



COVID-19 Weekly Surveillance Report

Table of Contents

Summary for the week 12 September to 18 September 2022 (inclusive)	2
Hospitalisations, intensive care unit inpatients and deaths	3
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 18 September 2022.....	3
Table 1. Number of COVID-19 related deaths reported by vaccination status and age group, 12 September to 18 September 2022 and 01 January to 18 September 2022.....	4
Case data	5
Figure 2. COVID-19 cases by notification date and test type, Western Australia, 01 January to 18 September 2022.....	5
Figure 3. COVID-19 cases by age group and sex, Western Australia, 12 September to 18 September 2022.	6
Table 2. COVID-19 reinfections in Western Australia, 02 March to 18 September 2022.....	7
Figure 4. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people, by Australian jurisdiction, 01 December 2021 to 18 September 2022.....	7
Figure 5. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 by age group, Western Australia, 08 February to 18 September 2022.....	8
Figure 6. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people, by health region, Western Australia, 08 February 2022 to 18 September 2022.	9
Table 3. Number of COVID-19 cases and case rates per 100,000 population, by region, 12 September to 18 September 2022 and 05 September to 11 September 2022.	10
Figure 7 (a). Locally acquired COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, regional Western Australia, 12 September to 18 September 2022. (b) Locally acquired COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, Perth metropolitan area, 12 September to 18 September 2022.	11
Aboriginal case summary	12
Figure 8. COVID-19 cases in Western Australia per 100,000 population, and rate ratio, by Indigenous status and notification date, 08 February to 18 September 2022.	12
Testing data	13
Figure 9. The number of COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction tests and proportion positive by laboratory category and specimen date, 01 December 2021 to 18 September 2022.....	13
Table 4. Number of COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction tests and testing rates, by region, Western Australia, 12 September to 18 September 2022 and 05 September to 11 September 2022.	14
Figure 10 (a). Polymerase chain reaction testing rates per 100,000 population by LGA, regional Western Australia, 12 September to 18 September 2022. (b) Polymerase chain reaction testing rates per 100,000 population by LGA, Perth metropolitan area, 12 September to 18 September 2022.	15
Appendix 1	16
Regional cases by postcode, 12 September – 18 September 2022.....	16

Summary for the week 12 September to 18 September 2022 (inclusive)

In the week of 12 September to 18 September 2022 there were:

- 5,798 COVID-19 cases reported
 - 1,722 with positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests
 - 4,076 with positive rapid antigen tests (RAT)
 - 5,430 locally acquired, 174 interstate acquired, 194 overseas acquired
 - 974 were reinfections (see definition in Table 2)
- 42 new hospital admissions and two new admissions directly into an intensive care unit
- 13 deaths reported, aged between 74 and 96 years old
- 15,668 COVID-19 PCR tests conducted

Surveillance summary

There was a 10% decrease in **PCR tests** conducted in the current reporting week compared to the previous reporting week, with the proportion of positive PCR tests remaining steady over the course of the week with a 7-day average of 10%.

Overall, **case numbers** decreased by 15% compared to the previous week. Cases diagnosed by PCR and RAT decreased by 15% each. The steady proportion of positive PCR tests over the past week suggests the case load in the community has plateaued.

Case rates per 100,000 population for all public health regions continue to decline, with the Goldfields region having the lowest case rates during the current reporting week. There was <1% difference in the Perth metropolitan area rate compared to the combined rate in the Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS) regions. The highest rates were observed in the 20 to 29 and 30 to 49 years age groups, with rates continuing to decline among all age groups. Nationally, case rates per 100,000 population have decreased across all jurisdictions, with the highest rate occurring in Western Australia during the current reporting week.

