



# COVID-19 Weekly Surveillance Report

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## Summary for the week 23 January to 29 January 2023 (inclusive)

In the week of 23 January to 29 January 2023 there were:

- 2,466 COVID-19 cases reported
  - 382 with positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests
  - 2,084 with positive rapid antigen tests (RAT)
  - 759 were reinfections (see definition in Table 2)
- 30 new hospital admissions and 1 new admission directly into an intensive care unit
- 21 deaths reported, aged between 51 and 96 years old
- 4,293 COVID-19 PCR tests conducted

### Surveillance summary

This week, **case numbers** decreased by 24% compared to the previous week. Cases diagnosed by PCR decreased by 31% and by RAT decreased by 22%. **Reinfections** comprised 31% of total cases this week, compared with 30% last week.

There was a 28% decrease in **PCR tests** conducted compared to the previous week, with a 7-day test positive rate for PCR tests of 9.6%.

The moving seven-day average **case rates** per 100,000 population decreased in all regions except the Kimberley and Pilbara regions, which increased. The seven-day average case rate for the Perth metropolitan area (13 cases/100,000 population) is the same as the Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS) regions combined (13 cases/100,000 population).

The seven-day average **age-specific rates** decreased in all age-groups. The highest rates are in the 30 - 49 years age group (16 cases/100,000 population), and the lowest rates in the 10 – 19 years age group (8 cases/100,000 population).

**Nationally**, the moving seven-day average case rates decreased across all jurisdictions. Australian Capital Territory has the highest rate (19 cases/100,000 population) and Victoria the lowest rate (8 cases/100,000 population). The rate in Western Australia is 16 cases/100,000 population.

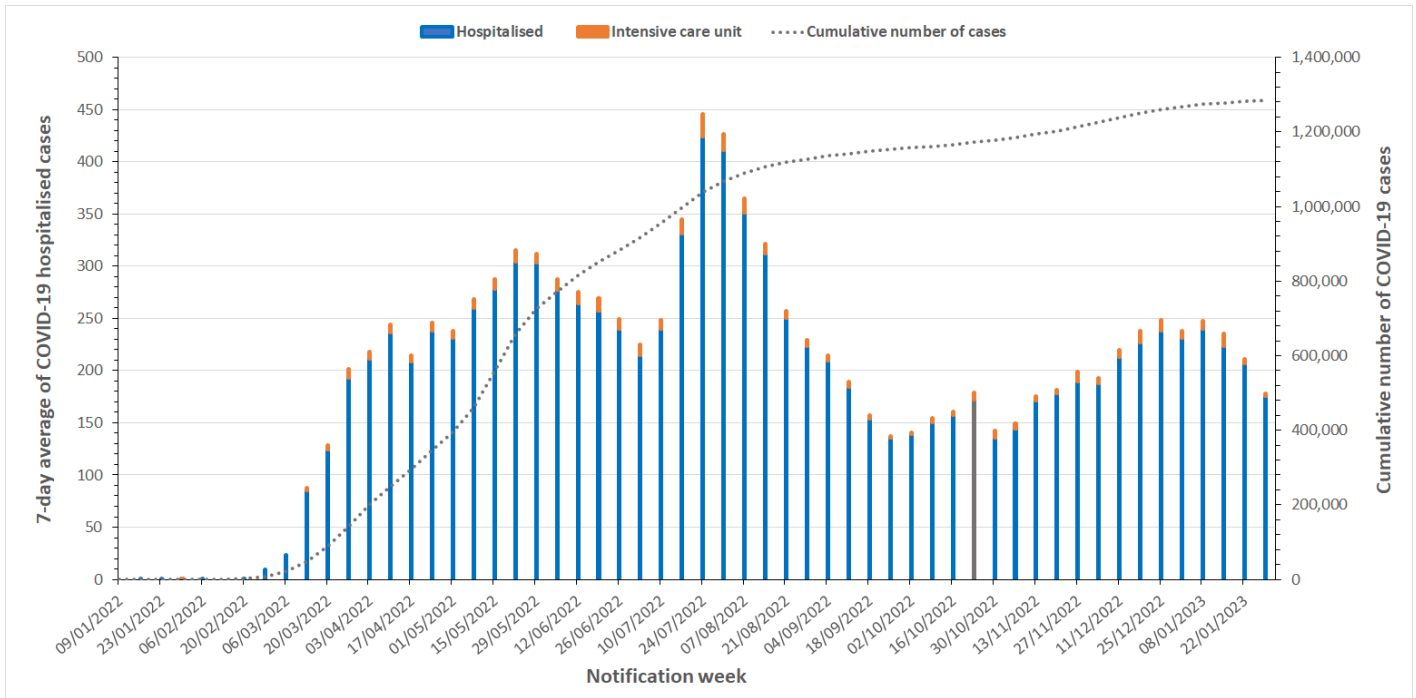
The 7-day average of **hospitalised cases** decreased by 15% from 206 last week to 176 this week. **Intensive care unit cases** decreased from 5 last week to 3 this week. **New hospital admissions** related to COVID-19 decreased by 40% from 50 last week to 30 this week, and **direct intensive care unit admissions** remained the same at 1 this week compared to last week.

