



# COVID-19 Weekly Surveillance Report

## Table of Contents

<b>Summary for the week 02 January to 08 January 2023 (inclusive)</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Hospitalisations, intensive care unit (ICU) inpatients and deaths</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Figure 1. 7-day average of active and cleared COVID-19 cases currently in hospital or in ICU, and cumulative number of COVID-19 notifications by notification week, 03 January 2022 to 08 January 2023. ....	3
Table 1. Number of COVID-19 related deaths by vaccination status and age group, 02 January to 08 January 2023 and 01 January 2022 to 08 January 2023. ....	4
<b>Case data</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Figure 2. COVID-19 cases by notification week and test type, Western Australia, 03 January 2022 to 08 January 2023. ....	5
Figure 3. COVID-19 cases by age group and sex, Western Australia, 02 January to 08 January 2023. ....	6
Table 2. COVID-19 reinfections in Western Australia, 02 March 2022 to 08 January 2023.....	7
Figure 4. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by Australian jurisdiction, 01 December 2021 to 03 January 2023.....	7
Figure 5. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 by age group, Western Australia, 08 February 2022 to 08 January 2023.....	8
Figure 6. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by health region, Western Australia, 08 February 2022 to 08 January 2023. ....	9
Table 3. Number of COVID-19 cases and case rates per 100,000 population by region, Western Australia, 02 January to 08 January 2023 and 26 December 2022 to 01 January 2023. ....	10
Figure 7 (a). Locally acquired COVID-19 weekly case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, regional Western Australia, 02 January to 08 January 2023. ....	11
(b) Locally acquired COVID-19 weekly case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, Perth metropolitan area, 02 January to 08 January 2023. ....	11
<b>Aboriginal case summary</b> .....	<b>12</b>
Figure 8. COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population and rate ratio by Indigenous status and notification date, Western Australia, 08 February 2022 to 08 January 2023. ....	12
<b>Testing data</b> .....	<b>13</b>
Figure 9. The number of COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction tests and proportion test positivity by laboratory category and specimen collect week, 01 December 2021 to 08 January 2023. ....	13
<b>Appendix 1</b> .....	<b>14</b>
Numbers of regional cases by postcode, 02 January – 08 January 2023 .....	14

## Summary for the week 02 January to 08 January 2023 (inclusive)

In the week of 02 January to 08 January 2023 there were:

- 6,361 COVID-19 cases reported
  - 923 with positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests
  - 5,438 with positive rapid antigen tests (RAT)
  - 1,716 were reinfections (see definition in Table 2)
- 71 new hospital admissions and 4 new admissions directly into an intensive care unit
- 29 deaths reported, aged between 32 and 102 years old
- 7,523 COVID-19 PCR tests conducted

### Surveillance summary

This week, **case numbers** decreased by 15% compared to the previous week. Cases diagnosed by PCR decreased by 6% and by RAT decreased by 16%. **Reinfections** comprised 27% of total cases this week, compared with 24% last week.

There was a 22% increase in **PCR tests** conducted compared to the previous week, with a 7-day test positive rate for PCR tests of 14.0%.

The moving seven-day average **case rates** per 100,000 population decreased in all regions except the Great Southern and Kimberley regions, which increased. The seven-day average case rate for the Perth metropolitan area (36 cases/100,000 population) was approximately 42% higher than the Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS) regions combined (25 cases/100,000 population).

The seven-day average **age-specific rates** decreased in all age-groups except the 20 – 29 years age group, which increased. The highest rates are in the 50 - 69 years age group (42 cases/100,000 population), and the lowest rates in the 0 – 9 years age group (14 cases/100,000 population).

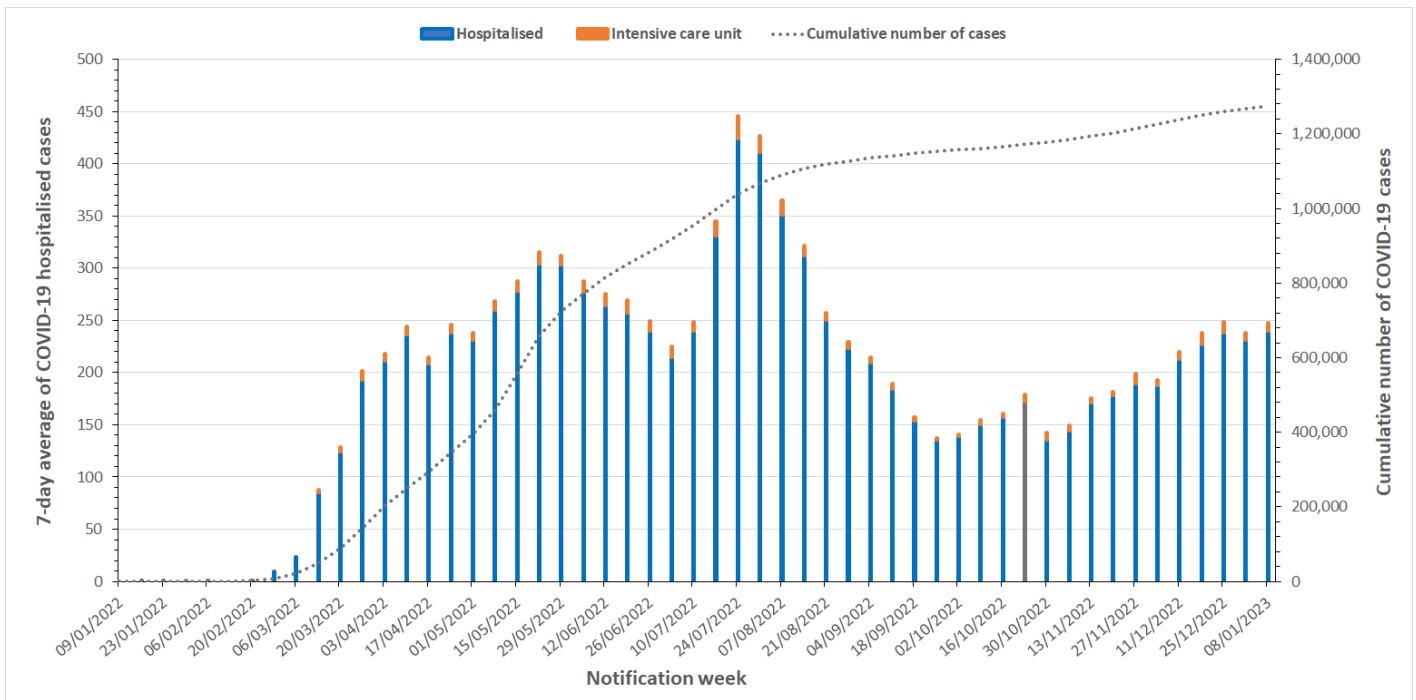
**Nationally**, the moving seven-day average case rates decreased across all jurisdictions, except Queensland, which remained stable, and the Northern Territory, which increased. Tasmania has the highest rate (63 cases/100,000 population) and Northern Territory the lowest rate (25 cases/100,000 population).

