



Seirbhís Sláinte  
Níos Fearr  
á Forbairt

Building a  
Better Health  
Service



# Weekly Report on the Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland

## Week 38, 2021

Health Protection Surveillance Centre, HPSC  
COVID-19 Epidemiology Team, 27/09/2021

### 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 (1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020) – the beginning of the pandemic in Ireland, also the start of the first wave
  - Week 32, 2020 (2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August 2020) – the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave
  - Week 48, 2020 (22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2020) – the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave
  - Week 26, 2021 (26<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021) – the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> wave
  - Week 38, 2021 (19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> September
- Data was extracted from CIDR system on 27/09/2021
- CIDR data was 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](#).

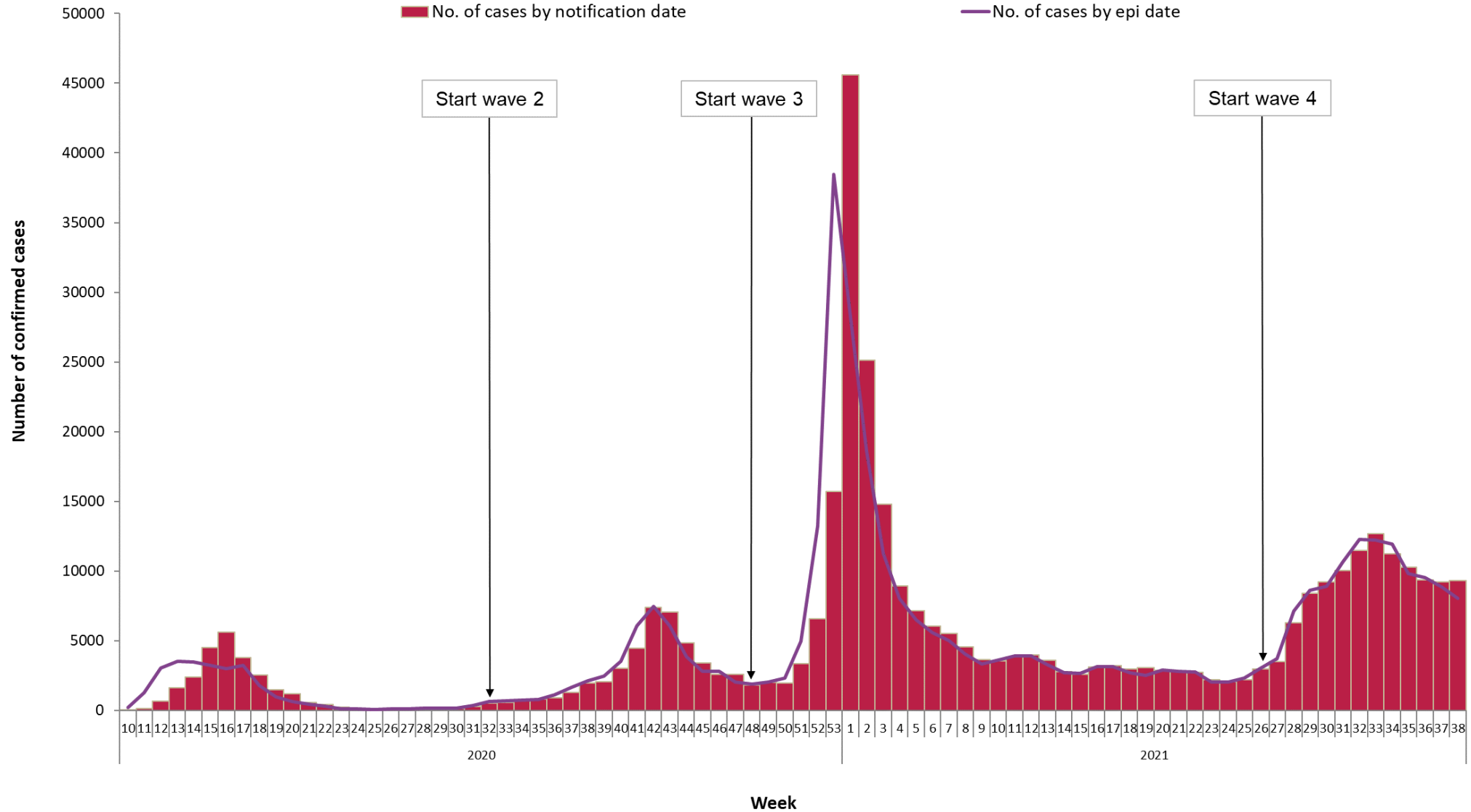
# Summary characteristics of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland



	Total (week 10, 2020-week 38, 2021 )		Week 38, 2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases	384,672		9,317	
Incidence rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population	8078.2		195.7	
Number of cases hospitalised	16,431	4.3	141*	1.5
Number of cases admitted to ICU	1,837	0.5	<5*	
Number of deaths among confirmed cases	4,962	1.3	<5*	
Case fatality ratio (CFR %)	1.3			
Incidence rate of confirmed deaths per 100,000 population	104.2			
Number of cases in healthcare workers	33106	8.6	356	3.8
Males	187,605	48.8	4,639	49.8
Females	196,953	51.2	4,667	50.1
M:F ratio	0.95		0.99	
Median (years)	33		29	
Mean age (years)	36		31	
Age range (years)	0-108		0-103	

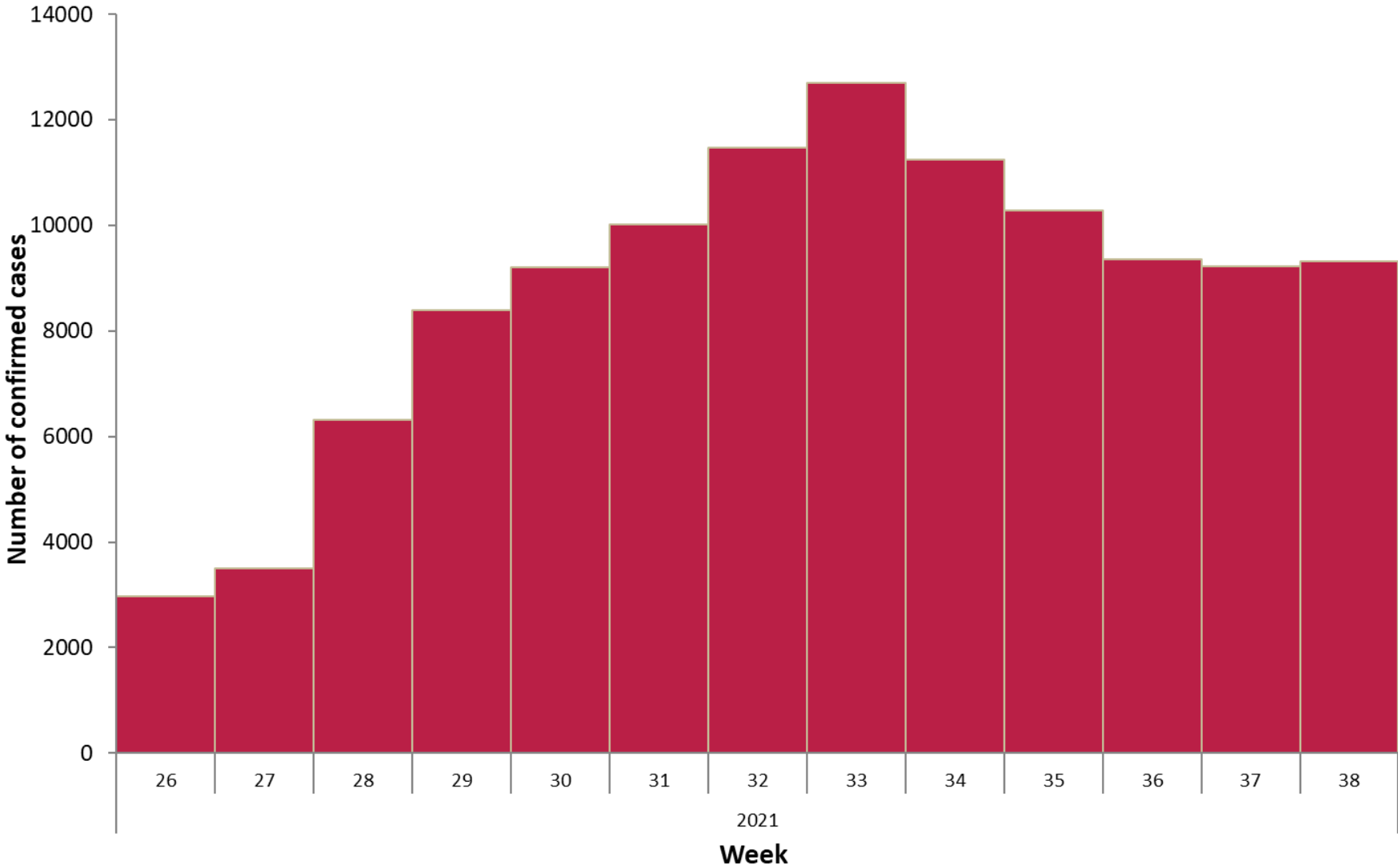
*\* The number of cases hospitalised, cases admitted to ICU and deaths described in the above table relate only to COVID-19 cases who were notified during this reporting period, and where the outcome is known at the time of reporting. It does not reflect all hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths 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 38, 2021