**Deaths** decreased by 16% this reporting week with 21 deaths compared to 25 last week.

This week, 171 cases were reported in the **Aboriginal population**, a 22% 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 1.8 this reporting week. One death was reported in the Aboriginal population this week.

# 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 29 January 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 1. Number of COVID-19 related deaths by vaccination status and age group, 23 January to 29 January 2023 and 01 January 2022 to 29 January 2023.**

	<b>Current report week</b>	<b>Year 2022 to date</b>
	<b>Week 23 Jan – 29 Jan 2023</b>	<b>1 Jan 2022 – 29 Jan 2023</b>
<b>Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses</b>	<b>Deaths (n= 21)</b>	<b>Deaths (n= 911)</b>
<b>0</b>	4 (19.1%)	165 (18.1%)
<b>1</b>	0 (0%)	28 (3.1%)
<b>2</b>	0 (0%)	98 (10.8%)
<b>3+</b>	17 (80.9%)	620 (68.0%)
<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%)	0 (0%)
<b>30-39</b>	0 (0%)	5 (0.6%)
<b>40-49</b>	0 (0%)	10 (1.1%)
<b>50-59</b>	1 (4.8%)	29 (3.1%)
<b>60-69</b>	1 (4.8%)	63 (6.9%)
<b>70-79</b>	2 (9.5%)	171 (18.8%)
<b>80-89</b>	9 (42.8%)	348 (38.2%)
<b>90+</b>	8 (38.1%)	283 (31.1%)

**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

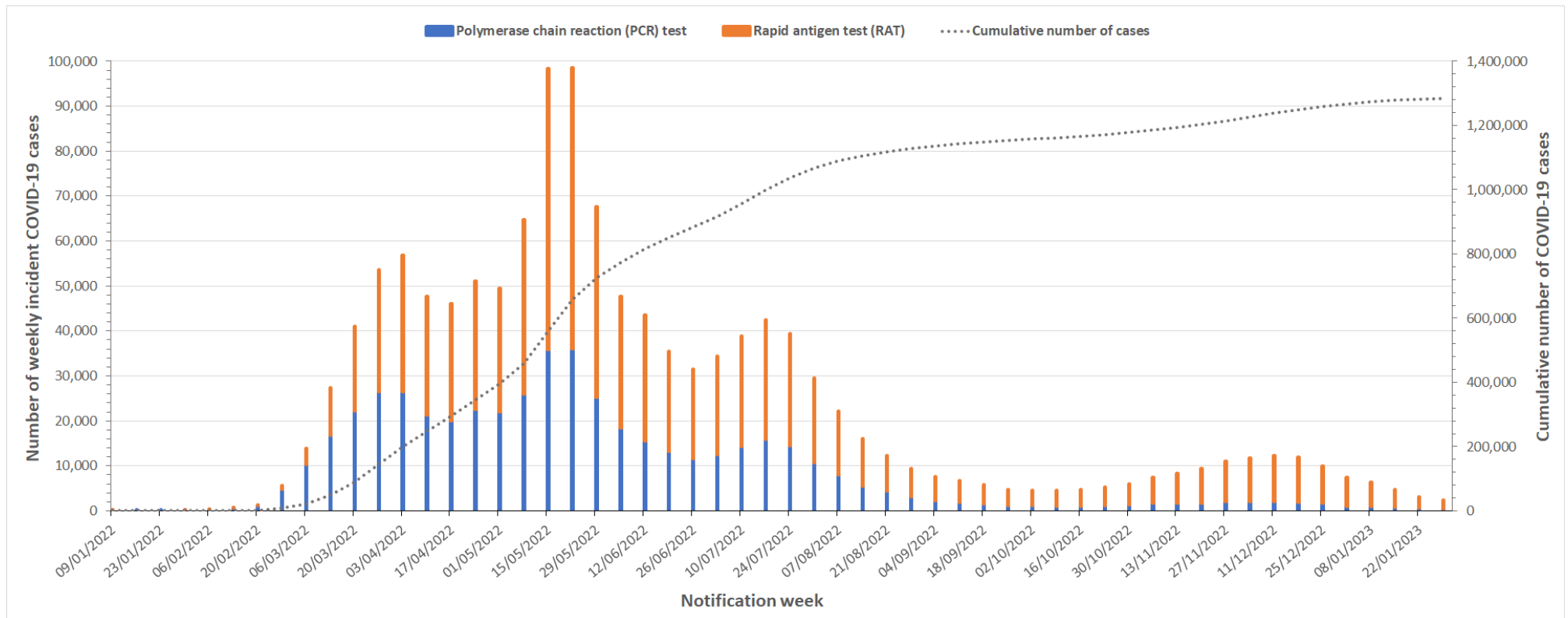
A high proportion of the WA population (16 years and above) is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (as of 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – 84.2% for 3+ doses, >95% for 2 doses), therefore interpretation of people who have died with both 3+ and 2 doses requires consideration within this context.

