



COVID-19 Weekly Surveillance Report

Table of Contents

Summary for the week 25 September to 01 October 2023 (inclusive)	2
Case data	3
Figure 1. COVID-19 cases by notification week and test type, Western Australia, 03 January 2022 to 01 October 2023.	3
Figure 2. COVID-19 cases by age group and sex, Western Australia, 25 September to 01 October 2023.	4
Table 1. COVID-19 reinfections, Western Australia, 02 March 2022 to 01 October 2023.	5
Figure 3. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by Australian jurisdiction, 01 December 2021 to 26 September 2023.....	6
Figure 4. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 age-specific rates per 100,000 population, Western Australia, 06 February 2022 to 01 October 2023.	6
Figure 5. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population by health region of residence, Western Australia, 06 February 2022 to 01 October 2023.....	7
Table 2. Number of COVID-19 cases and rates per 100,000 population by reporting week and health region of residence, Western Australia.	8
Aboriginal case summary	9
Figure 6. COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population and rate ratio by Aboriginal status and notification week, Western Australia, 09 October 2022 to 01 October 2023.	9
Hospitalisations, intensive care unit (ICU) inpatients and deaths	10
Figure 7. 7-day average of COVID-19 cases currently in hospital or in ICU, 09 January 2022 to 01 October 2023.	10
Table 3. Number of COVID-19 related deaths by sex and age group, 25 September to 01 October 2023 and 01 January 2022 to 01 October 2023.....	11
Testing data	12
Figure 8. Number of COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction tests and positivity by laboratory category and week of specimen collection, 09 February 2020 to 01 October 2023.....	12

Summary for the week 25 September to 01 October 2023 (inclusive)

In the week of 25 September to 01 October 2023 there were:

- 660 COVID-19 cases reported
 - 126 diagnosed by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests
 - 534 diagnosed by rapid antigen tests (RAT)
- 251 were reinfections (see definition in Table 2)
- 15 new hospital admissions and 1 admission into an intensive care unit
- 5 deaths, with a median age of 78
- 3,911 COVID-19 PCR tests conducted

Surveillance summary

This week, **case numbers** increased by 17% compared to the previous week. Cases diagnosed by PCR decreased by 43% and by RAT increased by 55%. **Reinfections** comprised 38% of total cases this week, compared with 37% last week.

The number of **PCR tests** decreased by 4% compared to the previous week, with a 7-day average positivity rate of 3.4%.

The moving seven-day average **case rate** per 100,000 population decreased in the Goldfields and Wheatbelt regions, remained steady in the Kimberley, Pilbara and South West regions, and increased in the Perth metropolitan area and Great Southern and Midwest regions. The seven-day average case rate for the Perth metropolitan area (4 cases/100,000 population) is higher than the non-metropolitan regions combined (2 cases/100,000 population).

The seven-day average **age-specific rate** increased in all age groups, except the 0 – 9 and 70+ years age groups, which decreased. The highest rates were in the 50 – 69 years age group (6 cases/100,000 population), and the lowest rates in the 0 - 9 years age group (1 case/100,000 population).

The 7-day average of **hospitalised cases** increased by 30% from 43 last week to 56 this week, and **intensive care unit cases** remained the same at 0 this week. **New hospital admissions** related to COVID-19 increased from 13 last week to 15 this week, and **direct intensive care unit admissions** increased from 0 last week to 1 this week.

