



# COVID-19 Weekly Surveillance Report

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## Summary for the week 26 December 2022 to 01 January 2023 (inclusive)

In the week of 26 December 2022 to 01 January 2023 there were:

- 7,449 COVID-19 cases reported
  - 982 with positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests
  - 6,467 with positive rapid antigen tests (RAT)
  - 1,812 were reinfections (see definition in Table 2)
- 83 new hospital admissions and 3 new admission directly into an intensive care unit
- 6,156 COVID-19 PCR tests conducted

### Surveillance summary

This week, **case numbers** decreased by 25% compared to the previous week. Cases diagnosed by PCR decreased by 43% and by RAT decreased by 21%. **Reinfections** comprised 24% of total cases this week, compared with 22% last week.

There was a 18% decrease in **PCR tests** conducted compared to the previous week, with a 7-day average test positive rate for PCR tests of 18.1%.

The moving seven-day average **case rates** per 100,000 population decreased in all regions except the Goldfields, Kimberley and Midwest regions, which increased, and the Pilbara, which remained steady. The seven-day average case rate for the Perth metropolitan area (42 cases/100,000 population) was approximately 40% higher than the Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS) regions combined (30 cases/100,000 population).

The seven-day average **age-specific rates** are all decreasing, with the highest rates in the 70+ years age group (55 cases/100,000 population), and the lowest rates in the 10 – 19 years age group (18 cases/100,000 population).

**Nationally**, the moving seven-day average case rates decreased across all jurisdictions, except Victoria, which remained stable, and the ACT, which increased. Tasmania has the highest rate (100 cases/100,000 population) and Queensland the lowest rate (38 cases/100,000 population).

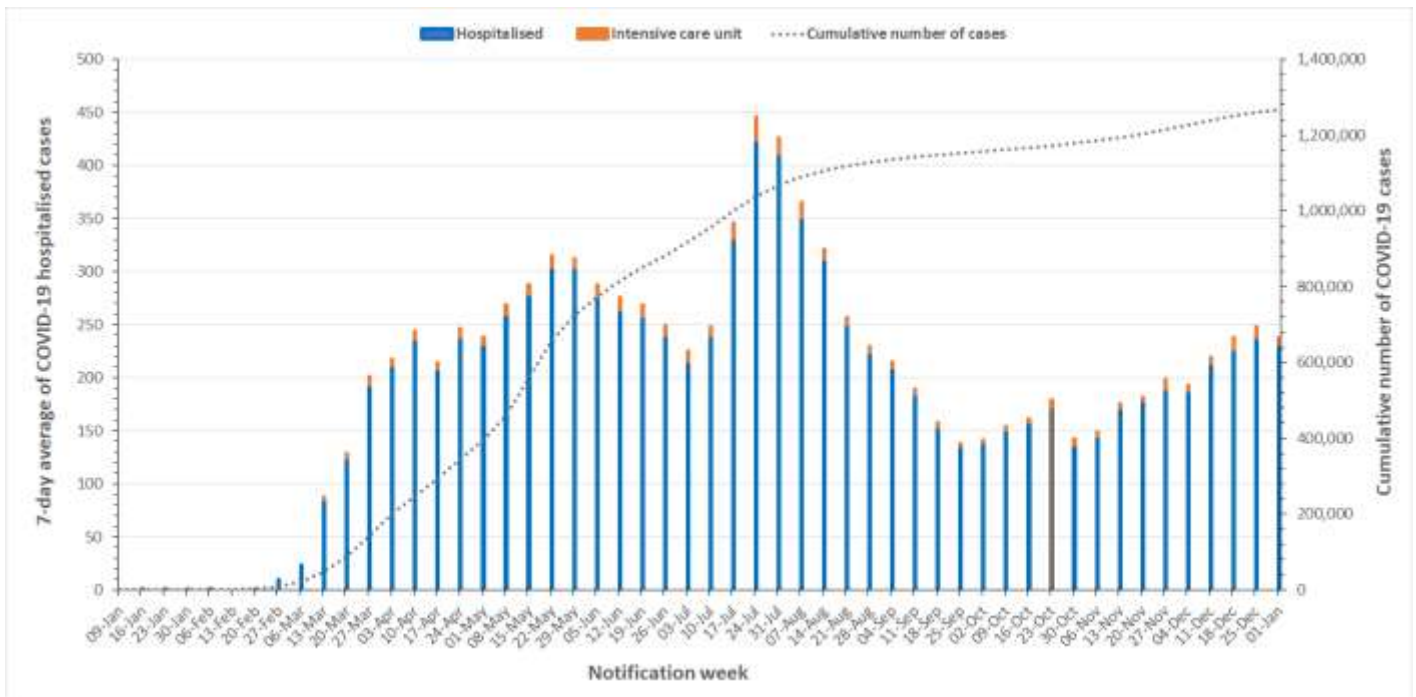
The 7-day average of **hospitalised cases** decreased by 3% from 238 last week to 231 this week. **Intensive care unit cases** decreased from 10 in the last reporting week to 8 this week. New hospital admissions related to COVID-19 decreased by 39% from 136 last week to 83 this week, and direct intensive care unit admissions decreased from 4 last week to 3 this week.

