



COVID-19 Weekly Surveillance Report

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

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

- 2,046 COVID-19 cases reported
 - 267 diagnosed by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests
 - 1,779 diagnosed by rapid antigen tests (RAT)
 - 779 were reinfections (see definition in Table 2)
- 24 new hospital admissions and 2 new admissions directly into an intensive care unit
- 9 deaths reported, aged between 79 and 97 years old
- 4,293 COVID-19 PCR tests conducted

Surveillance summary

This week, **case numbers** increased by 1% compared to the previous week. Cases diagnosed by PCR decreased by 12% and by RAT increased by 3%. **Reinfections** comprised 38% of total cases this week, compared with 32% last week.

There was a 12% 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 increased in all regions except the Great Southern, South West and Perth metropolitan area, which remained steady, and the Kimberley region, which decreased. The seven-day average case rate for the Perth metropolitan area (11 cases/100,000 population) was approximately 8% lower than the Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS) regions combined (12 cases/100,000 population).

The seven-day average **age-specific rates** increased in the 0 – 19 year age group, remained steady in the 30 – 69 year age group and decreased in the 20 – 29 and 70+ age groups. The highest rates were in the 30 - 49 years age group (13 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 21% from 151 last week to 119 this week. **Intensive care unit cases** were stable with 2 admissions this week. **New hospital admissions** related to COVID-19 decreased by 11% from 27 last week to 24 this week, and **direct intensive care unit admissions** remained the same at 2 this week, compared to last week.

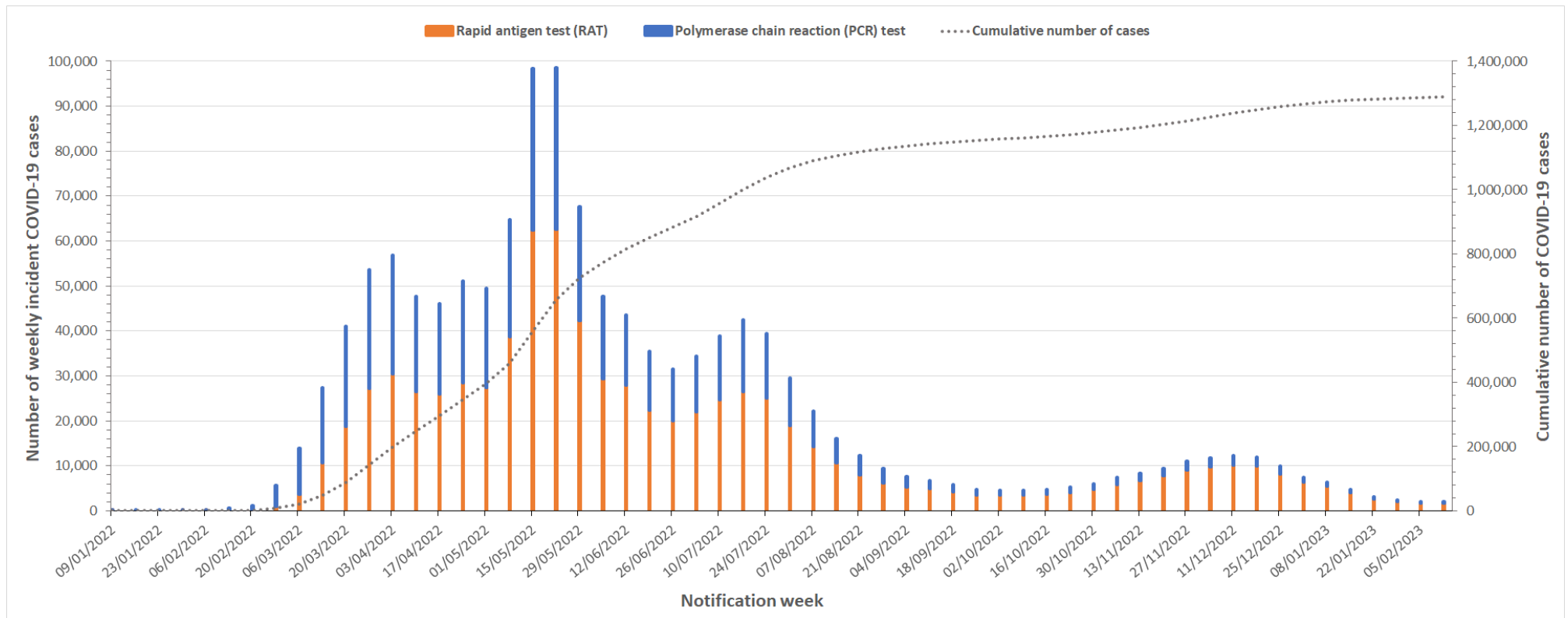
Deaths decreased by 31% this reporting week with 9 deaths compared to 13 last week.

