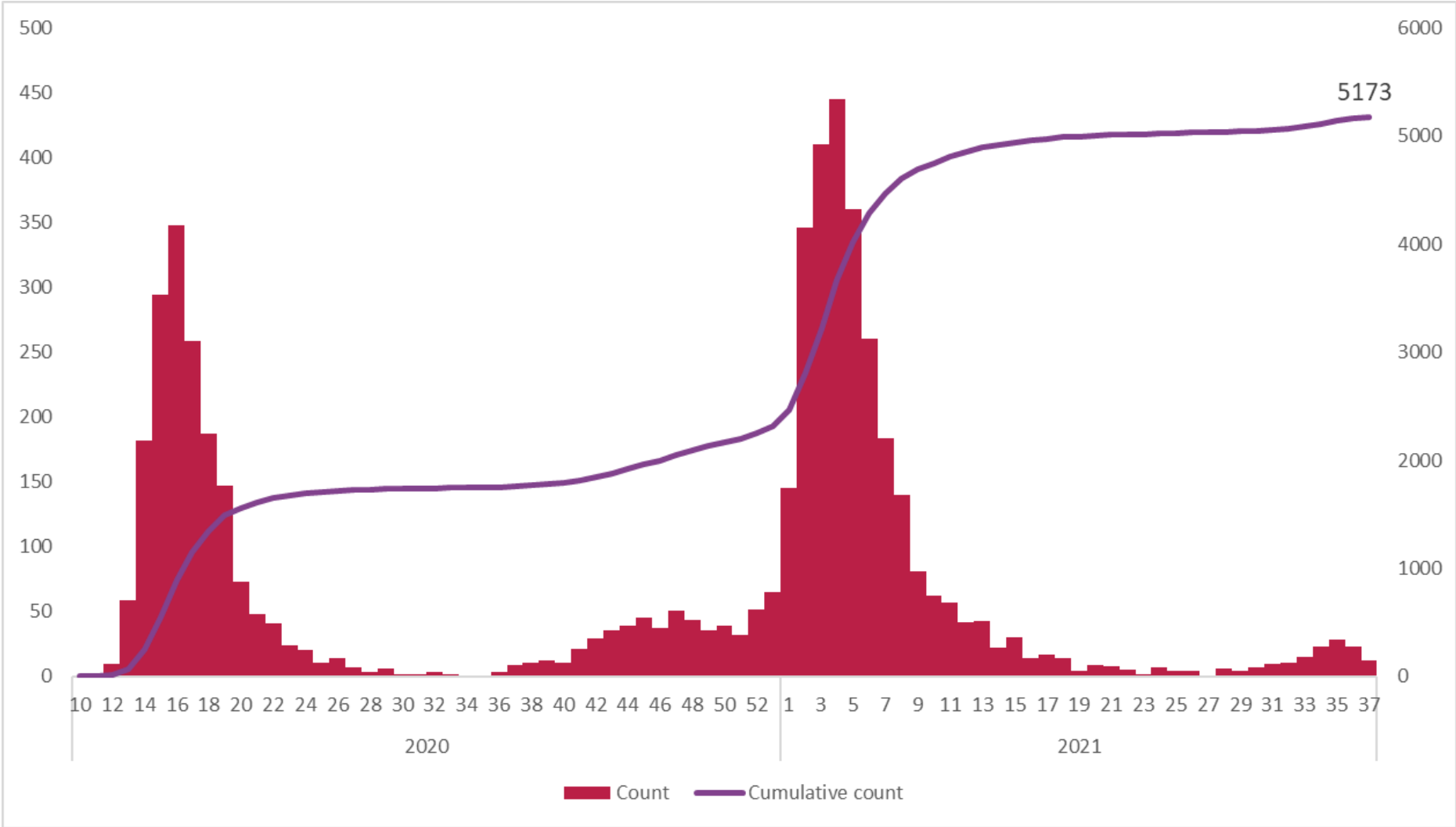


Figure 11: Total number of COVID-19 deaths notified in and cumulative number by week of death, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 18/09/2021. Date of death reported for 5,173 of deaths.