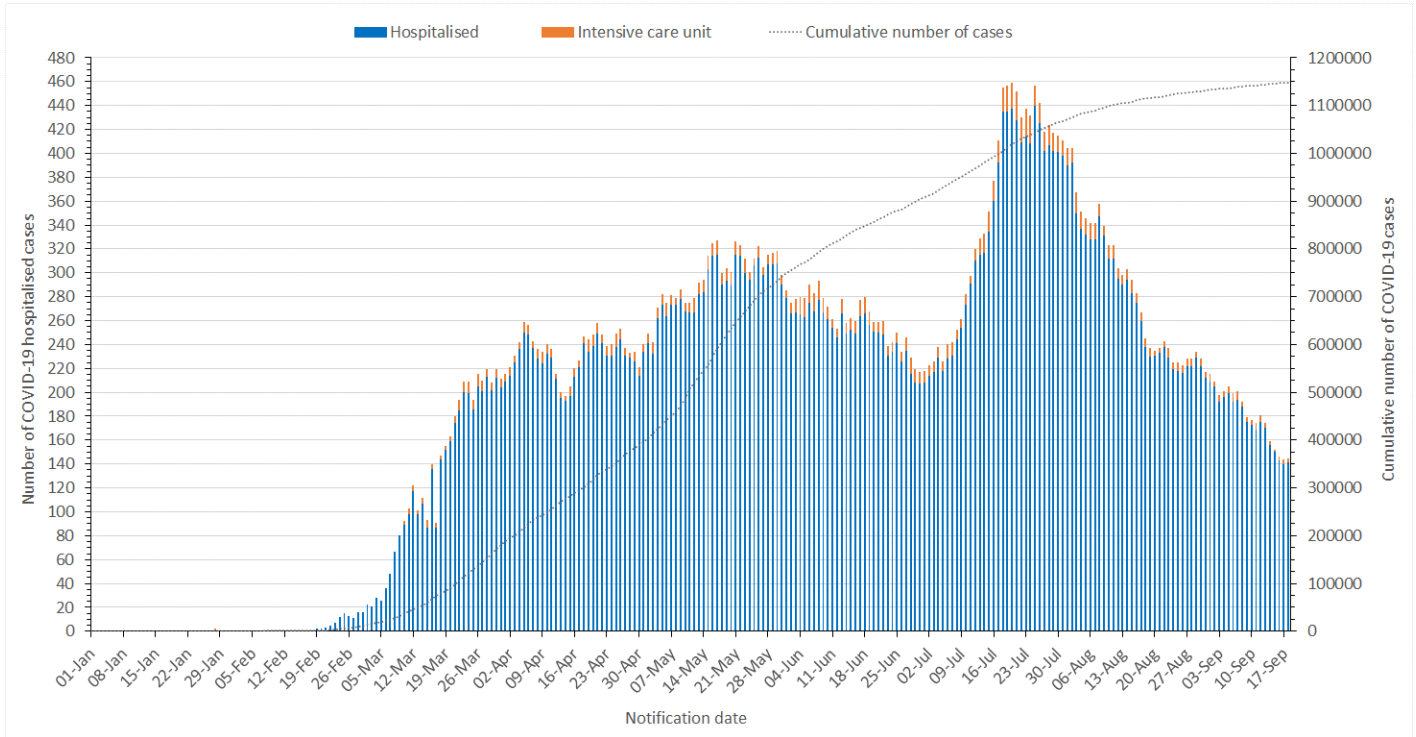
The 7-day average of **hospitalised cases** decreased by 16%, while **intensive care cases** are stable compared to the previous reporting week. New hospital admissions related to COVID-19 increased by 24% from 34 in the last reporting week to 42 this week, and direct intensive care unit admissions remained stable at two admissions this week.

There was a 35% decrease in **deaths** reported in the current reporting week with 13 deaths reported compared to the 20 in the previous reporting week.

There were 352 cases in the **Aboriginal population** during the current reporting week, a 4% increase in cases compared to the previous reporting week. Cases rates in the Aboriginal population are higher than in the non-Aboriginal population, with a 7-day average rate ratio of 1.42 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 18 September 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.

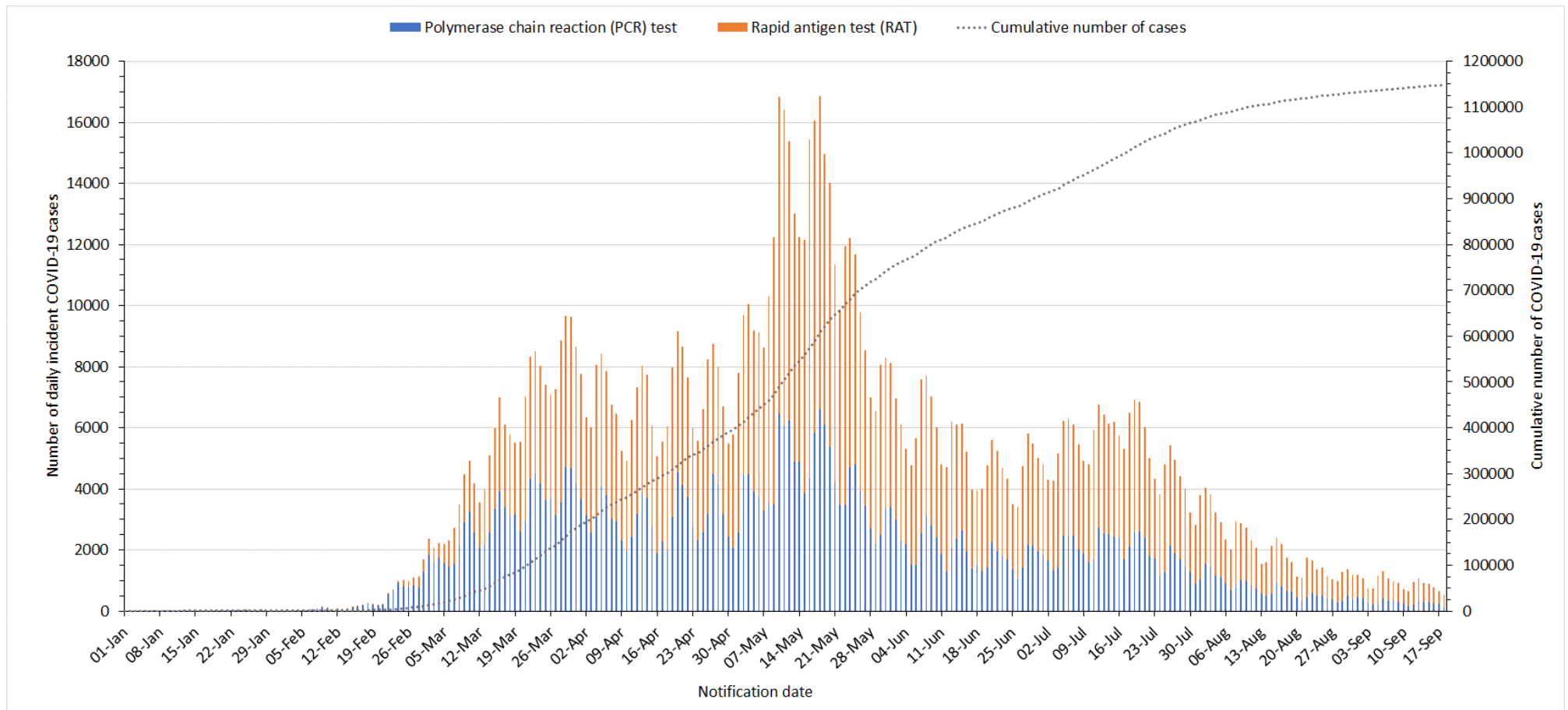
Table 1. Number of COVID-19 related deaths reported by vaccination status and age group, 12 September to 18 September 2022 and 01 January to 18 September 2022.

