



COVID-19 Weekly Surveillance Report

Table of Contents

Summary for the week 20 February to 26 February 2023 (inclusive)	2
Case data	3
Figure 1. COVID-19 cases by notification week and test type, Western Australia, 03 January 2022 to 26 February 2023.....	3
Figure 2. COVID-19 cases by age group and sex, Western Australia, 20 February to 26 February 2023. .	4
Table 1. COVID-19 reinfections in Western Australia, 02 March 2022 to 26 February 2023.	5
Figure 3. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by Australian jurisdiction, 04 October 2022 to 21 February 2023.....	5
Figure 4. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by age group, Western Australia, 02 October 2022 to 26 February 2023.	6
Figure 5. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by health region, Western Australia, 02 October 2022 to 26 February 2023.	7
Table 2. Number of COVID-19 cases and case rates per 100,000 population by region, Western Australia, 20 February to 26 February 2023 and 13 February to 19 February 2023.	8
Figure 6 (a). Locally acquired COVID-19 weekly case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, regional Western Australia, 20 February to 26 February 2023.	9
(b) Locally acquired COVID-19 weekly case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, Perth metropolitan area, 20 February to 26 February 2023.....	9
Aboriginal case summary	10
Figure 7. COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population and rate ratio by Indigenous status and notification date, Western Australia, 02 October 2022 to 26 February 2023.	10
Hospitalisations, intensive care unit (ICU) inpatients and deaths	11
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 26 February 2023.	11
Table 3. Number of COVID-19 related deaths by vaccination status and age group, 20 February to 26 February 2023 and 01 January 2022 to 26 February 2023.	12
Testing data	13
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 26 February 2023.....	13
Appendix 1	14
Number of regional cases by postcode, 20 February – 26 February 2023.....	14

Summary for the week 20 February to 26 February 2023 (inclusive)

In the week of 20 February to 26 February 2023 there were:

- 2,206 COVID-19 cases reported
 - 235 diagnosed by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests
 - 1,971 diagnosed by rapid antigen tests (RAT)
 - 839 were reinfections (see definition in Table 2)
- 27 new hospital admissions and 1 new admission directly into an intensive care unit
- 1 death reported, aged 78 years old
- 3,505 COVID-19 PCR tests conducted

Surveillance summary

This week, **case numbers** remained unchanged compared to the previous week. Cases diagnosed by PCR increased by 2% and by RAT remained the same. **Reinfections** comprised 38% of total cases this week, compared with 41% last week.

There was a 7% decrease in **PCR tests** conducted compared to the previous week, with a 7-day PCR test positive rate of 6.1%.

The moving seven-day average **case rates** per 100,000 population remained steady in all regions except the Kimberley, Midwest and Pilbara regions, which decreased, and the Goldfields and Great Southern regions, which increased. The seven-day average case rate for the Perth metropolitan area (12 cases/100,000 population) was the same as the Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS) regions combined (12 cases/100,000 population).

The seven-day average **age-specific rates** remained the same in all age groups except the 0 – 9 and 50 – 69 year age groups, which decreased. The highest rates were in the 30 - 49 years age group (15 cases/100,000 population), and the lowest rates in the 70+ years age group (8 cases/100,000 population).

The 7-day average of **hospitalised cases** decreased by 19% from 95 last week to 77 this week, while **intensive care unit cases** decreased from 3 last week to 2 this week. **New hospital admissions** related to COVID-19 increased by 69% from 16 last week to 27 this week, and **direct intensive care unit admissions** increased from 0 last week to 1 this week.