This week, 125 cases were reported in the **Aboriginal population**, a 5% decrease 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 1.6 this reporting week. There was one death reported in the Aboriginal population this week.

Nationally, the moving seven-day average case rates remained steady across all jurisdictions. Australian Capital Territory reported the highest rate (12 cases/100,000 population) and Victoria the lowest rate (6 cases/100,000 population). The rate in Western Australia was 11 cases/100,000 population.

Case data

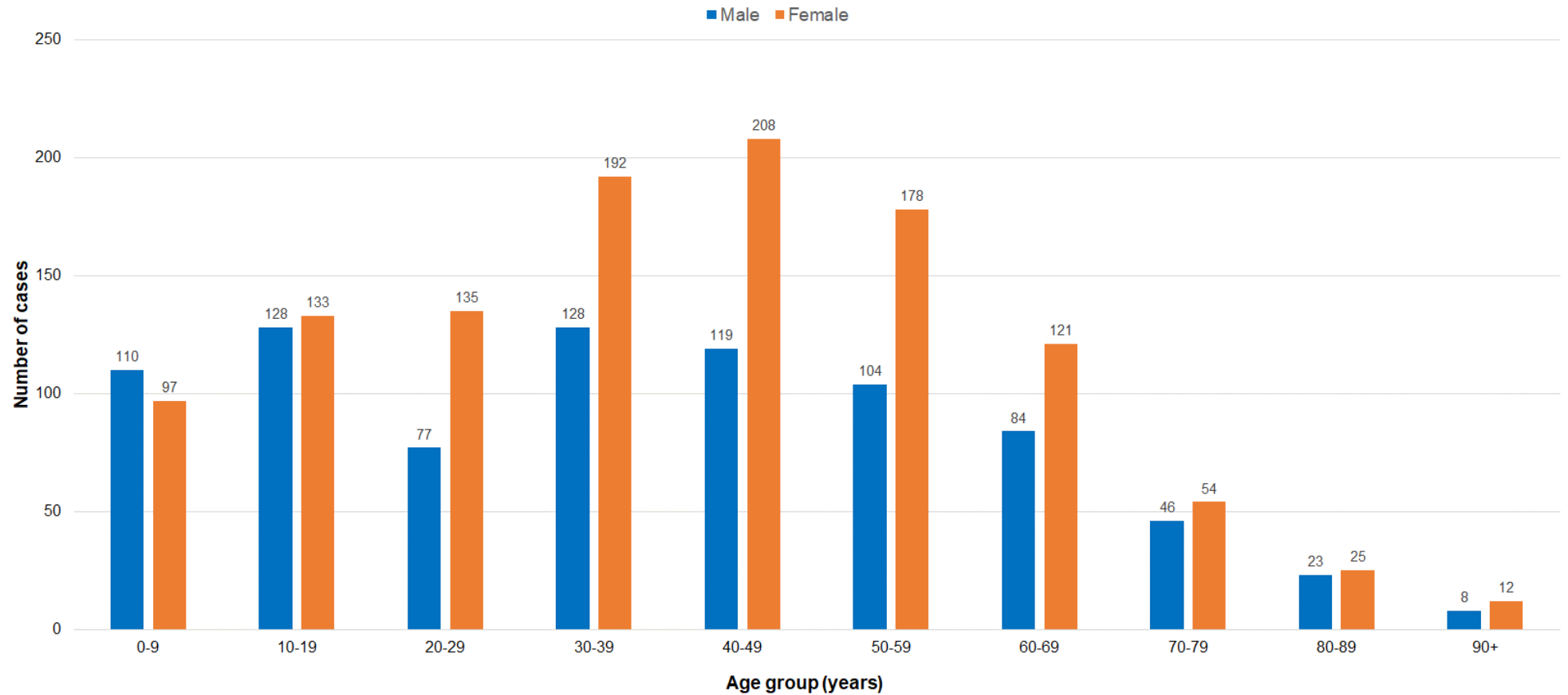
Figure 1. COVID-19 cases by notification week and test type, Western Australia, 03 January 2022 to 12 February 2023.