# Epidemic curve of COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4<sup>th</sup> wave



**Figure 2:** Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week in Ireland for the 4<sup>th</sup> wave from week 26, 2021 to week 38, 2021

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



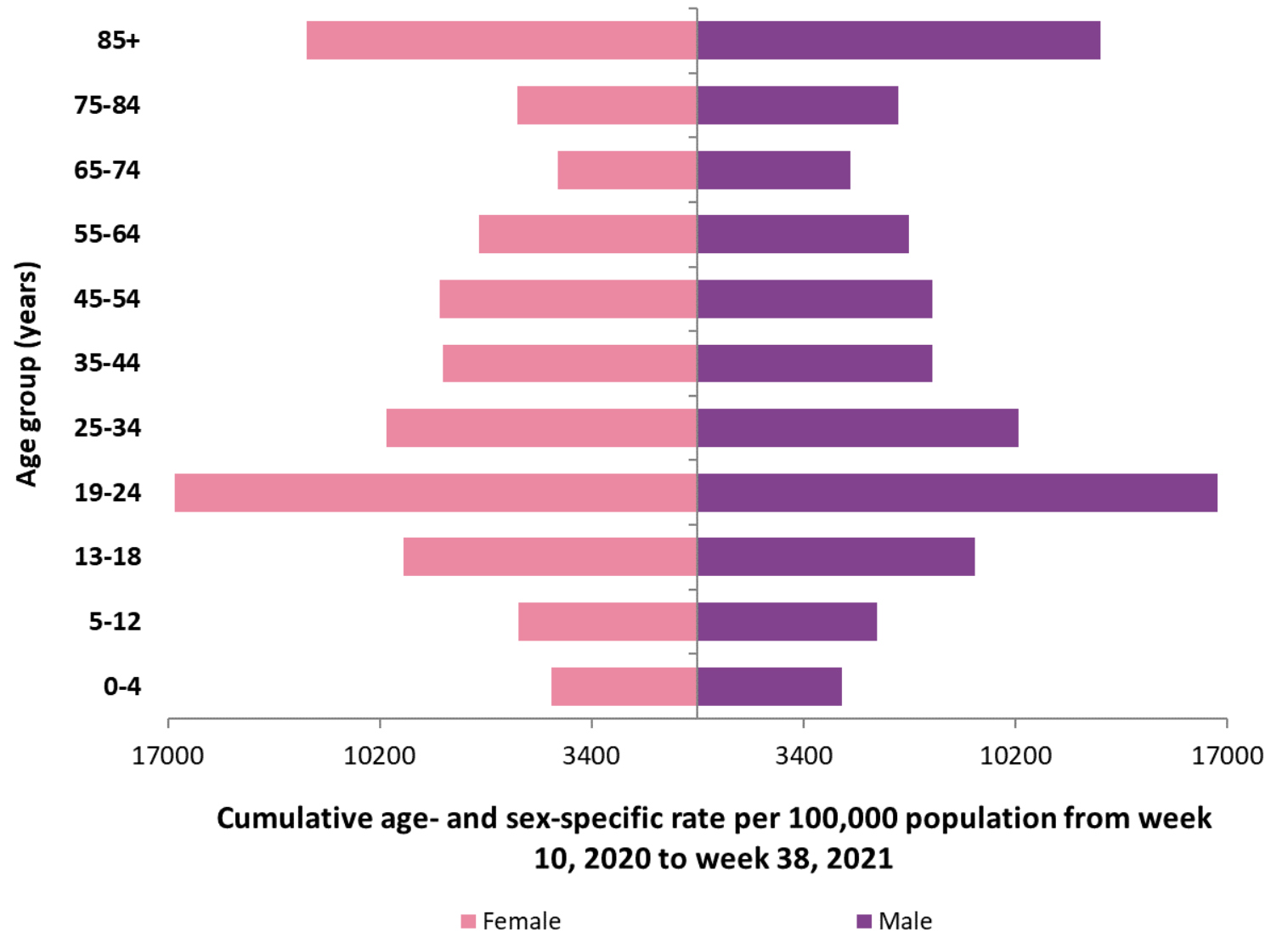
**Table 1:** Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during week 38, 2021

Characteristic		Week 38	Percent
Total number of confirmed cases		9,317	100
<b>Sex</b>	Male:Female ratio	0.99	
	Male	4,639	49.8
	Female	4,667	50.1
	Unknown	11	0.2
<b>Age</b>	Mean age (years)	31	
	Median age (years)	29	
	Age range (years)	0-103	
	0-4 yrs	596	6.4
	5-12 yrs	1,866	20.0
	13-18 yrs	756	8.1
	19-24 yrs	922	9.9
	25-34 yrs	1,299	13.9
	35-44 yrs	1,486	15.9
	45-54 yrs	986	10.6
	55-64 yrs	651	7.0
	65-74 yrs	393	4.2
	75-84 yrs	238	2.6
	85+ yrs	121	1.3
Unknown	3	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 38, 2021

