



COVID-19 Weekly Surveillance Report

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Summary for the week 17 October to 23 October 2022 (inclusive)

In the week of 17 October to 23 October 2022 there were:

- 5,263 COVID-19 cases reported
 - 1,215 with positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests
 - 4,048 with positive rapid antigen tests (RAT)
 - 742 were reinfections (see definition in Table 2)
- 51 new hospital admissions and 6 new admission directly into an intensive care unit
- 7 deaths reported, aged between 71 and 97 years old
- 8,454 COVID-19 PCR tests conducted

Surveillance summary

There was a 11% increase in **PCR tests** conducted in the current reporting week compared to the previous reporting week, with the proportion of positive PCR tests increasing over the course of the week with a 7-day average of 16.5%.

Overall, **case numbers** increased by 9% compared to the previous week. Cases diagnosed by PCR increased by 16% and RAT increased by 7%. The increase in the proportion of positive PCR tests over the past week is likely the combined effect of both the reduced availability of open access PCR testing to the public and the increase in cases reported.

Moving seven-day average **case rates** per 100,000 population increased at a marginal rate across most public health regions. The Pilbara region has the lowest case rate with 13 cases/100,000 population during the current reporting week. The 7-day case rate for the Perth metropolitan area (29 cases/100,000 population) is tracking approximately 32% higher than Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS) regions combined (22 cases/100,000 population). The highest rates were observed in the 70+ years age group (38 cases/100,000 population), with rates reducing slightly in the 20 – 29 years age group (28 cases/100,000 population). Nationally, moving seven-day case rates appear to be tracking at a steady low level between 10 - 30 cases/100,000 people across all jurisdictions.

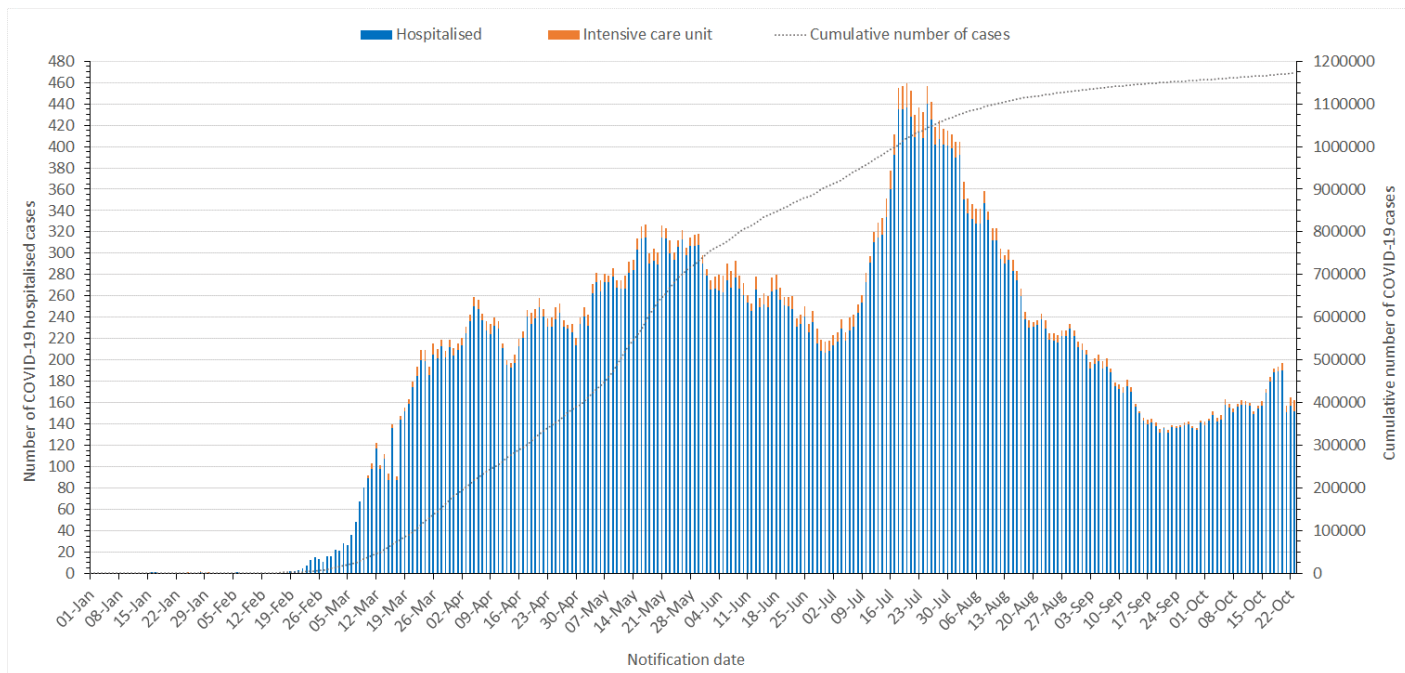
The 7-day average of **hospitalised cases** increased by 10% from 157 in the last reporting week to 172 this week and **intensive care unit cases** increased from 3 in the last reporting week to 6 this week. New hospital admissions related to COVID-19 increased by 59% from 32 in the last reporting week to 51 this week, and direct intensive care unit admissions increased from one to six cases in the last reporting week.