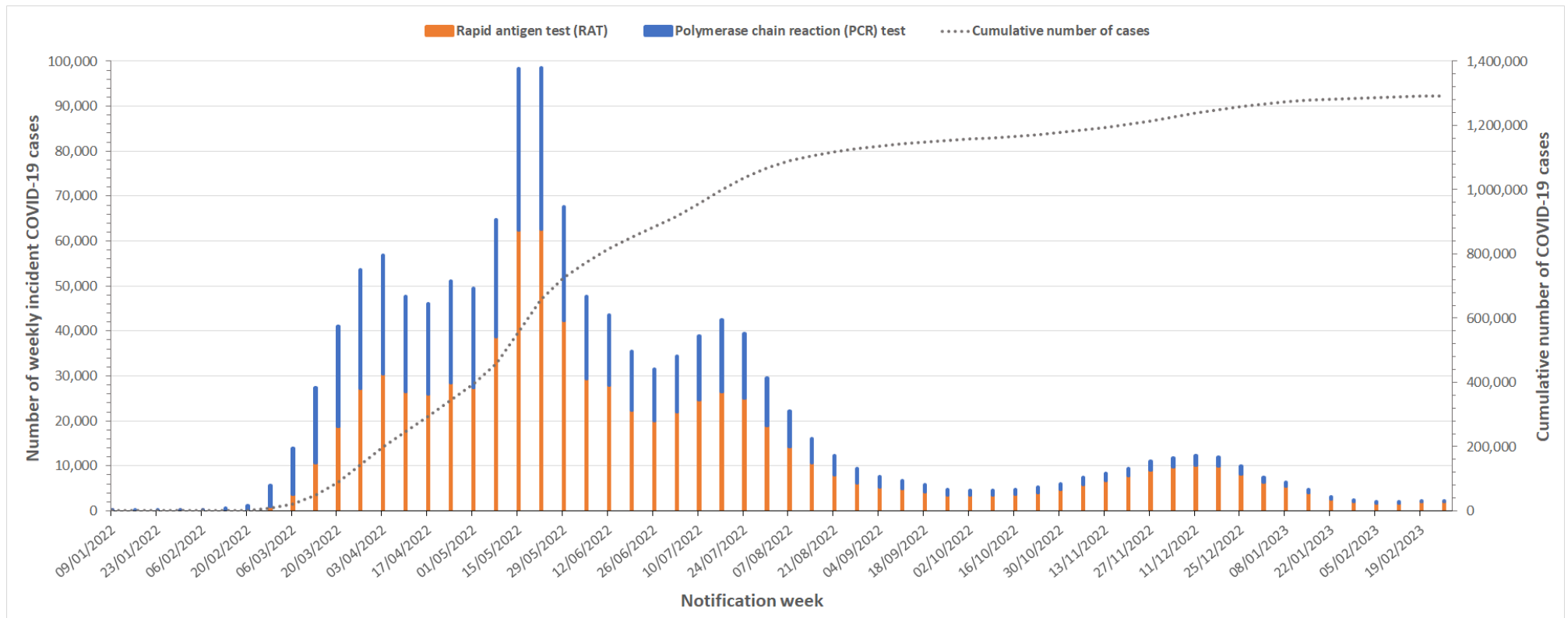
Deaths decreased by 80% this reporting week with 1 death compared to 5 last week.

This week, 111 cases were reported in the **Aboriginal population**, a 1% increase 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. 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 and Tasmania, which increased. Australian Capital Territory 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 12 cases/100,000 population.

Case data

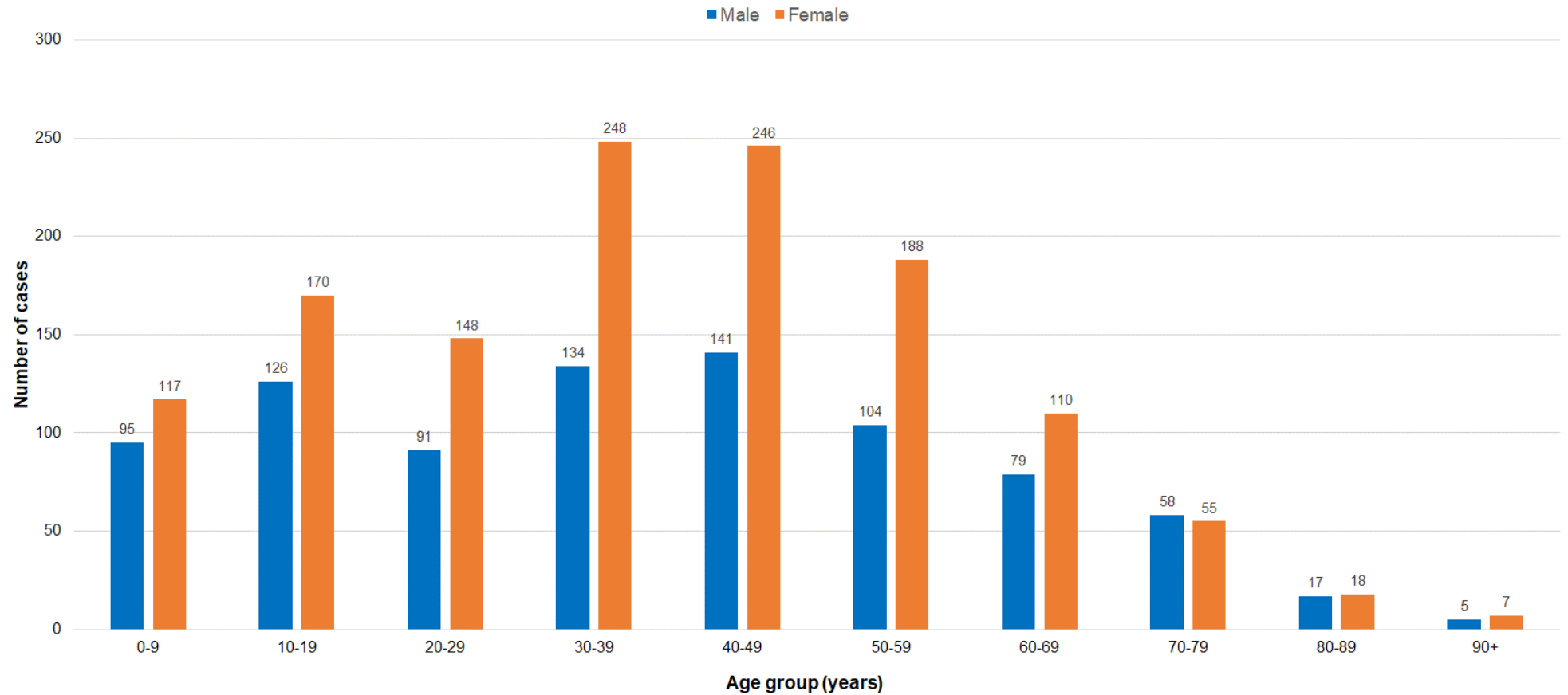
Figure 1. COVID-19 cases by notification week and test type, Western Australia, 03 January 2022 to 26 February 2023.