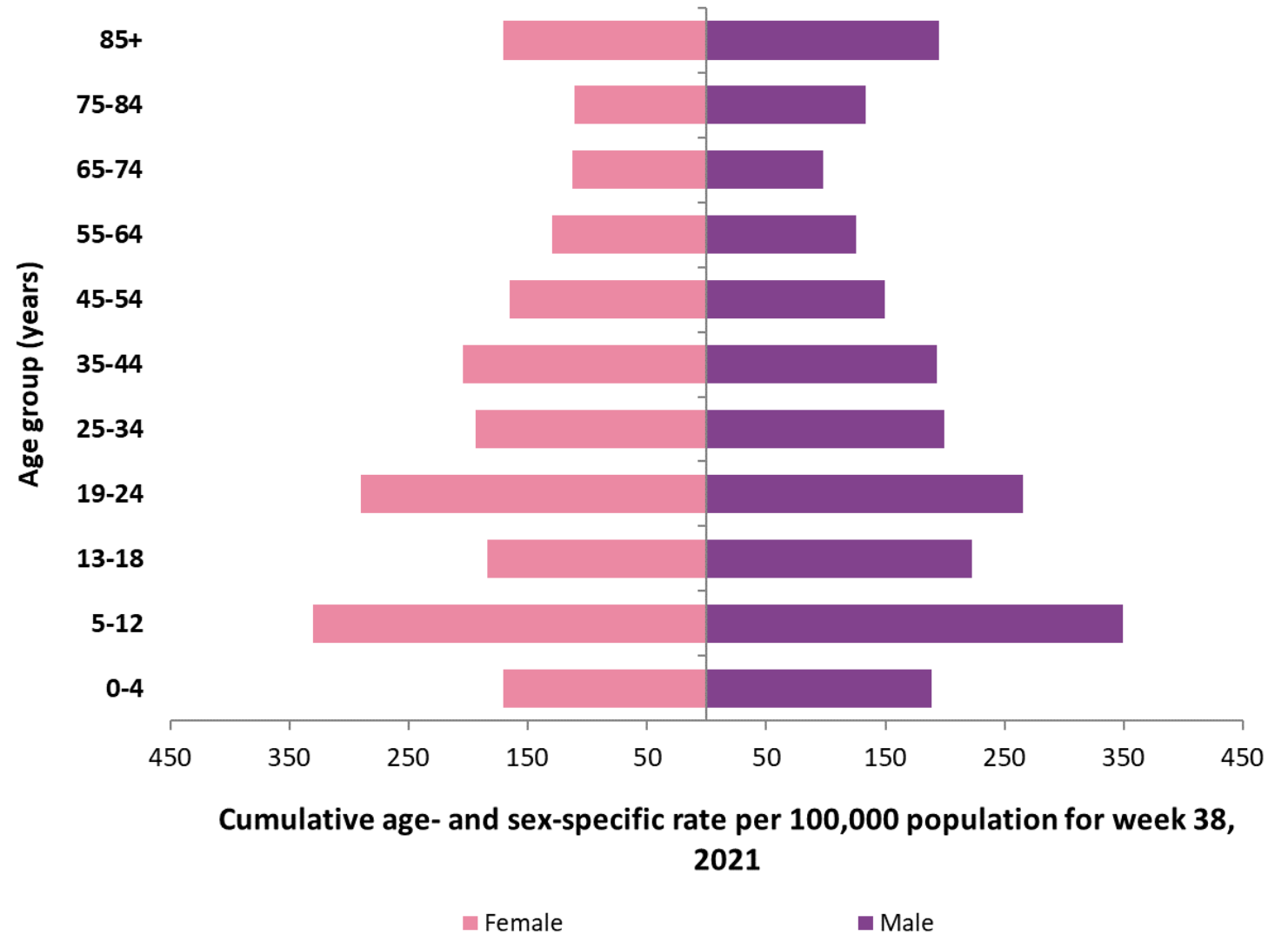
(excluding 53 cases for whom age is unknown, 112 cases for whom sex is unknown and two cases for whom both are unknown)



# Age and sex pyramid for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland for the latest epidemiological week

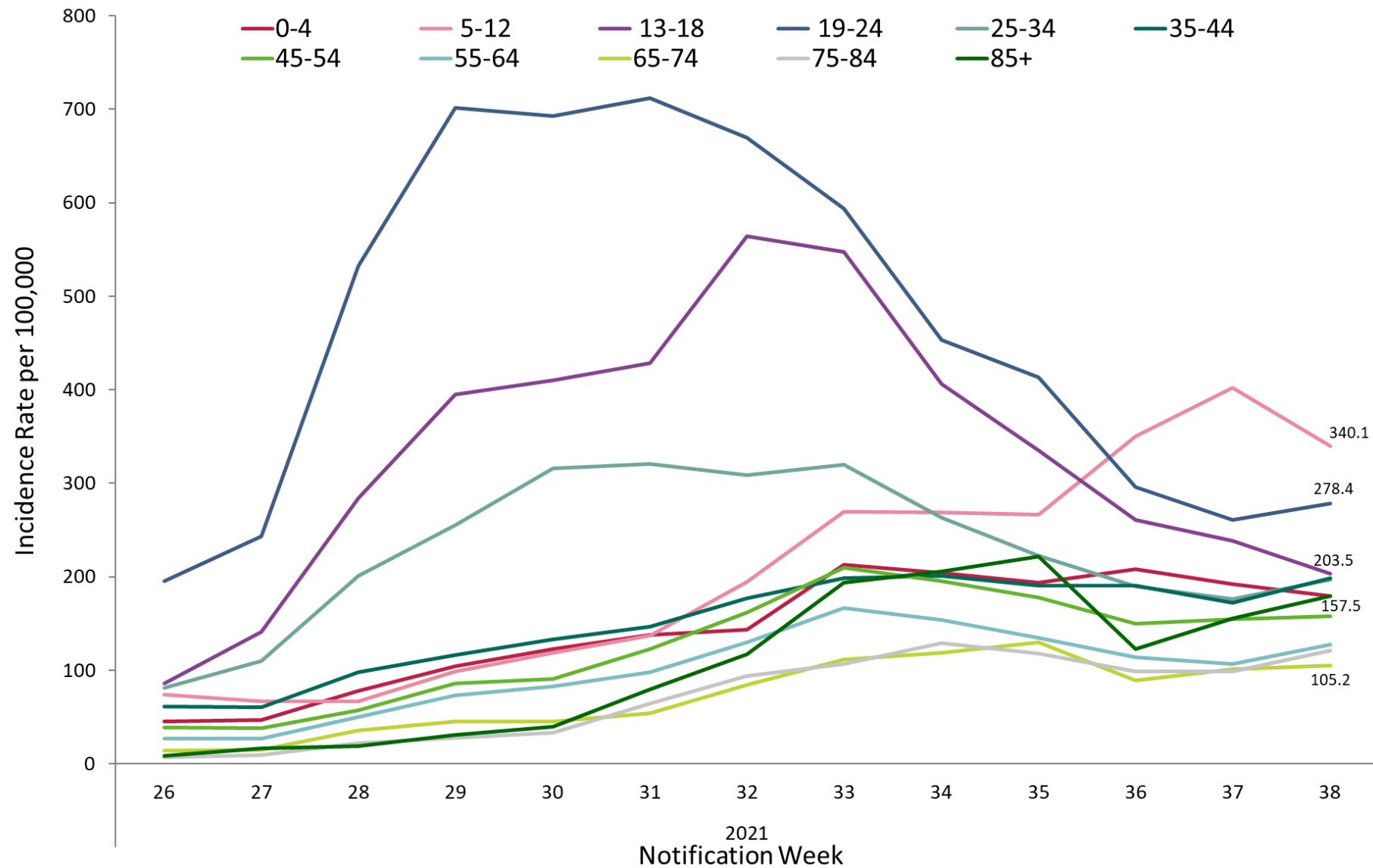
**Figure 3b:** Cumulative age and sex-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population notified in Ireland during week 38, 2021

(excluding 3 cases for whom age is unknown and 11 cases for whom sex is unknown)