The 7-day average of **hospitalised cases** increased by 4% from 231 last week to 240 this week. **Intensive care unit cases** remained the same at 8 this week. **New hospital admissions** related to COVID-19 decreased by 14% from 83 last week to 71 this week, and **direct intensive care unit admissions** increased from 3 last week to 4 this week.

This week, 298 cases were reported in the **Aboriginal population**, a 2% decrease compared to last week. Case rates in the Aboriginal population are higher than the non-Aboriginal population, with a 7-day average rate ratio of 1.2 this reporting week. One death was reported in the Aboriginal population this week.

# Hospitalisations, intensive care unit (ICU) inpatients and deaths

Figure 1. 7-day average of active and cleared COVID-19 cases currently in hospital or in ICU, and cumulative number of COVID-19 notifications by notification week, 03 January 2022 to 08 January 2023.



**Notes**  
 Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset  
 Notification week refers to data for Monday to Sunday  
 'Hospitalised' relates to active and cleared COVID-19 cases that are current hospital inpatients. The reason for admission may be unrelated to COVID-19 for some people  
 'Intensive care unit' (ICU) is a subset of hospitalised and relates to active/cleared COVID-19 cases that are currently in an ICU  
 The definition of COVID-19 related hospitalisation was updated on 21 October 2022 to exclude cases where more than 60 days have passed since their positive COVID-19 test. This new definition more accurately captures cases in whom COVID-19 may have contributed to their reason for ongoing hospitalisation. Data reported after 21 October cannot be compared directly to data recorded prior to that date.

**Table 1. Number of COVID-19 related deaths by vaccination status and age group, 02 January to 08 January 2023 and 01 January 2022 to 08 January 2023.**

	<b>Current report week</b> Week 02 Jan – 8 Jan 2023	<b>Year 2022 to date</b> 1 Jan 2022 – 8 Jan 2023
<b>Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses</b>	<b>Deaths (n= 29)</b>	<b>Deaths (n= 848)</b>
<b>0</b>	3 (10.3%)	152 (17.9%)
<b>1</b>	0 (0%)	27 (3.2%)
<b>2</b>	4 (13.8%)	99 (11.7%)
<b>3+</b>	22 (75.9%)	570 (67.2%)
<b>Age group (years)</b>		
<b>0-9</b>	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>10-19</b>	0 (0%)	2 (0.2%)
<b>20-29</b>	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>30-39</b>	1 (3.4%)	5 (0.6%)
<b>40-49</b>	0 (0%)	10 (1.2%)
<b>50-59</b>	2 (6.9%)	28 (3.3%)
<b>60-69</b>	6 (20.7%)	65 (7.7%)
<b>70-79</b>	9 (31.1%)	159 (18.7%)
<b>80-89</b>	5 (17.2%)	318 (37.5%)
<b>90+</b>	6 (20.7%)	261 (30.8%)

**Notes**

Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset

Number of vaccination doses sourced from Australian Immunisation Register. Vaccination data are available for WA residents only, therefore, the number of unvaccinated individuals (0 doses) may be overestimated

A high proportion of the WA population (16 years and above) is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (as of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – 84.1% for 3+ doses, >95% for 2 doses), therefore interpretation of people who have died with both 3+ and 2 doses requires consideration within this context.