Notes

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

Figure 2. COVID-19 cases by age group and sex, Western Australia, 20 February to 26 February 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=850 (39.4%) Females: n=1,307 (60.6%)
- Median age = 38 years; range: 0 to 99 years

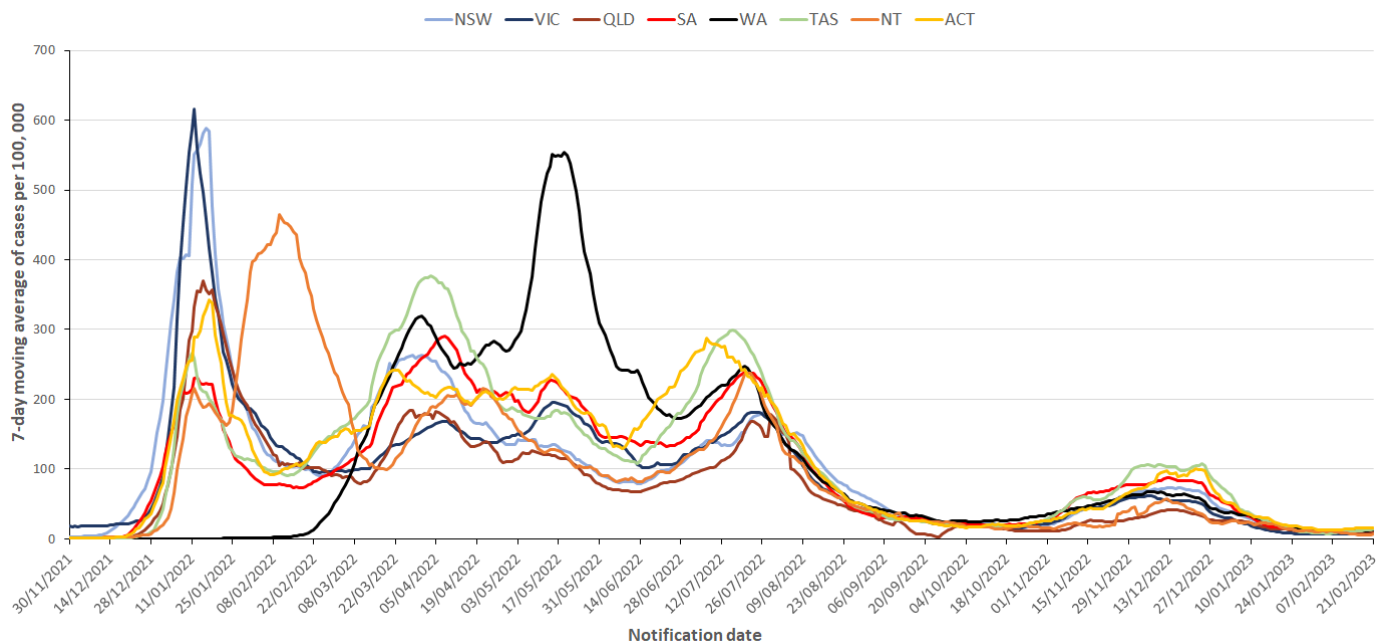
Table 1. COVID-19 reinfections in Western Australia, 02 March 2022 to 26 February 2023.

Month	Number of reinfections *
Mar-2022	14
Apr-2022	29
May-2022	105
Jun-2022	846
Jul-2022	5,041
Aug-2022	5,702
Sep-2022	4,026
Oct-2022	2,969
Nov-2022	7,046
Dec-2022	11,042
Jan-2023	5,440
Feb-2023[^]	3,064
Total	45,324

* 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 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 26th February 2023 inclusive