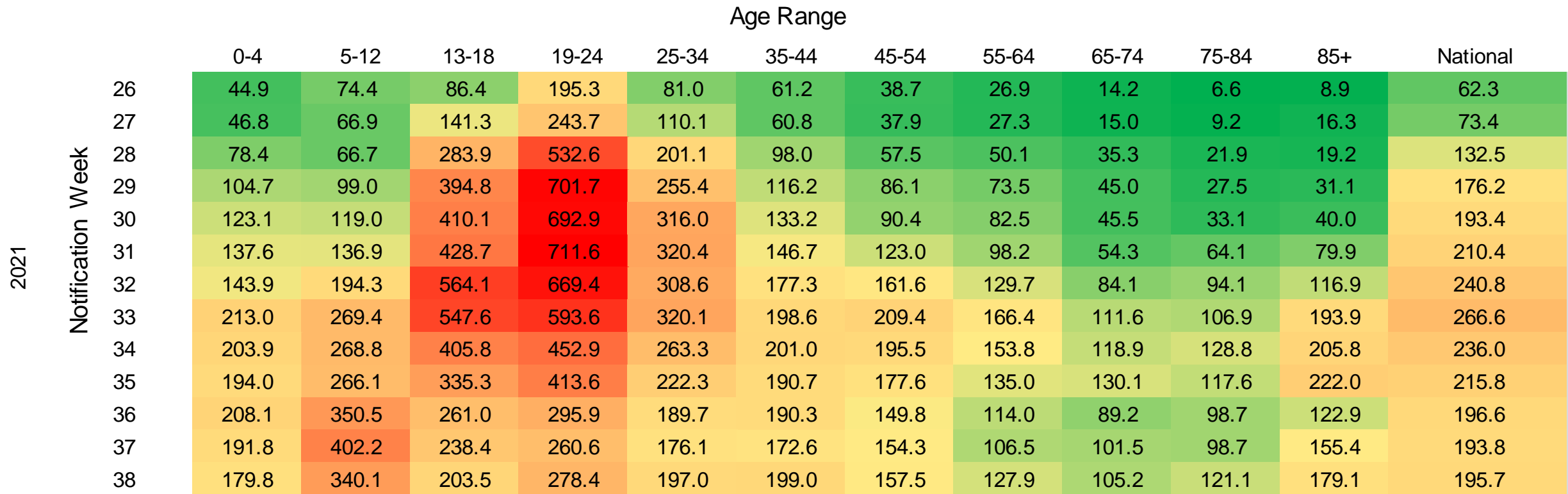


# Incidence rates by age group for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4<sup>th</sup> wave

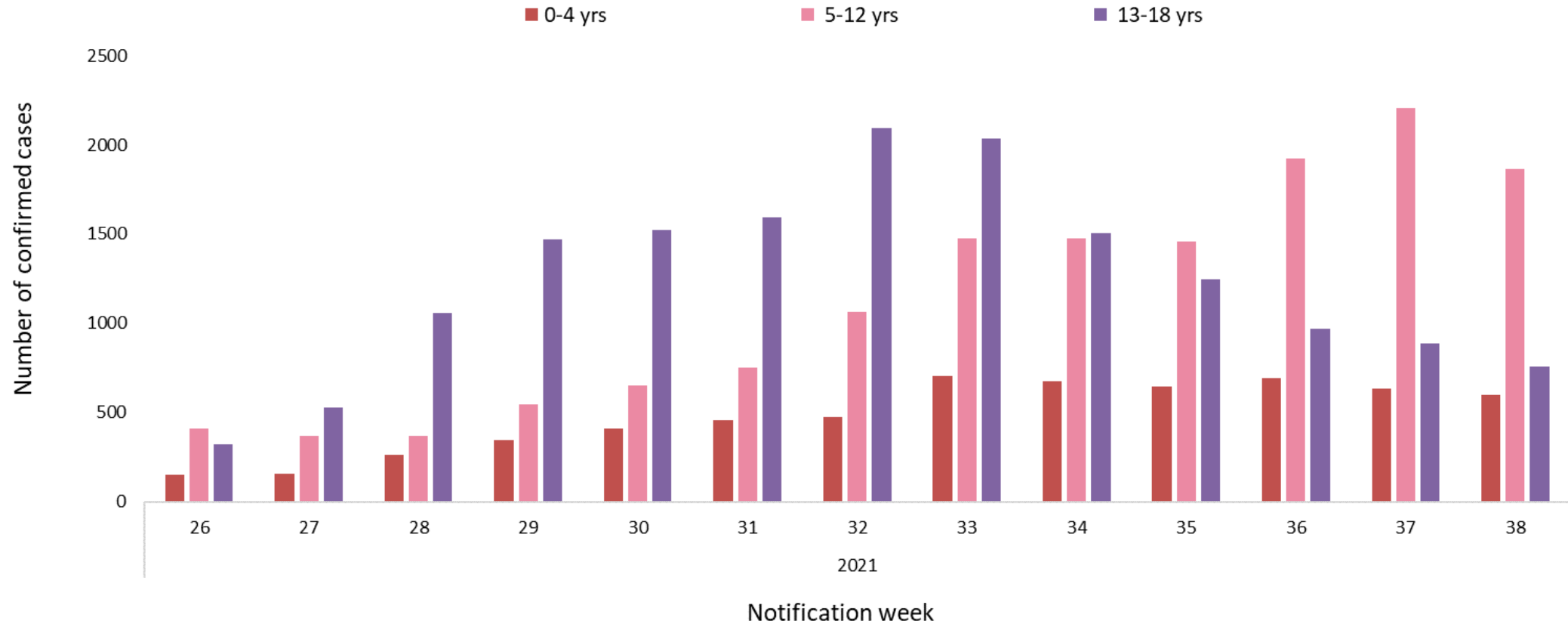


**Figure 4:** Weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland for the 4<sup>th</sup> wave from week 26, 2021 to week 38, 2021