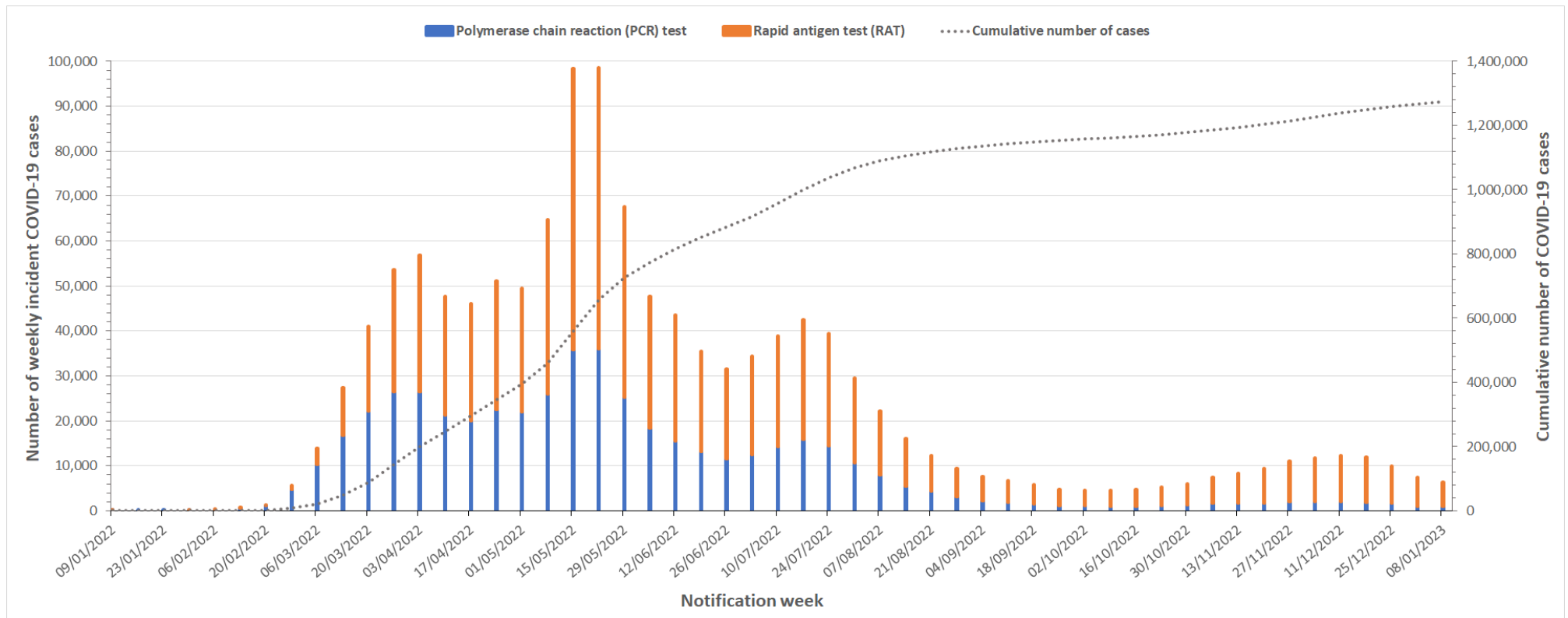
Deaths are counted by notification date and may include historical deaths that occurred (i.e. date of death) prior to the current report week

9 previously reported deaths were re-classified as non-COVID-related since most recent surveillance report

Deaths are not necessarily associated with hospital and/or ICU admissions

## Case data

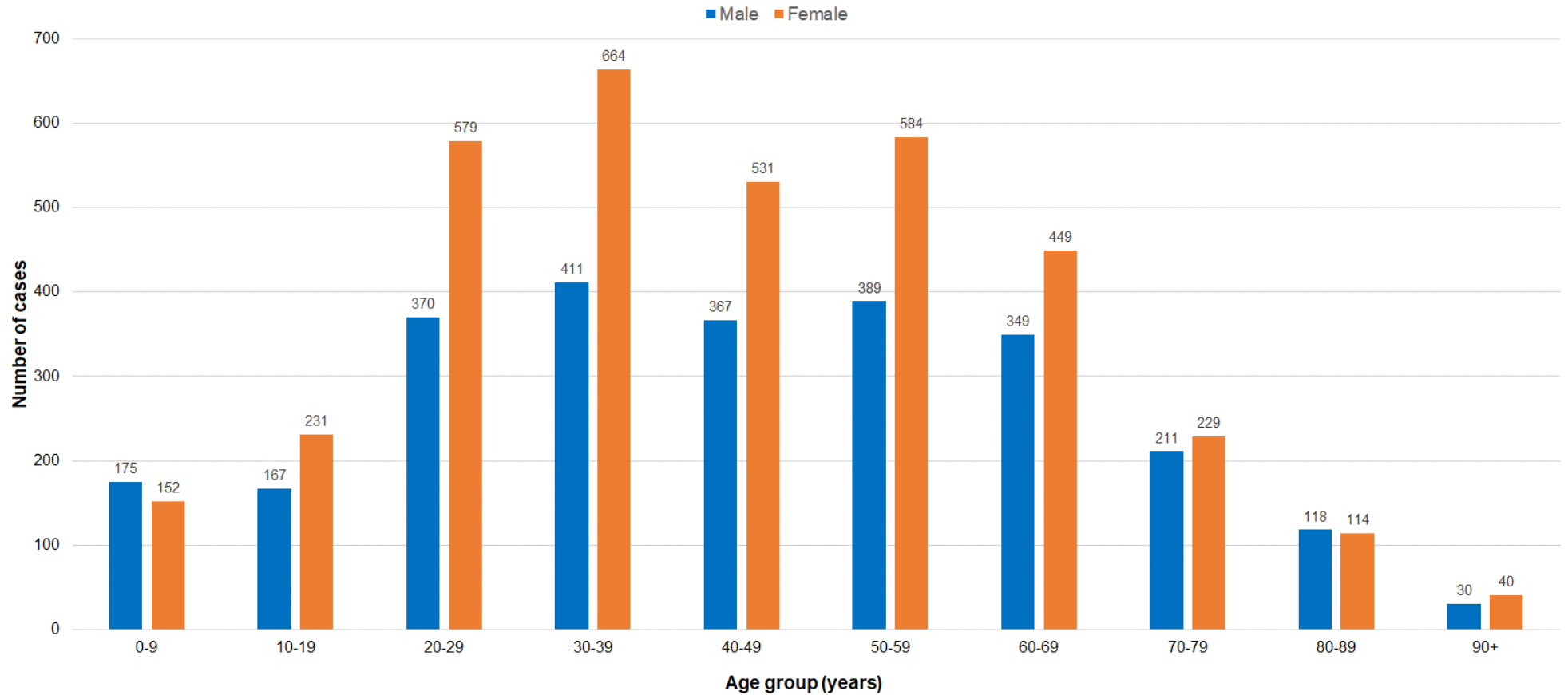
Figure 2. COVID-19 cases by notification week and test type, Western Australia, 03 January 2022 to 08 January 2023.



### Notes

Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset  
 Notification week refers to data for Monday to Sunday

**Figure 3. COVID-19 cases by age group and sex, Western Australia, 02 January to 08 January 2023.**



**Notes**

Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset

Sex data is partially incomplete due to the unavailability of this variable during rapid antigen test registration, resulting in a discrepancy to total case numbers reported for the week.