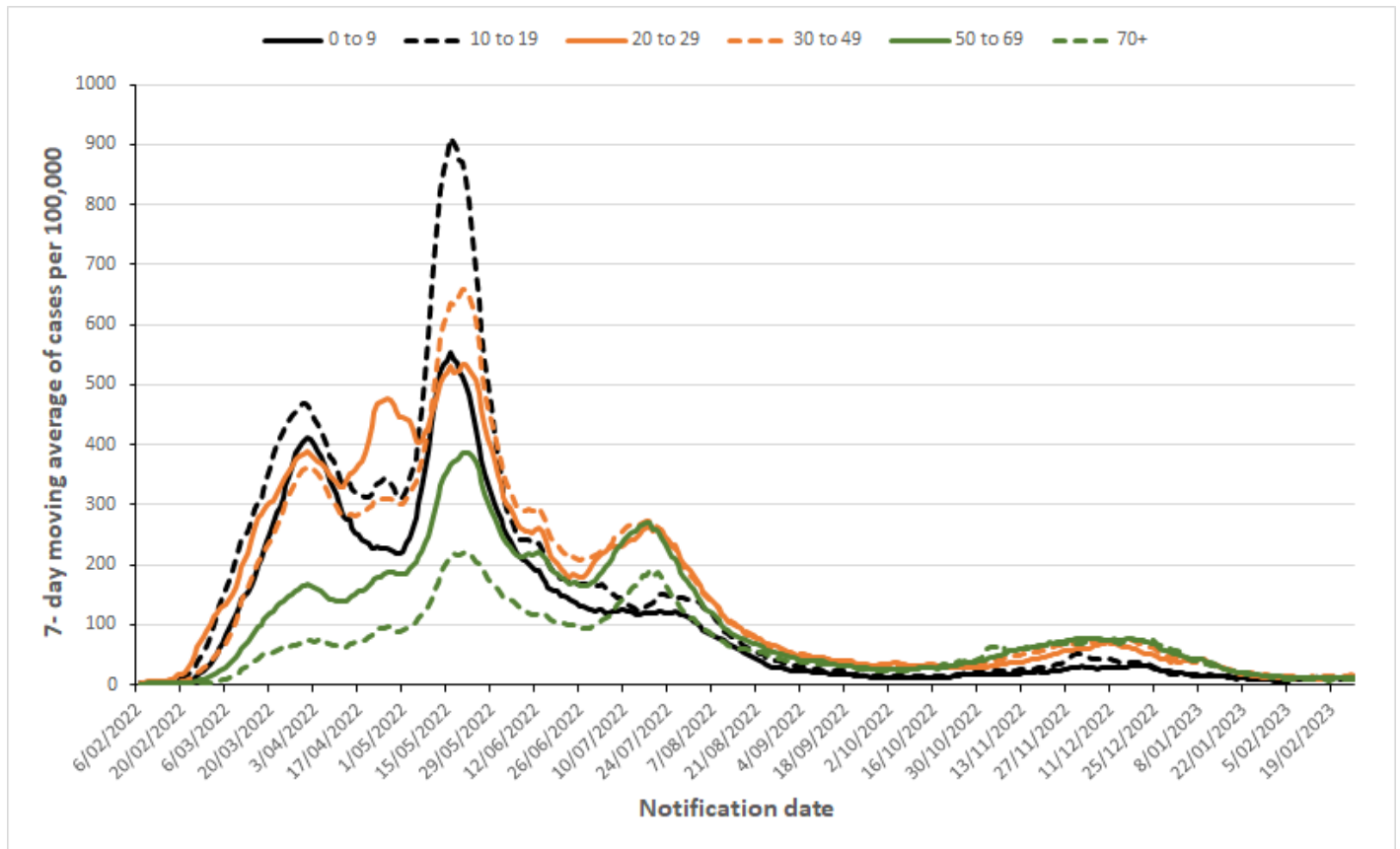
Figure 3. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by Australian jurisdiction, 01 December 2021 to 21 February 2023.



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.