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, 06 February to 12 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=827 (41.7%) Females: n=1,155 (58.3%)
- Median age = 39 years; range: 0 to 103 years

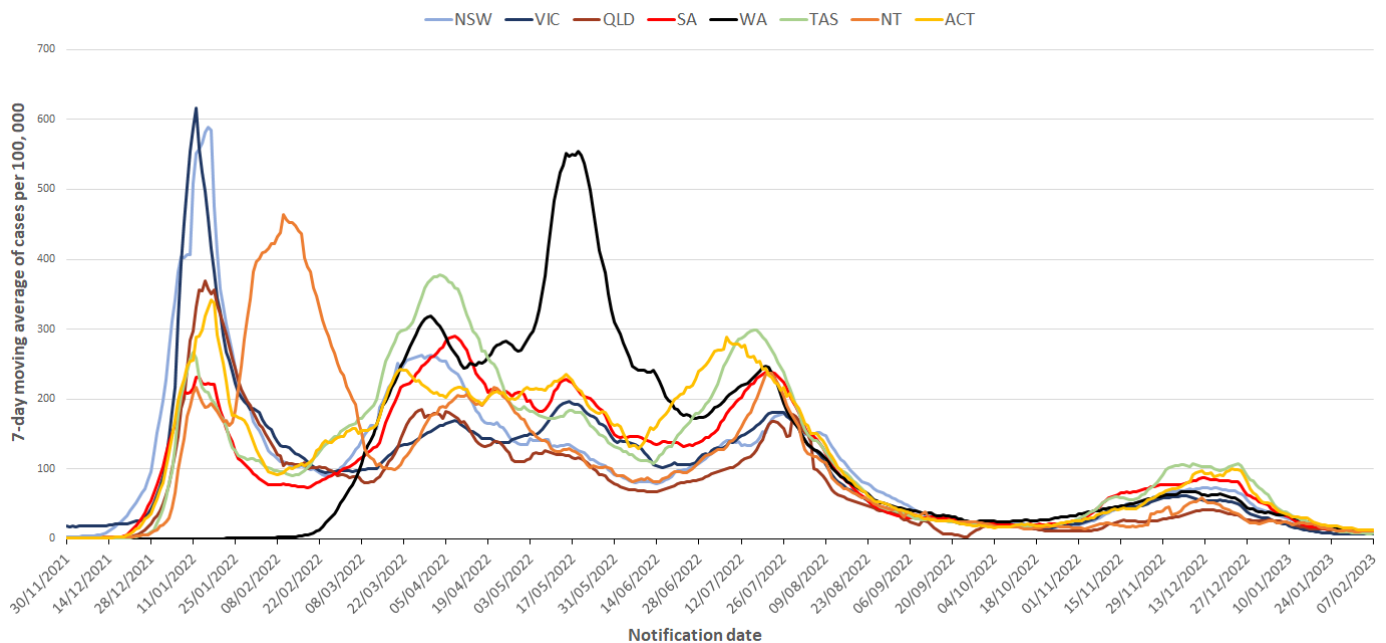
Table 1. COVID-19 reinfections in Western Australia, 02 March 2022 to 12 February 2023.

Month	Number of reinfections *
Mar-2022	14
Apr-2022	29
May-2022	105
Jun-2022	846
Jul-2022	5,041
Aug-2022	5,701
Sep-2022	4,026
Oct-2022	2,969
Nov-2022	7,044
Dec-2022	11,038
Jan-2023	5,431
Feb-2023[^]	1,407
Total	43,651

* 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 28 days after previously recovering from the virus

