



COVID-19 Weekly Surveillance Report

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Summary for the week 06 March to 12 March 2023 (inclusive)

In the week of 06 March to 12 March 2023 there were:

- 2,696 COVID-19 cases reported
 - 246 diagnosed by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests
 - 2,450 diagnosed by rapid antigen tests (RAT)
 - 933 were reinfections (see definition in Table 2)
- 17 new hospital admissions and 2 new admissions into an intensive care unit
- 1 death reported, aged 95 years old
- 3,305 COVID-19 PCR tests conducted

Surveillance summary

This week, **case numbers** increased by 13% compared to the previous week. Cases diagnosed by PCR decreased by 1% and by RAT increased by 15%. **Reinfections** comprised 35% of total cases this week, compared with 37% last week.

There was a 2% decrease in **PCR tests** conducted compared to the previous week, with a 7-day PCR test positive rate of 6.6%.

The moving seven-day average **case rates** per 100,000 population decreased in all regions except the Great Southern, Perth metropolitan and South West regions, which increased, and the Kimberley region, which remained steady. The seven-day average case rate for the Perth metropolitan area (15 cases/100,000 population) is approximately 25% higher than the Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS) regions combined (12 cases/100,000 population).

The seven-day average **age-specific rates** increased in all age groups except the 0 – 9 age group, which decreased, and the 10 – 19 age group, which remained steady. The highest rates were in the 70+ years age group (18 cases/100,000 population), and the lowest rates in the 0 - 9 years age group (7 cases/100,000 population).

The 7-day average of **hospitalised cases** decreased by 25% from 68 last week to 51 this week, while **intensive care unit cases** remained the same at 1 this week. **New hospital admissions** related to COVID-19 decreased by 26% from 23 last week to 17 this week, and **direct intensive care unit admissions** increased from 0 last week to 2 this week.

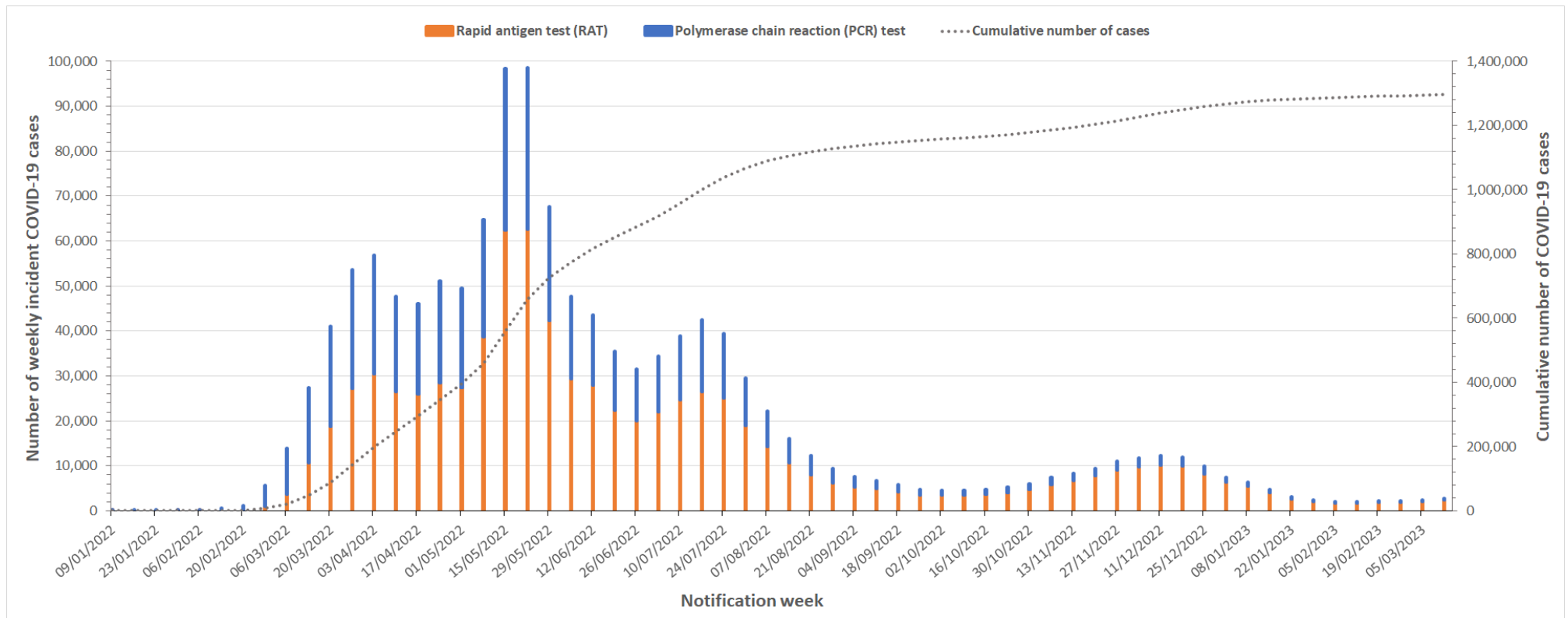
Deaths decreased this reporting week with 1 death reported compared to 11 last week.