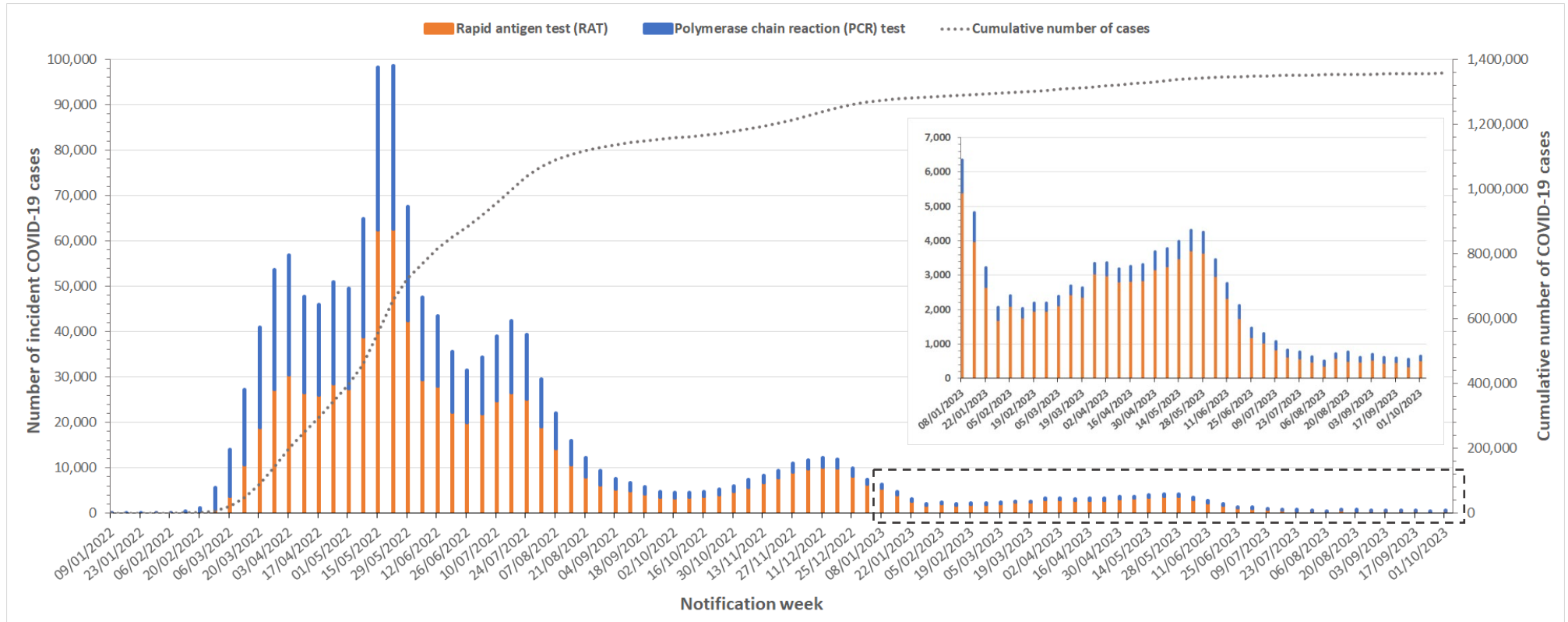
Deaths increased this week with 5 deaths reported compared to 4 deaths last week.

This week, 22 cases were reported in the **Aboriginal population**, a slight increase 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 0.8 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 most jurisdictions, except Tasmania, Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory, which increased. Tasmania and Northern Territory reported the highest rates (7 cases/100,000 population) and Queensland the lowest rate (1 case/100,000 population). The rate in Western Australia was 4 cases/100,000 population.