This week, 303 cases were reported in the **Aboriginal population**, an 8% decrease compared to last week. Case rates in the Aboriginal population are equal to the non-Aboriginal population, with a 7-day average rate ratio of 1.0 this reporting week.

*Please note: There were no deaths reported in this current report week due to the holiday shutdown period. Death reporting will resume in next weeks report.*

# 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 01 January 2023.



## Notes

Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset

Notification week refers to data for Monday to Sunday respectively

'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.

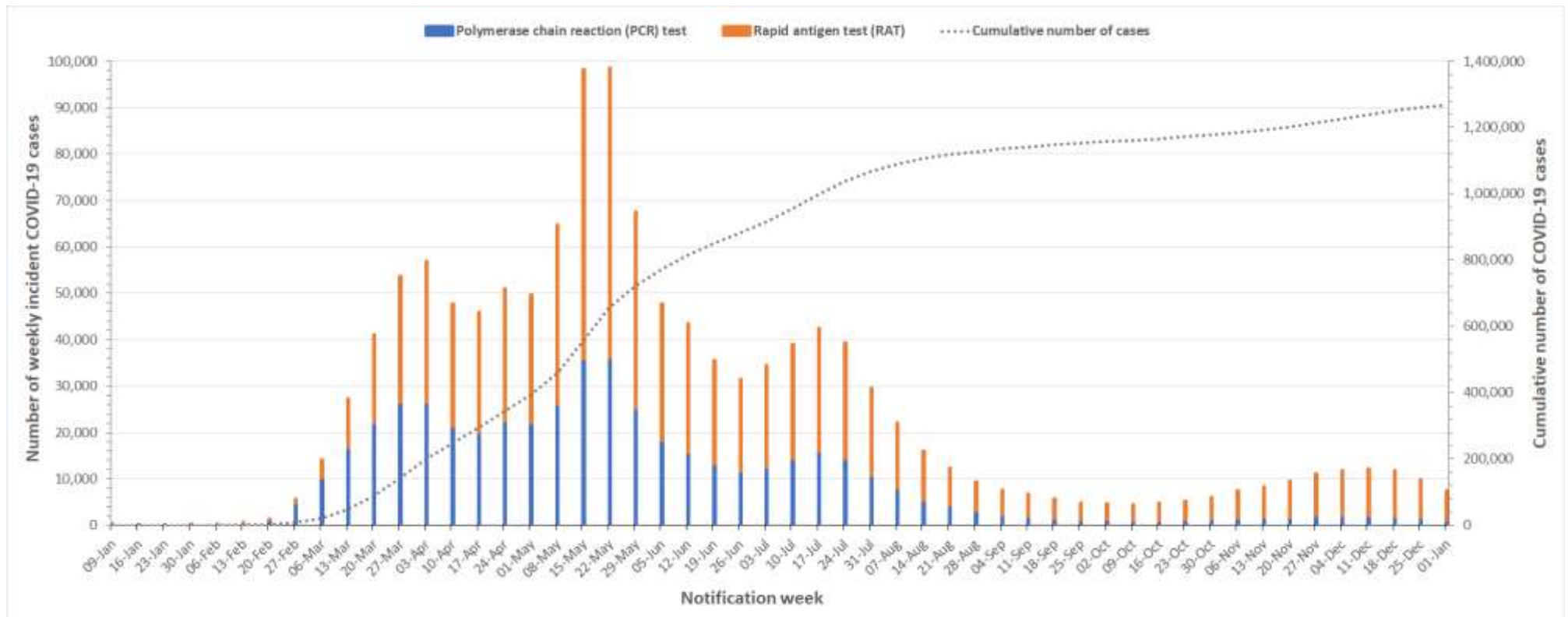
**Table 1. Number of COVID-19 related deaths by vaccination status and age group, 26 December 2022 to 01 January 2023 and 01 January 2022 to 01 January 2023.**

	Current report week Week 26 Dec 2022 – 1 Jan 2023	Year to date 1 Jan 2022 – 1 Jan 2023
<b>Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses</b>	<b>Deaths (n= 0)</b>	<b>Deaths (n= 828)</b>
<b>0</b>	0 (0%)	153 (18.5%)
<b>1</b>	0 (0%)	28 (3.4%)
<b>2</b>	0 (0%)	97 (11.7%)
<b>3+</b>	0 (0%)	550 (66.4%)
<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%)	1 (0.1%)
<b>30-39</b>	0 (0%)	4 (0.5%)
<b>40-49</b>	0 (0%)	10 (1.2%)
<b>50-59</b>	0 (0%)	30 (3.6%)
<b>60-69</b>	0 (0%)	59 (7.1%)
<b>70-79</b>	0 (0%)	151 (18.2%)
<b>80-89</b>	0 (0%)	315 (38.1%)
<b>90+</b>	0 (0%)	256 (31.0%)

**Notes**  
 There were no deaths reported in this current report week due to the holiday shutdown period and subsequent delays in processing cause of death ascertainment.  
 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 whom 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  
 Deaths are not necessarily associated with hospital and/or ICU admissions