This week, 67 cases were reported in the **Aboriginal population**, a 38% decrease compared to last week. Case rates in the Aboriginal population are lower than the non-Aboriginal population, with a 7-day average rate ratio of 0.6 this reporting week. There were no deaths reported in the Aboriginal population this week.

Nationally, the moving seven-day average case rates remained steady in all jurisdictions except New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania, which increased, and Australian Capital Territory, which decreased. Tasmania reported the highest rate (16 cases/100,000 population) and Northern Territory the lowest rate (6 cases/100,000 population). The rate in Western Australia was 15 cases/100,000 population.

Case data

Figure 1. COVID-19 cases by notification week and test type, Western Australia, 03 January 2022 to 12 March 2023.



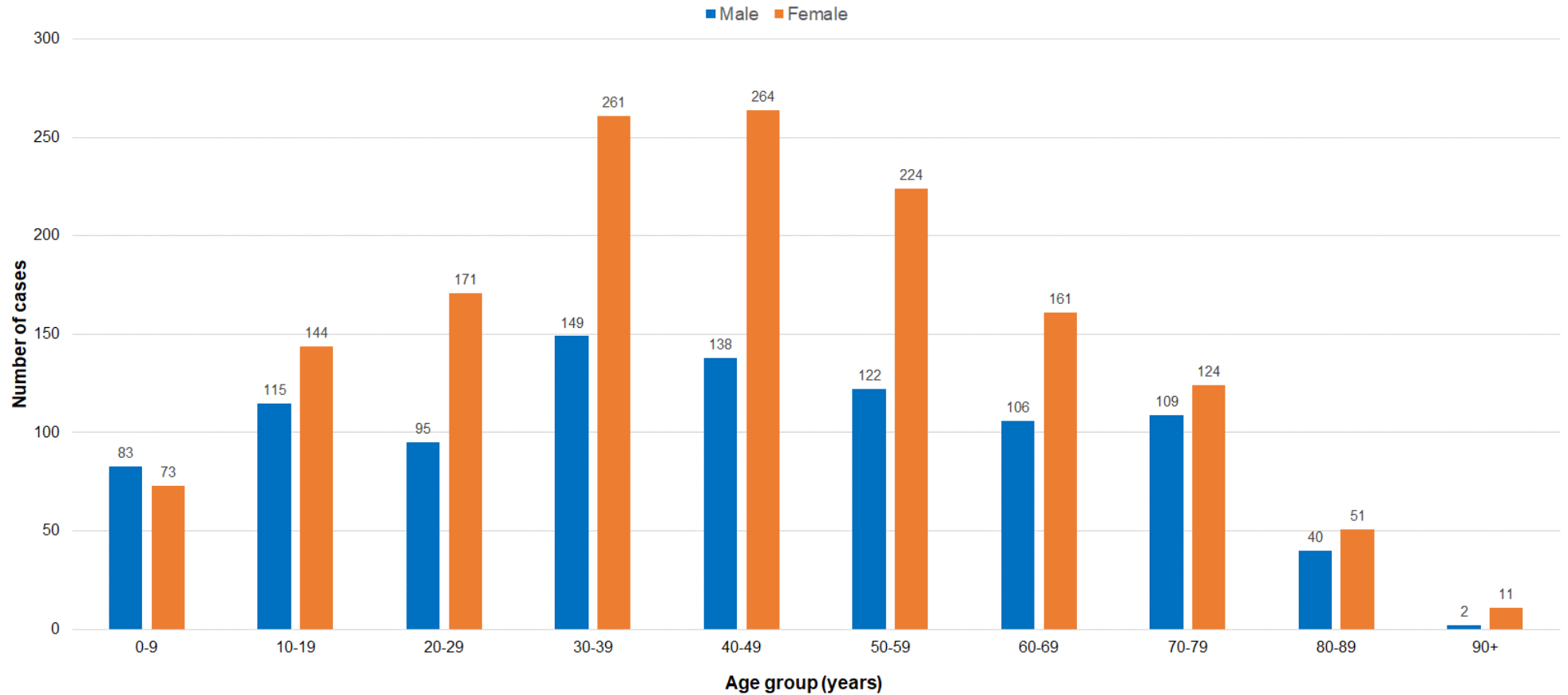
Notes

Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset

COVID-19 cases notified by cruise vessels were included in report week ending 12th March 2023, resulting in higher than expected case numbers

Notification week refers to data for Monday to Sunday.