[^] Data up to 12th February 2023 inclusive

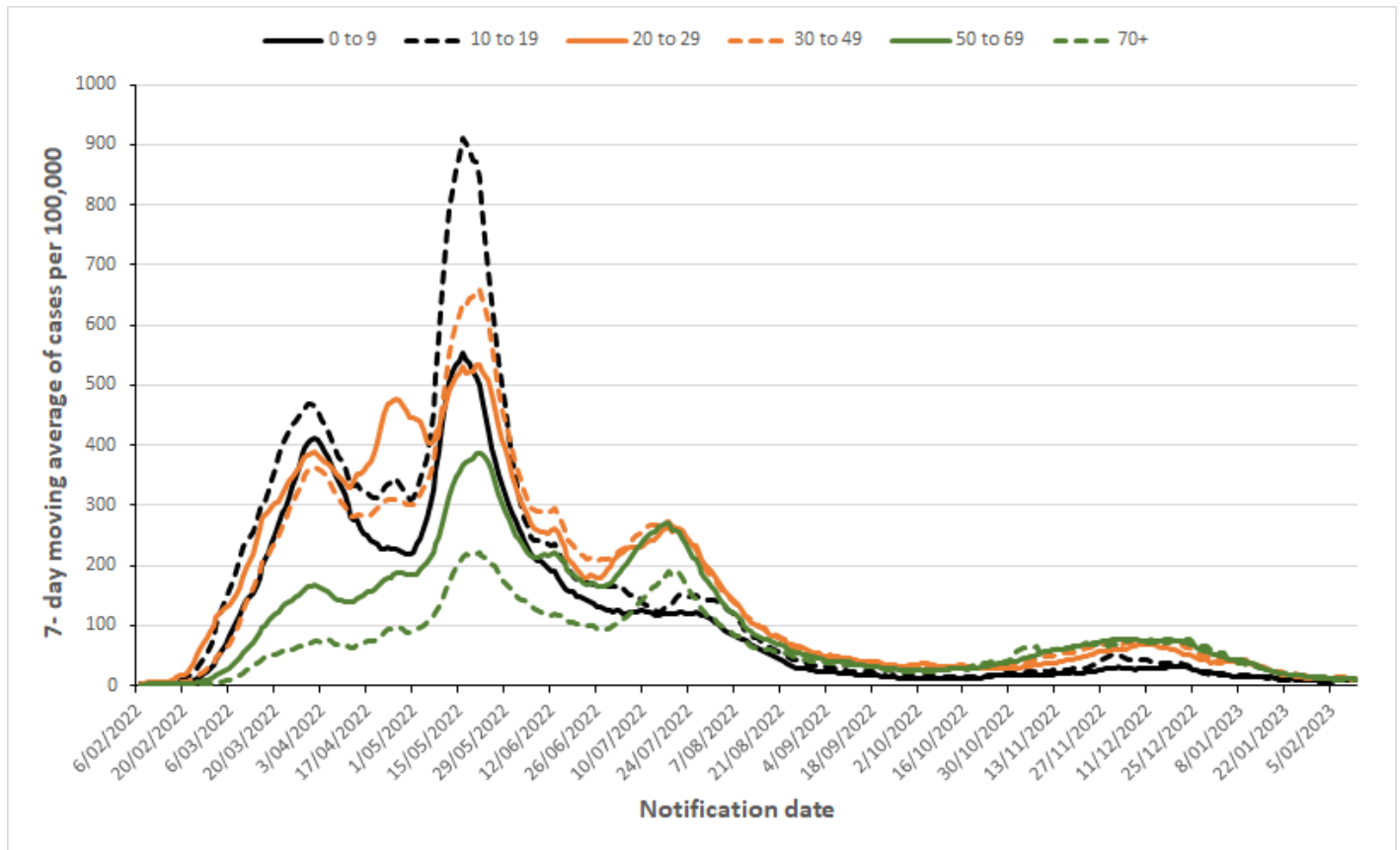
Figure 3. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by Australian jurisdiction, 01 December 2021 to 07 February 2023.



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.

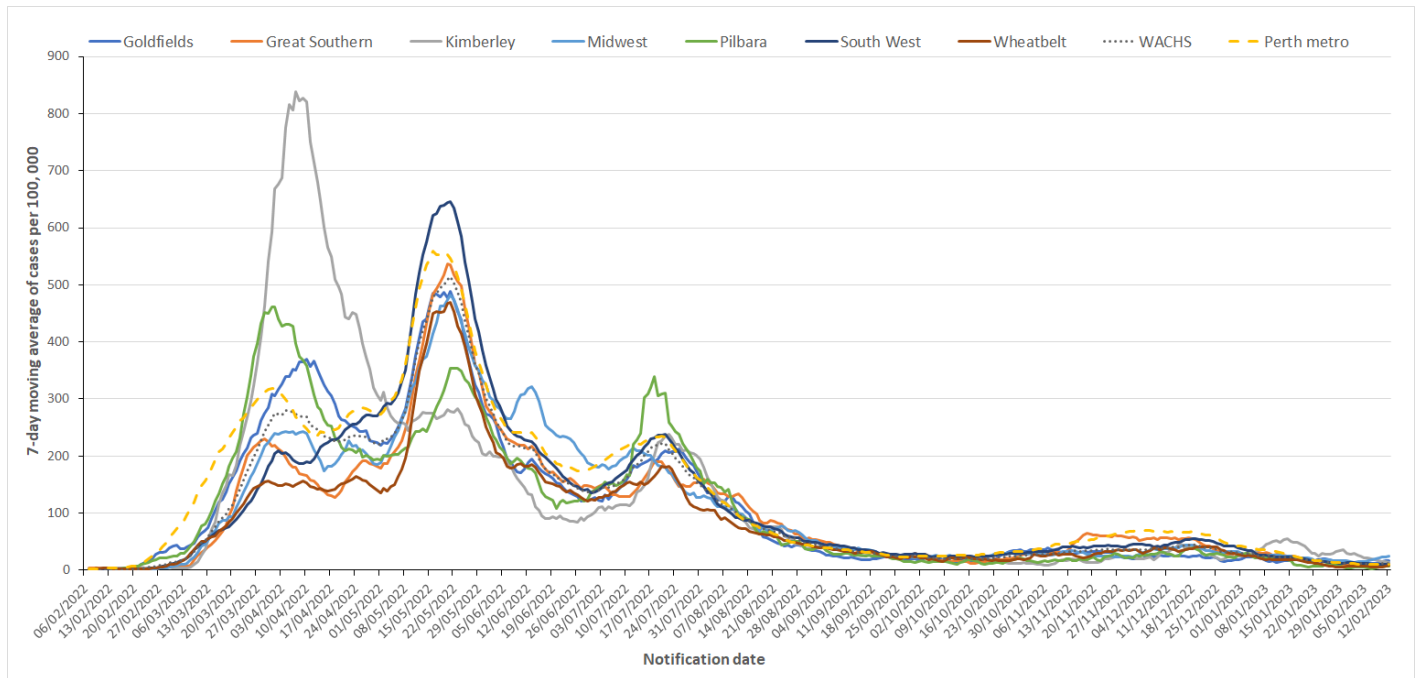
Figure 4. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 by age group, Western Australia, 08 February 2022 to 12 February 2023.