	Week 12 Sep – 18 Sep 2022	01 Jan 2022 – 18 Sep 2022
Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses	Deaths n=13	Deaths n=632
0	1 (7.7%)	129 (20.4%)
1	0 (0%)	27 (4.3%)
2	0 (0%)	83 (13.1%)
3+	12 (92.3%)	393 (62.2%)
Age group (years)		
0-9	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
10-19	0 (0%)	2 (0.3%)
20-29	0 (0%)	1 (0.2%)
30-39	0 (0%)	4 (0.6%)
40-49	0 (0%)	9 (1.4%)
50-59	0 (0%)	26 (4.1%)
60-69	0 (0%)	52 (8.2%)
70-79	5 (38.4%)	112 (17.7%)
80-89	4 (30.8%)	238 (37.6%)
90+	4 (30.8%)	188 (29.7%)

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 16th September 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.
 Hospitalisation and intensive care unit breakdown available in bi-weekly WA COVID-19 data update. Link [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
 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 18 September 2022.



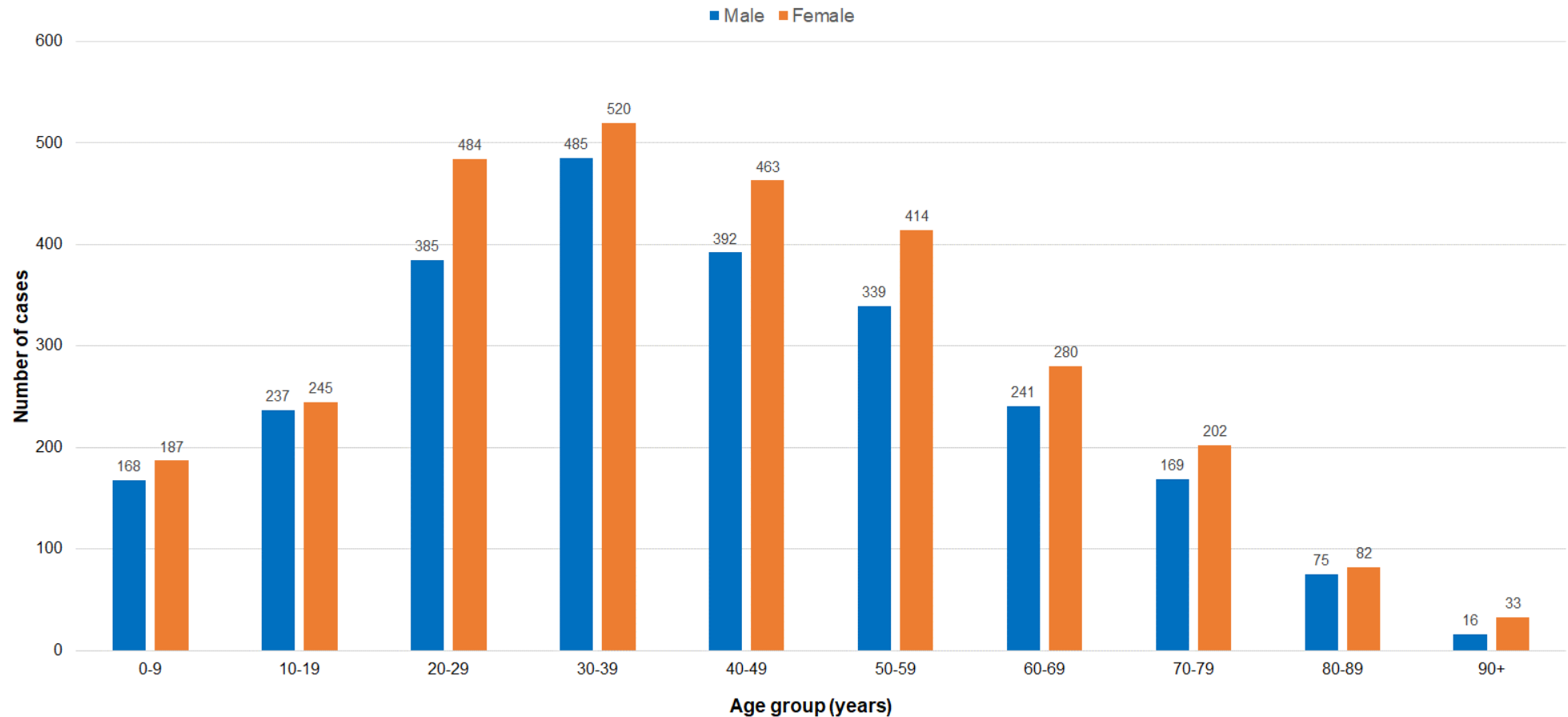
Notes

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, 12 September to 18 September 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=2,507 (46.3%) Females: n=2,910 (53.7%)
- Median age = 39 years; range: 0 to 105 years

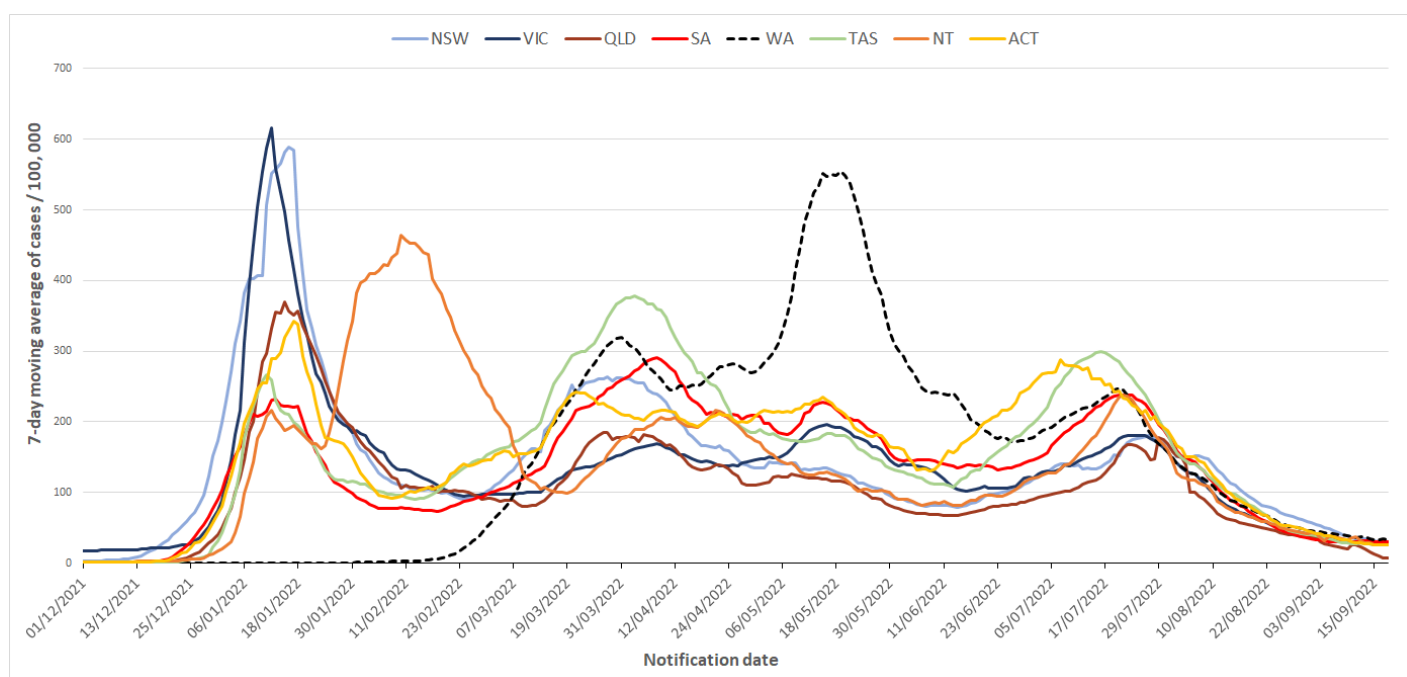
Table 2. COVID-19 reinfections in Western Australia, 02 March to 18 September 2022.

Month	Number of reinfections *
Mar-2022	14
Apr-2022	28
May-2022	105
Jun-2022	840
Jul-2022	5,032
Aug-2022	5,683
Sep-2022 ^	2,242
Total	13,944

* 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 September to 18th September inclusive

Figure 4. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people, by Australian jurisdiction, 01 December 2021 to 18 September 2022.