Figure 2. COVID-19 cases by age group and sex, Western Australia, 06 March to 12 March 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=959 (39.3%) Females: n=1,484 (60.7%)
- Median age = 42 years; range: 0 to 99 years

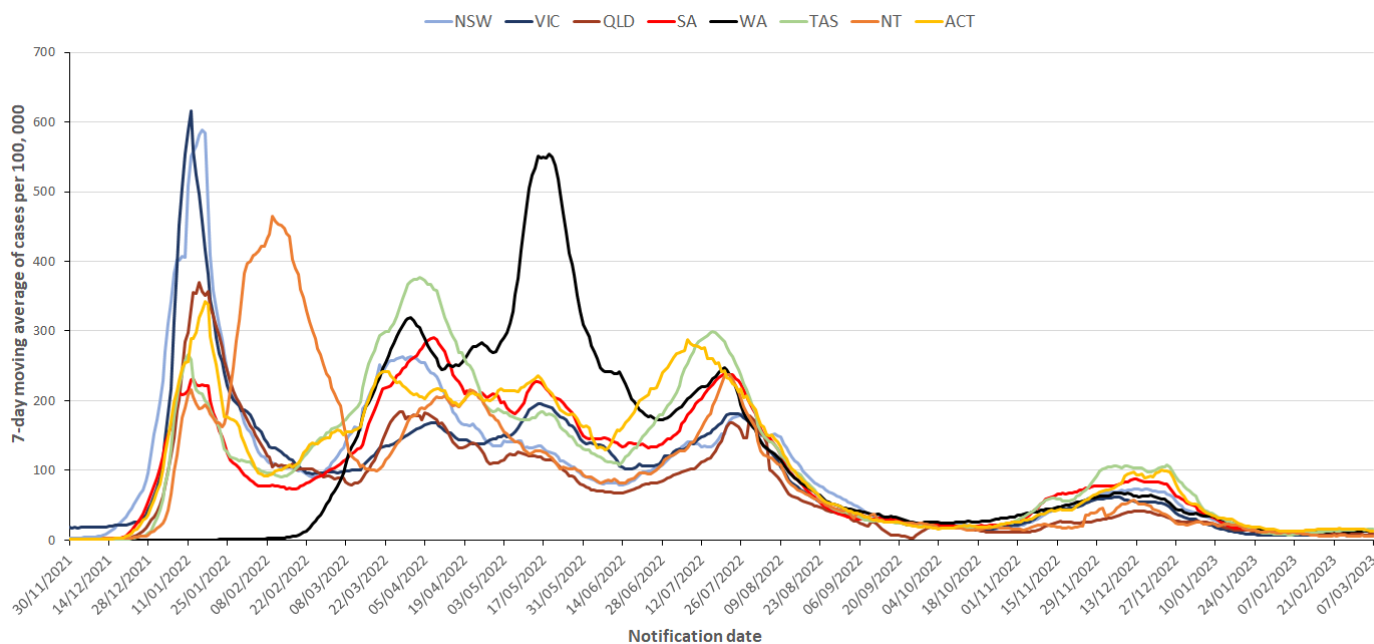
Table 1. COVID-19 reinfections in Western Australia, 02 March 2022 to 12 March 2023.

Month	Number of reinfections *
Mar-2022	14
Apr-2022	29
May-2022	105
Jun-2022	846
Jul-2022	5,043
Aug-2022	5,704
Sep-2022	4,025
Oct-2022	2,969
Nov-2022	7,048
Dec-2022	11,049
Jan-2023	5,451
Feb-2023	3,539
Mar-2023[^]	1,530
Total	47,352

* Reinfection definition as per [Series of National Guidelines \(SoNG\)](#) published by the Communicable Disease Network Australia (CDNA): between 2nd March 2022 and 8th 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 13 October 2022, COVID-19 reinfections are defined as a positive COVID-19 test occurring 28 days after previously recovering from the virus. From 14 October 2022 to date, COVID-19 reinfections are defined as a positive COVID-19 test occurring 35 days after the date of positive test for the most recent infection.