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 12 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, 06 February to 12 February 2023 and 30 January to 05 February 2023.

	Region	Current report week		Previous report week	
		Week 06 February to 12 February 2023		Week 30 January to 05 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	61	113	43	80
	Great Southern	42	68	44	72
	Kimberley	36	100	56	155
	Midwest	105	169	68	110
	Pilbara	29	46	17	27
	South West	135	74	152	84
	Wheatbelt	46	60	36	47
WACHS total*		454	85	416	78
Other**		24	-	44	-
Perth Metropolitan region		1,568	74	1,570	74
Total		2,046	77	2,030	76

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

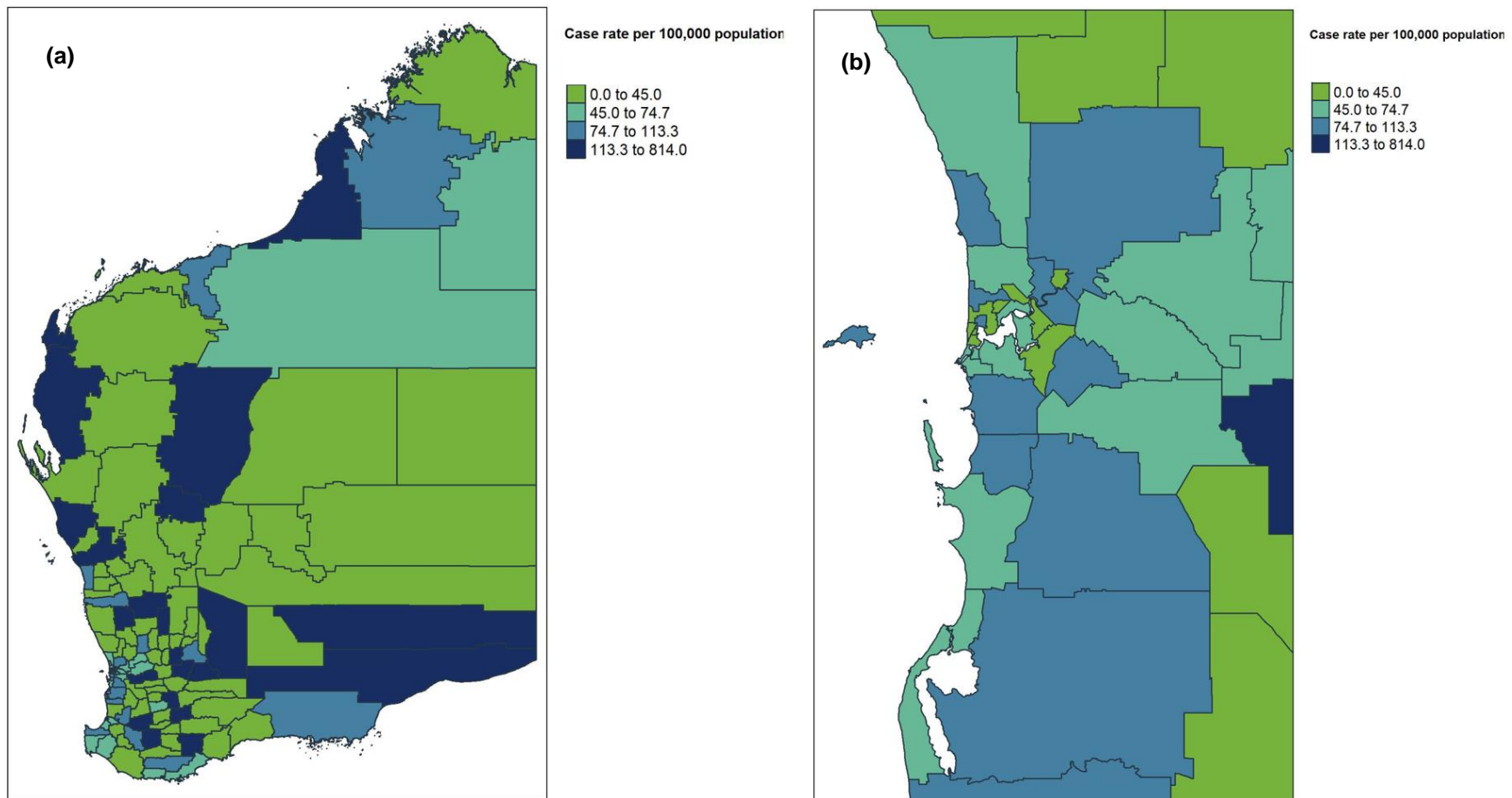
Perth Metropolitan region includes East Metropolitan Health Service, North Metropolitan Health Service and South Metropolitan Health Service combined