Deaths are counted by notification date and may include historical deaths that occurred (i.e. date of death) prior to the current report week

Deaths are not necessarily associated with hospital and/or ICU admissions

## Case data

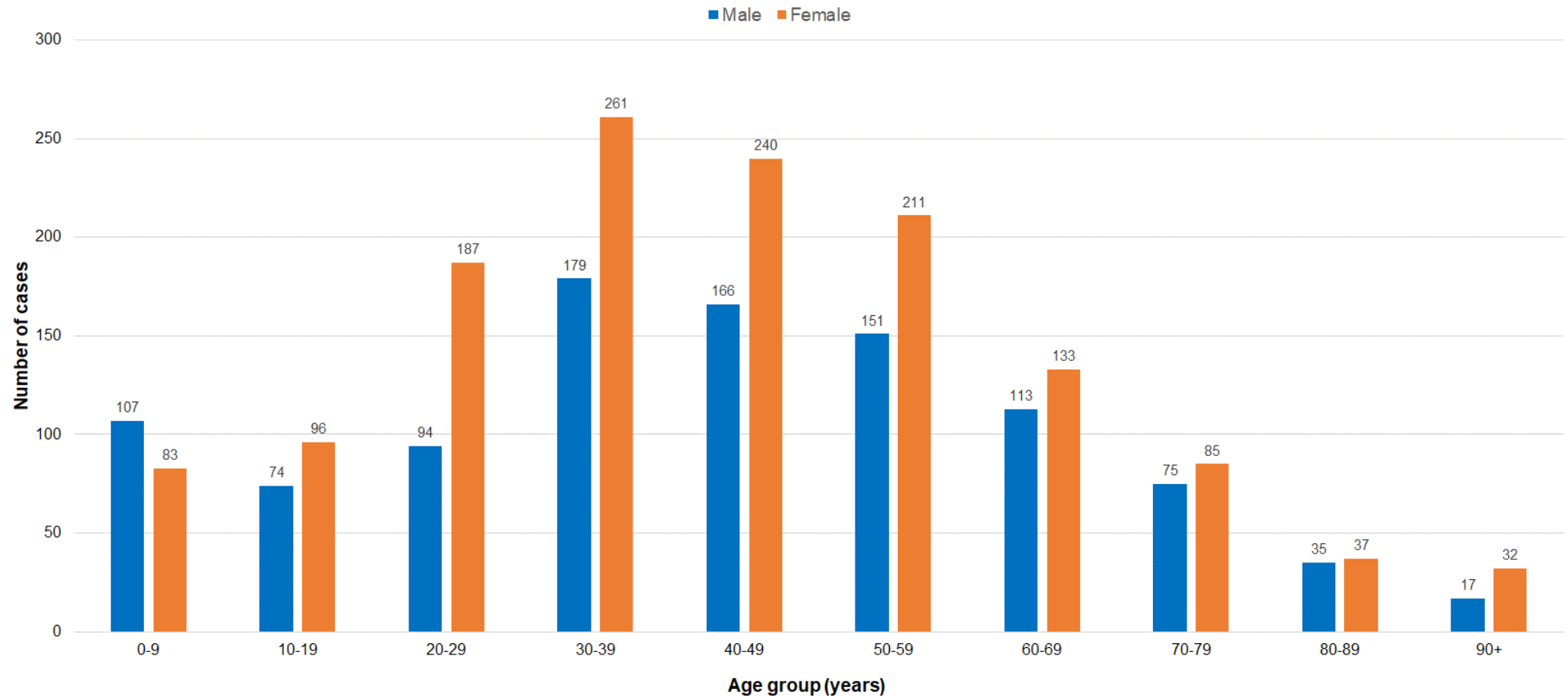
Figure 2. COVID-19 cases by notification week and test type, Western Australia, 03 January 2022 to 29 January 2023.