- Males: n=2,587 (42.0%) Females: n=3,573 (58.0%)
- Median age = 43 years; range: 0 to 102 years

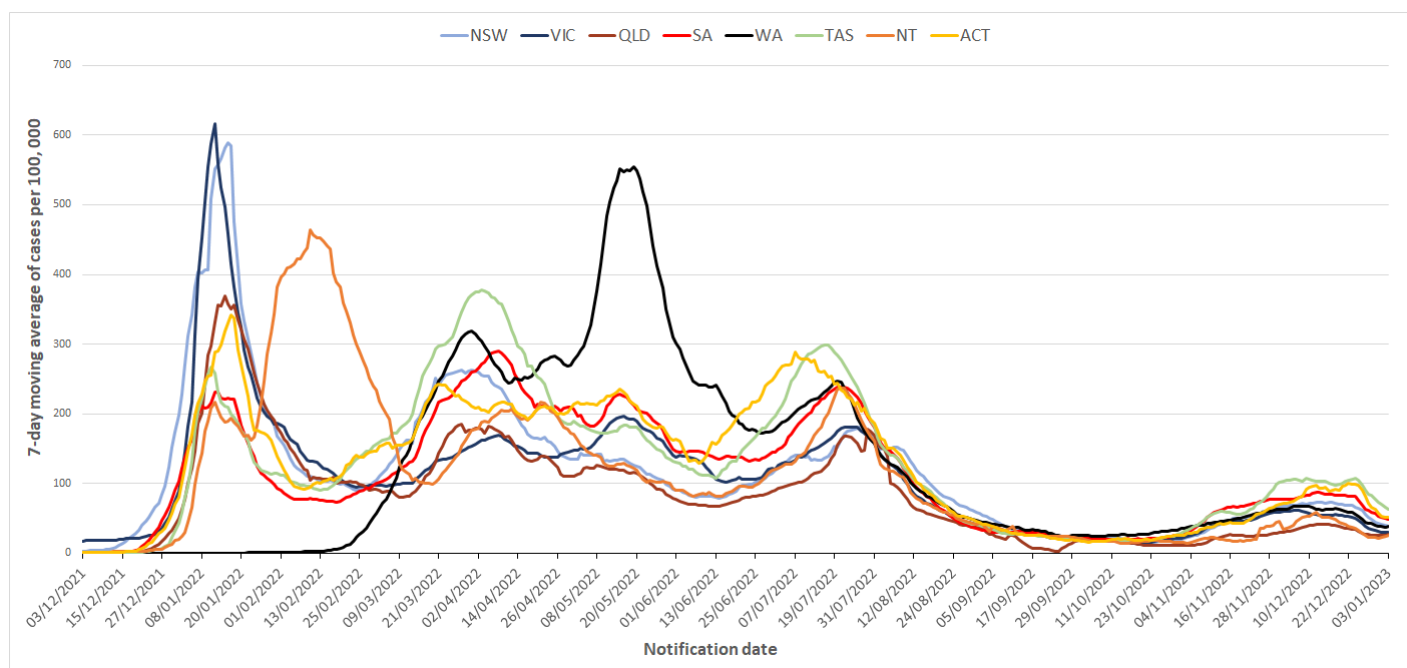
**Table 2. COVID-19 reinfections in Western Australia, 02 March 2022 to 08 January 2023.**

Month	Number of reinfections *
Mar-2022	14
Apr-2022	29
May-2022	105
Jun-2022	846
Jul-2022	5,041
Aug-2022	5,699
Sep-2022	4,024
Oct-2022	2,969
Nov-2022	7,025
Dec-2022	10,967
<b>Jan-2023<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>1,913</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,632</b>

\* Reinfection definition as per Series of National Guidelines (SoNG) published by the Communicable Disease Network Australia (CDNA): between 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 and 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022, COVID-19 reinfections were defined as a positive COVID-19 test that occurred more than 12 weeks after an initial infection. From 9 July 2022 to date, COVID-19 reinfections are defined as a positive COVID-19 test occurring 28 days after previously recovering from the virus

<sup>^</sup> Data for 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023 only