**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, 06 February to 12 February 2023.

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

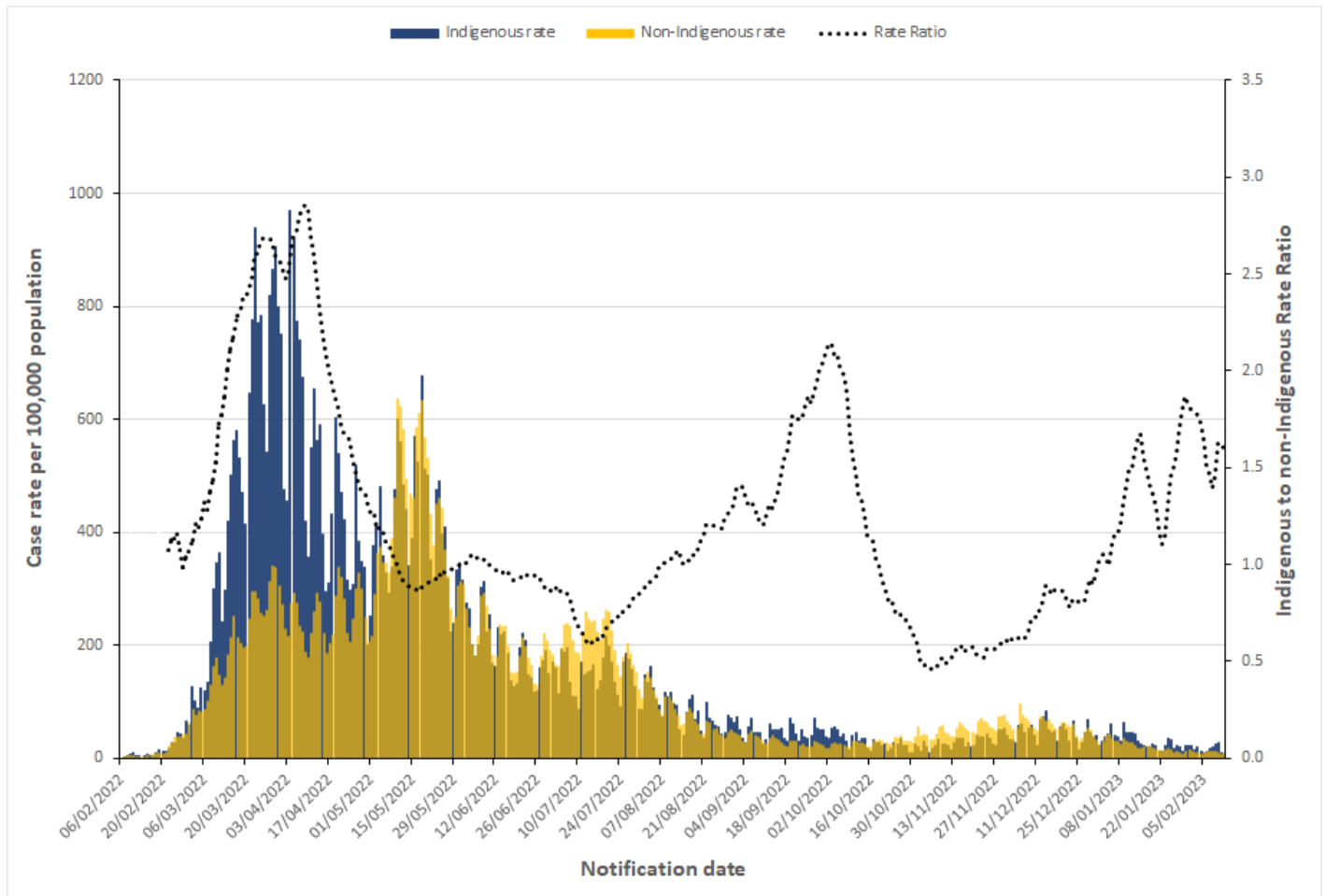
Cases include those detected by either polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests or rapid antigen tests (RAT)