Notes

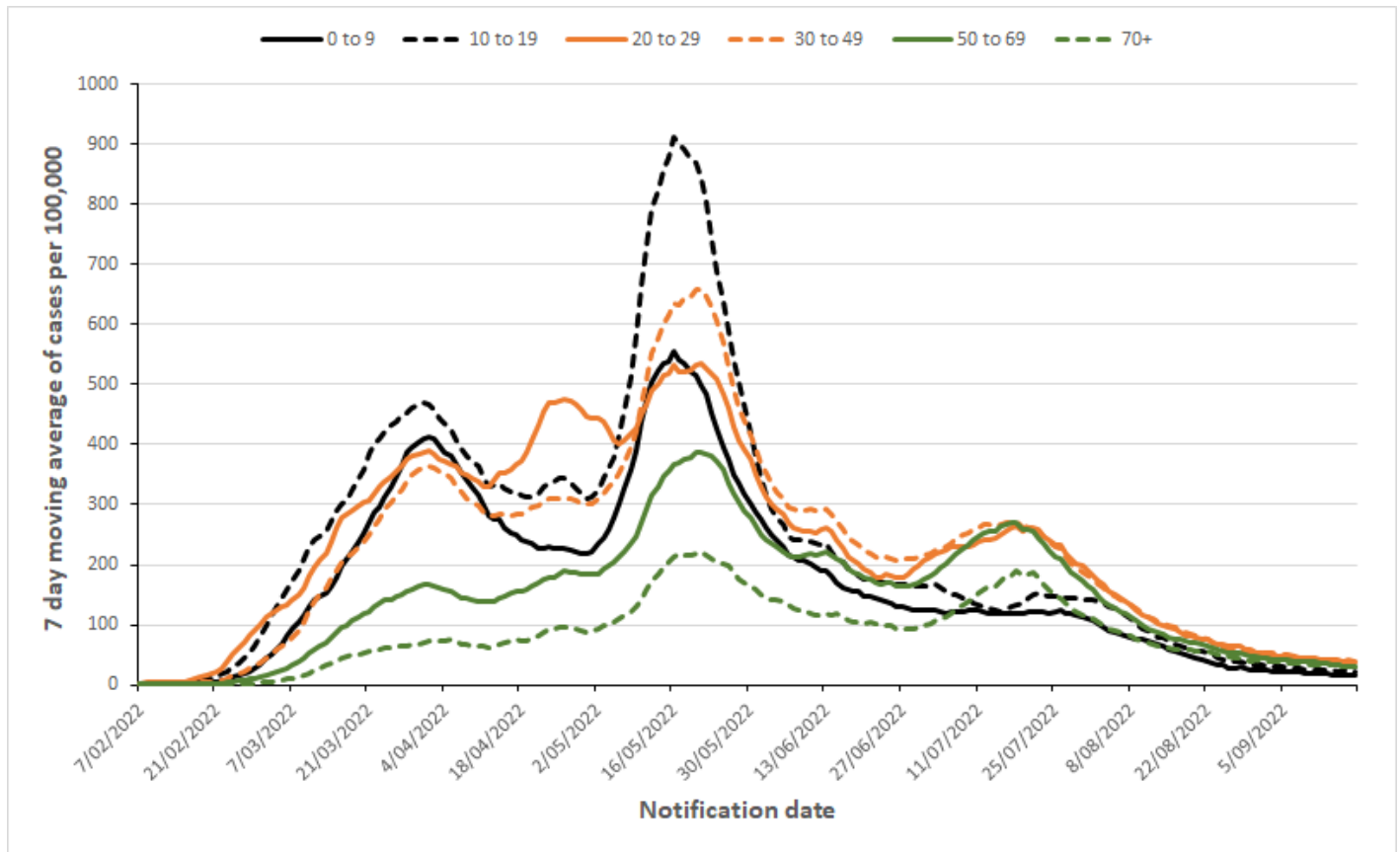
Data sourced from the respective jurisdictional health department datasets