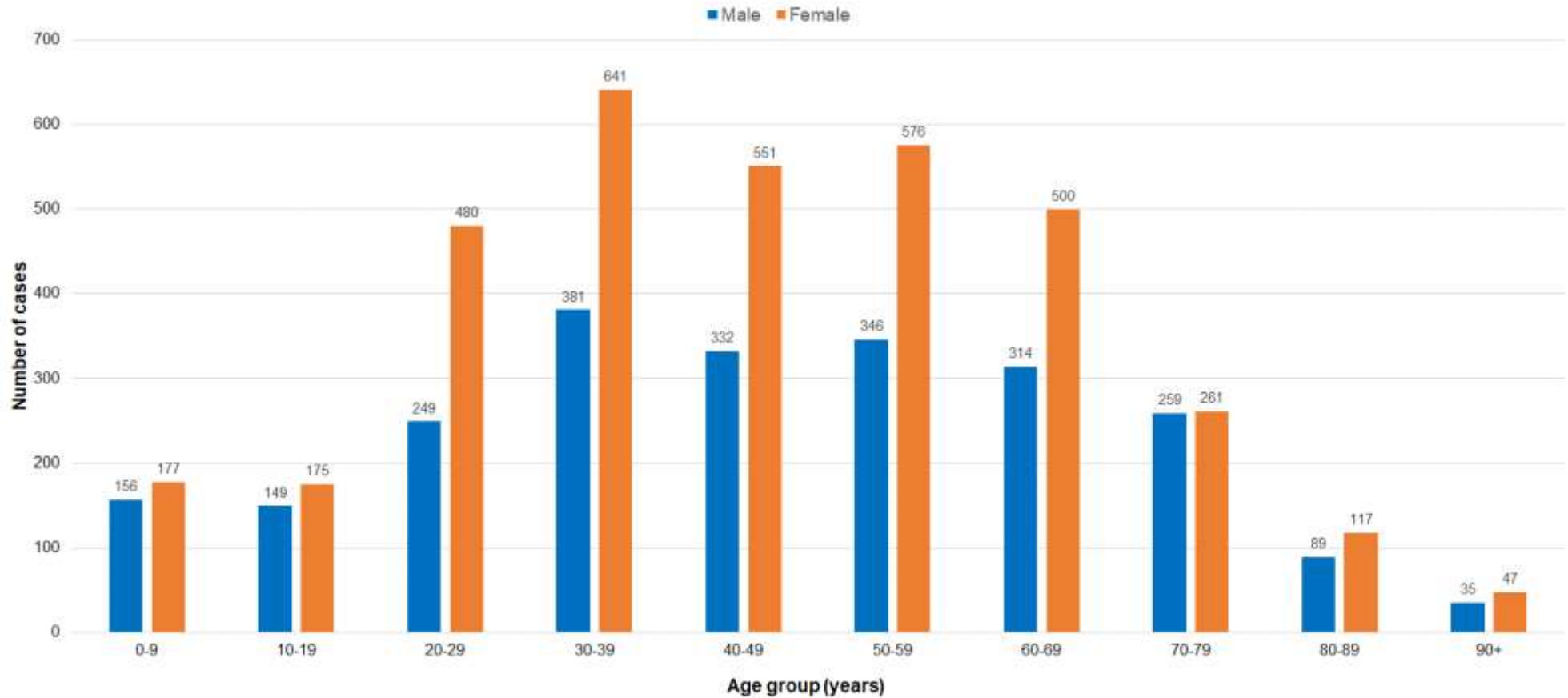
## Case data

Figure 2. COVID-19 cases by notification week and test type, Western Australia, 03 January 2022 to 01 January 2023.



**Notes**  
 Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset  
 Notification week refers to data for Monday to Sunday respectively  
 COVID-19 cases diagnosed on cruise vessels in WA are included in report weeks ending 06<sup>th</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> December, resulting in a larger increase in cases than would be expected on current trends. These cases were identified through enhanced surveillance processes and there was no severe disease or deaths associated with these cases.

Figure 3. COVID-19 cases by age group and sex, Western Australia, 26 December 2022 to 01 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=2,310 (39.6%) Females: n=3,525 (60.4%)
- Median age = 45 years; range: 0 to 103 years