**Notes**

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

Figure 3. COVID-19 cases by age group and sex, Western Australia, 23 January to 29 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=1,011 (42.6%) Females: n=1,365 (57.4%)
- Median age = 42 years; range: 0 to 101 years

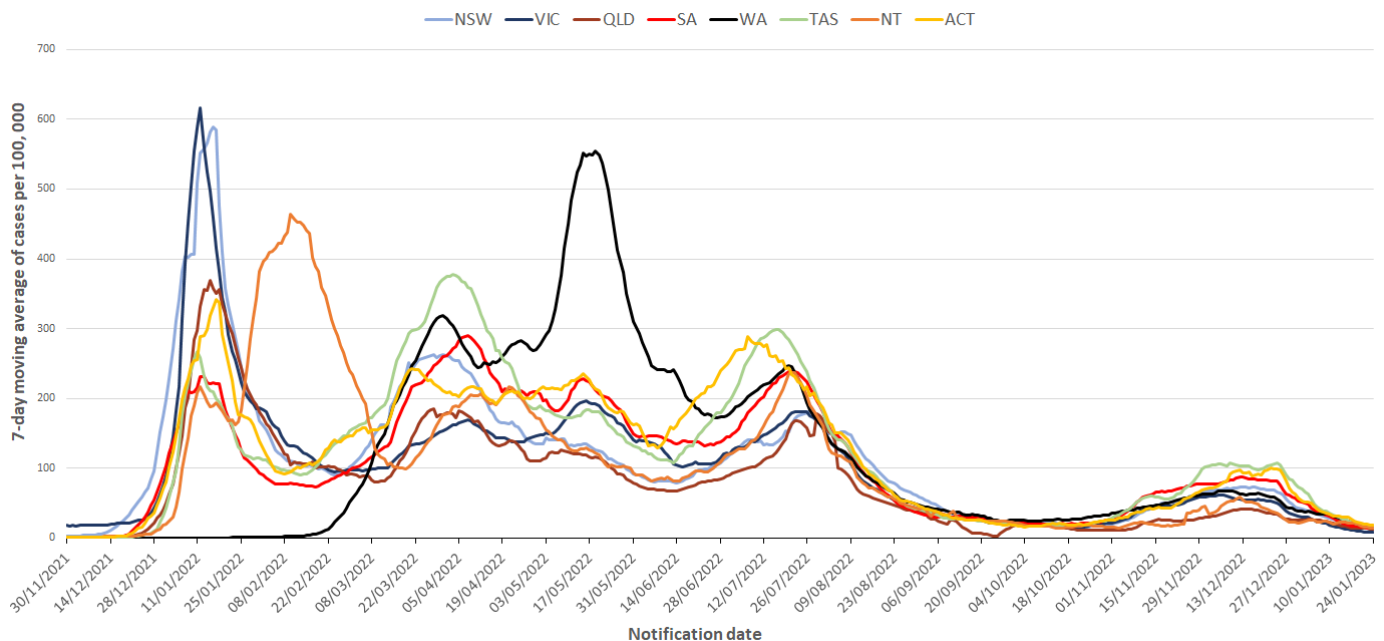
**Table 2. COVID-19 reinfections in Western Australia, 02 March 2022 to 29 January 2023.**

Month	Number of reinfections *
Mar-2022	14
Apr-2022	29
May-2022	105
Jun-2022	846
Jul-2022	5,041
Aug-2022	5,701
Sep-2022	4,025
Oct-2022	2,969
Nov-2022	7,026
Dec-2022	11,010
<b>Jan-2023<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>5,097</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,863</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

<sup>^</sup> Data up to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023 inclusive