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

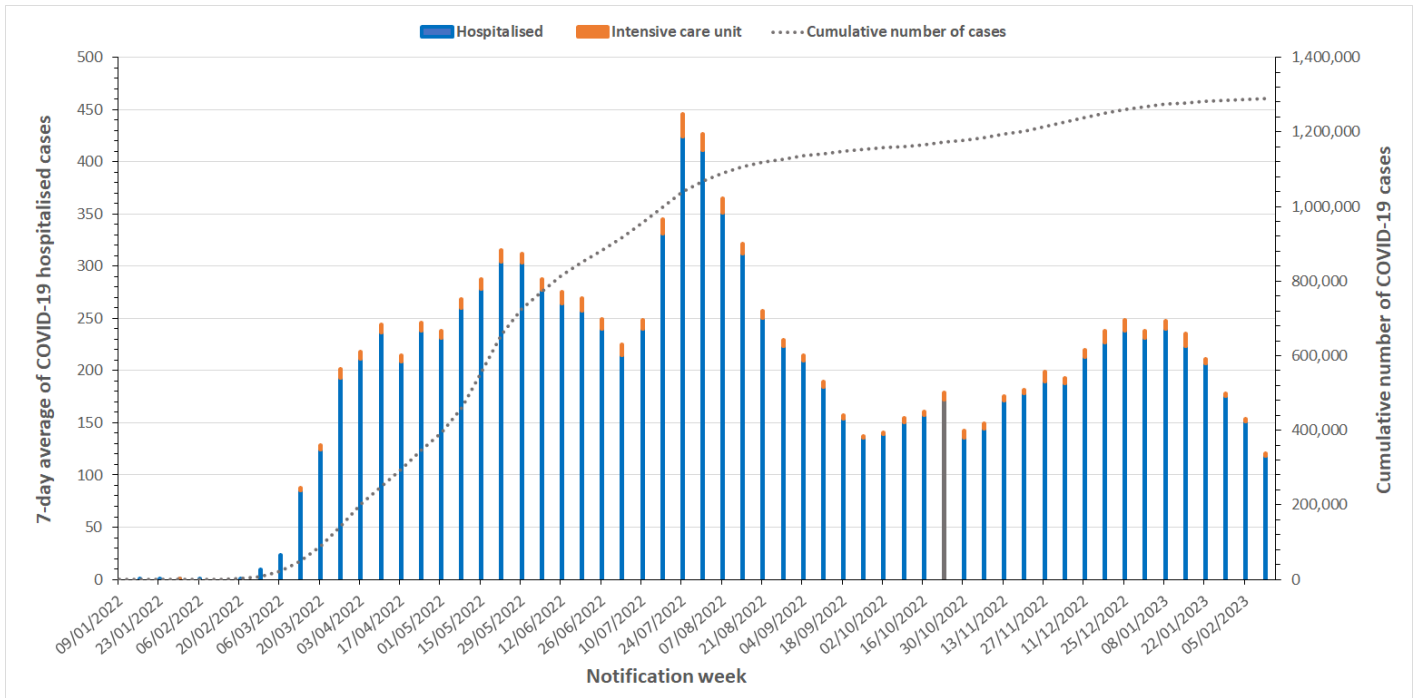
Figure 7. COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population and rate ratio by Indigenous status and notification date, Western Australia, 08 February 2022 to 12 February 2023.



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, 03 January 2022 to 12 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, 06 February to 12 February 2023 and 01 January 2022 to 12 February 2023.

	Current report week	Year 2022 to date
	Week 06 Feb – 12 Feb 2023	1 Jan 2022 – 12 Feb 2023
Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses	Deaths (n= 9)	Deaths (n= 929)
0	0 (0%)	167 (18.0%)
1	0 (0%)	28 (3.0%)
2	0 (0%)	99 (10.7%)
3+	9 (100.0%)	635 (68.4%)
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 (6.8%)
70-79	1 (11.2%)	173 (18.6%)
80-89	4 (44.4%)	355 (38.3%)
90+	4 (44.4%)	292 (31.4%)

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 8th 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.