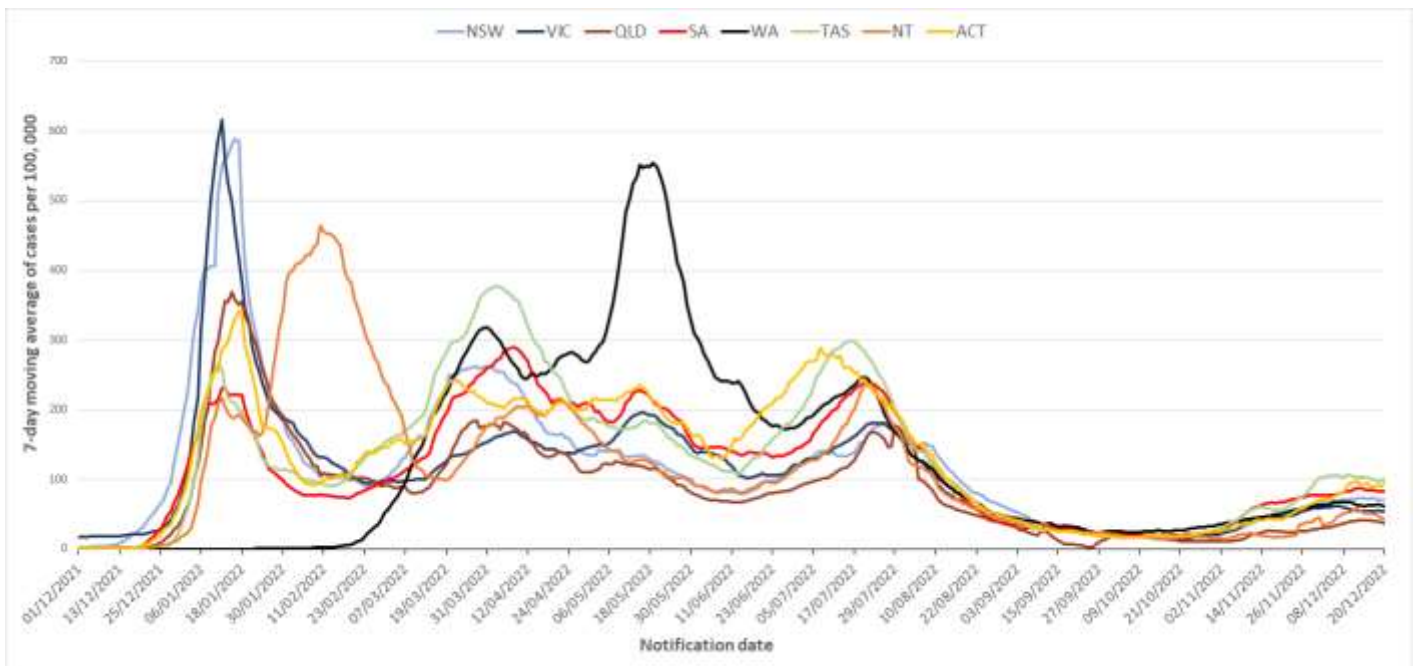
**Table 2. COVID-19 reinfections in Western Australia, 02 March 2022 to 01 January 2023.**

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	7,016
Dec-2022	10,890
<b>Jan-2023^</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,813</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

^ Data for 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 only

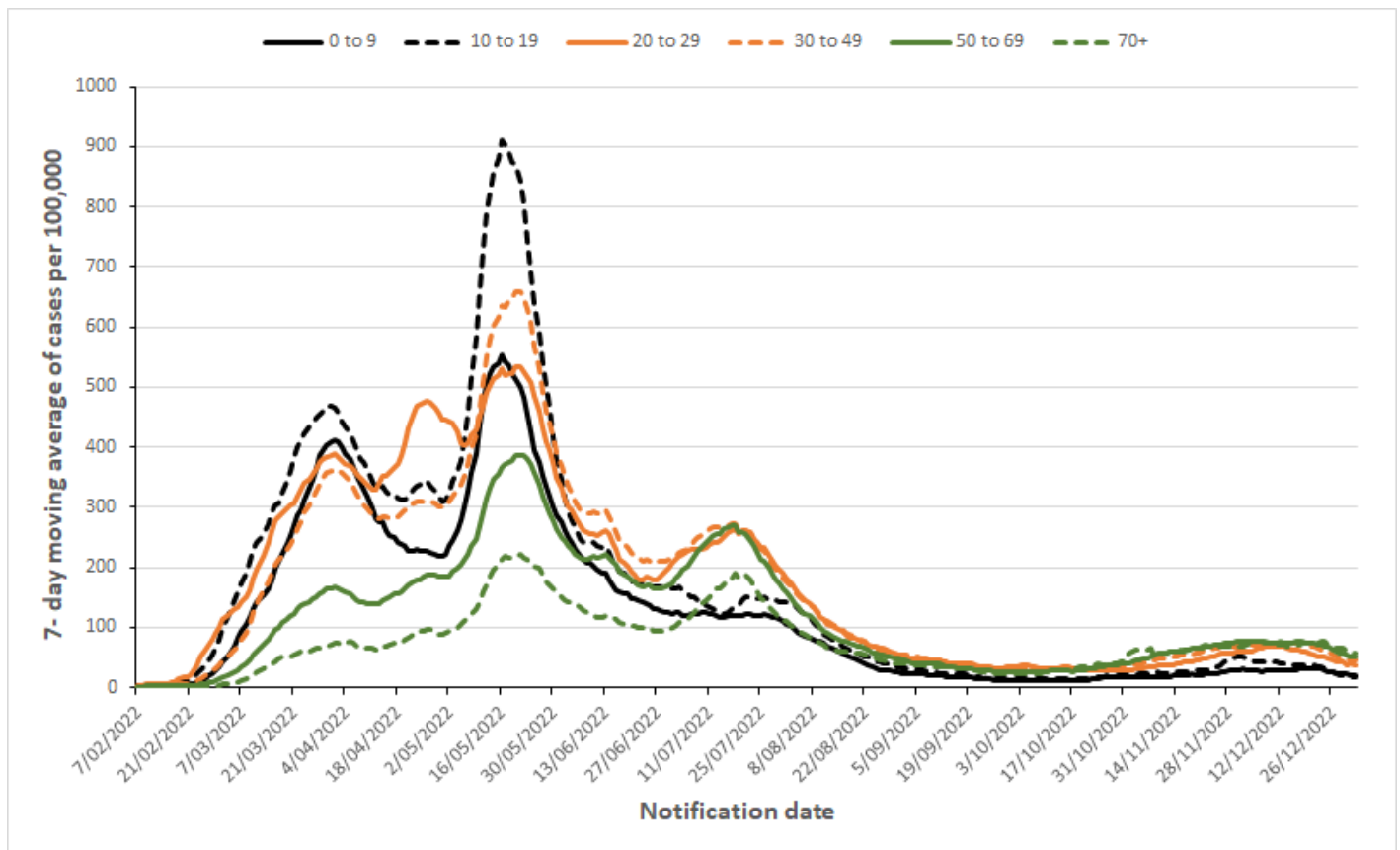
**Figure 4. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by Australian jurisdiction, 01 December 2021 to 20 December 2022.**