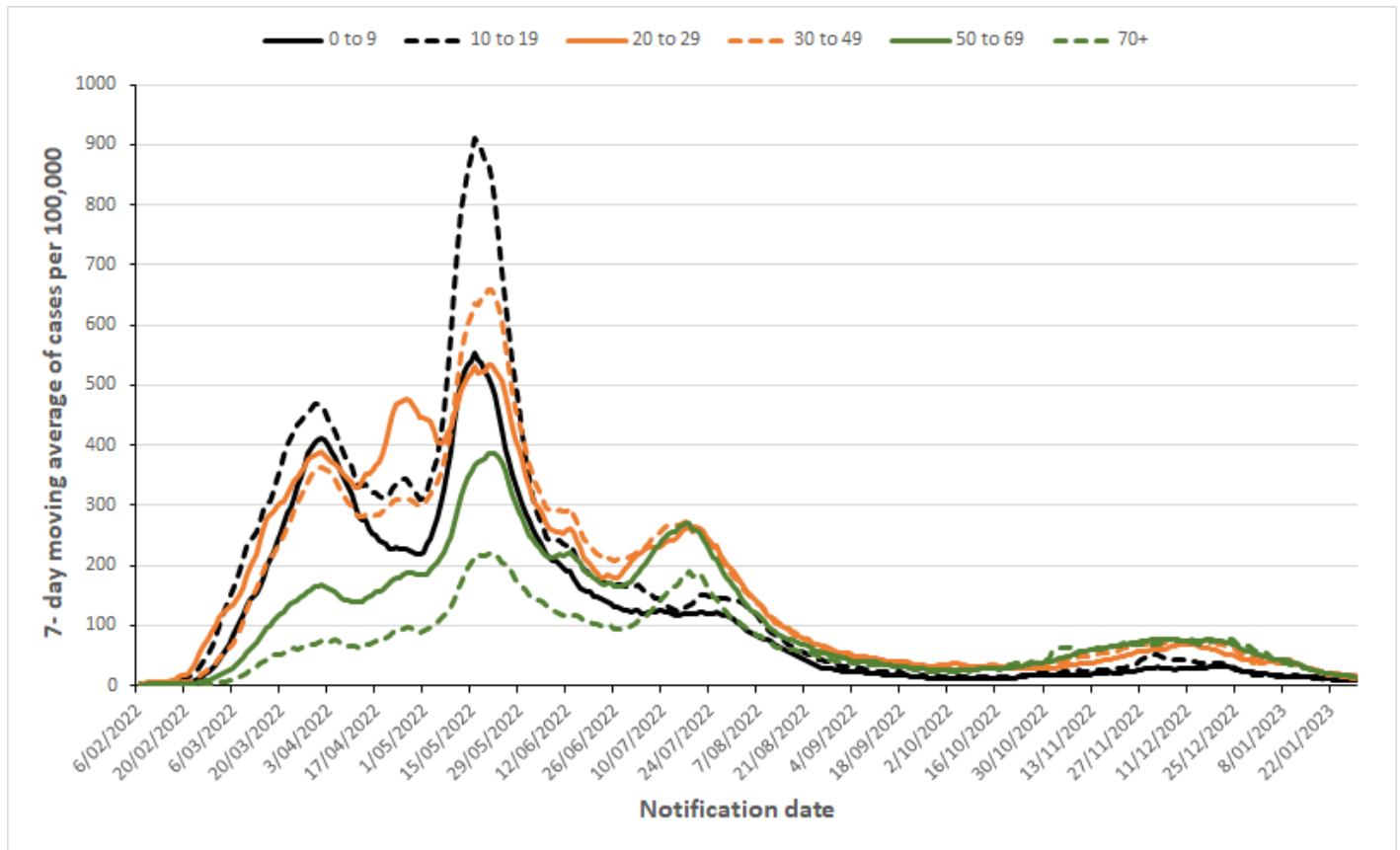
**Figure 4. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by Australian jurisdiction, 01 December 2021 to 24 January 2023.**



**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 5. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 by age group, Western Australia, 08 February 2022 to 29 January 2023.**

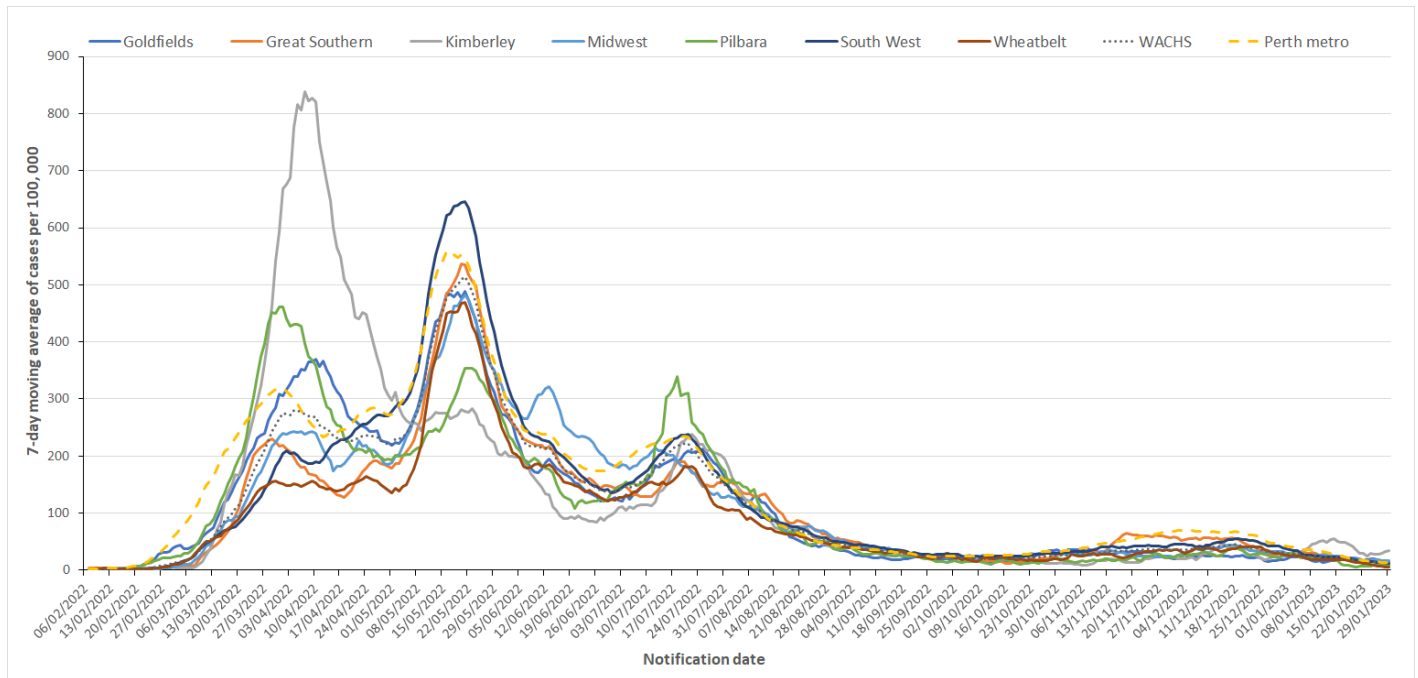


**Notes**

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  
 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 population by health region, Western Australia, 08 February 2022 to 29 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

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.