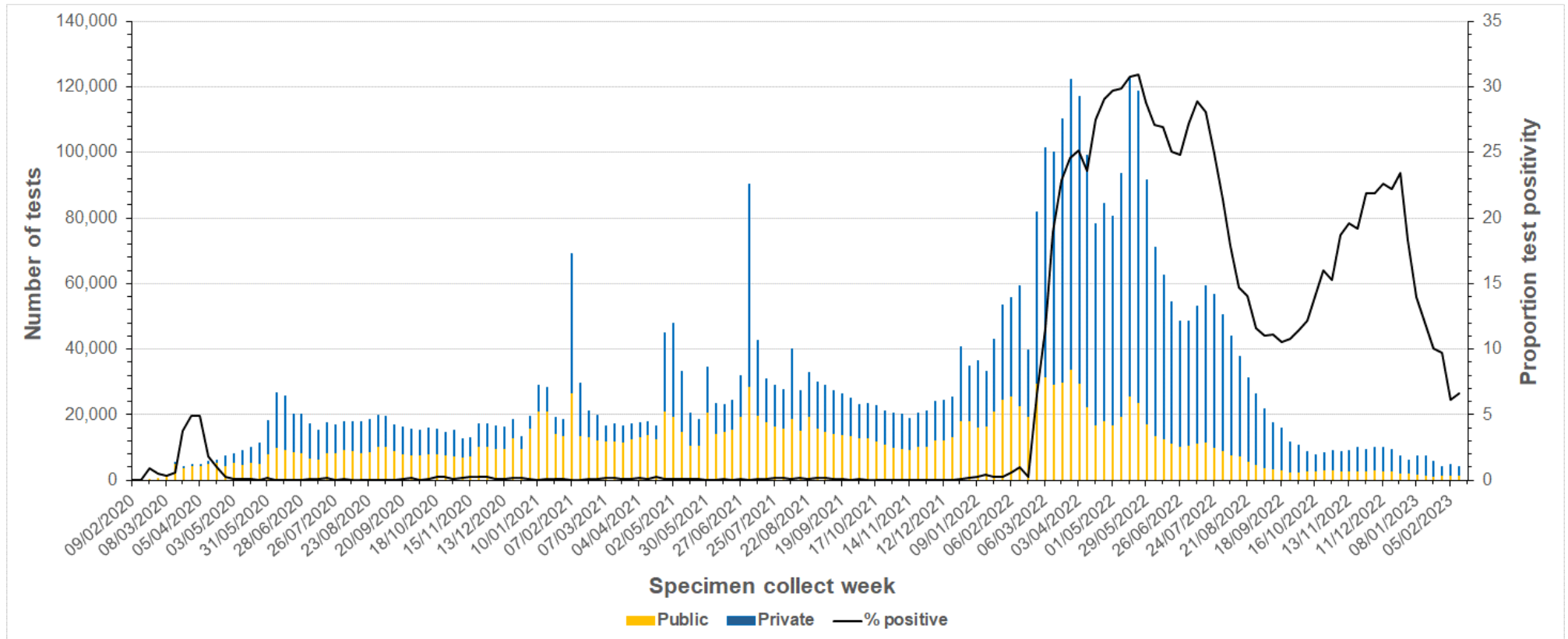
Vaccination data can be found on Australian Government website located [here](#)

Deaths are counted by notification date and may include historical deaths that occurred (i.e. date of death) prior to the current report week 4 previously reported deaths were re-classified as non-COVID-related since most recent surveillance report

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 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, 06 February – 12 February 2023

WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 06 Feb to 12 Feb 2023	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 06 Feb to 12 Feb 2023	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 06 Feb to 12 Feb 2023
Goldfields	6430	32	Pilbara (continued)	6720	<5	Wheatbelt (continued)	6410	<5
	6431	<5		6721	<5		6414	<5
	6432	9		6722	10		6415	<5
	6443	<5		6751	<5		6418	<5
	6450	12		6753	<5		6420	<5
Great Southern	6324	<5	South West	6754	<5		6426	<5
	6326	<5		6225	9		6428	<5
	6330	27		6226	<5		6460	<5
	6333	<5		6230	37		6475	<5
	6335	<5		6232	10		6502	<5
	6338	<5		6233	8	6503	<5	
	6395	<5		6236	<5	6507	<5	
Kimberley	6725	20		6237	<5	6510	<5	
	6726	<5		6239	<5	6562	<5	
	6743	<5		6255	<5	6564	<5	
	6765	8	6258	<5				
	6770	<5	6271	9				
	6798	<5	6275	<5				
	6799	<5	6280	38				
Midwest	6514	<5	6281	<5				
	6525	<5	6282	<5				
	6530	46	6285	6				
	6532	<5	6290	<5				
	6535	<5	Wheatbelt	6302	<5			
	6536	<5		6304	<5			
	6640	<5		6312	<5			
	6642	8		6350	<5			
	6701	31		6370	<5			
	6707	6		6392	<5			
Pilbara	6714	7		6401	<5			
	6718	<5		6403	<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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