**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 8pm to 8pm  
 The reporting period in WA transitioned to a 6pm to 6pm cycle from 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and then to a 4pm to 4pm cycle from 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022  
 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 01 January 2023.**

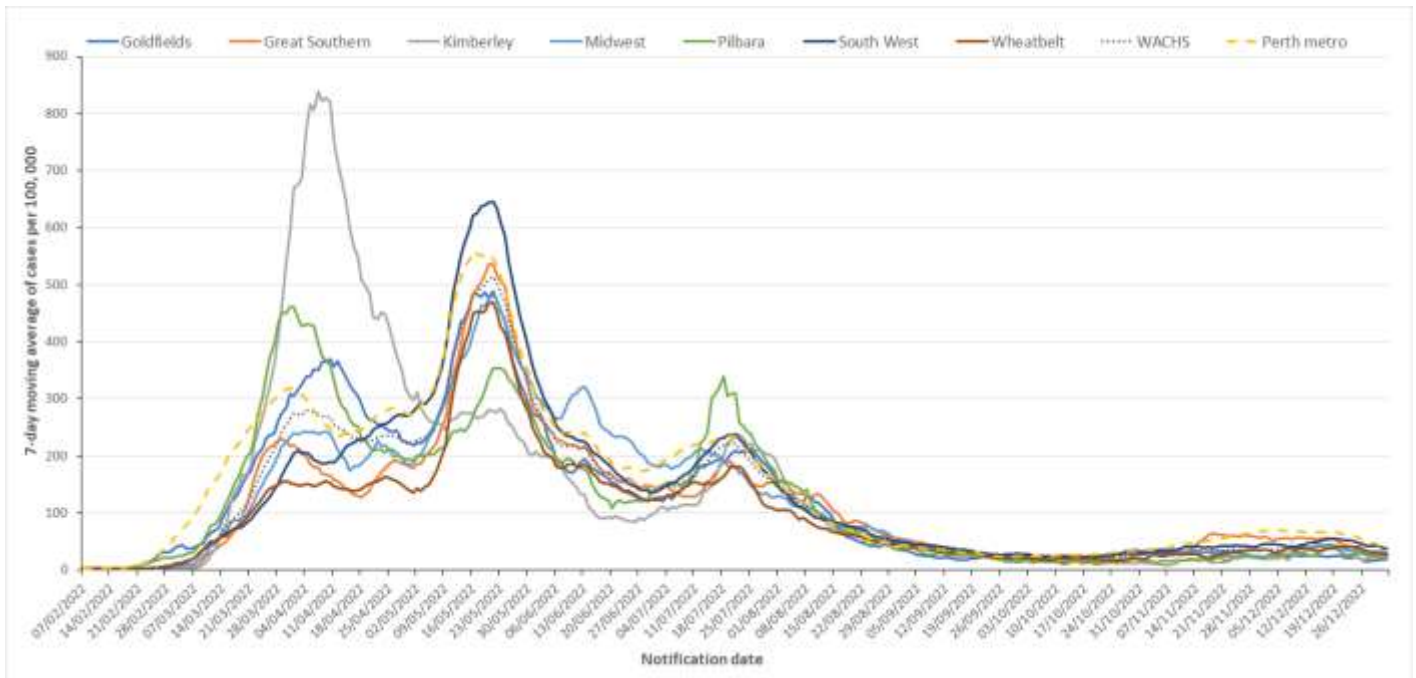


**Notes**

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 8pm to 8pm  
 The reporting period transitioned to a 6pm to 6pm cycle from 18th June 2022 and then to a 4pm to 4pm cycle from 24th August 2022  
 Case data includes those determined by both polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests and rapid antigen tests (RAT)  
 COVID-19 cases diagnosed onboard cruise vessels in WA are included in reporting week ending 06<sup>th</sup> November, resulting in a larger increase in cases than would be expected on current trends. These cases were identified through enhanced surveillance processes and there was no severe disease or deaths associated with these cases.  
 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 01 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 8pm to 8pm  
 The reporting period transitioned to a 6pm to 6pm cycle from 18th June 2022 and then to a 4pm to 4pm cycle from 24th August 2022  
 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, 26 December 2022 to 01 January 2023 and 19 December to 25 December 2022.**