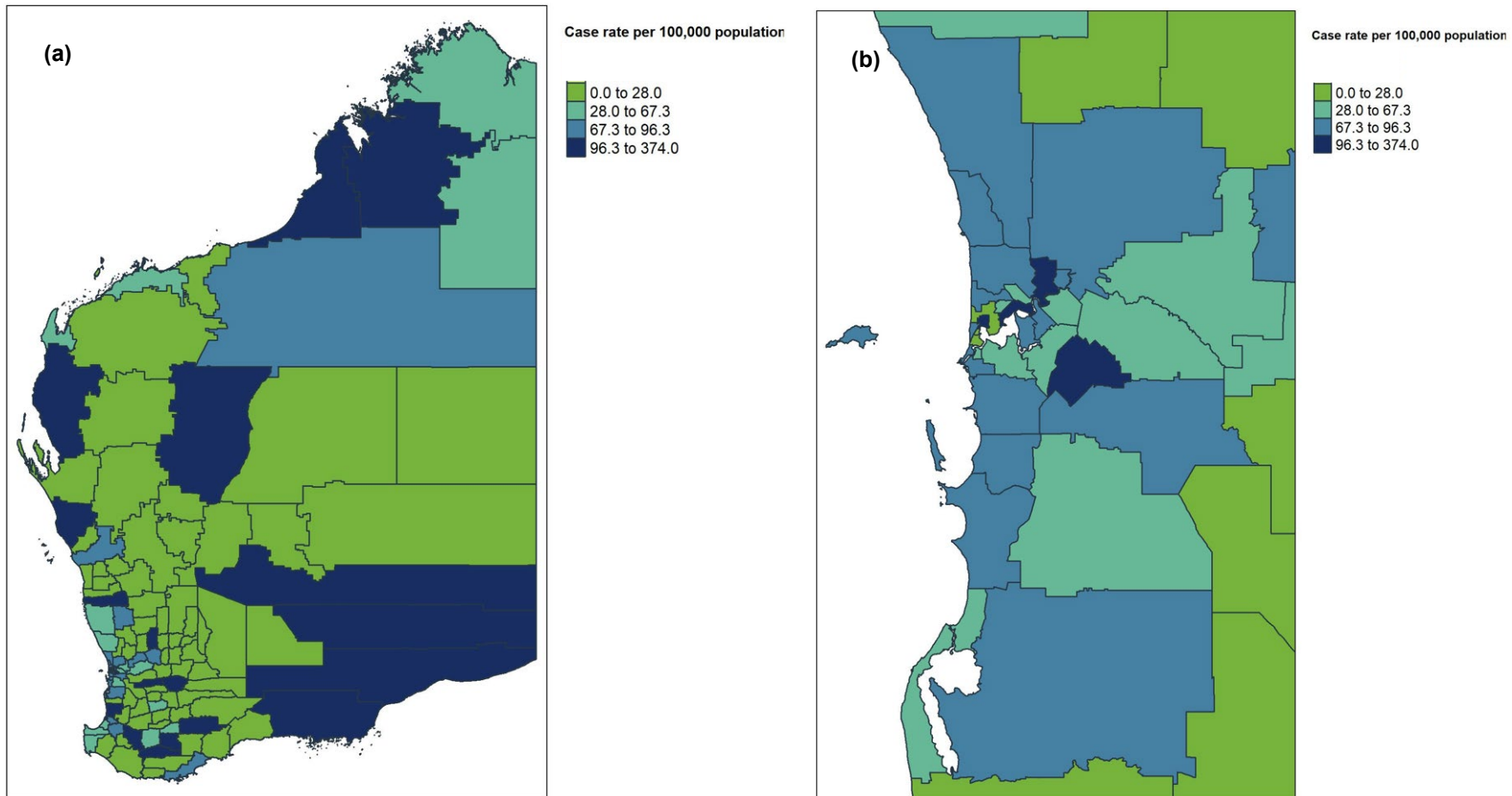
**Table 3. Number of COVID-19 cases and case rates per 100,000 population by region, Western Australia, 23 January to 29 January 2023 and 16 January to 22 January 2023.**

	Region	Current report week		Previous report week	
		Week 23 January to 29 January 2023		Week 16 January to 22 January 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)
<b>WACHS Regions</b>	<b>Goldfields</b>	60	111	64	119
	<b>Great Southern</b>	49	80	74	121
	<b>Kimberley</b>	87	241	73	202
	<b>Midwest</b>	76	122	76	122
	<b>Pilbara</b>	33	53	31	49
	<b>South West</b>	159	87	214	118
	<b>Wheatbelt</b>	31	41	63	83
<b>WACHS total*</b>		<b>495</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Other**</b>		<b>26</b>	-	<b>28</b>	-
<b>Perth Metropolitan region</b>		<b>1,945</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,466</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>3,224</b>	<b>121</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  
 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 7 (a). Locally acquired COVID-19 weekly case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, regional Western Australia, 23 January to 29 January 2023.