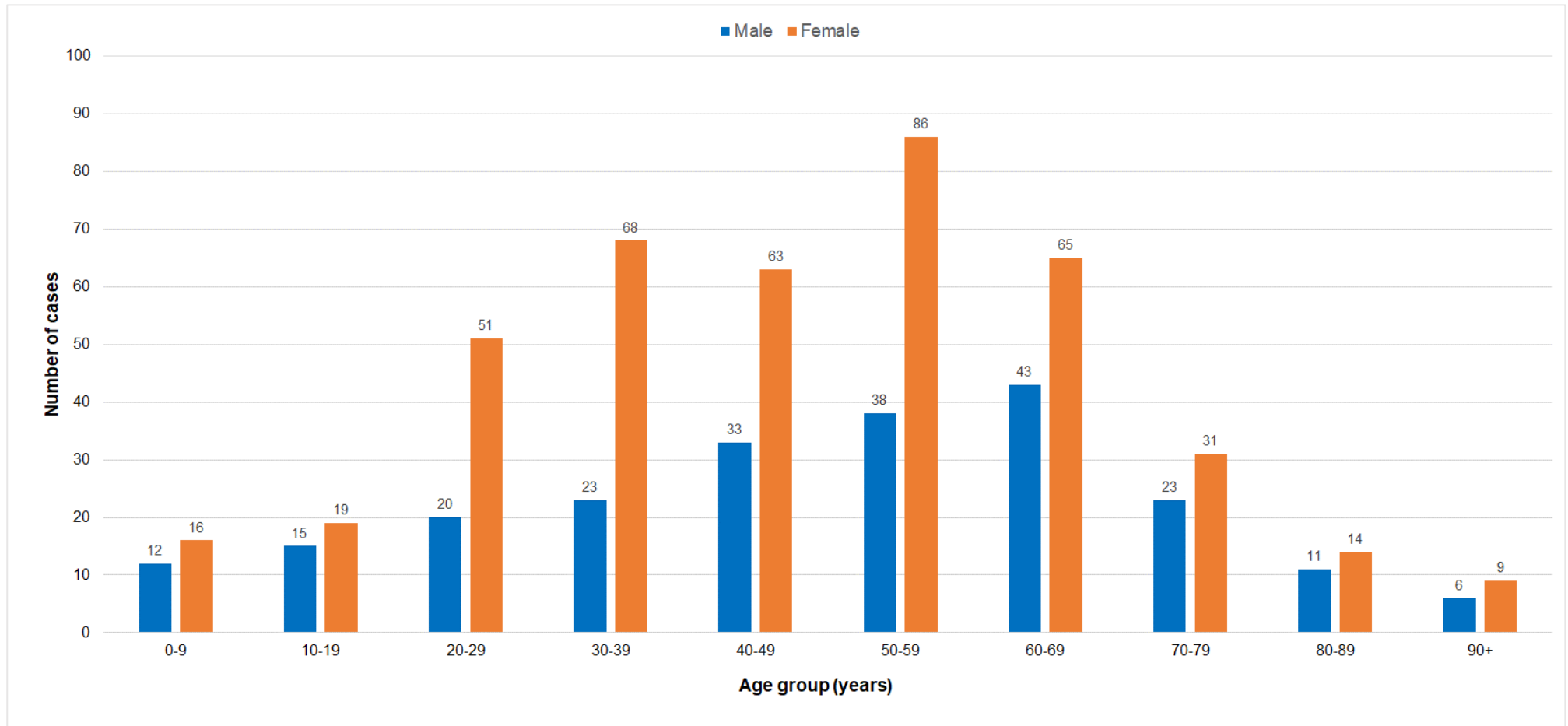
Case data

Figure 1. COVID-19 cases by notification week and test type, Western Australia, 03 January 2022 to 01 October 2023.



Notes
 Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset
 Following the resumption of large passenger cruise vessels entering WA waters on 24th October 2022, the daily and weekly number of COVID-19 notifications may intermittently be distorted by inclusion of vessel outbreak cases in WA data, irrespective of the place of residence of the cases
 Notification week refers to data reported over the 7 days Monday to Sunday.

Figure 2. COVID-19 cases by age group and sex, Western Australia, 25 September to 01 October 2023.



Notes
 Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset
 Following the resumption of large passenger cruise vessels entering WA waters on 24th October 2022, the daily and weekly number of COVID-19 notifications may intermittently be distorted by inclusion of vessel outbreak cases in WA data, irrespective of the place of residence of the cases
 Higher case numbers in females relative to males, particularly in those aged 20-69 years, are likely due to increased propensity of women to seek and undertake testing, whether by RAT or PCR, rather than true differences in the incidence of infection
 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=224 (34.7%) Females: n=422 (65.3%)
- Median age = 49 years; range: 0 to 102 years

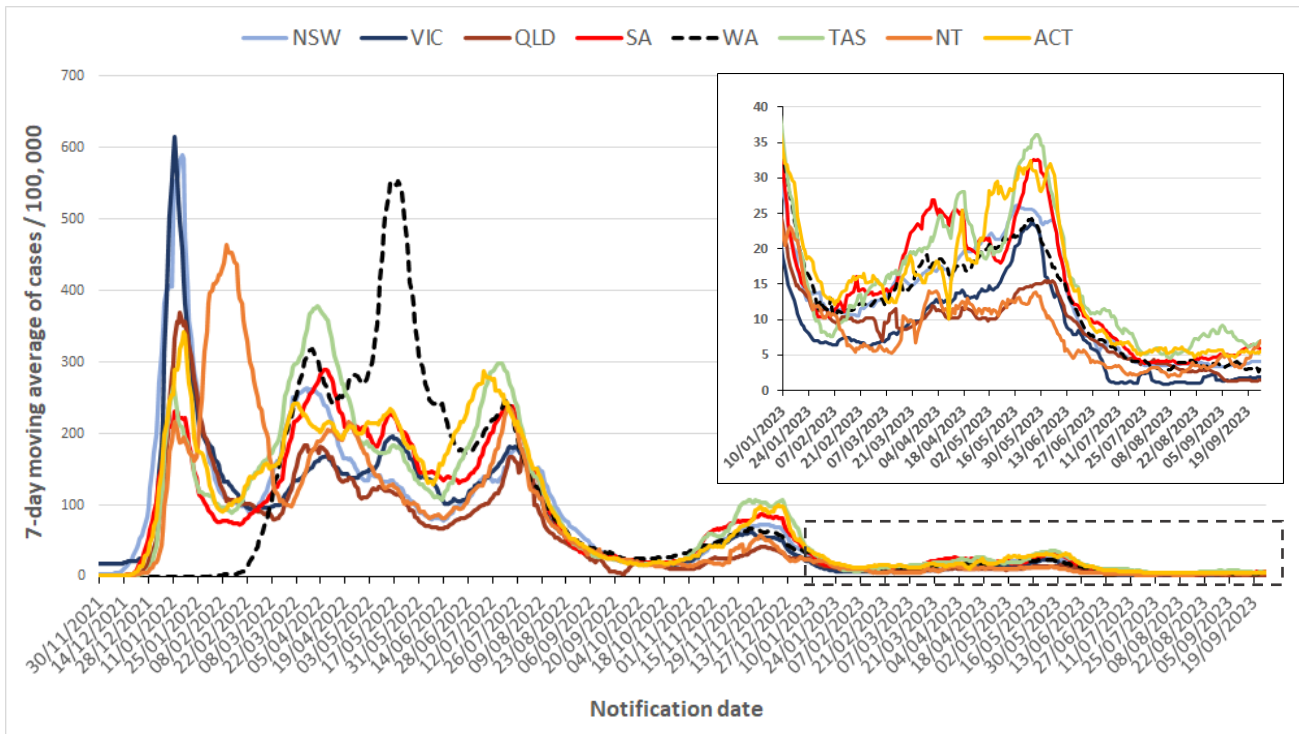
Table 1. COVID-19 reinfections, Western Australia, 02 March 2022 to 01 October 2023.