There was a 40% increase in **deaths** reported in the current reporting week with 7 deaths reported compared to the 5 in the previous reporting week.

There were 174 cases in the **Aboriginal population** during the current reporting week, a 22% decrease in cases compared to the previous reporting week. Case rates in the Aboriginal population have declined below the non-Aboriginal population, with the 7-day average rate ratio reducing to 0.8 in the past week. No deaths were reported in the Aboriginal population during the reporting period.

Hospitalisations, intensive care unit inpatients and deaths

Figure 1. Number of active and cleared COVID-19 cases currently in hospital and intensive care unit, and cumulative number of COVID-19 notifications, by notification date, 01 January to 23 October 2022.



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

'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 reported by vaccination status and age group, 17 October to 23 October 2022 and 01 January to 23 October 2022.

	Week 17 Oct – 23 Oct 2022	01 Jan 2022 – 23 Oct 2022
Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses	Deaths n= 7	Deaths n= 671
0	2 (28.6%)	132 (19.7%)
1	0 (0%)	27 (4.0%)
2	0 (0%)	86 (12.8%)
3+	5 (71.4%)	426 (63.5%)
Age group (years)		
0-9	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
10-19	0 (0%)	2 (0.3%)
20-29	0 (0%)	1 (0.1%)
30-39	0 (0%)	4 (0.6%)
40-49	0 (0%)	9 (1.3%)
50-59	0 (0%)	27 (4.0%)
60-69	0 (0%)	53 (7.9%)
70-79	2 (28.6%)	117 (17.4%)
80-89	3 (42.8%)	252 (37.7%)
90+	2 (28.6%)	206 (30.7%)

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 14th October 2022 – 83.9% 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

Notification date refers to data collected up to the end of the 24-hour reporting period 8pm to 8pm

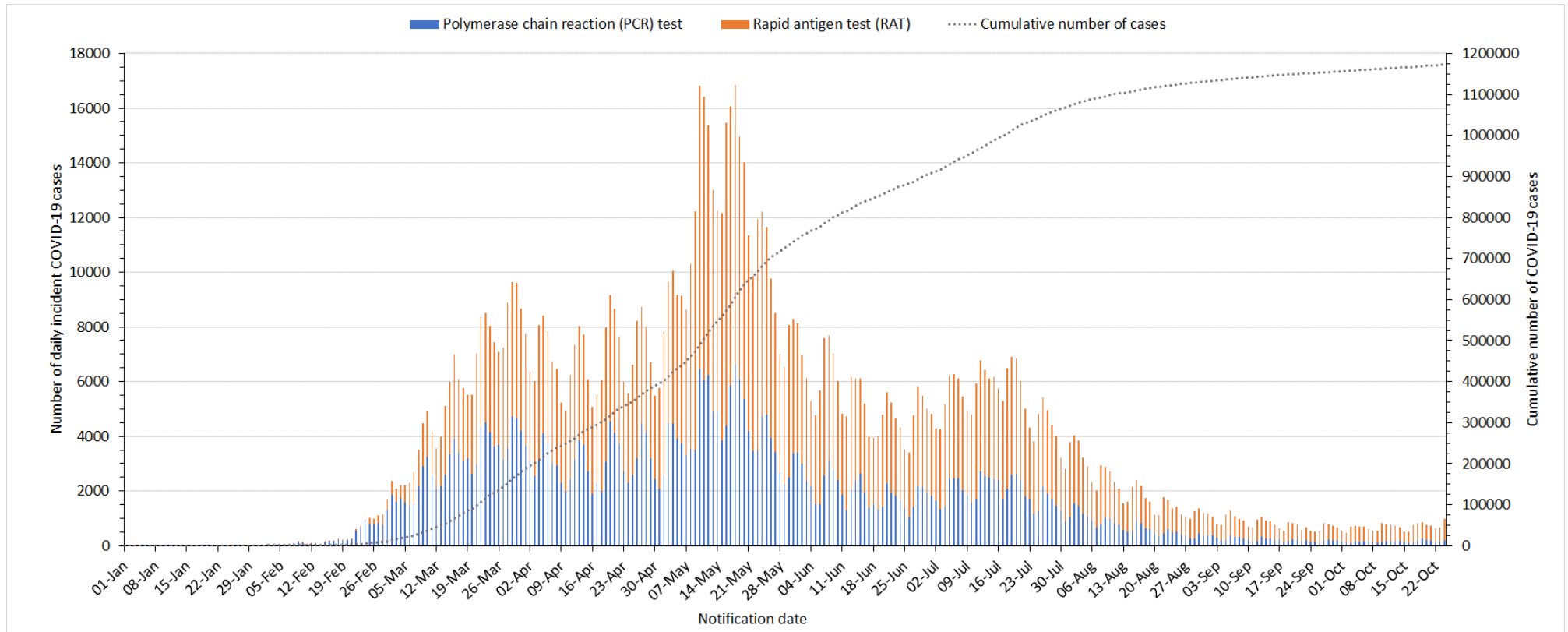
The reporting period transitioned to a 6pm to 6pm cycle from 18th June 2022 and then to a 4pm to 4pm cycle from 24th August 2022

1 previously reported death was 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 date and test type, Western Australia, 01 January to 23 October 2022.