(b) Locally acquired COVID-19 weekly case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, Perth metropolitan area, 23 January to 29 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

Cases are represented on the map according to their place of usual residence (no information for specific location of acquisition)

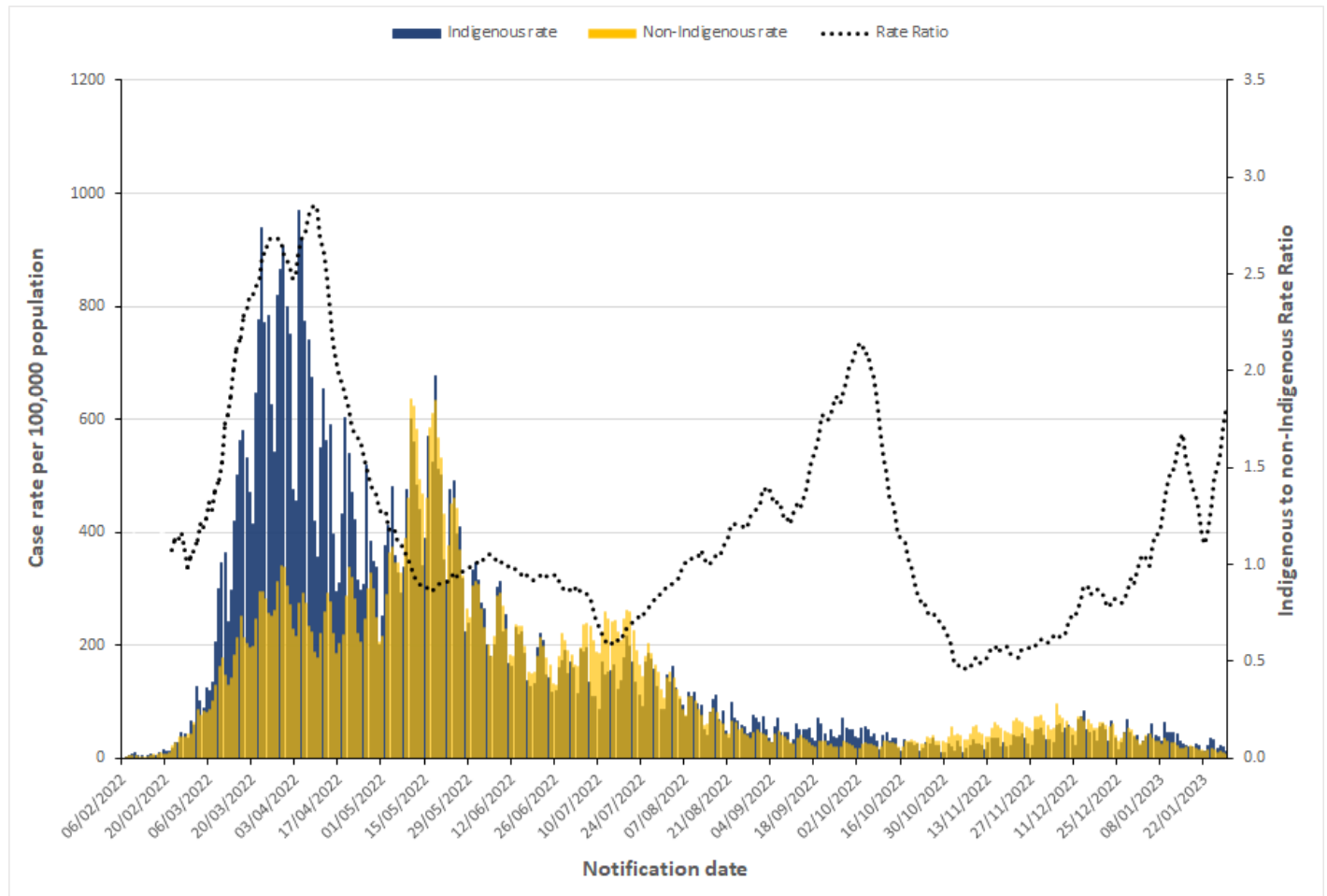
Cases include those detected by either polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests or rapid antigen tests (RAT)