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

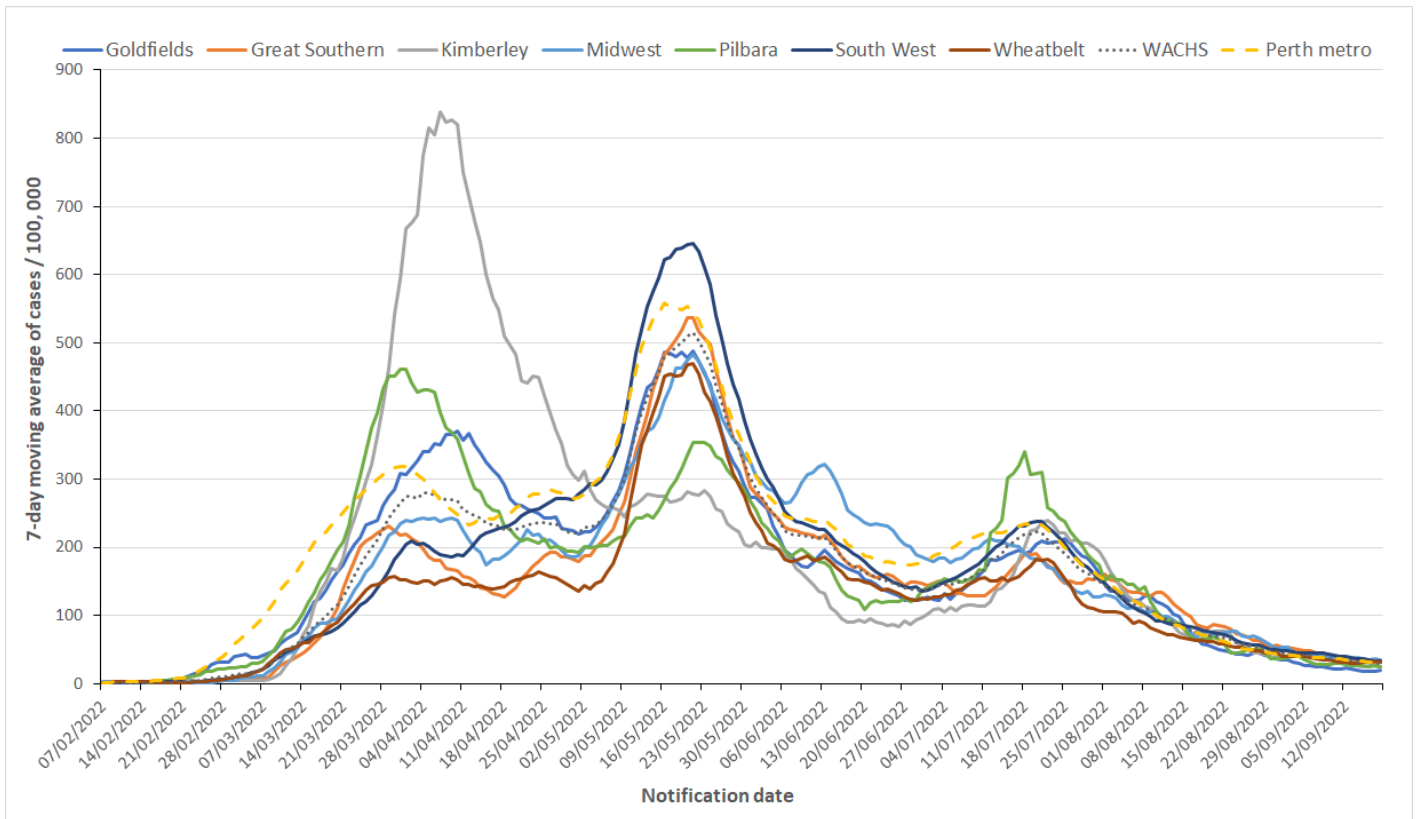
Population denominators are sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics December 2021 estimates.

Figure 5. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 by age group, Western Australia, 08 February to 18 September 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 18 September 2022.



Notes

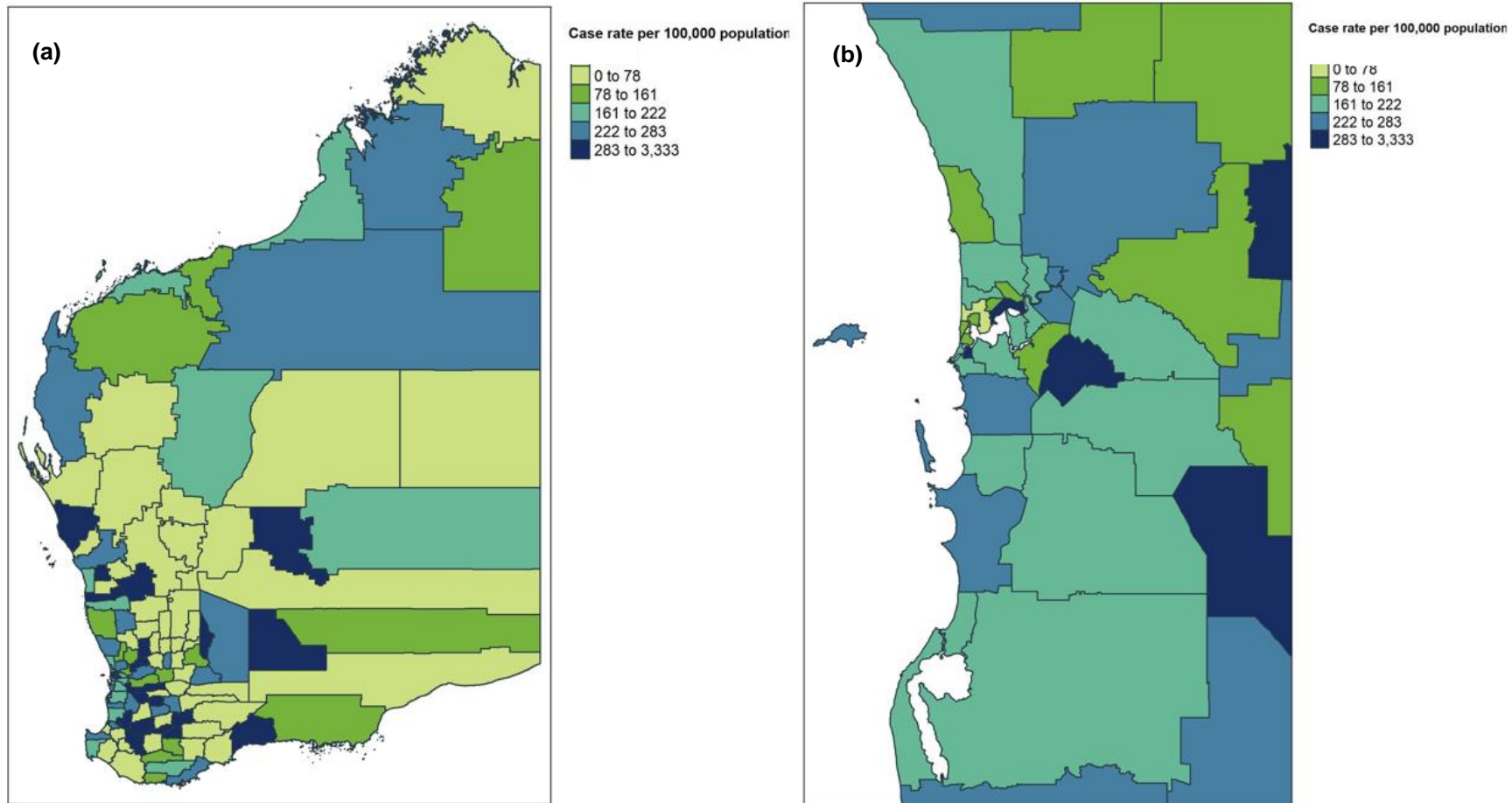
Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset
 Notification date refers to data collected up to the end of the 24-hour reporting period 8pm to 8pm
 The reporting period transitioned to a 6pm to 6pm cycle from 18th June 2022 and then to a 4pm to 4pm cycle from 24th August 2022
 Cases 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, 12 September to 18 September 2022 and 05 September to 11 September 2022.