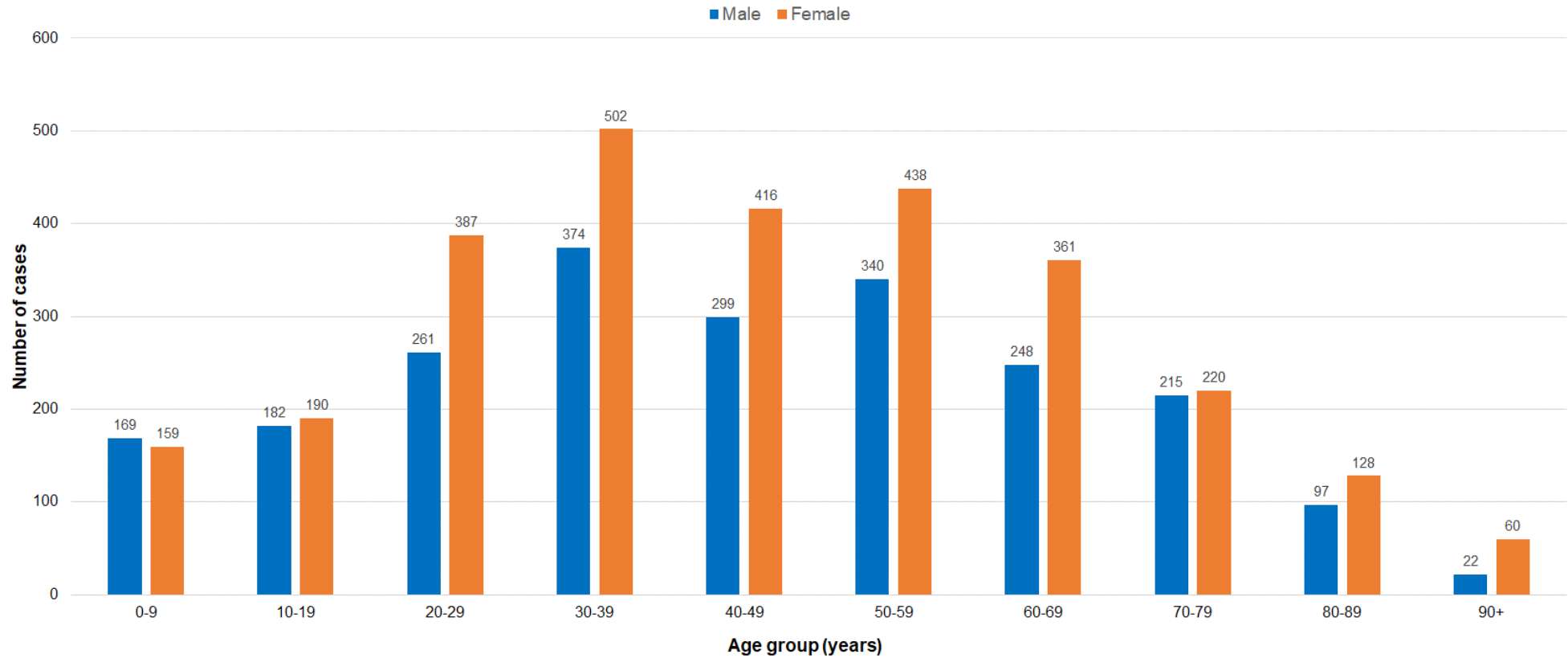
Notes

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

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.

Figure 3. COVID-19 cases by age group and sex, Western Australia, 17 October to 23 October 2022.



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

Gender 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=2,185 (43.3%) Females: n=2,861 (56.7%)
- Median age = 40 years; range: 0 to 102 years