Month	Number of reinfections *
Mar-2022	14
Apr-2022	31
May-2022	122
Jun-2022	889
Jul-2022	5,100
Aug-2022	5,762
Sep-2022	4,066
Oct-2022	3,008
Nov-2022	7,160
Dec-2022	11,260
Jan-2023	5,530
Feb-2023	3,608
Mar-2023	5,053
Apr-2023	5,563
May-2023	7,562
June-2023	3,520
July-2023	1,350
Aug-2023	1,226
Sept-2023	1,039
Oct-2023^	40
Total	71,903

* Reinfection definition: 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 were 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. Sourced from [Series of National Guidelines \(SoNG\)](#)

^ Data up to 01st October 2023 inclusive

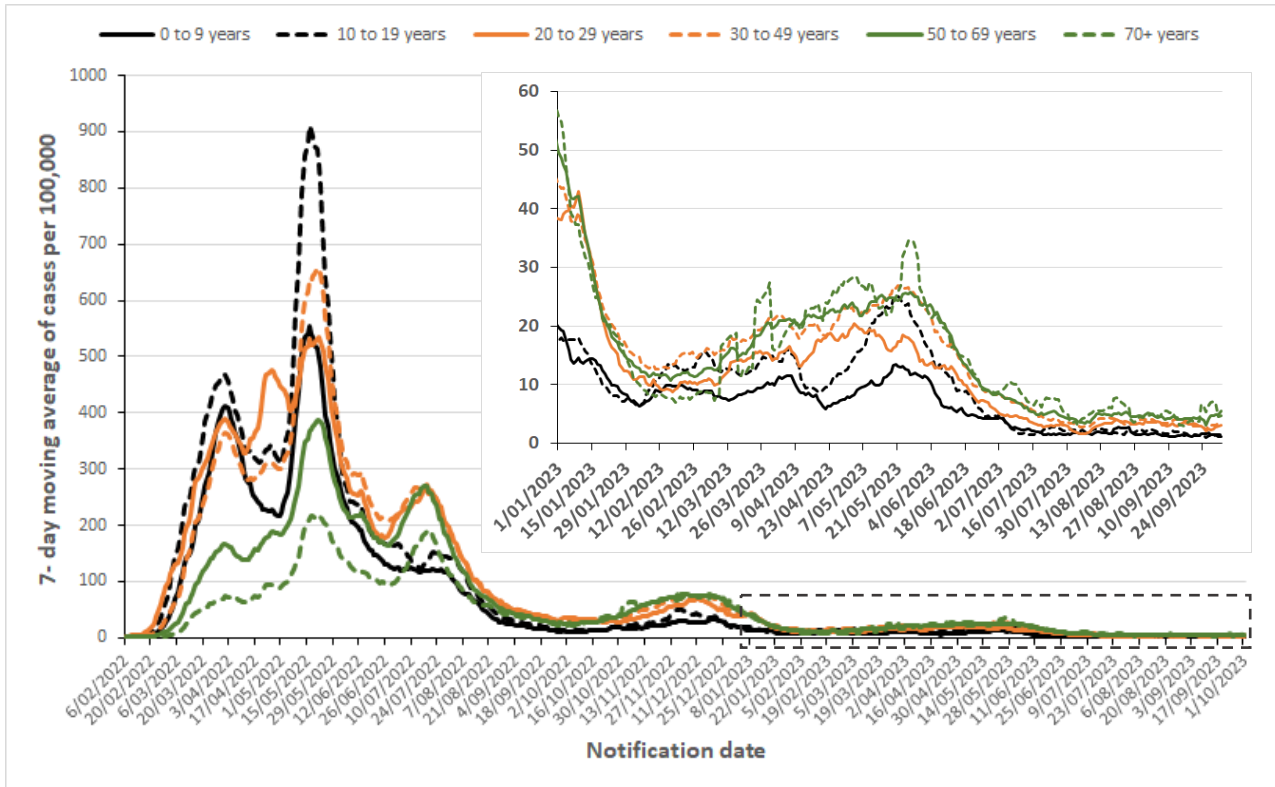
Figure 3. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by Australian jurisdiction, 01 December 2021 to 26 September 2023.