# Incidence by age groups for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4<sup>th</sup> wave

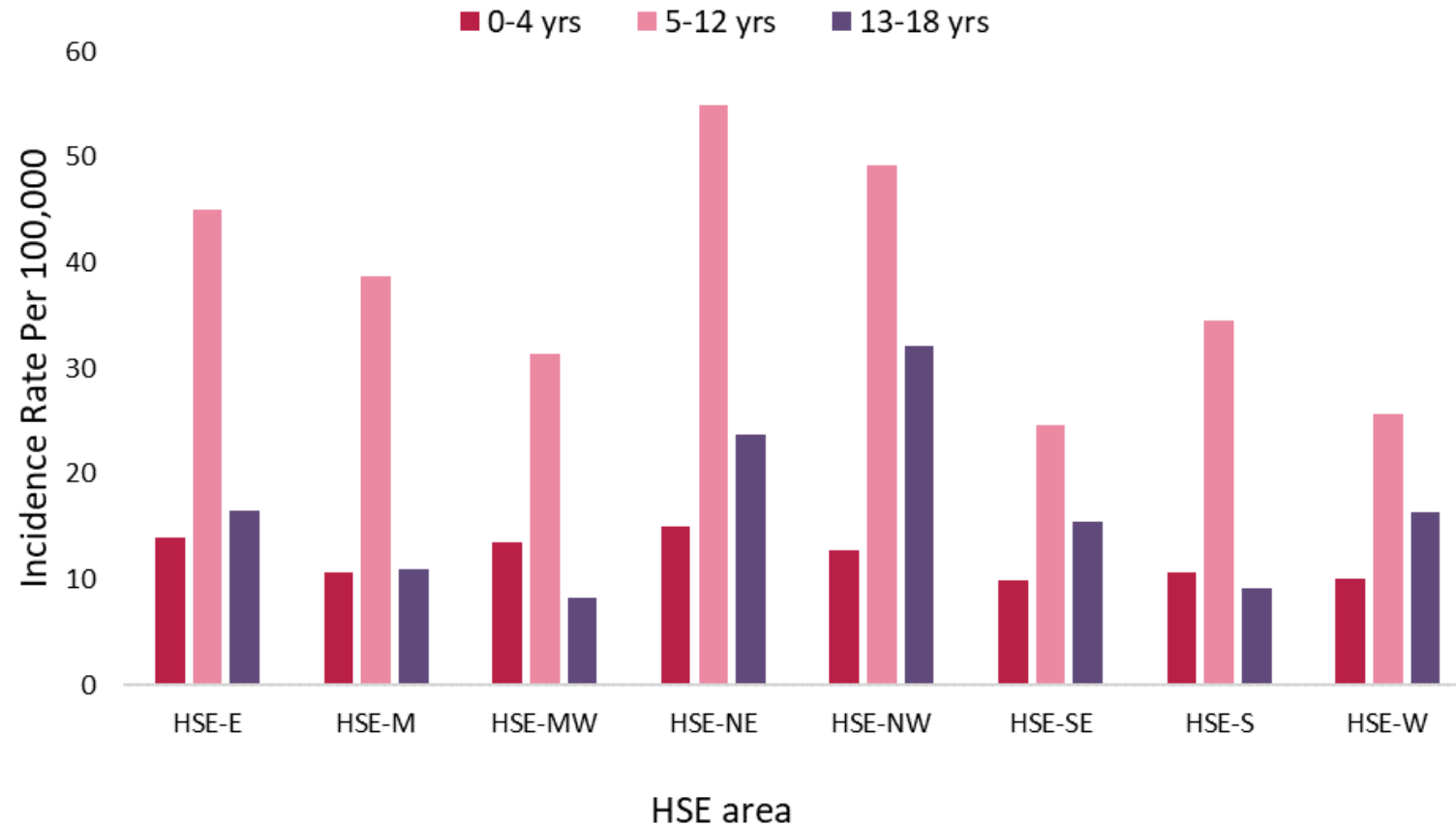


**Figure 5:** Heat map of weekly age-specific incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in Ireland for the 4<sup>th</sup> wave between week 26, 2021 and week 38, 2021



**Figure 6a:** Weekly number of age-specific confirmed COVID-19 cases by notification week in Ireland for the 4<sup>th</sup> wave between week 26, 2021 and week 38, 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 38, 2021

# Characteristics for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland by county for the latest epidemiological week

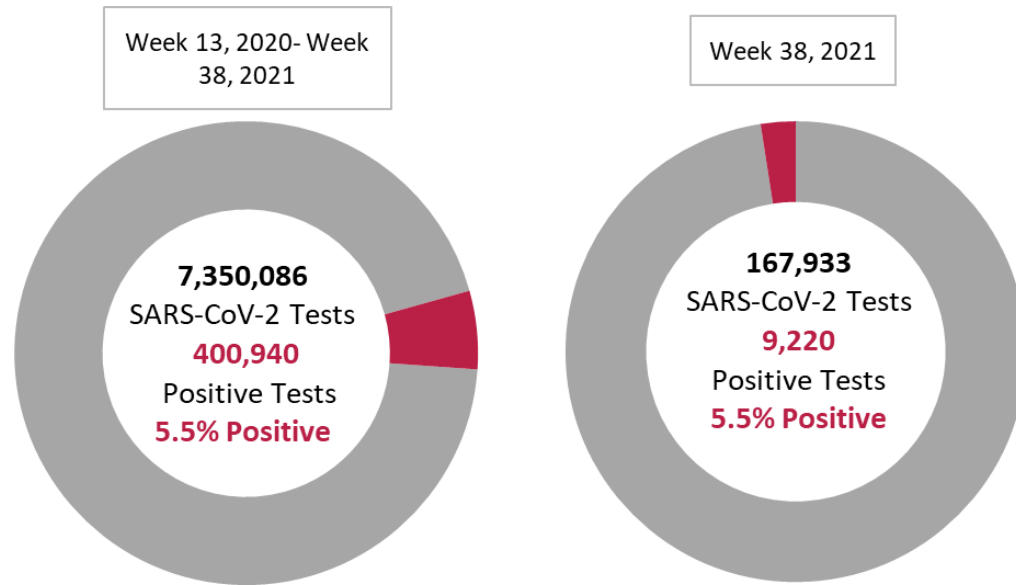
**Table 2:** Characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 cases by county notified in Ireland, during week 38, 2021

County	Cases		M:F ratio	Median age	Incidence Rate per 100,000
	N	%		(years)	
Carlow	187	2.0	1.2	34	328.5
Donegal	511	5.5	1.2	27	321.0
Monaghan	175	1.9	1.2	24	285.1
Louth	362	3.9	1.1	25.5	280.9
Longford	104	1.1	0.9	25	254.4
Cavan	193	2.1	0.8	24	253.4
Mayo	312	3.3	1.2	27.5	239.1
Dublin	3187	34.2	1.0	29	236.5
Kildare	494	5.3	1.1	25	222.0
Leitrim	70	0.8	0.7	45.5	218.4
Limerick	399	4.3	0.8	28	204.7
Laois	162	1.7	1.1	29	191.3
Westmeath	165	1.8	1.0	27	185.9
Meath	352	3.8	1.3	30	180.5
Waterford	198	2.1	1.0	26.5	170.4
Galway	387	4.2	0.9	31	150.0
Sligo	98	1.1	0.8	35.5	149.5
Roscommon	95	1.0	0.9	21	147.2
Cork	795	8.5	0.9	25.5	146.4
Kerry	216	2.3	1.0	39	146.2
Tipperary	232	2.5	0.9	32	145.4
Offaly	108	1.2	0.9	31	138.5
Kilkenny	133	1.4	1.0	29	134.0
Clare	127	1.4	0.9	34	106.9
Wicklow	130	1.4	1.0	36	91.3
Wexford	125	1.3	0.8	36	83.5