Most likely transmission source of COVID-19 cases

Table 5: Most likely transmission source for cases notified in week 37, 2021. Data based on CCT/PPA data.

| Most likely transmission source for 37, 2021 | Number of cases | Percent |
|--|-----------------|------------|
| Close contact with a known confirmed case | 4213 | 45.6 |
| Travel related | 230 | 2.5 |
| Community transmission | 2701 | 29.3 |
| Healthcare setting acquired: patient | 44 | 0.5 |
| Healthcare setting acquired: staff | 33 | 0.4 |
| Under investigation* | 2012 | 21.8 |
| Total | 9233 | 100 |

* Includes cases without a matching record for CCT/PPA

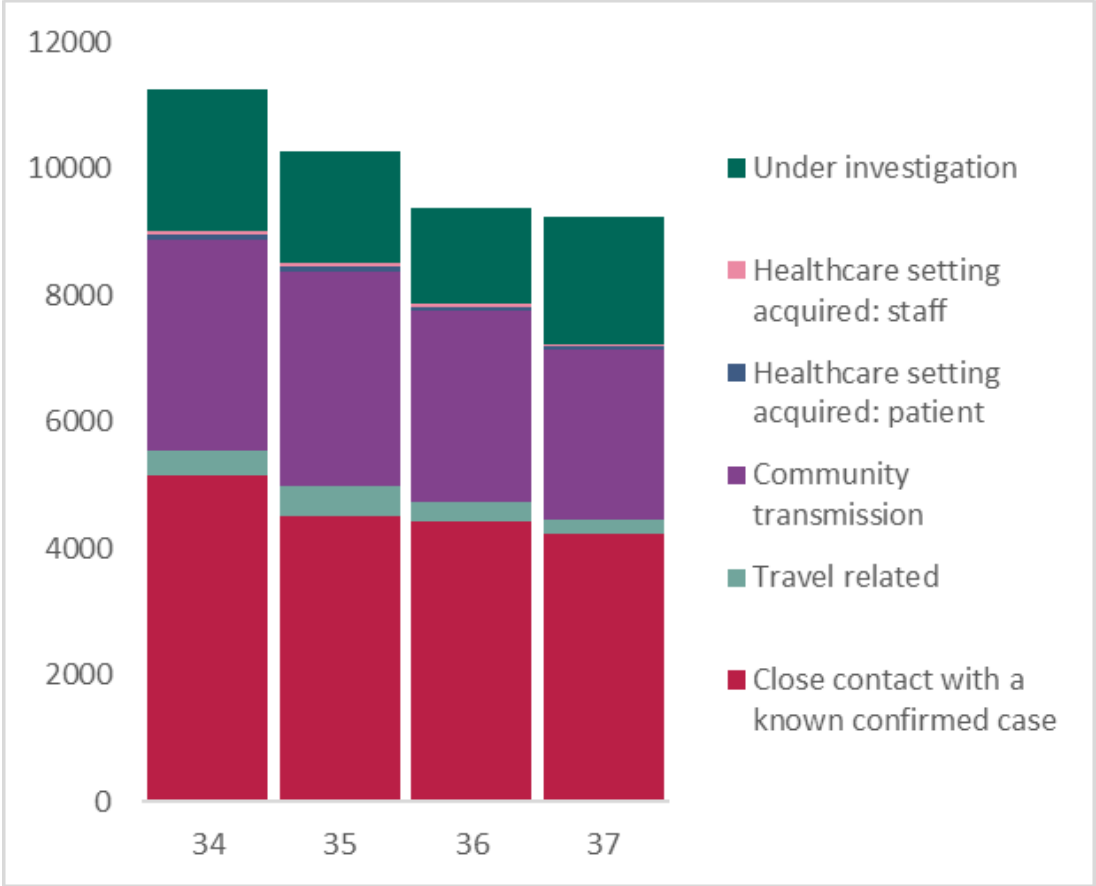


Figure 12: Most likely transmission source by week, from week 34 - week 37, 2021. Data based on CCT/PPA data

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
- [Vaccination status of COVID-19](#) deaths in Ireland weekly reports
- [Vaccination status of COVID-19](#) cases admitted to ICU in Ireland weekly reports

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.