[^] Data up to 12th March 2023 inclusive

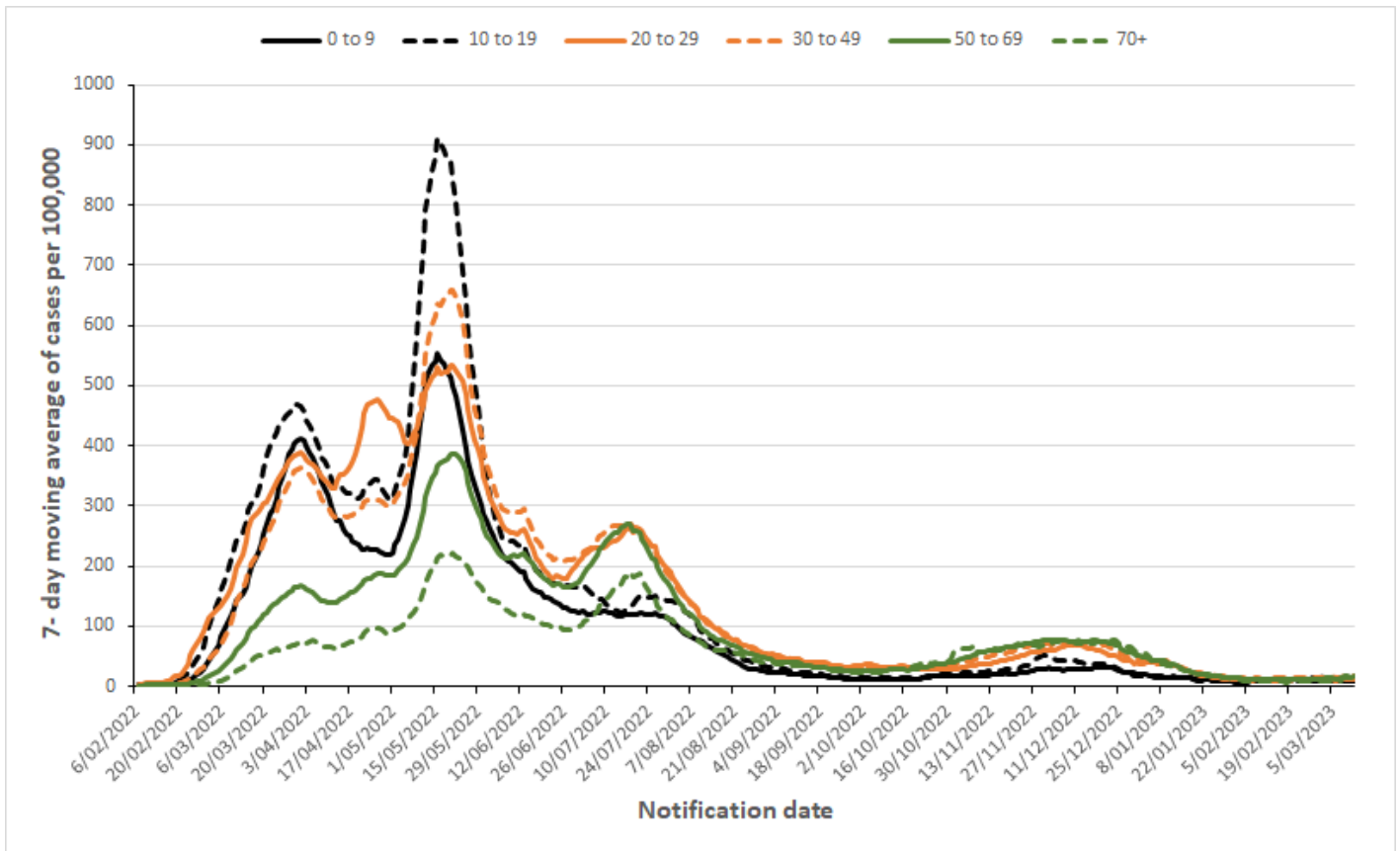
Figure 3. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by Australian jurisdiction, 01 December 2021 to 07 March 2023.



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.

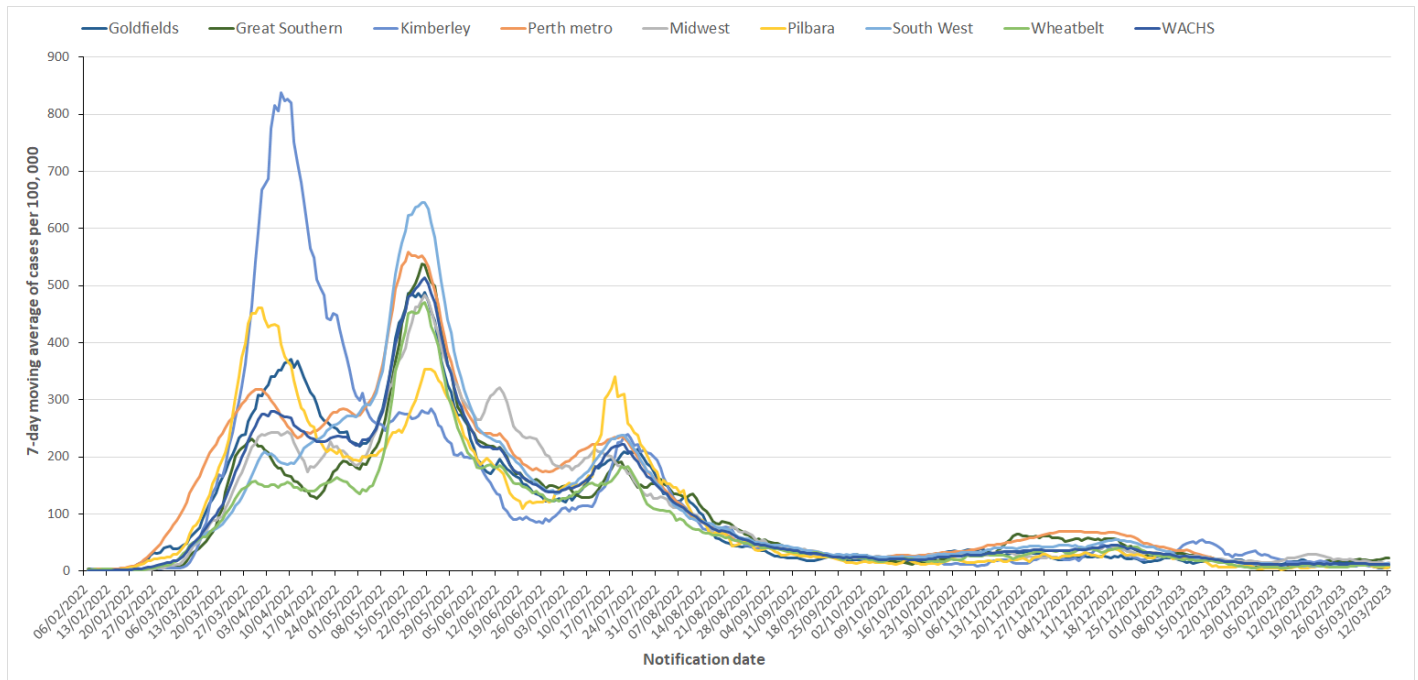
Figure 4. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by age group, Western Australia, 06 February 2022 to 12 March 2023.