Notes

Data sourced from the jurisdictional health department datasets
 Notification date refers to the date that a case is notified to the relevant jurisdictional health department
 Data is only available up to and including Tuesday of current report week for all jurisdictions except Western Australia
 From 01 July 2023, Victoria ceased reporting COVID-19 cases detected by Rapid Antigen Tests
 Population denominators are sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics December 2020 estimates.

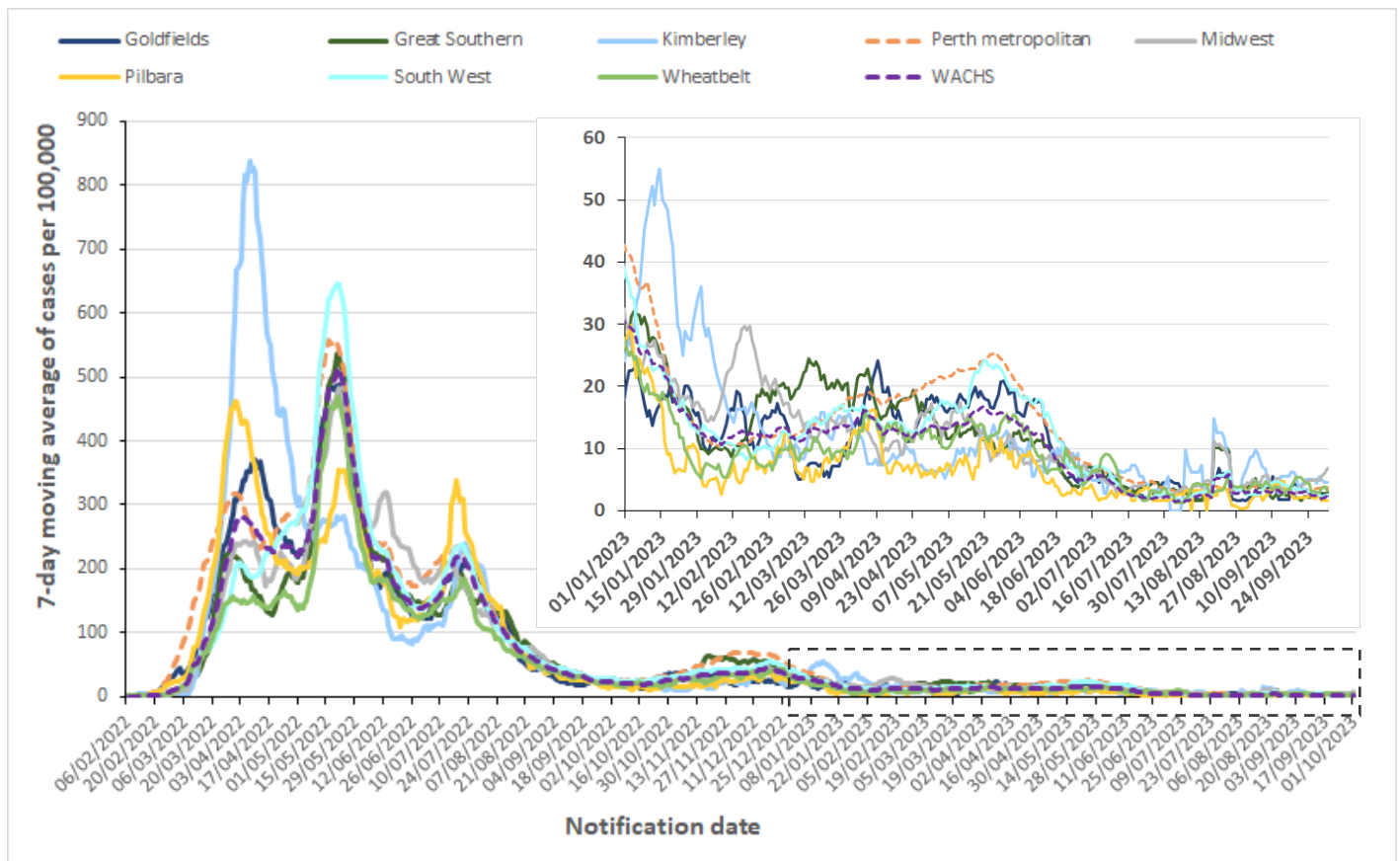
Figure 4. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 age-specific rates per 100,000 population, Western Australia, 06 February 2022 to 01 October 2023.



Notes

Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset
 Notification date refers to the date that a case is notified to Western Australia Department of Health
 Following the resumption of large passenger cruise vessels entering WA waters on 24th October 2022, the daily and weekly number of COVID-19 notifications may intermittently be distorted by inclusion of vessel outbreak cases in WA data, irrespective of the place of residence of the cases
 Population denominator sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics June 2021 estimates.