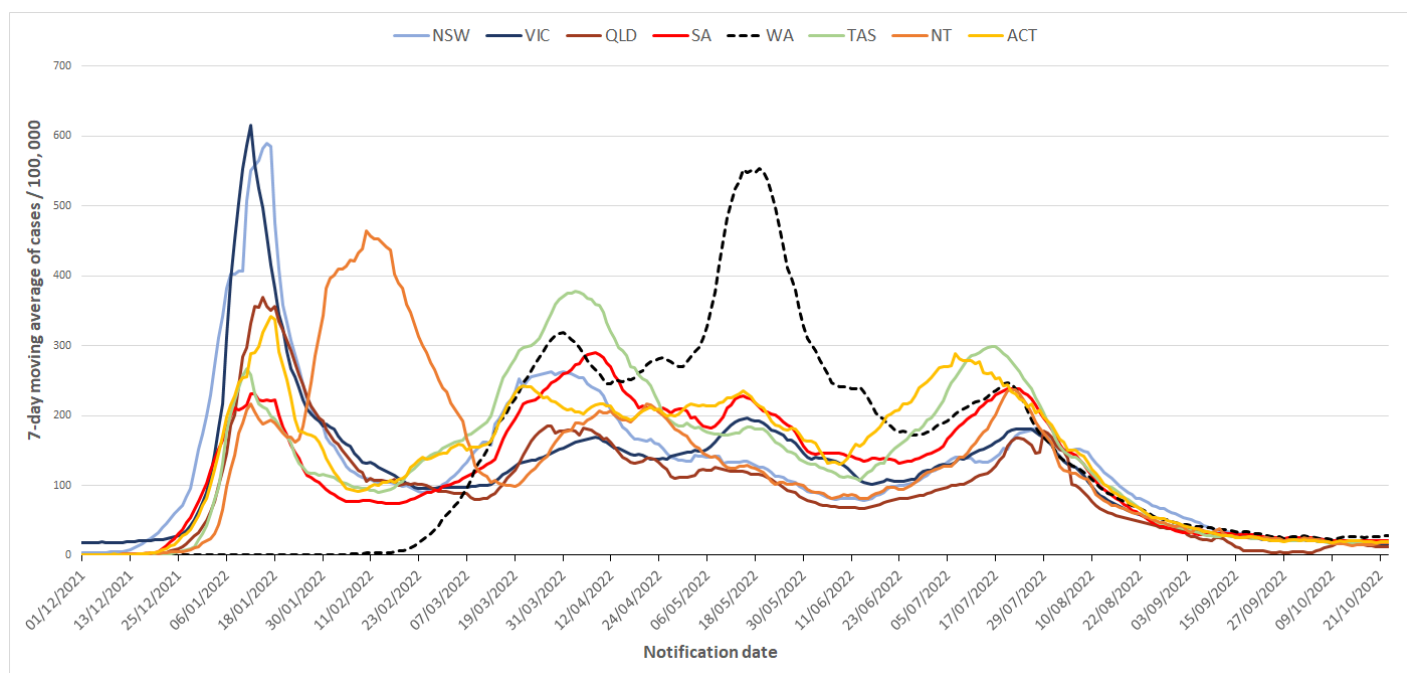
Table 2. COVID-19 reinfections in Western Australia, 02 March to 23 October 2022.

Month	Number of reinfections *
Mar-2022	14
Apr-2022	28
May-2022	105
Jun-2022	844
Jul-2022	5,039
Aug-2022	5,692
Sep-2022	4,014
Oct-2022[^]	2,151
Total	17,887

* 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 current, COVID-19 reinfections are defined as a positive COVID-19 test occurring 28 days after previously recovering from the virus

[^] Data from 1st October to 23rd October inclusive

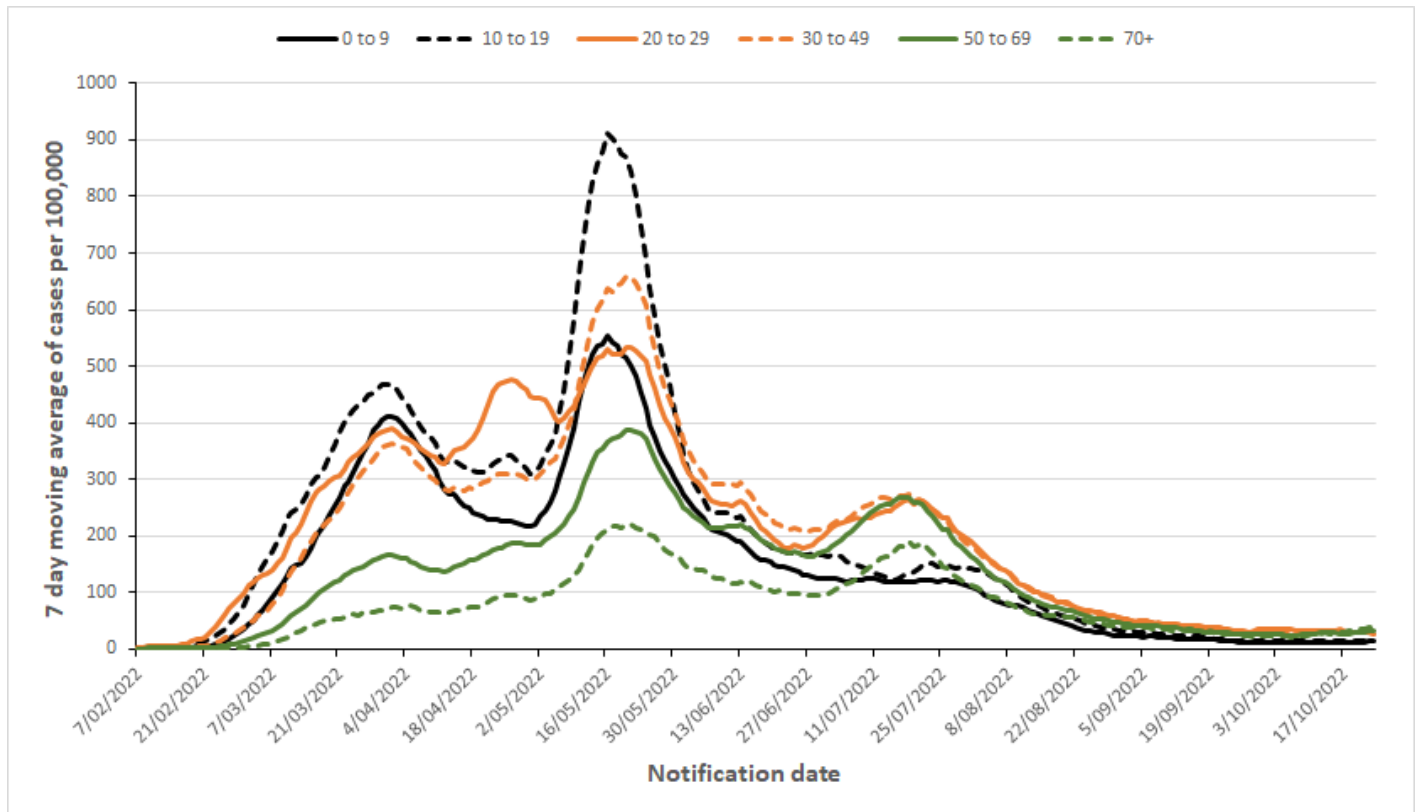
Figure 4. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people, by Australian jurisdiction, 01 December 2021 to 20 October 2022.