	Region	Current report week		Previous report week	
		Week 26 Dec 2022 to 01 January 2023		Week 19 December to 25 December 2022	
		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>	76	141	79	146
	<b>Great Southern</b>	114	186	150	245
	<b>Kimberley</b>	63	175	56	155
	<b>Midwest</b>	131	211	136	219
	<b>Pilbara</b>	118	188	114	181
	<b>South West</b>	477	262	609	335
	<b>Wheatbelt</b>	141	185	221	290
<b>WACHS total*</b>		<b>1,120</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>Other**</b>		97	-	122	-
<b>Perth Metropolitan region</b>		6,232	293	8,429	396
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,449</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>9,916</b>	<b>372</b>

**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 8pm to 8pm

The reporting period transitioned to a 6pm to 6pm cycle from 18th June 2022 and then to a 4pm to 4pm cycle from 24th August 2022

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

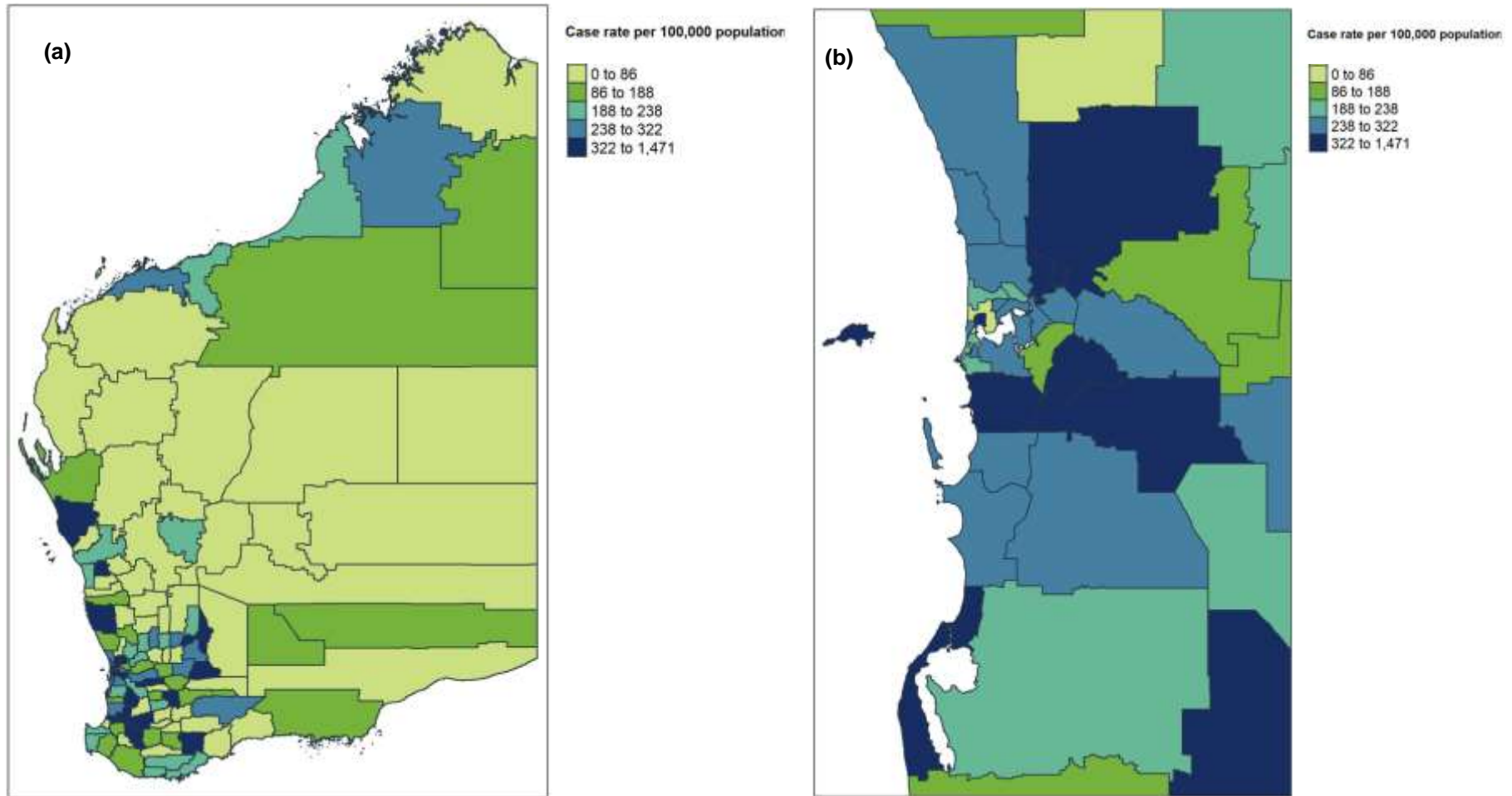
\*\*Other includes cases with overseas and interstate residential addresses, and cases without residential address information

COVID-19 cases diagnosed onboard cruise vessels in WA are included in reporting week ending 06<sup>th</sup> November, resulting in a larger increase in cases than would be expected on current trends. These cases were identified through enhanced surveillance processes and there was no severe disease or deaths associated with these cases

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, 26 Dec 2022 to 01 January 2023.