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)
 COVID-19 cases notified by cruise vessels were included in report week ending 12th March 2023, resulting in higher than expected case numbers
 Population denominator sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics June 2021 estimates.

Figure 5. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by health region of residence, Western Australia, 08 February 2022 to 12 March 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
 COVID-19 cases notified by cruise vessels were included in report week ending 12th March 2023, resulting in higher than expected case numbers
 Population denominator sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 estimates.

Table 2. Number of COVID-19 cases and case rates per 100,000 population by region, Western Australia, 06 March to 12 March 2023 and 27 February to 05 March 2023.

	Region	Current report week		Previous report week	
		Week 06 March to 12 March 2023		Week 27 February to 05 March 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)
WACHS Regions	Goldfields	25	46	50	93
	Great Southern	97	158	85	139
	Kimberley	23	64	25	69
	Midwest	61	98	75	121
	Pilbara	26	41	43	68
	South West	162	89	157	86
	Wheatbelt	54	71	52	68
WACHS total*		448	84	487	91
Other**		270	-	19	-
Perth Metropolitan region		1,978	93	1,881	88
Total		2,696	101	2,387	90

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

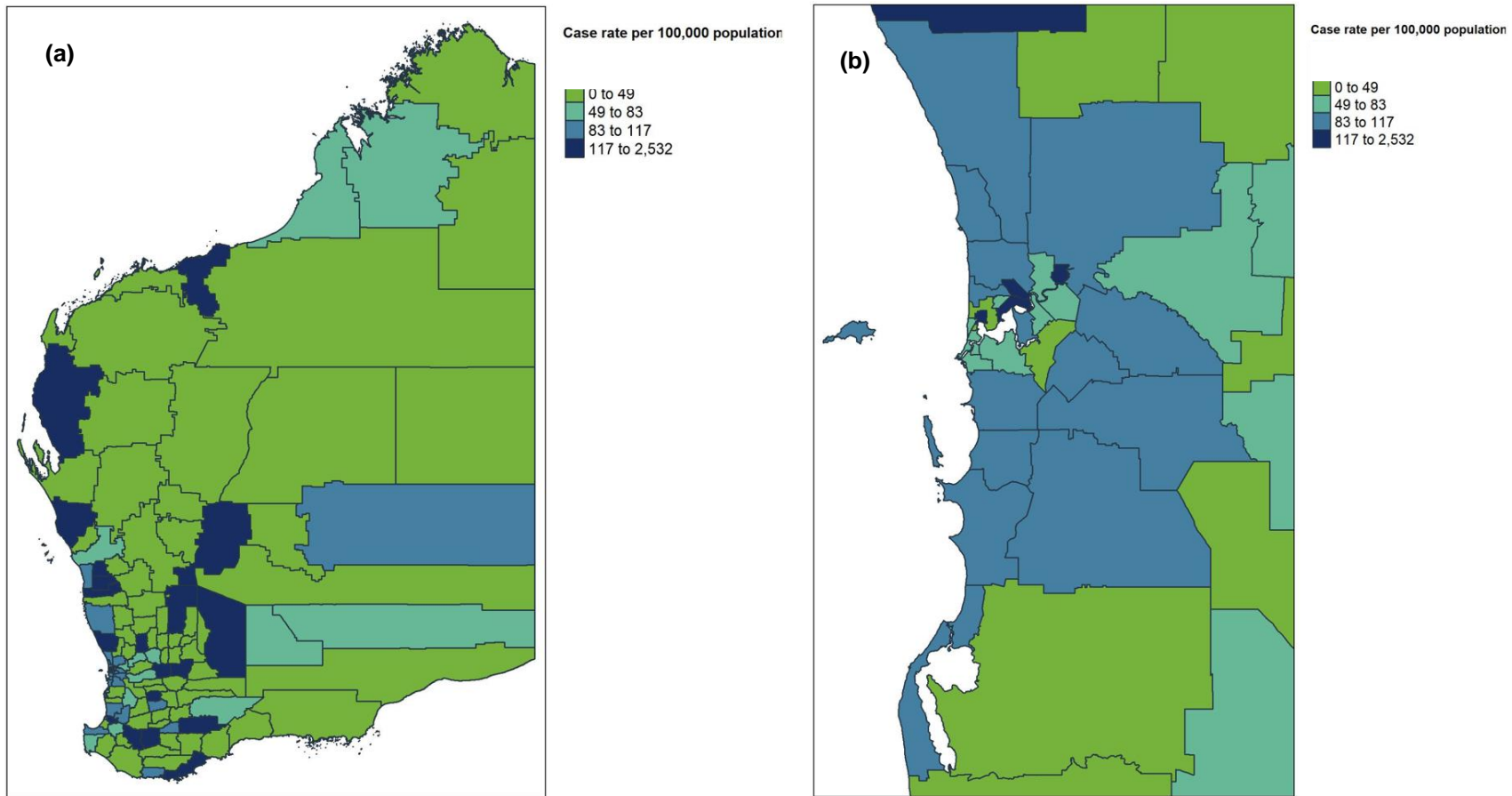
**Other includes cases with overseas and interstate residential addresses, and cases without residential address information