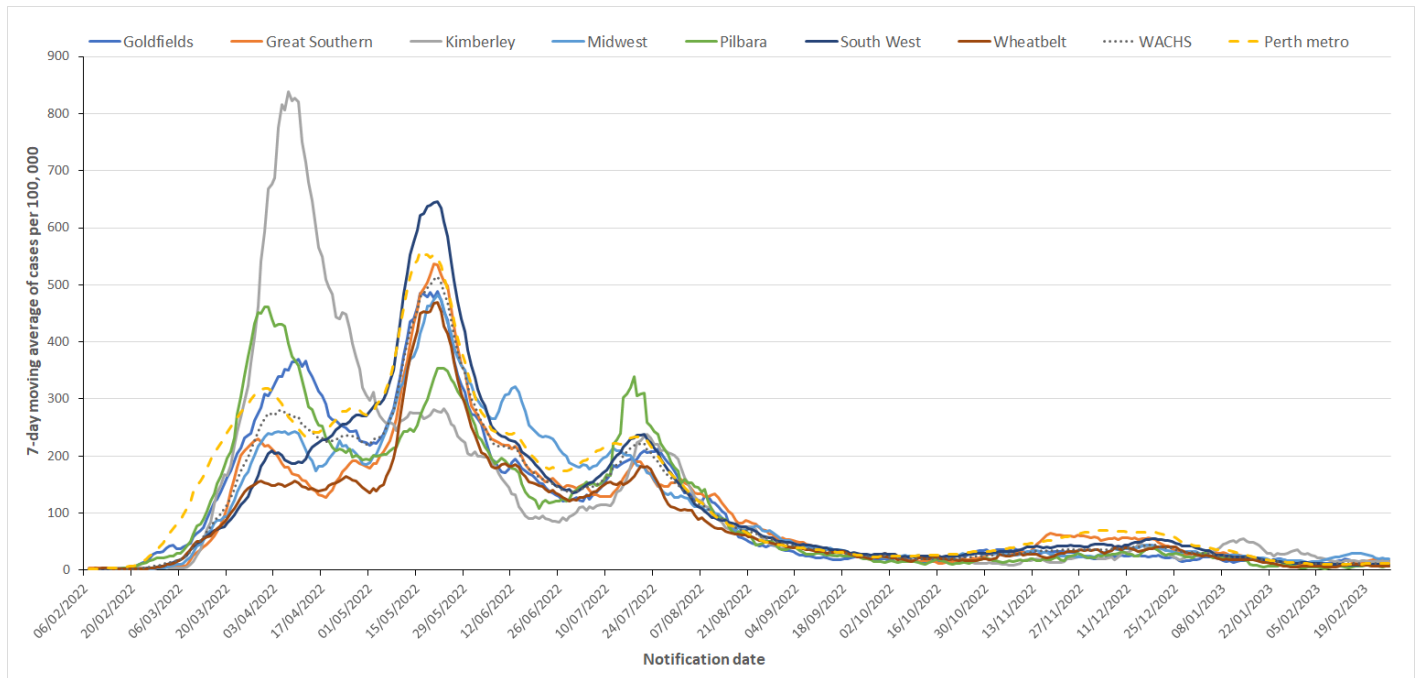
Figure 4. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by age group, Western Australia, 06 February 2022 to 26 February 2023.



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 5. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by health region, Western Australia, 08 February 2022 to 26 February 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 2. Number of COVID-19 cases and case rates per 100,000 population by region, Western Australia, 20 February to 26 February 2023 and 13 February to 19 February 2023.

	Region	Current report week		Previous report week	