Notes

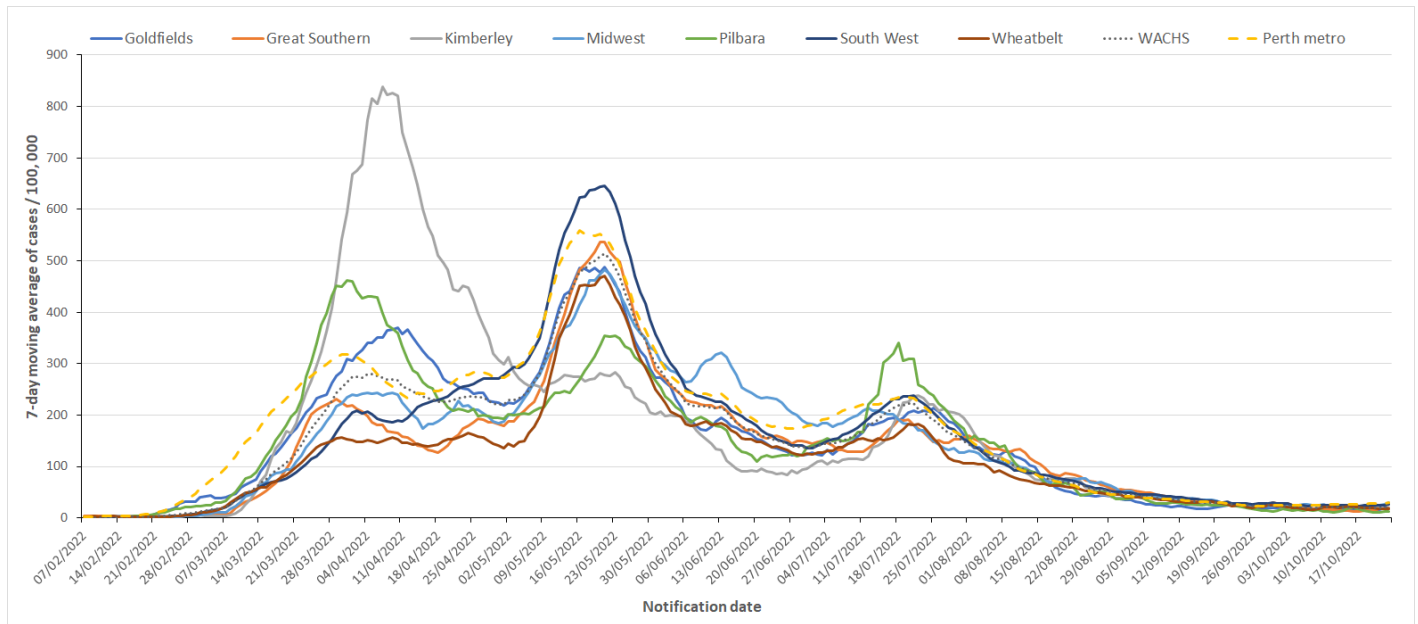
Data sourced from the respective jurisdictional health department datasets
 Notification date refers to data collected up to the end of the 24-hour reporting period 8pm to 8pm
 The reporting period in WA transitioned to a 6pm to 6pm cycle from 18th June 2022 and then to a 4pm to 4pm cycle from 24th August 2022
 Population denominators are sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics December 2021 estimates.