(b) Locally acquired COVID-19 weekly case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, Perth metropolitan area, 26 December 2022 to 01 January 2023.

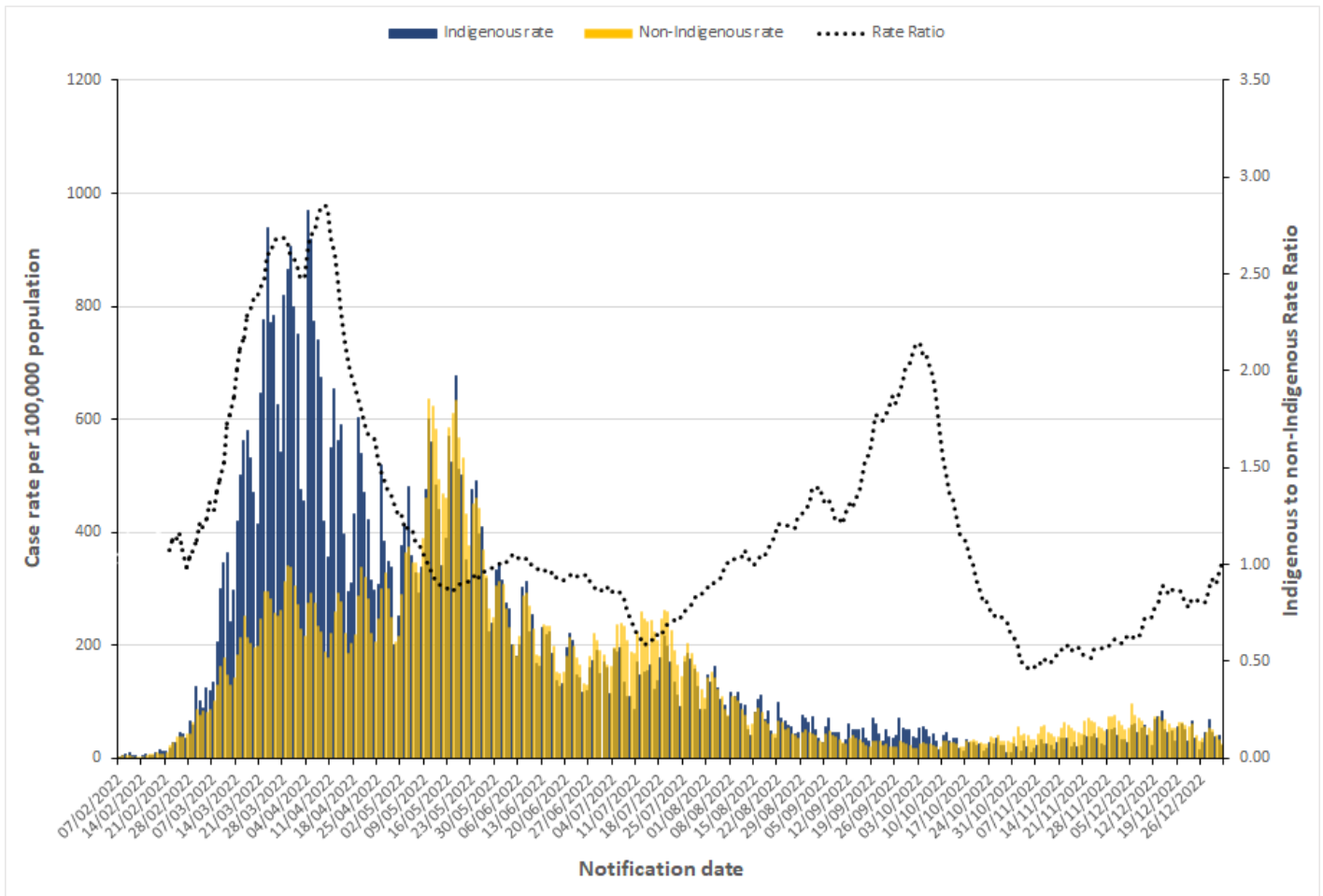


**Notes**

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 8pm to 8pm  
The reporting period transitioned to a 6pm to 6pm cycle from 18th June 2022 and then to a 4pm to 4pm cycle from 24th August 2022  
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 01 January 2023.