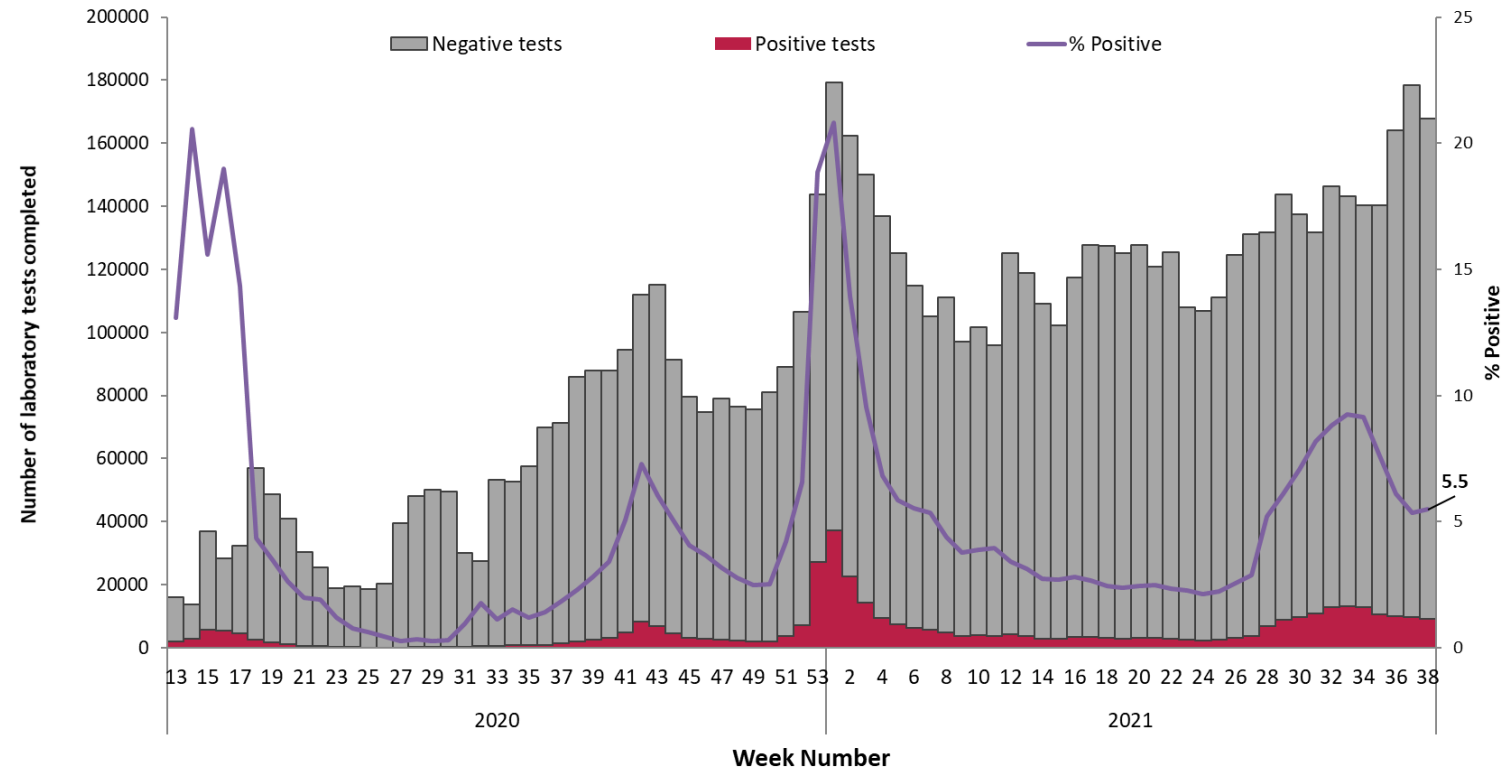
# Incidence rates by county for COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland during the 4<sup>th</sup> wave

		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
	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	72.8	126.6	23.2	36.2	82.2	48.1	42.8	73.4
	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
	29	203.8	152.3	70.7	118.1	537.7	192.8	258.5	126.6	156.9	69.5	273.9	259.0	140.1	141.9	250.6	196.2	151.2	231.3	137.2	141.0	151.1	99.7	80.9	145.3	87.5	165.0	176.2
	30	130.0	182.5	104.4	120.8	378.8	222.9	283.7	198.4	122.2	99.8	196.0	215.3	190.4	146.8	378.6	301.1	169.2	252.5	110.3	207.6	212.1	127.9	104.2	170.1	90.2	148.1	193.4
	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
	32	212.5	467.3	137.2	147.9	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
	33	228.3	743.0	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
	34	175.6	509.3	131.3	163.8	558.4	214.8	239.5	304.7	181.6	199.5	124.0	362.0	253.5	325.4	237.4	287.3	229.2	768.9	241.1	334.7	270.1	246.9	158.4	218.5	146.3	163.6	236.0
	35	230.1	341.3	197.8	184.6	497.5	207.8	194.9	233.6	151.0	166.3	213.7	405.7	224.2	259.3	262.3	244.4	192.3	485.5	227.0	303.7	181.6	185.5	99.0	176.9	155.0	161.5	215.8
	36	217.8	291.4	149.8	130.1	409.6	223.5	171.3	153.7	171.2	167.3	264.5	227.8	175.0	303.4	255.3	211.5	179.4	472.4	221.9	229.3	151.1	137.3	127.4	170.1	108.9	102.5	196.6
	37	240.6	217.9	141.4	142.8	389.5	210.9	119.7	182.8	196.9	163.3	233.8	140.4	190.9	227.5	365.4	185.4	211.2	415.4	170.6	154.9	137.3	162.3	148.1	199.4	145.6	74.4	193.8
	38	328.5	253.4	106.9	146.4	321.0	236.5	150.0	146.2	222.0	134.0	191.3	218.4	204.7	254.4	280.9	239.1	180.5	285.1	138.5	147.2	149.5	145.4	170.4	185.9	83.5	91.3	195.7

**Figure 7:** Heat map of weekly incidence rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population, by county, notified in Ireland for the 4<sup>th</sup> wave between week 26, 2021 and week 38, 2021



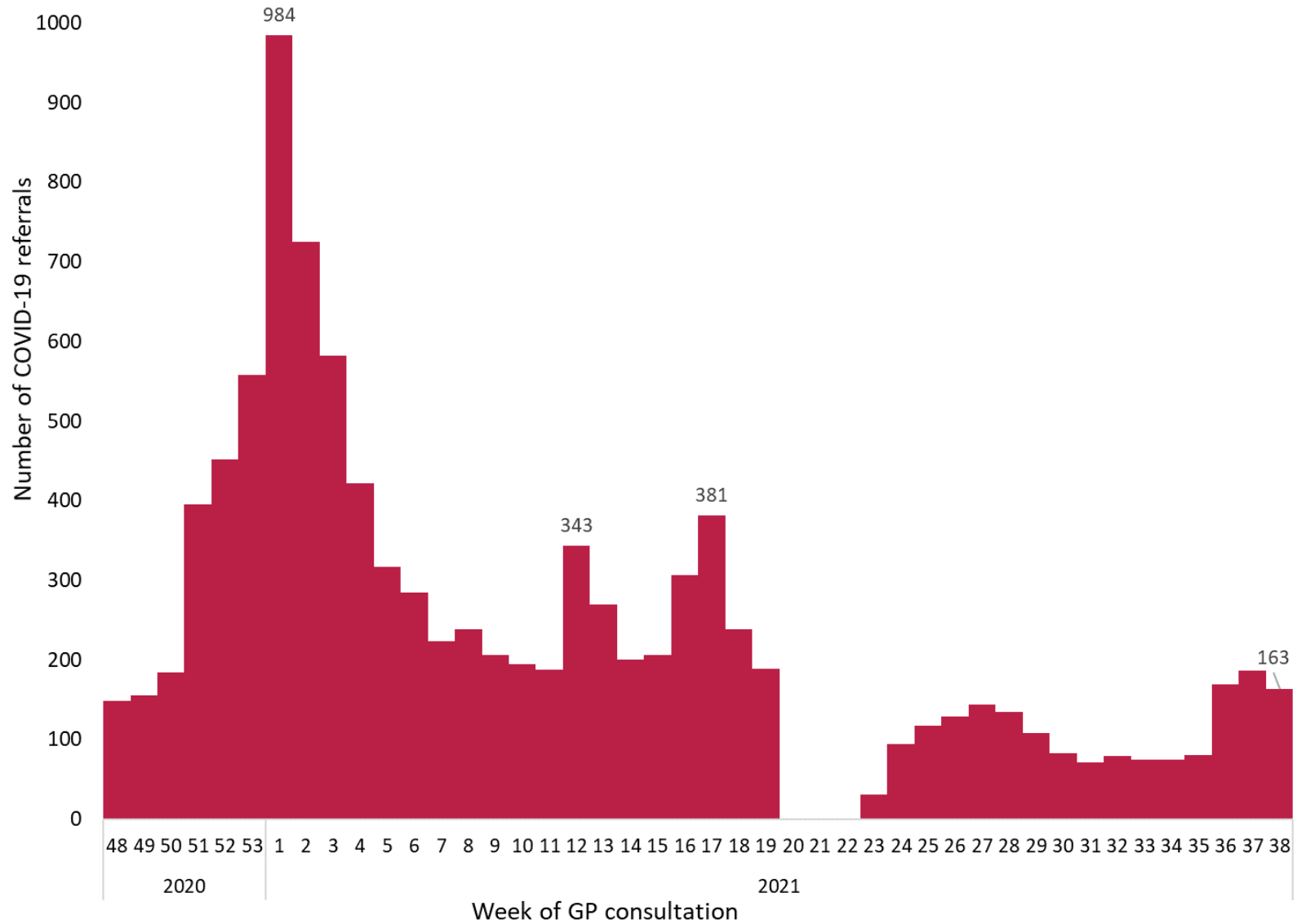
**Figure 8a:** Number of SARS-CoV-2 tests and positive tests\* Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 38, 2021