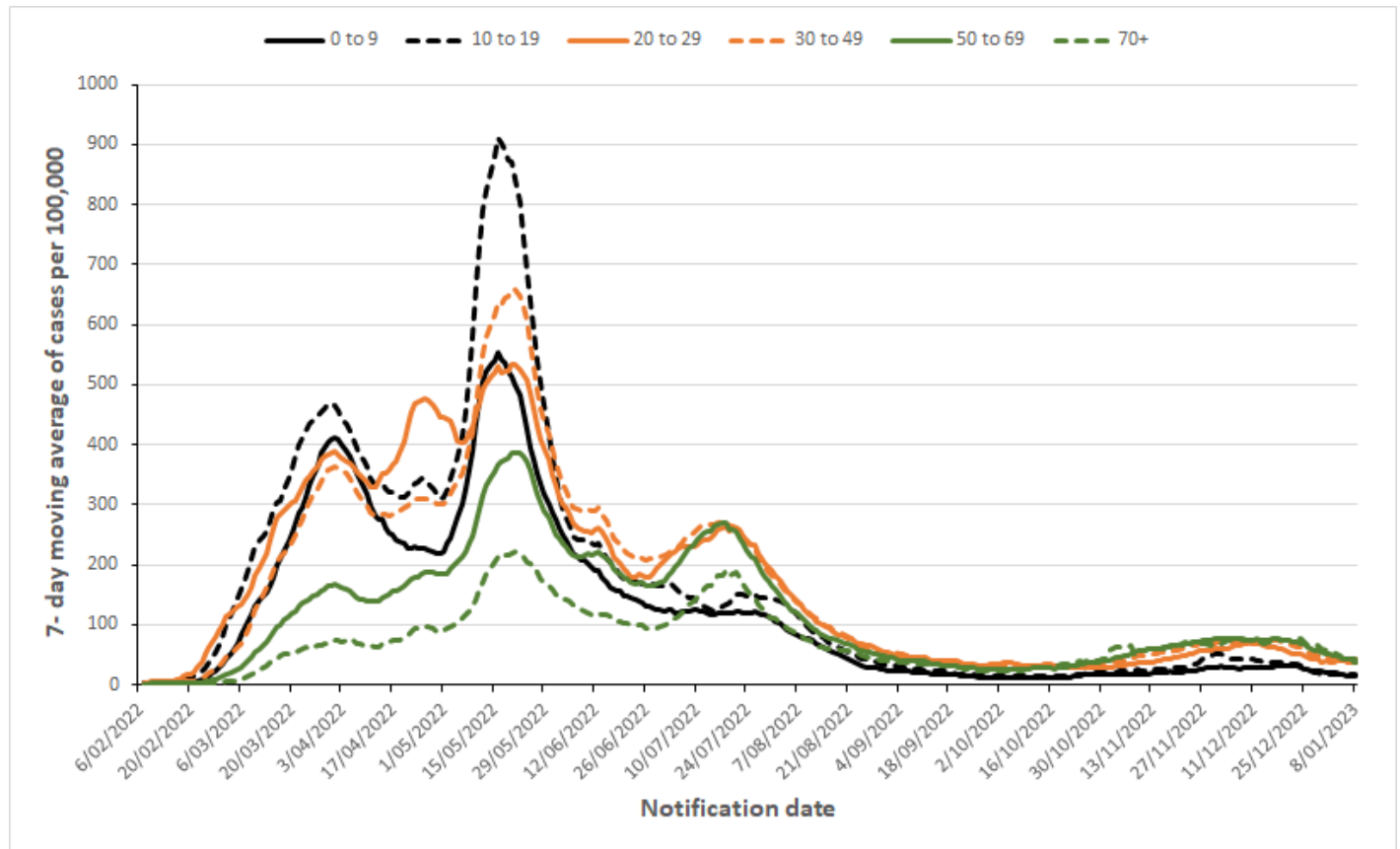
**Figure 4. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by Australian jurisdiction, 01 December 2021 to 03 January 2023.**



**Notes**

Data sourced from the respective jurisdictional health department datasets  
 Notification date refers to data collected up to the end of the 24-hour reporting period  
 Population denominators are sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics December 2020 estimates.

**Figure 5. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 by age group, Western Australia, 08 February 2022 to 08 January 2023.**



**Notes**

Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset

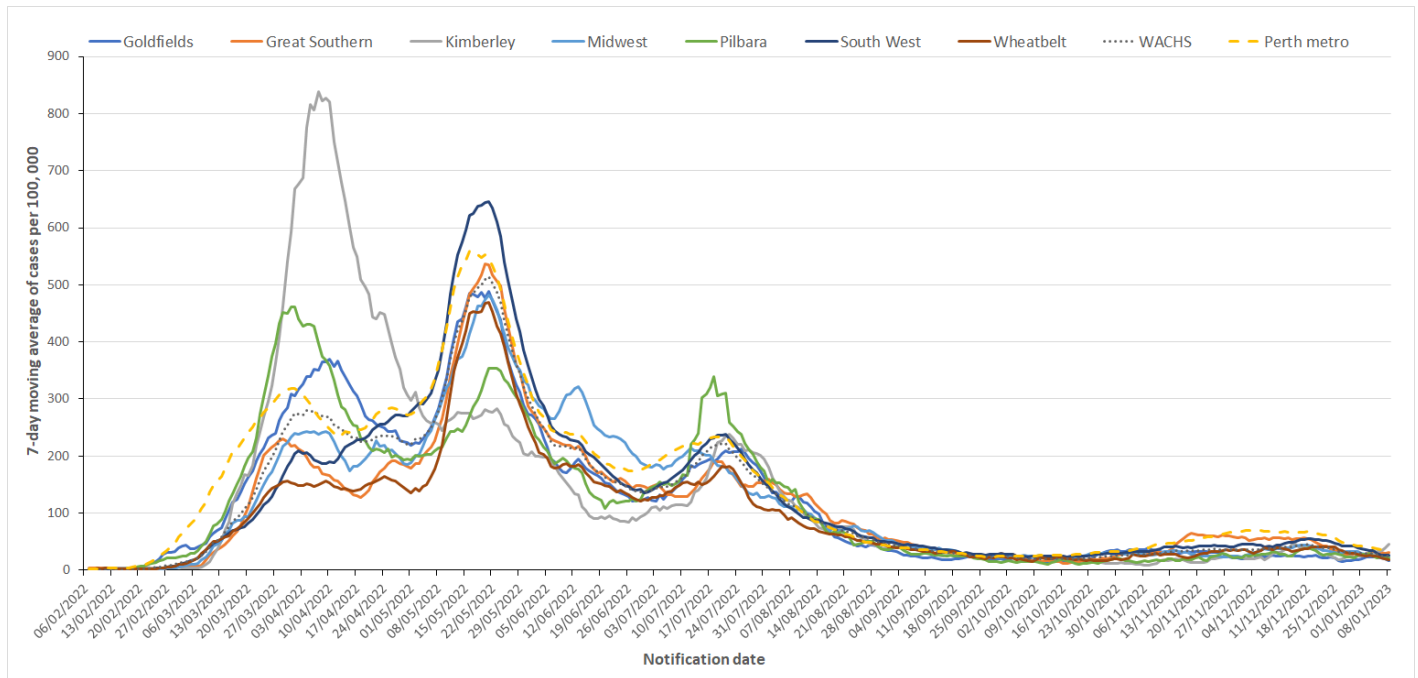
Notification date refers to data collected up to the end of the 24-hour reporting period

Case data includes those determined by both polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests and rapid antigen tests (RAT)

Population denominator sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics June 2021 estimates.