		Week 20 February to 26 February 2023		Week 13 February to 19 February 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	57	106	43	80
	Great Southern	75	122	62	101
	Kimberley	26	72	44	122
	Midwest	84	135	120	193
	Pilbara	35	56	33	53
	South West	127	70	115	63
	Wheatbelt	40	53	45	59
WACHS total*		444	83	462	86
Other**		10	-	21	-
Perth Metropolitan region		1,752	82	1,721	81
Total		2,206	83	2,204	83

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

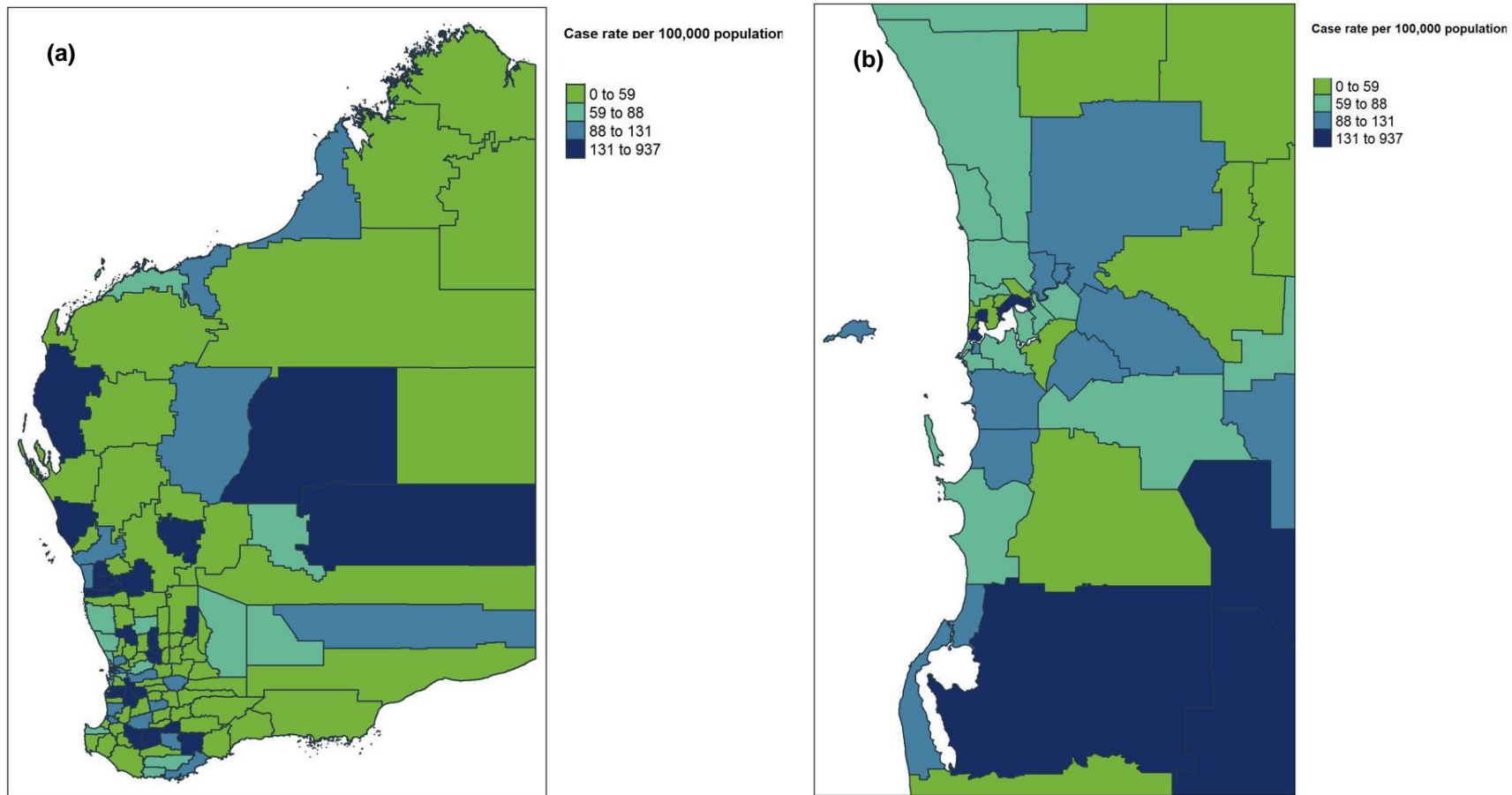
Perth Metropolitan region includes East Metropolitan Health Service, North Metropolitan Health Service and South Metropolitan Health Service combined