	Region	Week 12 to 18 September 2022		Week 05 to 11 September 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	74	137	84	156
	Great Southern	134	219	159	259
	Kimberley	65	180	92	255
	Midwest	149	240	170	274
	Pilbara	109	174	126	201
	South West	431	237	515	283
	Wheatbelt	172	226	173	227
WACHS total*		1134	212	1319	247
Other**		112	-	151	-
Metropolitan		4,552	214	5,334	250
Total		5,798	218	6,804	255

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 case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, regional Western Australia, 12 September to 18 September 2022. (b) Locally acquired COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, Perth metropolitan area, 12 September to 18 September 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)

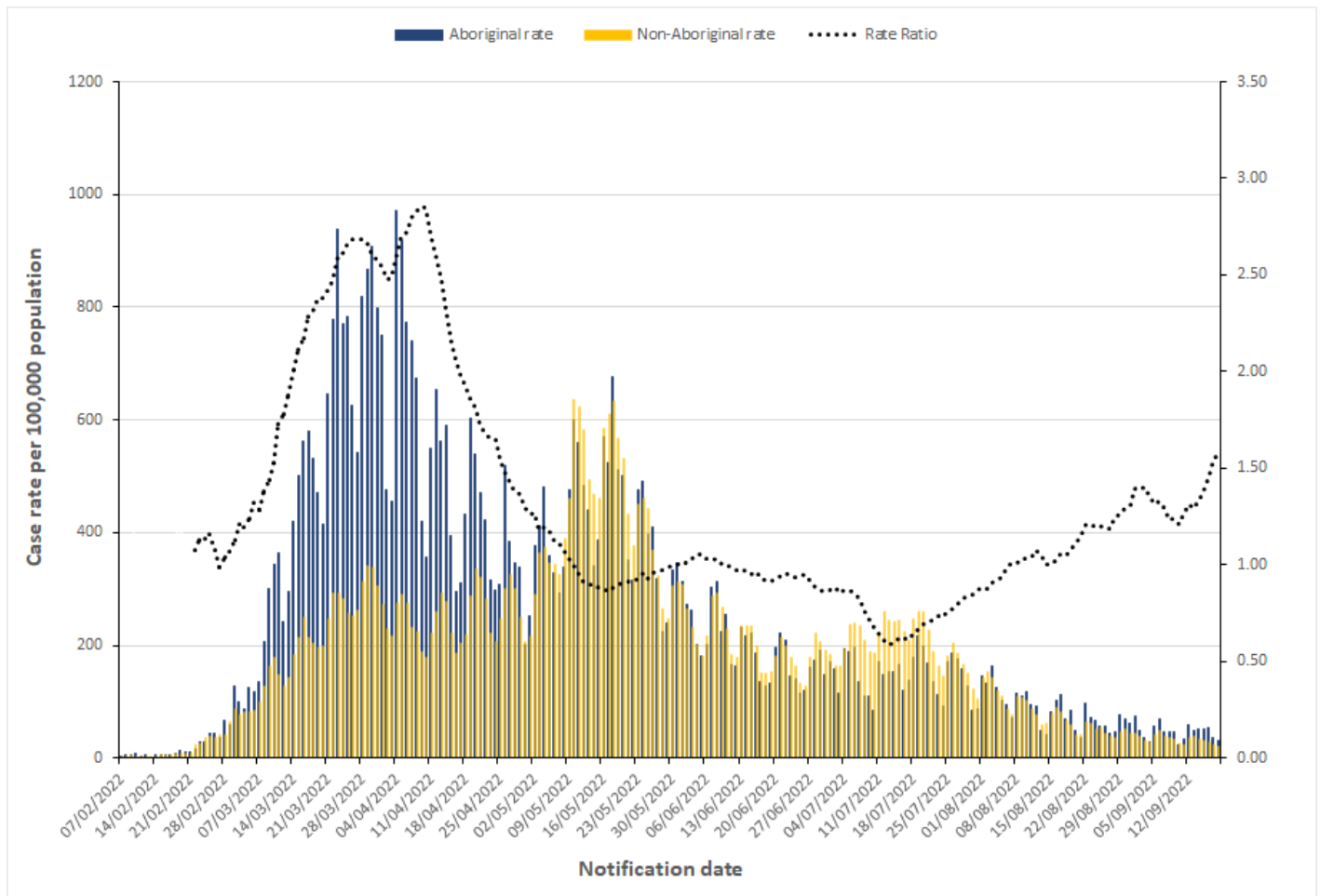
Case data includes those determined by both polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests and rapid antigen tests (RAT)