**Figure 6. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by health region, Western Australia, 08 February 2022 to 08 January 2023.**



**Notes**

Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset  
 Notification date refers to data collected up to the end of the 24-hour reporting period  
 Case data is by place of usual residence for positive case (due to unavailability of data for specific location of acquisition)  
 Case data includes those determined by both polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests and rapid antigen tests (RAT)  
 Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS) includes Goldfields, Great Southern, Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara, South West and Wheatbelt health regions combined  
 Perth metropolitan region includes East Metropolitan Health Service, North Metropolitan Health Service and South Metropolitan Health Service combined  
 Population denominator sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 estimates.

**Table 3. Number of COVID-19 cases and case rates per 100,000 population by region, Western Australia, 02 January to 08 January 2023 and 26 December 2022 to 01 January 2023.**

	Region	Current report week		Previous report week	
		Week 02 January to 08 January 2023		Week 26 Dec 2022 to 01 January 2023	
		Number for current week	Rates for current week (cases/100,000 pop)	Number for previous week	Rates for previous week (cases/100,000 pop)
<b>WACHS Regions</b>	<b>Goldfields</b>	65	120	76	141
	<b>Great Southern</b>	134	219	114	186
	<b>Kimberley</b>	114	316	63	175
	<b>Midwest</b>	106	171	131	211
	<b>Pilbara</b>	91	145	118	188
	<b>South West</b>	336	185	477	262
	<b>Wheatbelt</b>	102	134	141	185
<b>WACHS total*</b>		<b>948</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>210</b>
<b>Other**</b>		48	-	97	-
<b>Perth Metropolitan region</b>		5,365	252	6,232	293
<b>Total</b>		6,361	239	7,449	280

**Notes**

Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset

Notification date refers to data collected up to the end of the 24-hour reporting period

Case data is by place of usual residence for positive case (due to unavailability of data for specific location of acquisition)

Case data includes COVID-19 cases diagnosed by either polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests and/or rapid antigen tests (RAT)

\*Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS) includes Goldfields, Great Southern, Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara, South West and Wheatbelt public health regions combined

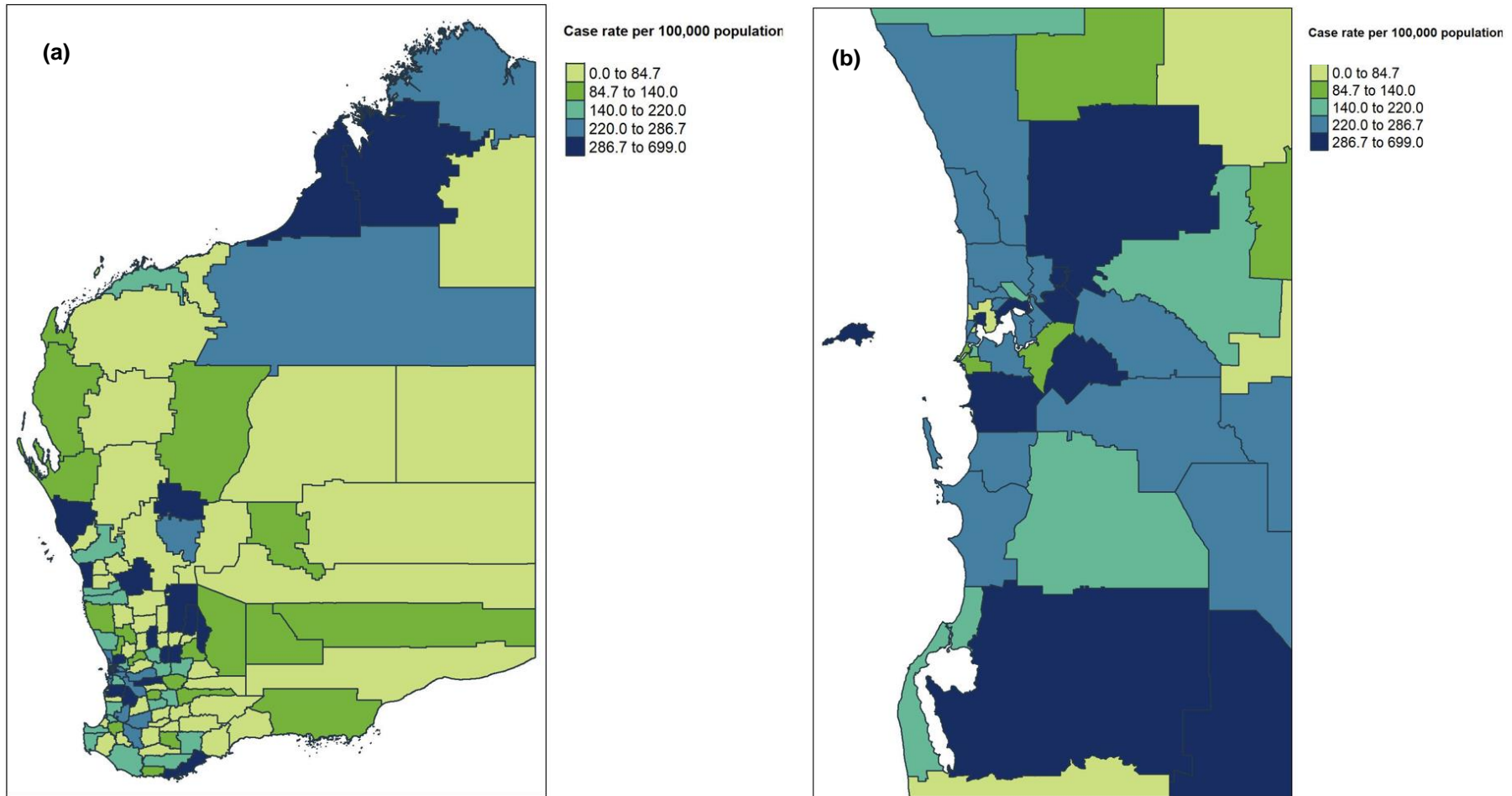
Perth Metropolitan region includes East Metropolitan Health Service, North Metropolitan Health Service and South Metropolitan Health Service combined

\*\*Other includes cases with overseas and interstate residential addresses, and cases without residential address information

Population denominator is sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 estimates.