**COVID-19 cases notified by cruise vessels were included in report week ending 12th March 2023, resulting in higher than expected case numbers

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

Figure 6 (a). Locally acquired COVID-19 weekly case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, regional Western Australia, 06 March to 12 March 2023.

(b) Locally acquired COVID-19 weekly case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, Perth metropolitan area, 06 March to 12 March 2023.

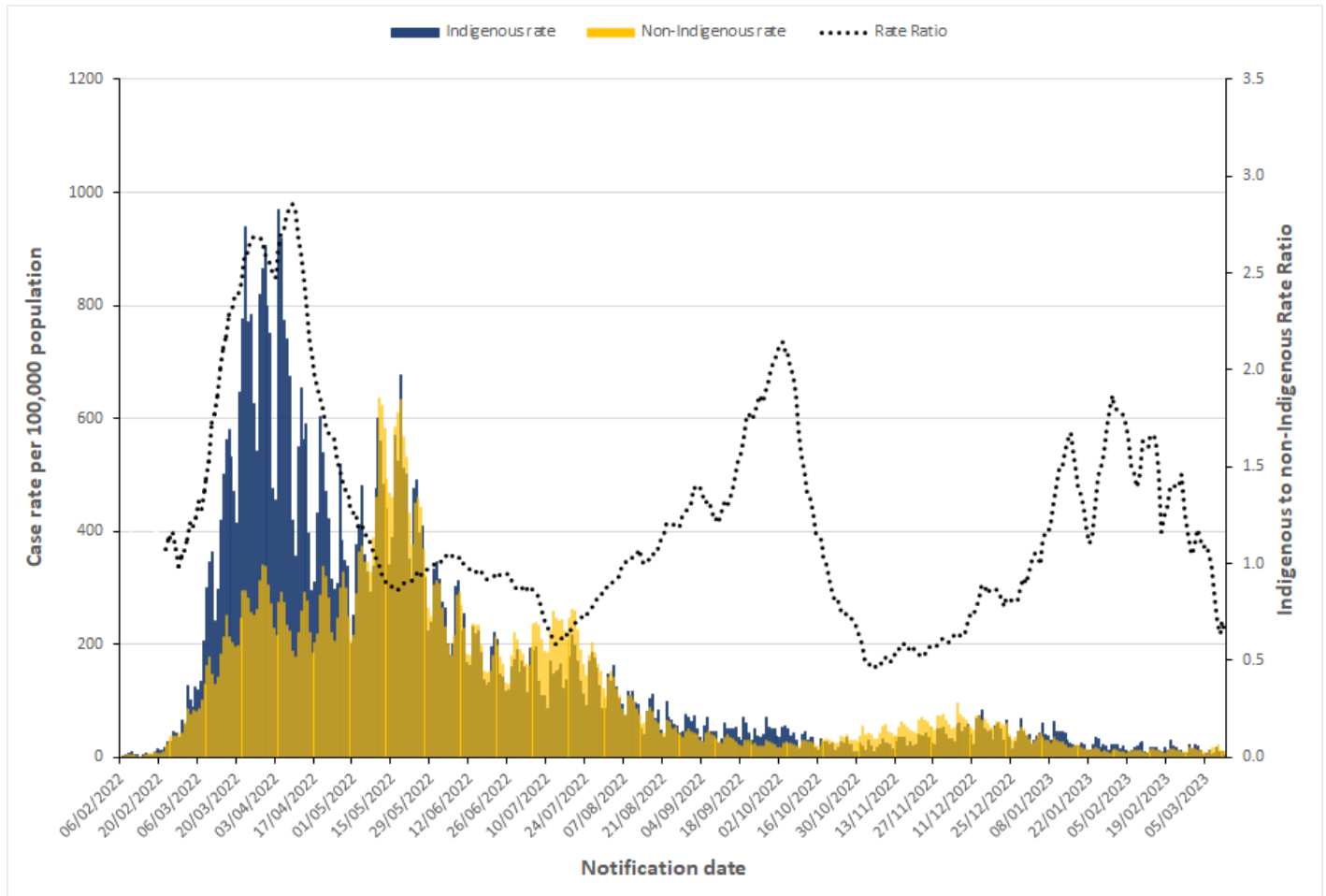


Notes

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 7. COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population and rate ratio by Indigenous status and notification date, Western Australia, 06 February 2022 to 12 March 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)