**Figure 8b:** Number of SARS-CoV-2 negative and positive tests\* completed in Ireland between week 13, 2020 and week 38, 2021

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

# Sentinel GP referrals for COVID-19 testing



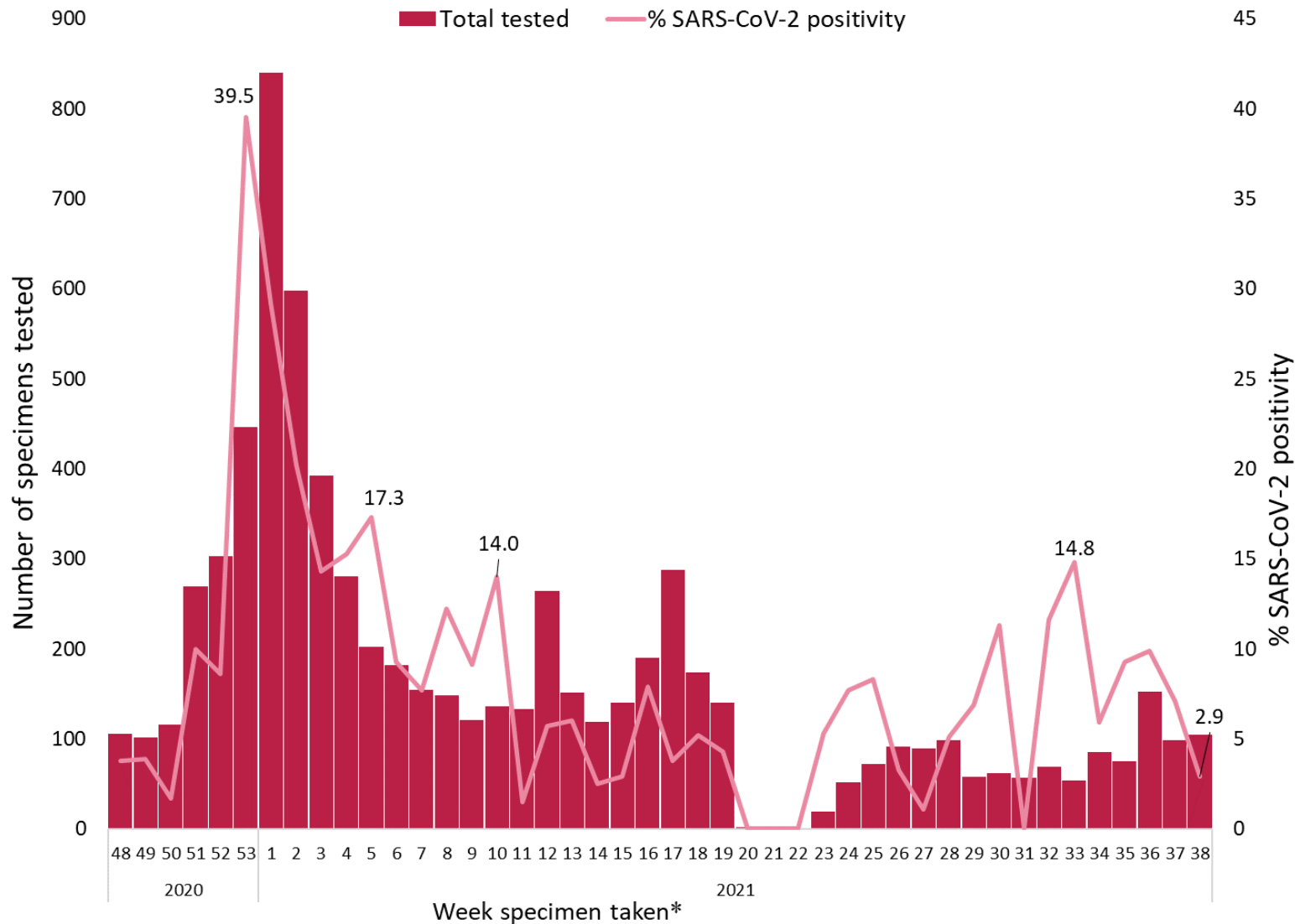
**Figure 9:** Number of sentinel GP COVID-19 referrals by week of consultation, 2020-2021