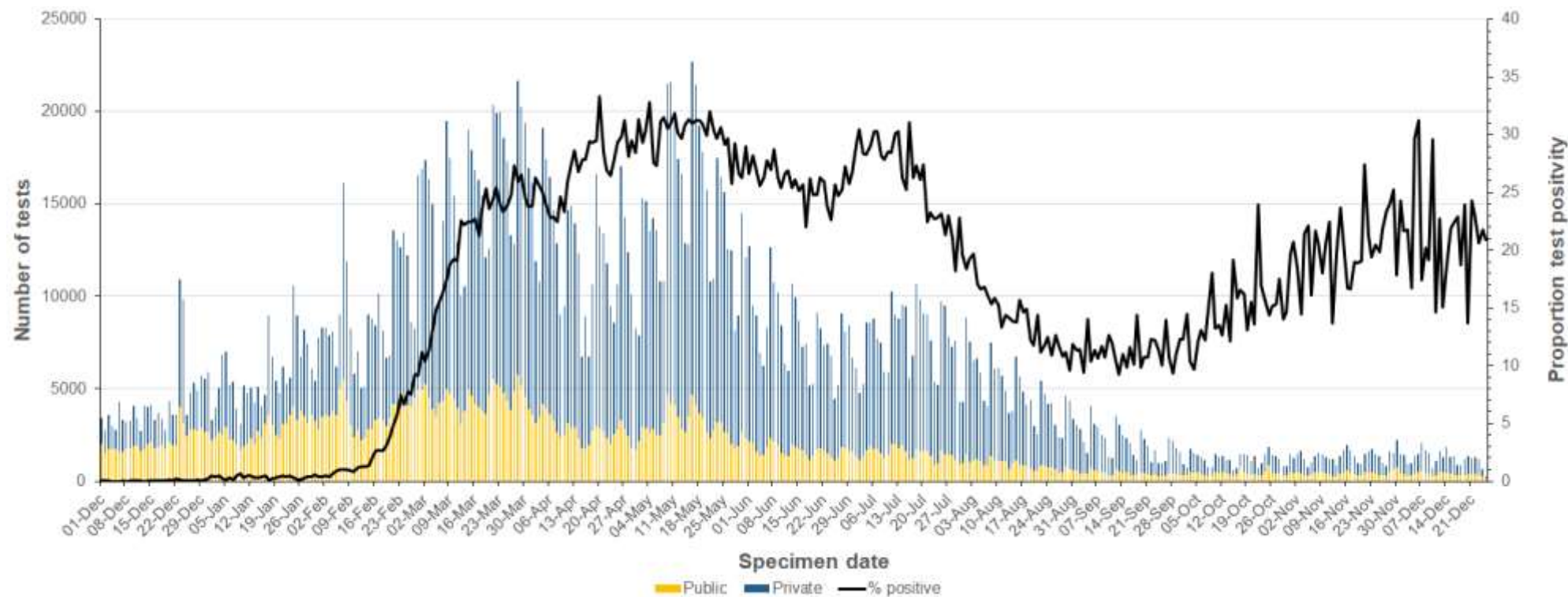


**Notes**

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 8pm to 8pm  
 The reporting period transitioned to a 6pm to 6pm cycle from 18th June 2022 and then to a 4pm to 4pm cycle from 24th August 2022  
 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 positive by laboratory category and specimen date, 01 December 2021 to 01 January 2023.



### Notes

Data sourced from Western Australian public and private pathology laboratories

Specimen date refers to the date that specimen was collected

Number of tests includes both positive and negative tests

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

## Appendix 1

### Numbers of regional cases by postcode, 26 December 2022 – 01 January 2023

WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 26 Dec 22 to 01 Jan 2023	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 26 Dec 22 to 01 Jan 2023	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 26 Dec 22 to 01 Jan 2023
Goldfields	6429	6	Pilbara (continued)	6713	<5	South West (continued)	6285	26
	6430	28		6714	51		6286	<5
	6431	<5		6718	<5		6288	<5
	6432	15		6720	<5		6290	<5
	6442	<5		6721	15		6325	<5
	6450	22		6722	20		6398	<5
Great Southern	6317	<5		6751	<5	Wheatbelt	6041	6
	6320	<5		6753	18		6042	<5
	6323	<5		6754	<5		6302	<5
	6324	9		6762	<5		6304	5
	6330	78	South West	6218	5		6306	14
	6333	14		6219	<5		6308	<5
	6335	<5		6220	7		6311	<5
	6338	<5		6224	<5		6312	9
	6348	<5		6225	31		6313	<5
	6395	<5		6226	<5		6315	<5
Kimberley	6725	30		6227	<5	6353	<5	
	6726	6		6230	139	6357	<5	
	6728	19		6232	51	6369	<5	
	6740	<5		6233	61	6370	<5	
	6743	<5	6234	<5	6375	<5		
	6765	<5	6236	<5	6383	<5		
	6770	<5	6237	<5	6390	5		
	Midwest	6514	<5	6239	6	6391	<5	
6522		<5	6244	<5	6401	19		
6525		8	6251	<5	6407	<5		
6528		<5	6252	<5	6413	<5		
6530		76	6253	<5	6415	7		
6531		<5	6255	12	6418	<5		
6532		25	6258	8	6423	<5		
6535		<5	6262	<5	6424	<5		
6536		<5	6271	8	6460	<5		
6537		<5	6275	<5	6461	<5		
6638		<5	6280	71	6479	<5		
6701		5	6281	21	6481	<5		
6707		<5	6282	<5	6485	<5		
Pilbara		6710	<5	6284	<5	6488	<5	

WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 26 Dec 22 to 01 Jan 2023	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 26 Dec 22 to 01 Jan 2023	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 26 Dec 22 to 01 Jan 2023
Wheatbelt (continued)	6490	<5						
	6502	<5						
	6503	<5						
	6506	<5						
	6507	<5						
	6510	<5						
	6511	<5						
	6516	<5						
	6521	<5						
	6560	<5						
	6562	<5						
	6564	<5						
	6566	10						
	6609	<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 8pm to 8pm

The reporting period transitioned to a 6pm to 6pm cycle from 18th June 2022 and then to a 4pm to 4pm cycle from 24th August 2022

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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