**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 6 (a). Locally acquired COVID-19 weekly case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, regional Western Australia, 20 February to 26 February 2023.

(b) Locally acquired COVID-19 weekly case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, Perth metropolitan area, 20 February to 26 February 2023.

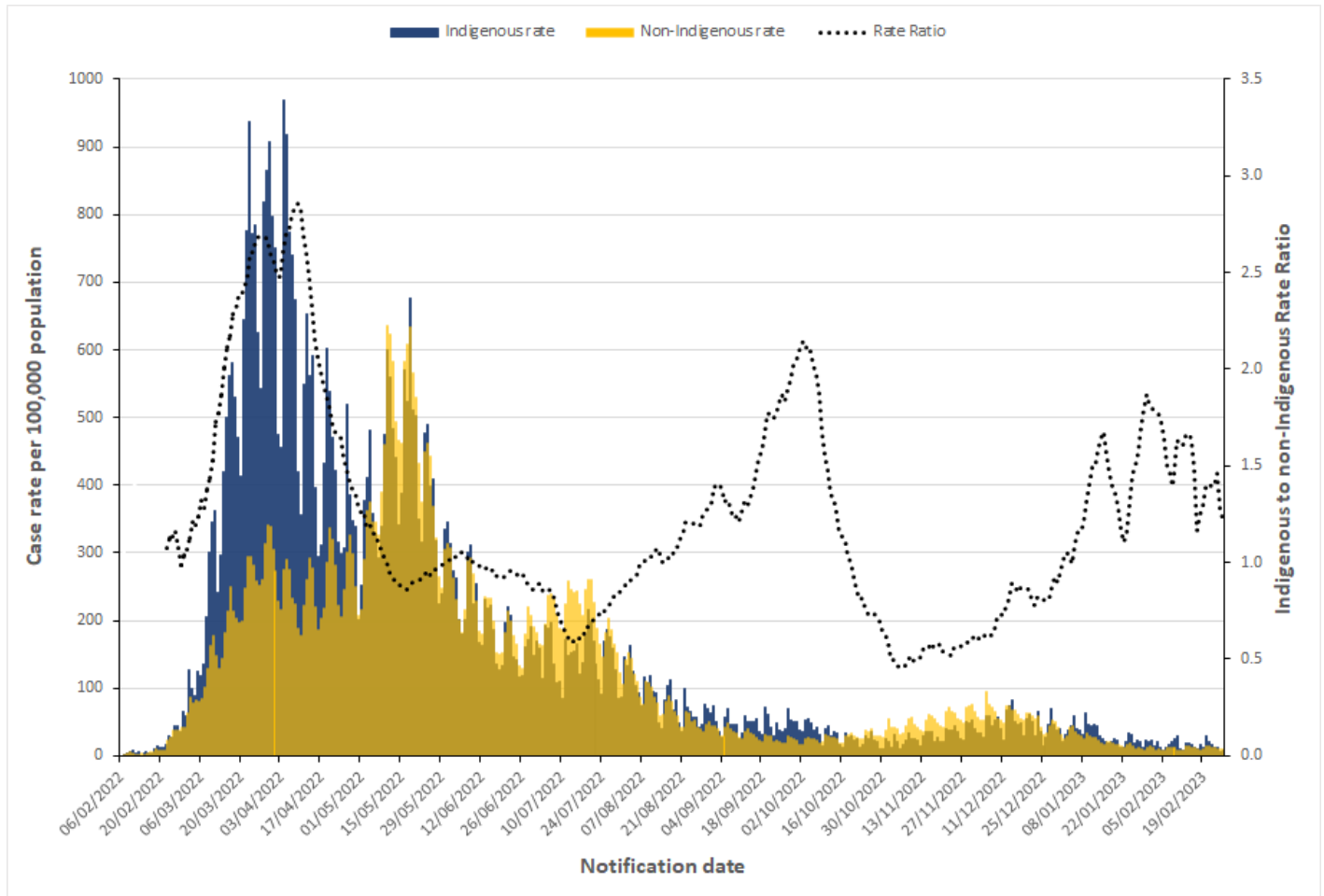


Notes

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

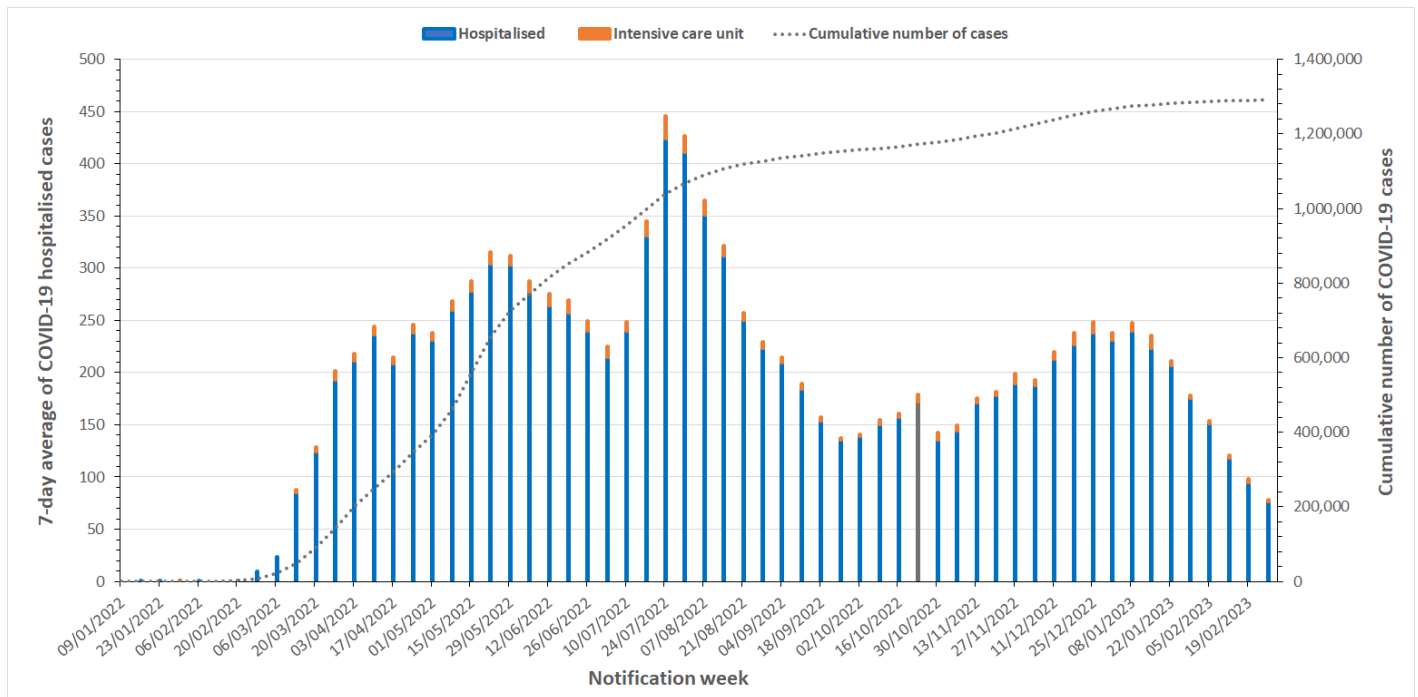
Figure 7. COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population and rate ratio by Indigenous status and notification date, Western Australia, 08 February 2022 to 26 February 2023.



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 26 February 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.