Figure 5. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 by age group, Western Australia, 08 February to 23 October 2022.



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 include all cases whose source of infection is classified as 'locally-acquired', 'interstate-acquired', 'overseas-acquired' and 'source under investigation'
 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 people, by health region, Western Australia, 08 February 2022 to 23 October 2022.



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 include all cases whose source of infection is classified as 'locally-acquired', 'interstate-acquired', 'overseas-acquired' and 'source under investigation'

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 metro 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, 17 October to 23 October 2022 and 10 October to 16 October 2022.

	Region	Week 17 October to 23 October 2022		Week 10 October to 16 October 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)
WACHS Regions	Goldfields	73	135	61	113
	Great Southern	83	135	54	88
	Kimberley	43	119	64	178
	Midwest	127	205	84	135
	Pilbara	53	84	69	110
	South West	339	186	307	169
	Wheatbelt	95	125	116	152
WACHS total*		813	152	755	141
Other**		96	-	46	-
Metropolitan		4,354	204	4,027	189
Total		5,263	198	4,828	181

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 include all cases whose source of infection is classified as 'locally acquired', 'interstate acquired', 'overseas acquired' and 'source under investigation'

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 public health regions combined

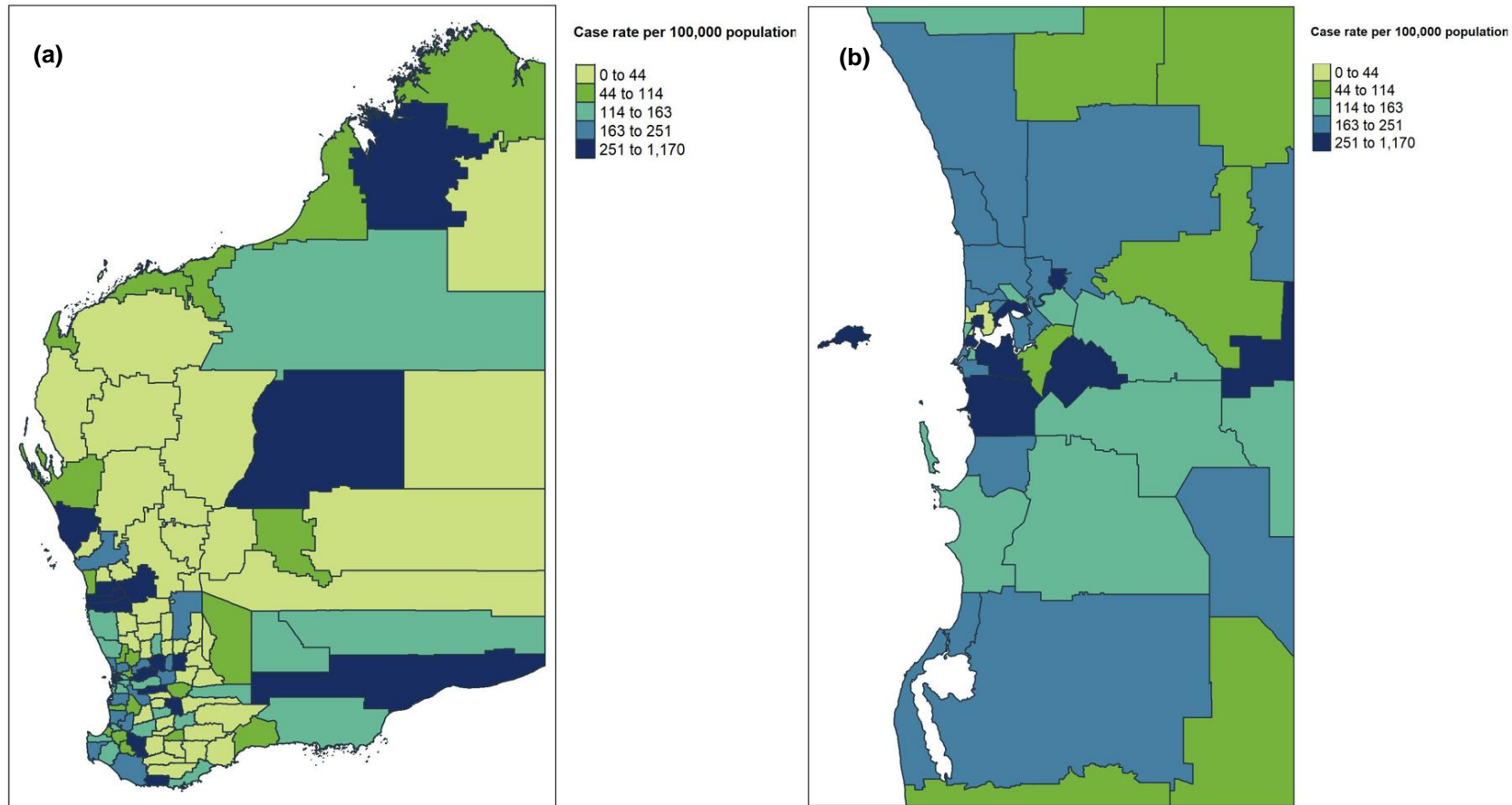
Total excludes WACHS*

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

**Other includes overseas and interstate residential addresses, and cases whom had no residential data available

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, 17 October to 23 October 2022. (b) Locally acquired COVID-19 weekly case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, Perth metropolitan area, 17 October to 23 October 2022.