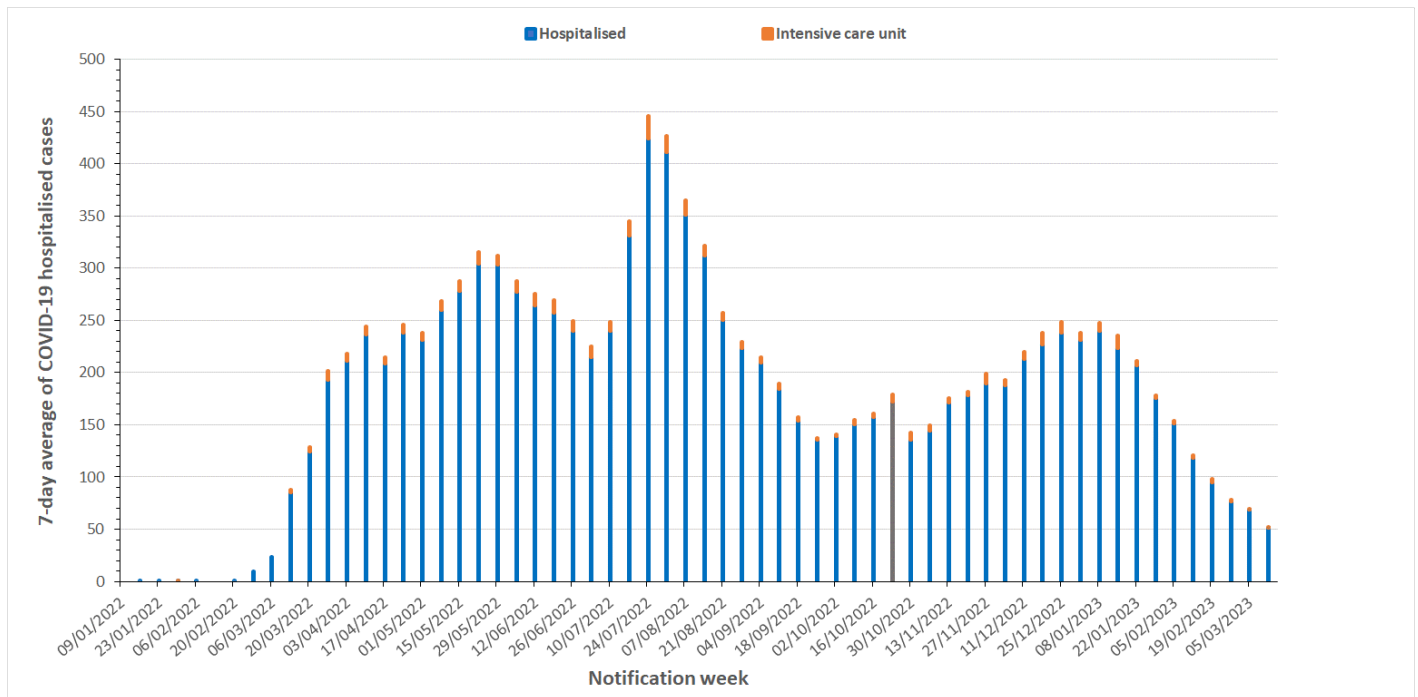
Population denominator data were sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 estimates

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.

Hospitalisations, intensive care unit (ICU) inpatients and deaths

Figure 8. 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, 09 January 2022 to 12 March 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.