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



# Deaths among COVID-19 cases

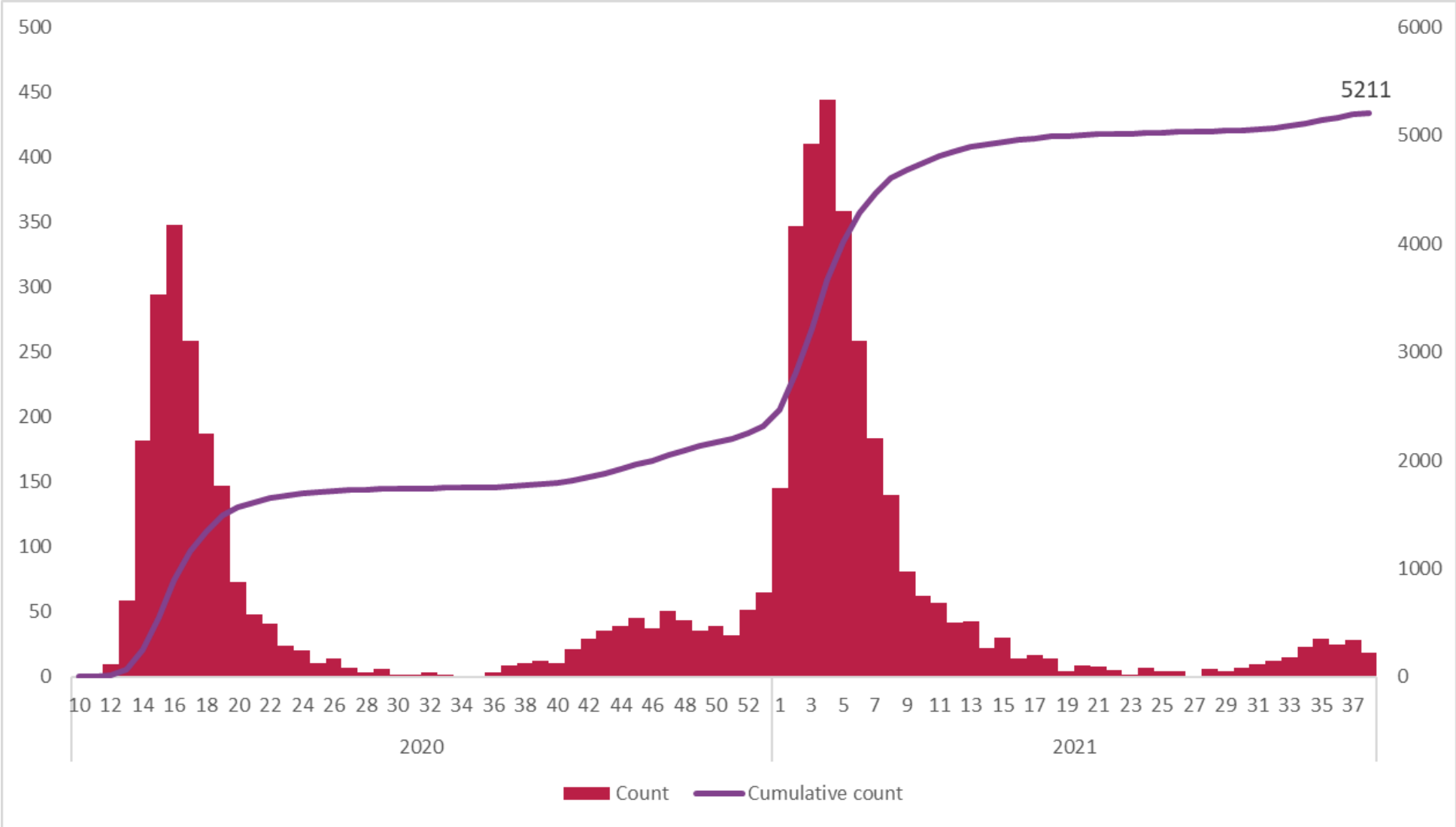
	Number	Percent
Total number of deaths	5,235	
confirmed	4,962	94.8
probable	97	1.9
possible	176	3.4
Number hospitalised who died	2,859	54.6
admitted to ICU who died	553	10.6
not admitted to ICU who died	4,682	89.4
Number of imported cases who died	11	0.2
Number of HCWs who died	18	0.3
Number with underlying conditions who died	4,540	86.7
Males who died	2,758	52.7
M:F ratio	1.11	
Median age (years)	82	
Mean age (years)	80	
Age range (years)	16-105	

**Table 3:** Summary of deaths in all COVID-19 cases notified in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 38, 2021

Age group (years)	Female	Male	Total	Percent
<45 yrs	24	30	54	<b>1</b>
45-54 yrs	37	67	104	<b>2</b>
55-64 yrs	110	182	292	<b>6</b>
65-74 yrs	305	527	832	<b>16</b>
75-84 yrs	758	1013	1771	<b>34</b>
85+ yrs	1240	939	2179	<b>42</b>
Unknown	3	0	3	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2477</b>	<b>2758</b>	<b>5235</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Percent</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>52.7</b>		

**Table 4:** Number of deaths in all COVID-19 cases by sex and age group notified in Ireland between week 10, 2020 and week 38, 2021

# Deaths among COVID-19 cases



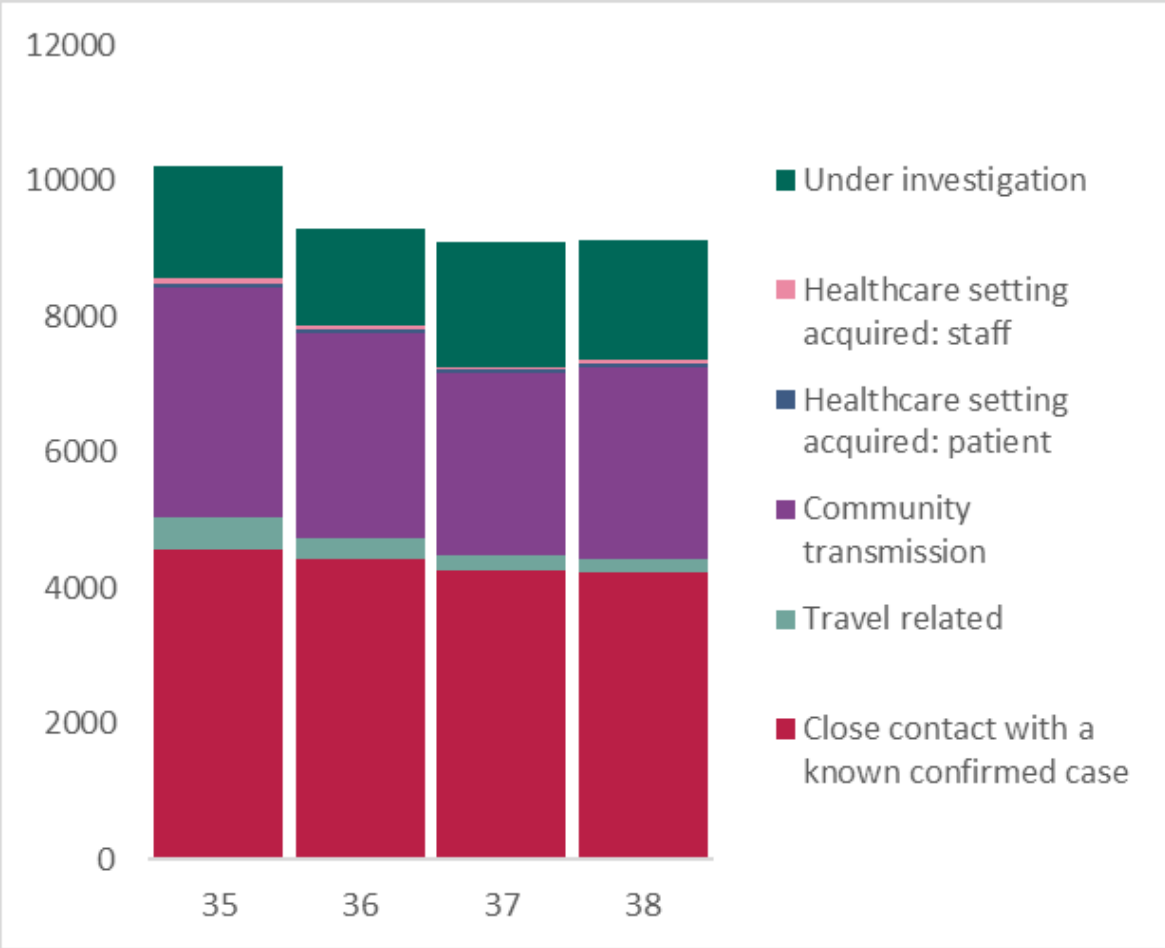
**Figure 11:** Total number of COVID-19 deaths notified in and cumulative number by week of death, cases with a date of notification from 01/03/2020 to 25/09/2021. Date of death reported for 5,211 of deaths.

# Most likely transmission source of COVID-19 cases

**Table 5:** Most likely transmission source for cases notified in week 38, 2021. Data based on CCT/PPA data.

Most likely transmission source for 38, 2021	Number of cases	Percent
Close contact with a known confirmed case	4235	45.5
Travel related	198	2.1
Community transmission	2817	30.2
Healthcare setting acquired: patient	53	0.6
Healthcare setting acquired: staff	66	0.7
Under investigation*	1948	20.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>9317</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Includes cases without a matching record for CCT/PPA



**Figure 12:** Most likely transmission source by week, from week 35 - week 38, 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

**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  $\geq 85$  years.