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

'Locally acquired' cases include all cases whose source of infection is classified as 'locally acquired' and 'source under investigation' only (excludes interstate and overseas-acquired cases)

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

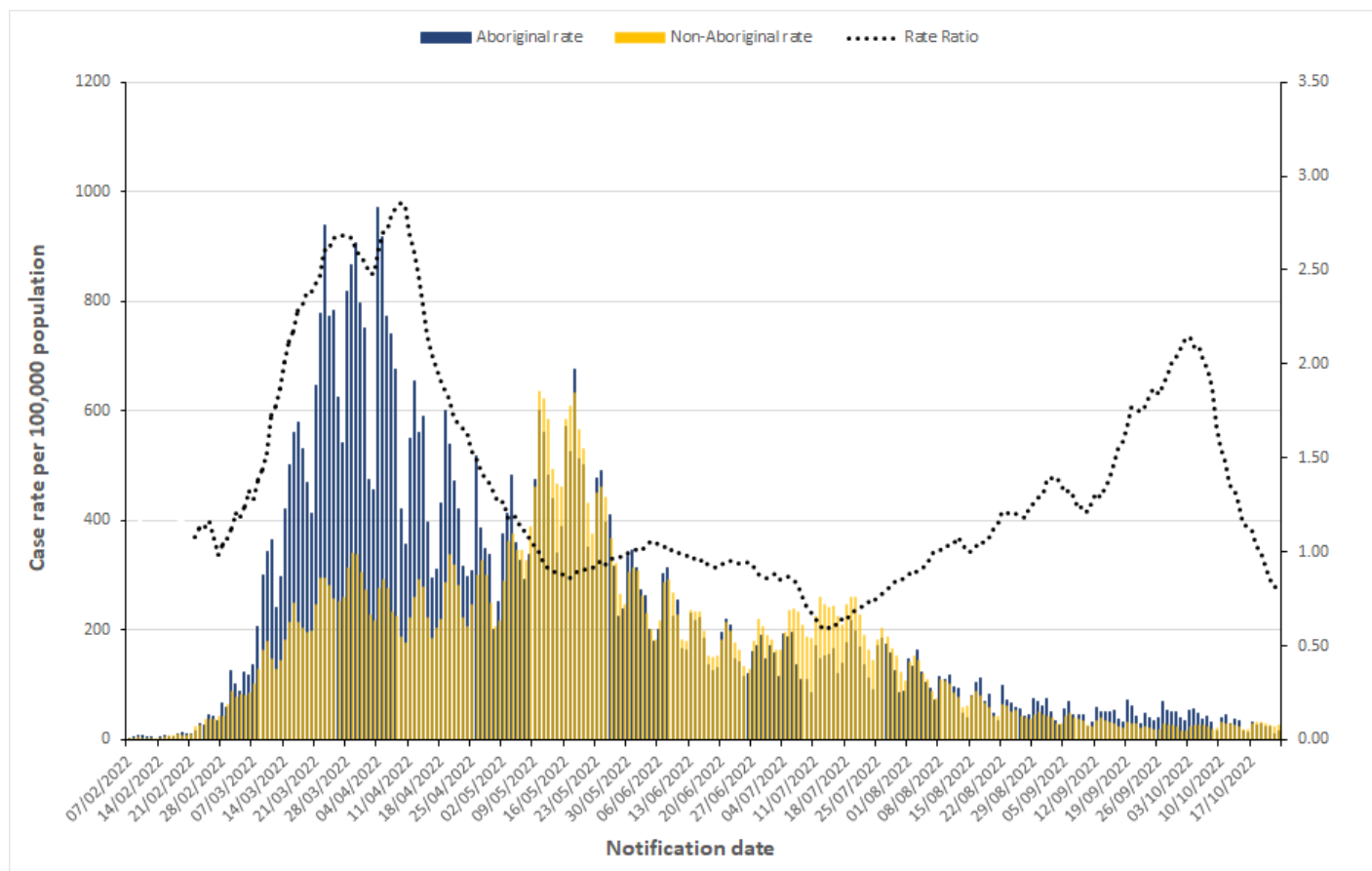
Case data includes those determined by both polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests and rapid antigen tests (RAT)

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 cases in Western Australia per 100,000 population, and rate ratio, by Indigenous status and notification date, 08 February to 23 October 2022.