Figure 5. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population by health region of residence, Western Australia, 06 February 2022 to 01 October 2023.



Notes
 Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset
 Notification date refers to the date that a case is notified to Western Australia Department of Health
 Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS) region includes all non-metropolitan health regions: Central-Wheatbelt, Goldfields, Great Southern, Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara and South West
 Perth metropolitan region includes East Metropolitan Health Service, North Metropolitan Health Service and South Metropolitan Health Service
 Please note for the report week ending 20th August 2023, an additional 107 PCR confirmed cases, all from non-metropolitan regions, were reported due to a backlog of data between June – July 2023.
 Population denominator sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 estimates.

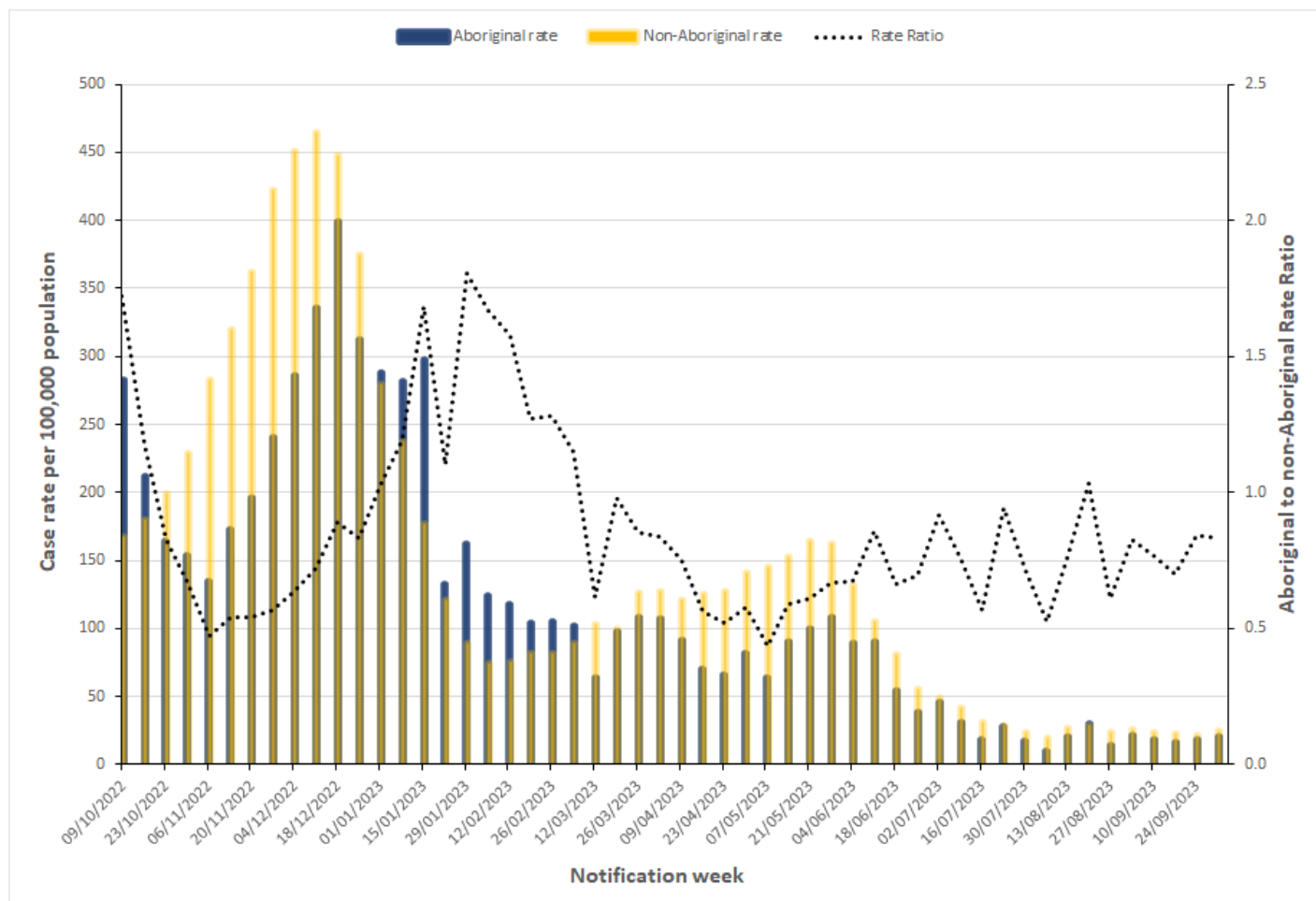
Table 2. Number of COVID-19 cases and rates per 100,000 population by reporting week and health region of residence, Western Australia.