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

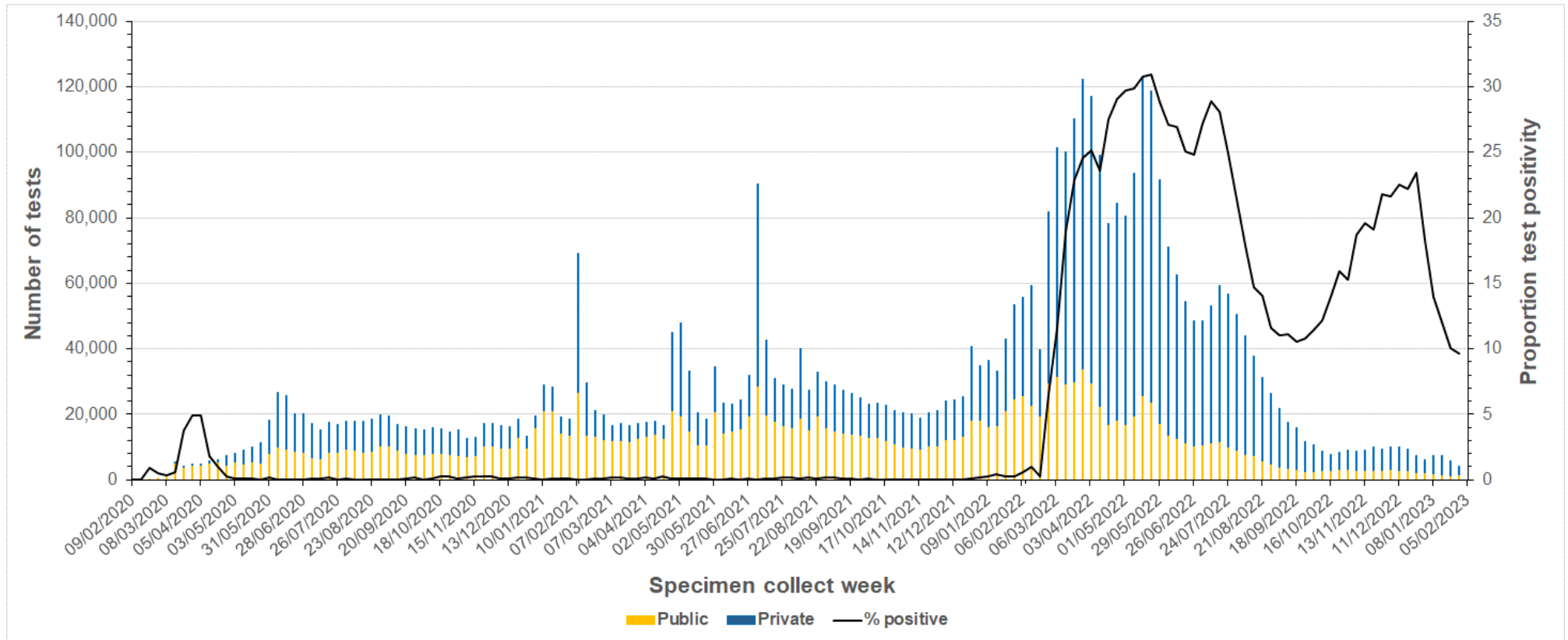
Figure 8. COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population and rate ratio by Indigenous status and notification date, Western Australia, 08 February 2022 to 29 January 2023.



**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  
 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 test positivity by laboratory category and specimen collect week, 09 February 2020 to 29 January 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, 23 January – 29 January 2023

WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 23 Jan to 29 Jan 2023	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 23 Jan to 29 Jan 2023	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 23 Jan to 29 Jan 2023
Goldfields	6430	20	Pilbara (continued)	6751	<5	Wheatbelt (continued)	6461	<5
	6431	<5		6753	6		6501	<5
	6432	7		6754	<5		6503	<5
	6436	<5		6762	<5		6510	<5
	6443	<5	South West	6220	<5		6521	<5
	6450	18		6225	<5		6562	<5
Great Southern	6317	<5		6226	<5		6566	<5
	6318	<5		6230	42		6574	<5
	6322	<5		6232	10			
	6330	28		6233	26			
	6333	<5	6237	<5				
	6341	<5	6239	5				
	6395	<5	6244	<5				
Kimberley	6725	27	6255	<5				
	6726	5	6258	<5				
	6728	16	6262	<5				
	6743	7	6271	<5				
	6765	9	6280	12				
	6770	<5	6281	<5				
Midwest	6514	<5	6285	7				
	6530	40	6286	<5				
	6532	10	6290	<5				
	6535	<5	Wheatbelt	6302	<5			
	6642	<5		6306	<5			
	6701	7		6309	<5			
	6707	<5		6312	<5			
Pilbara	6179	<5		6373	<5			
	6714	11		6375	<5			
	6720	<5		6401	6			
	6721	<5	6405	<5				
	6722	<5	6418	<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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