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

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

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

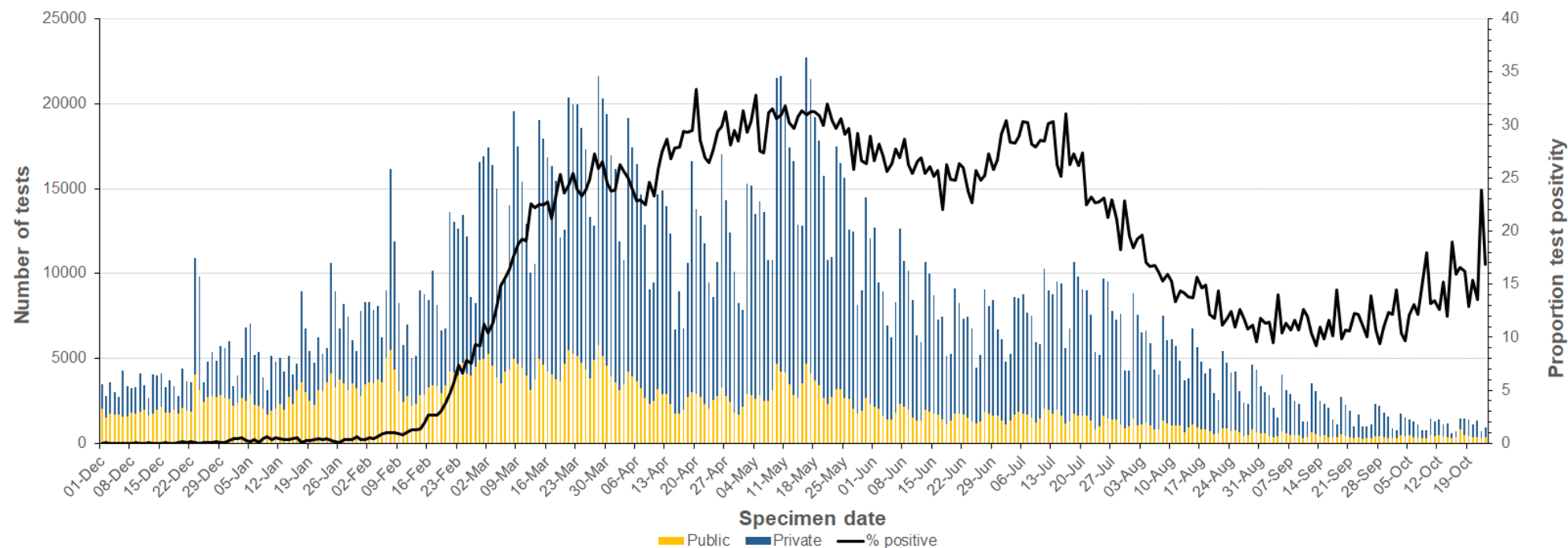
Population denominator is sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 estimates

Rate ratio is calculated as Aboriginal rate/Non-Aboriginal 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 onwards due to there being too few case numbers prior to this date.

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 23 October 2022.



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

Regional cases by postcode, 17 October – 23 October 2022

WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 17 Oct to 23 Oct 2022	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 17 Oct to 23 Oct 2022	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 17 Oct to 23 Oct 2022
Goldfields	6429	<5	Pilbara	6210	<5	South West (continued)	6290	10
	6430	25		6710	<5		6398	<5
	6431	<5		6713	<5	Wheatbelt	6041	<5
	6432	11		6714	17		6044	5
	6437	<5		6721	7		6302	9
	6442	<5		6722	6		6304	<5
	6443	<5		6751	<5		6306	<5
	6445	<5		6753	8		6308	<5
	6450	17		6762	7		6312	8
	6646	9		South West	6219		<5	6350
Great Southern	6317	5	6220		5	6367	<5	
	6324	<5	6223		<5	6370	<5	
	6328	<5	6224		6	6375	<5	
	6330	56	6225		19	6383	<5	
	6333	18	6226		<5	6390	<5	
	6337	<5	6230		98	6393	<5	
Kimberley	6725	12	6231		<5	6401	22	
	6726	<5	6232		13	6405	<5	
	6728	22	6233		36	6407	<5	
	6743	6	6236	7	6409	<5		
	6765	<5	6237	<5	6410	7		
Midwest	6514	<5	6239	5	6415	<5		
	6515	<5	6252	<5	6461	<5		
	6517	<5	6253	<5	6477	<5		
	6518	<5	6254	<5	6484	<5		
	6519	<5	6255	11	6501	<5		
	6525	<5	6256	<5	6502	<5		
	6528	<5	6258	14	6507	<5		
	6530	74	6260	<5	6510	<5		
	6532	12	6271	6	6516	<5		
	6535	<5	6275	<5	6530	<5		
	6536	9	6280	53	6560	<5		
	6537	<5	6281	8	6562	<5		
	6623	<5	6284	<5	6566	<5		
	6630	<5	6285	22				
	6701	<5	6286	<5				
	6707	<5	6288	<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

Cases include all cases whose source of infection is classified as 'locally acquired', 'interstate acquired', 'overseas acquired' and 'source under investigation'

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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