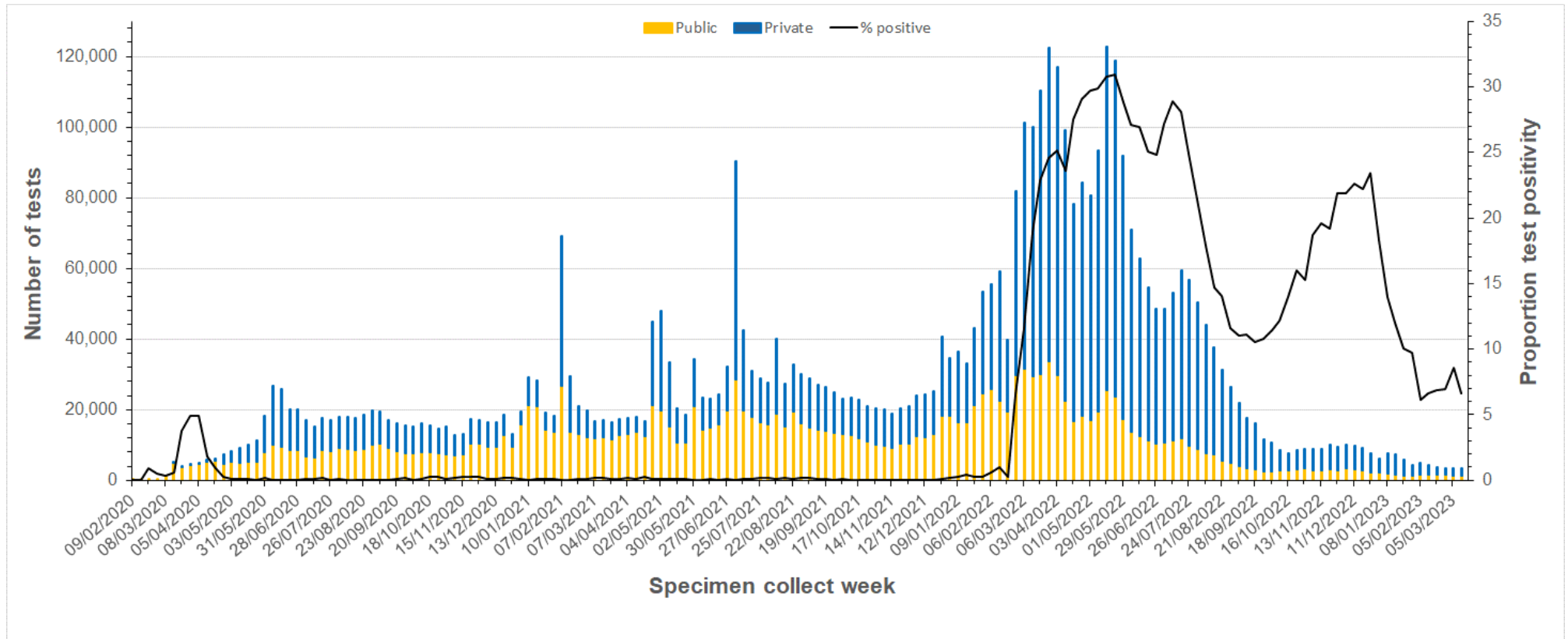
Table 3. Number of COVID-19 related deaths by vaccination status and age group, 06 March to 12 March 2023 and 01 January 2022 to 12 March 2023.

	Current report week	Year 2022 to date
	Week 06 Mar – 12 Mar 2023	1 Jan 2022 – 12 Mar 2023
Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses	Deaths (n= 1)	Deaths (n= 947)
0	0 (0%)	170 (17.9%)
1	0 (0%)	29 (3.1%)
2	0 (0%)	102 (10.8%)
3+	1 (100%)	646 (68.2%)
Age group (years)		
0-9	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
10-19	0 (0%)	2 (0.2%)
20-29	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
30-39	0 (0%)	5 (0.5%)
40-49	0 (0%)	10 (1.1%)
50-59	0 (0%)	29 (3.1%)
60-69	0 (0%)	64 (6.7%)
70-79	0 (0%)	176 (18.6%)
80-89	0 (0%)	361 (38.1%)
90+	1 (100%)	300 (31.7%)

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 15th February 2023 – 83.4% 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.
 Vaccination data can be found on Australian Government website located [here](#)
 Deaths are counted by notification date and may include historical deaths that occurred (i.e. date of death) prior to the current report week
 Deaths are not necessarily associated with hospital and/or ICU admissions

Testing data

Figure 9. The number of COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction tests and positivity by laboratory category and week of specimen collection, 09 February 2020 to 12 March 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 2022, testing at private pathology providers requires a referral from a GP

From 03 March 2023, Murdoch COVID-19 public PCR testing clinic closed. From this time forward public access to COVID-19 PCR testing is only via GP referral to private pathology providers.

Appendix 1

Number of regional cases by postcode, 06 March – 12 March 2023

WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 06 Mar to 12 Mar 2023	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 06 Mar to 12 Mar 2023	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 06 Mar to 12 Mar 2023
Goldfields	6430	16	Pilbara (continued)	6714	5	Wheatbelt (continued)	6353	<5
	6431	<5		6720	<5		6383	<5
	6440	<5		6721	<5		6390	<5
	6442	<5		6722	15		6401	<5
	6450	<5	South West	6220	<5		6403	<5
Great Southern	6317	<5		6225	8		6405	<5
	6323	<5		6226	<5		6418	<5
	6324	<5		6227	<5		6424	<5
	6330	78		6230	36		6425	<5
	6333	7		6232	25		6426	<5
	6343	<5		6233	20		6460	5
	6348	<5		6236	<5		6477	<5
	6395	<5		6239	<5		6503	<5
Kimberley	6725	12		6253	<5		6516	<5
	6726	<5	6254	<5	6560		<5	
	6728	5	6255	<5	6562	<5		
	6743	<5	6260	<5	6566	<5		
	6765	<5	6271	7	6603	<5		
Midwest	6517	<5	6280	33				
	6519	<5	6281	5				
	6522	<5	6284	<5				
	6525	<5	6285	6				
	6530	24	6290	<5				
	6532	9	6398	<5				
	6535	<5	6220	<5				
	6536	<5	Wheatbelt	6041	<5			
	6630	<5		6044	6			
	6639	<5		6302	<5			
	6701	10		6304	<5			
6707	<5	6309		<5				
Pilbara	6713	<5		6312	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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