Health Region		Current report week		Previous report week	
		25 September to 01 October		18 September to 24 September	
		Number	Rate [^]	Number	Rate [^]
Perth metropolitan region		567	27	455	21
WACHS Regions		89	17	107	20
	Goldfields	4	7	9	17
	Great Southern	11	18	8	13
	Kimberley	10	28	9	25
	Midwest	17	27	15	24
	Pilbara	3	5	7	11
	South West	34	19	39	21
	Wheatbelt	10	13	20	26
Other*		4	-	4	-
Total		660	25	566	21

Notes
 Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset
 Notification date refers to the date that a case is notified to Western Australia Department of Health
 Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS) region includes all the non-metropolitan regions: Central-Wheatbelt, Goldfields, Great Southern, Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara and South West
 Perth Metropolitan region includes East Metropolitan Health Service, North Metropolitan Health Service and South Metropolitan Health Service
 * Other includes cases with overseas and interstate residential addresses, and cases without residential address information
 ^ Rate reported as cases per 100,000 population. The total rate excludes "Other" cases, as there is no denominator population representing this group.
 Following the resumption of large passenger cruise vessels entering WA waters on 24th October 2022, the daily and weekly number of COVID-19 notifications may intermittently be distorted by inclusion of vessel outbreak cases in WA data, irrespective of the place of residence of the cases
 Population denominator is sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 estimates.

Aboriginal case summary

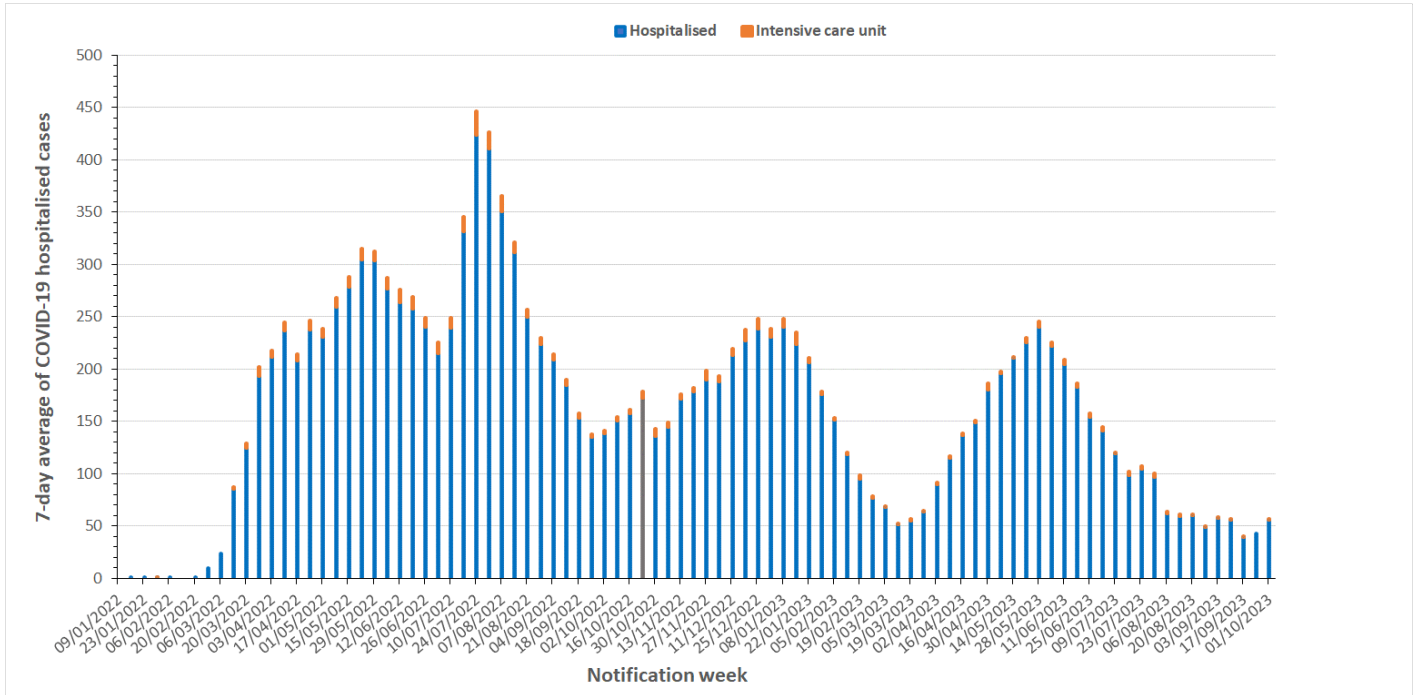
Figure 6. COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population and rate ratio by Aboriginal status and notification week, Western Australia, 09 October 2022 to 01 October 2023.