Figure 7 (a). Locally acquired COVID-19 weekly case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, regional Western Australia, 02 January to 08 January 2023.

(b) Locally acquired COVID-19 weekly case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, Perth metropolitan area, 02 January to 08 January 2023.



**Notes**

Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset

Notification date refers to data collected up to the end of the 24-hour reporting period

Cases are represented on the map according to their place of usual residence (no information for specific location of acquisition)

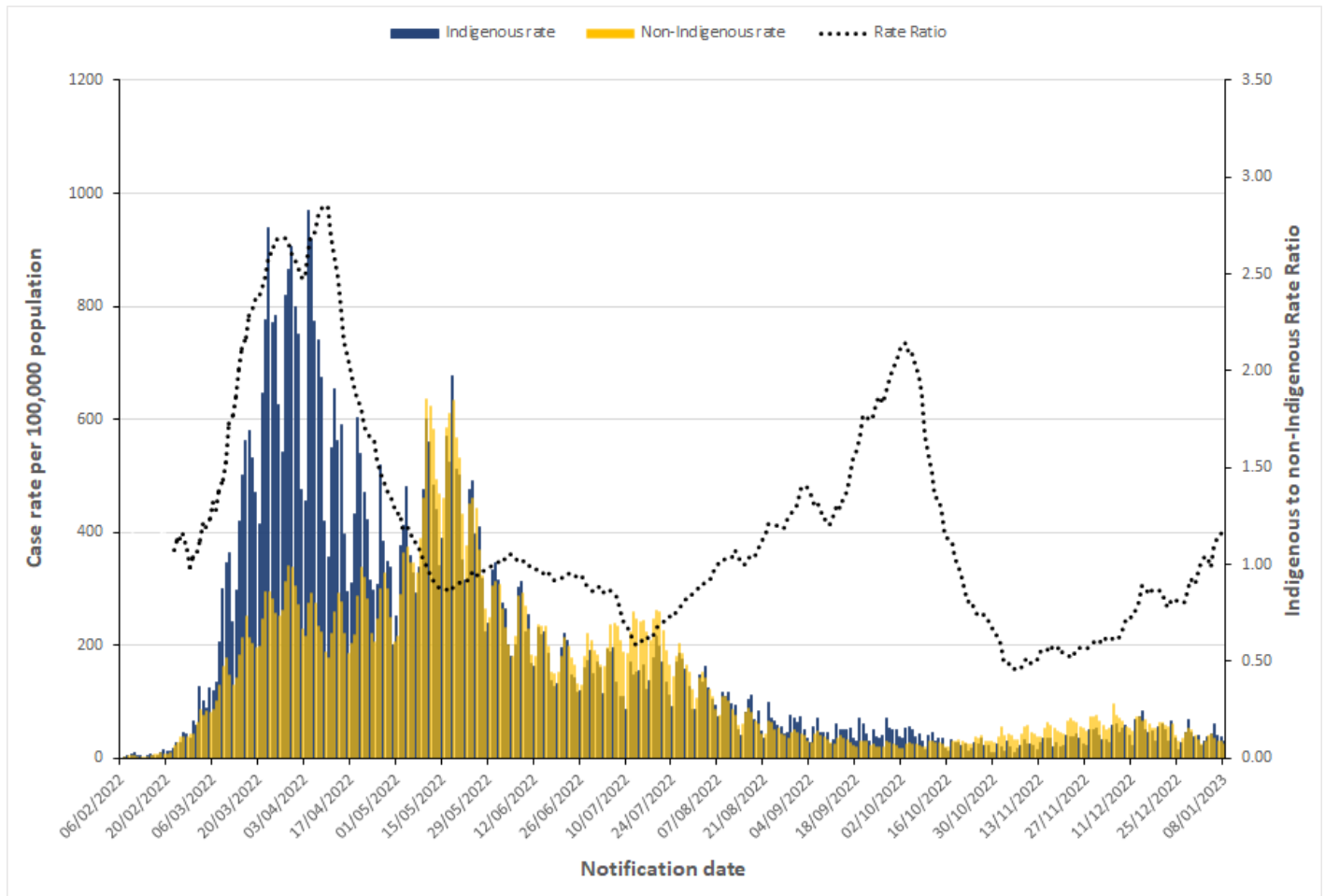
Cases include those detected by either polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests or rapid antigen tests (RAT)

Areas on the map are defined by Local Government Area (LGA) boundaries

Population denominator is sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 estimates.

## Aboriginal case summary

Figure 8. COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population and rate ratio by Indigenous status and notification date, Western Australia, 08 February 2022 to 08 January 2023.



### Notes

Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset

Notification date refers to data collected up to the end of the 24-hour reporting period

Indigenous status is defined as those who identify as 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (TSI) origin'/'Aboriginal but not TSI origin'/'TSI but not Aboriginal origin'

Cases where Indigenous status was not stated were designated as non-Indigenous

Cases include those detected by both polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests and rapid antigen tests (RAT)