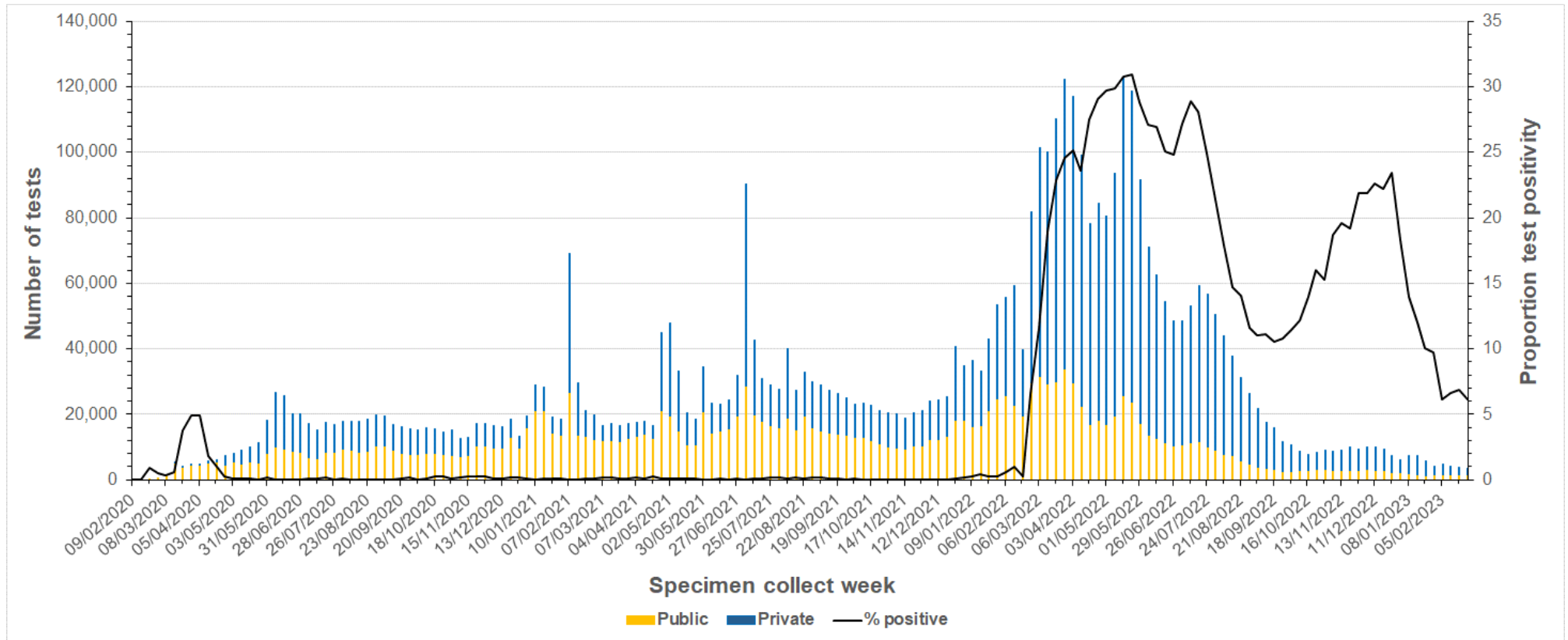
Table 3. Number of COVID-19 related deaths by vaccination status and age group, 20 February to 26 February 2023 and 01 January 2022 to 26 February 2023.

	Current report week	Year 2022 to date
	Week 20 Feb – 26 Feb 2023	1 Jan 2022 – 26 Feb 2023
Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses	Deaths (n= 1)	Deaths (n= 935)
0	0 (0%)	167 (17.9%)
1	0 (0%)	29 (3.1%)
2	1 (100.0%)	101 (10.8%)
3+	0 (0%)	638 (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%)	63 (6.7%)
70-79	1 (100.0%)	174 (18.6%)
80-89	0 (0%)	357 (38.2%)
90+	0 (0%)	295 (31.6%)

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 whom 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 26 February 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 required a referral from a GP

Appendix 1

Number of regional cases by postcode, 20 February – 26 February 2023

WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 20 Feb to 26 Feb 2023	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 20 Feb to 26 Feb 2023	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 20 Feb to 26 Feb 2023
Goldfields	6430	30	Midwest (continued)	6638	<5	Wheatbelt (continued)	6312	6
	6431	<5		6642	<5		6315	<5
	6432	6		6701	10		6375	<5
	6437	<5		6707	<5		6390	7
	6440	<5	Pilbara	6713	<5		6401	<5
	6442	<5		6714	13		6405	<5
	6450	5		6721	9		6407	<5
	6646	6		6722	8		6426	<5
Great Southern	6317	6		6753	<5		6461	<5
	6318	<5		6754	<5		6466	<5
	6323	<5		6762	<5		6479	<5
	6324	<5		South West	6220		5	6503
	6326	<5	6225		<5		6516	<5
	6330	48	6227		<5		6568	<5
	6333	5	6230		36			
	6335	<5	6232		10			
6395	6	6233	26					
Kimberley	6725	17	6236		<5			
	6726	5	6237		<5			
	6728	<5	6239	<5				
	6743	<5	6255	5				
	6770	<5	6271	7				
Midwest	6517	<5	6280	22				
	6519	<5	6281	<5				
	6522	<5	6282	<5				
	6525	<5	6284	<5				
	6530	48	6285	5				
	6532	6	Wheatbelt	6044	<5			
	6535	<5		6302	<5			
	6536	<5		6304	<5			
6620	<5	6308		<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

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

© Department of Health 2023

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.

health.wa.gov.au