Notes
 Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset
 Notification week refers to data reported over the 7 days Monday to Sunday
 Aboriginal 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 Aboriginal status was not stated were designated as non-Aboriginal
 Population denominator data were sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 estimates
 Rate ratio is calculated by dividing the Aboriginal rate by the non-Aboriginal rate, with a 7-day average of the respective rate ratios applied to smooth the trend

Hospitalisations, intensive care unit (ICU) inpatients and deaths

Figure 7. 7-day average of COVID-19 cases currently in hospital or in ICU, 09 January 2022 to 01 October 2023.



Notes
 Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset
 Notification week refers to data reported over the 7 days 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 sex and age group, 25 September to 01 October 2023 and 01 January 2022 to 01 October 2023.

	Current report week 25 September – 01 October 2023	Year 2022 to date 1 Jan 2022 – 01 October 2023
Sex	Deaths (n= 5)	Deaths (n= 1,246)
Female	2 (40.0%)	606 (48.6%)
Male	3 (60.0%)	640 (51.4%)
Unspecified	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Age group (years)		
0-9	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
10-19	0 (0%)	2 (0.2%)
20-29	0 (0%)	1 (0.1%)
30-39	1 (20.0%)	9 (0.7%)
40-49	0 (0%)	14 (1.1%)
50-59	0 (0%)	37 (3.0%)
60-69	1 (20.0%)	86 (6.9%)
70-79	1 (20.0%)	235 (18.9%)
80-89	2 (40.0%)	470 (37.6%)
90+	0 (0%)	392 (31.5%)

Notes

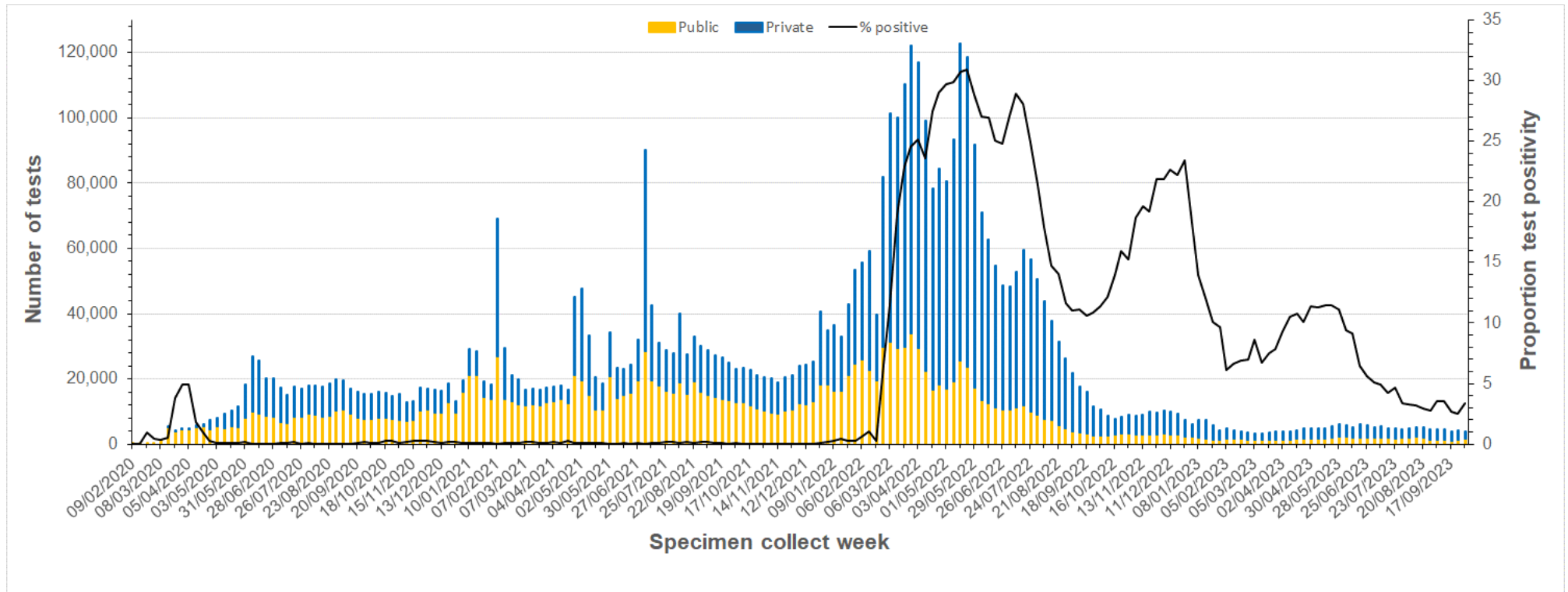
Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset

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 8. Number of COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction tests and positivity by laboratory category and week of specimen collection, 09 February 2020 to 01 October 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.

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