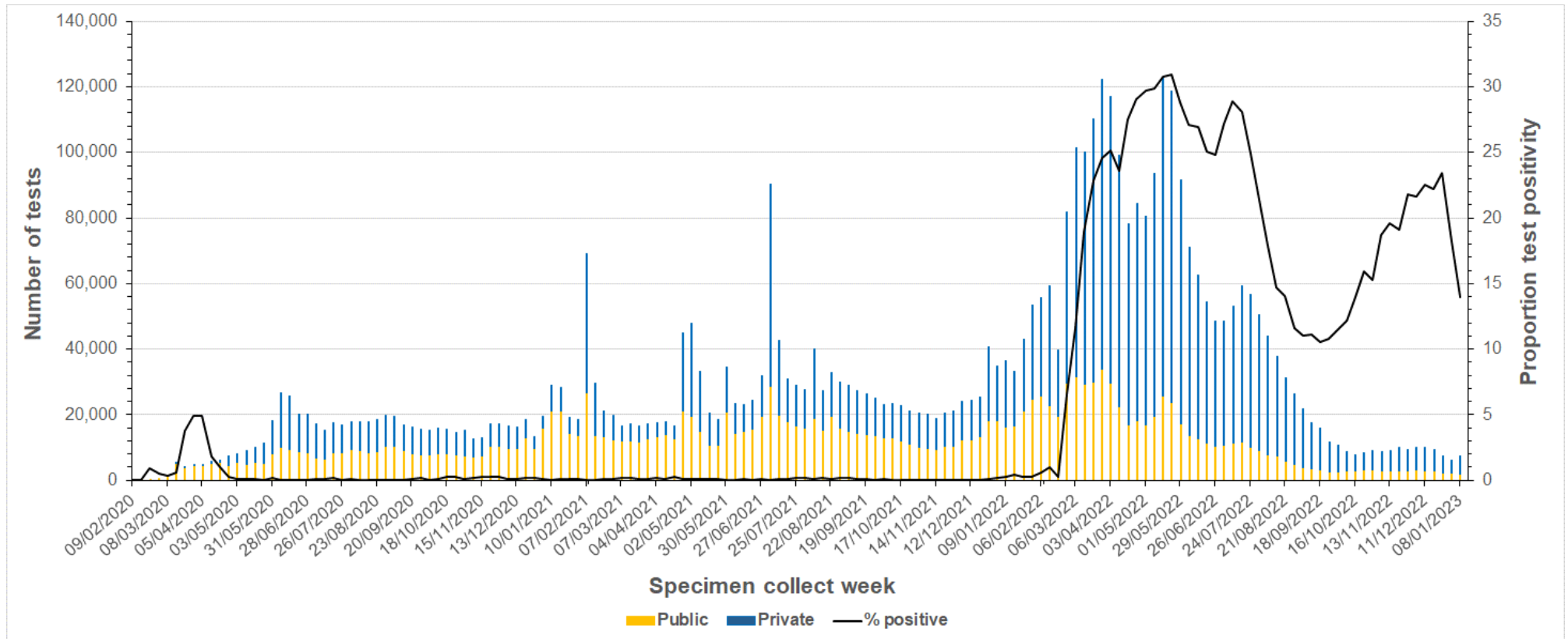
Population denominator data were sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 estimates

Rate ratio is calculated by dividing the Indigenous rate by the non-Indigenous rate, with a 7-day average of the respective rate ratios applied to smooth the trend

Rate ratio is only plotted from 22nd February 2022 as prior to this, case numbers were too low.

## Testing data

Figure 9. The number of COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction tests and proportion test positivity by laboratory category and specimen collect week, 09 February 2020 to 08 January 2023.



### Notes

Data sourced from Western Australian public and private pathology laboratories

Specimen collect week refers to specimens collected between Monday to Sunday

Number of tests includes both positive and negative tests

From 01 October 2023, testing at private pathology providers required a referral from a GP

# Appendix 1

## Numbers of regional cases by postcode, 02 January – 08 January 2023

WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 02 Jan to 08 Jan 2023	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 02 Jan to 08 Jan 2023	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 02 Jan to 08 Jan 2023
Goldfields	6429	<5	Midwest (continued)	6642	<5	South West (continued)	6286	<5
	6430	28		6701	6		6290	<5
	6431	<5		6707	<5		6398	<5
	6432	9	Pilbara	6710	<5	Wheatbelt	6041	<5
	6434	<5		6713	<5		6043	<5
	6438	<5		6714	29		6044	<5
	6440	<5		6716	<5		6302	<5
	6442	<5		6718	<5		6304	5
	6445	<5		6720	6		6306	<5
6450	18	6721		5	6308		<5	
Great Southern	6317	<5		6722	10		6309	<5
	6318	<5	6751	6	6312		10	
	6323	<5	6753	25	6315		<5	
	6324	6	6754	<5	6353		<5	
	6330	113	6762	<5	6365		<5	
	6333	6	South West	6219	<5		6370	<5
	6338	<5		6220	<5		6375	<5
	6348	<5		6224	<5		6383	<5
Kimberley	6725	57		6225	24	6384	<5	
	6726	10		6226	<5	6391	8	
	6728	20		6227	<5	6401	8	
	6740	<5		6230	96	6405	<5	
	6743	14		6232	18	6409	<5	
	6765	8	6233	49	6410	5		
	6770	<5	6236	5	6415	<5		
	Midwest	6514	<5	6237	7	6419	<5	
6515		<5	6239	8	6423	<5		
6517		<5	6254	<5	6424	<5		
6525		12	6255	5	6426	<5		
6530		59	6258	11	6428	<5		
6532		8	6262	<5	6461	<5		
6535		5	6271	<5	6472	<5		
6536		<5	6280	51	6473	<5		
6537		<5	6281	11	6479	<5		
6623		<5	6282	6	6501	<5		
6638		<5	6284	5	6502	6		
6640		<5	6285	19	6503	<5		

WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 02 Jan to 08 Jan 2023	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 02 Jan to 08 Jan 2023	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 02 Jan to 08 Jan 2023
Wheatbelt (continued)	6509	<5						
	6510	<5						
	6516	<5						
	6560	<5						
	6562	<5						
	6566	<5						

**Notes**

Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset  
 Exact number of cases less than 5 not reported for confidentiality  
 Notification date refers to data collected up to the end of the 24-hour reporting period  
 Case data is based on the residential postcode of each case. The case may have an isolation address based in another regional postcode.  
 Case data includes those determined by both polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests and rapid antigen tests (RAT)  
 \*Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS) includes Goldfields, Great Southern, Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara, South West and Wheatbelt public health regions

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