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 18 September 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)

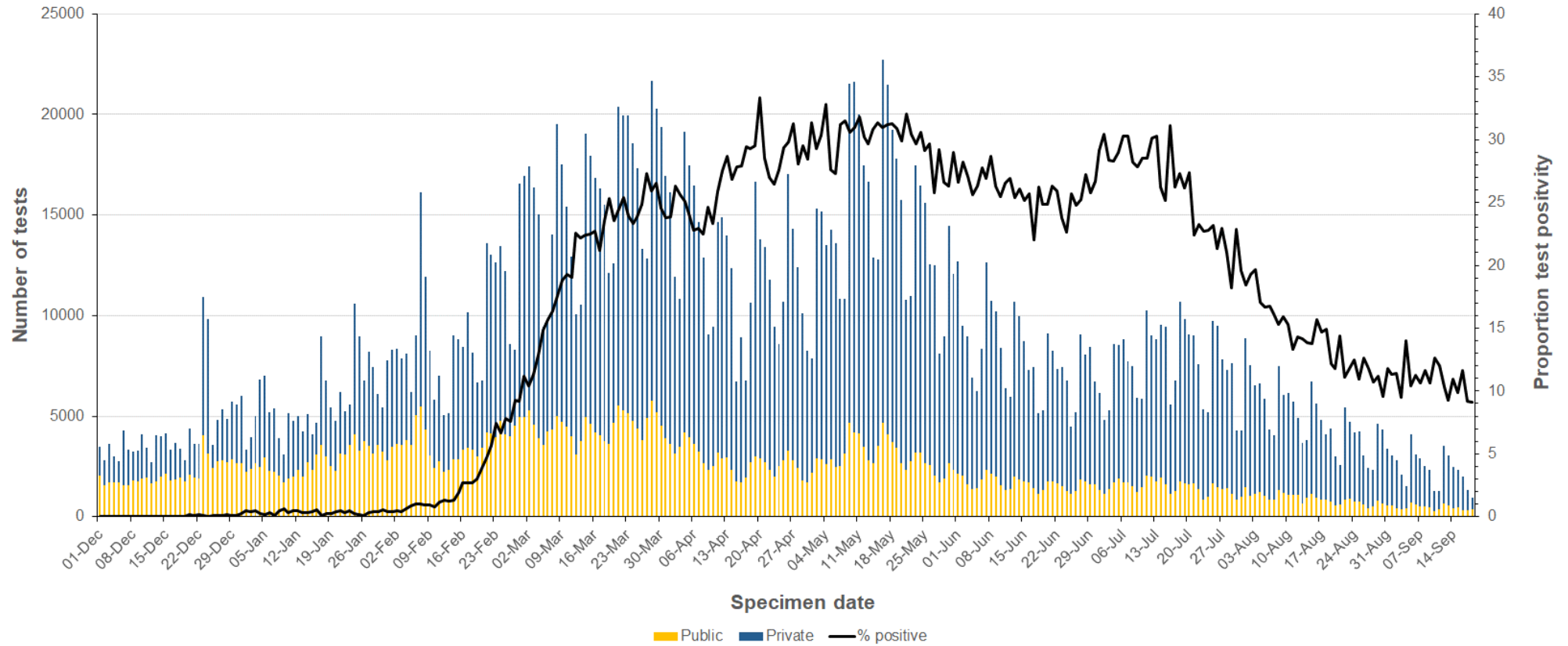
Population denominator is sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 estimates

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 18 September 2022.



Notes

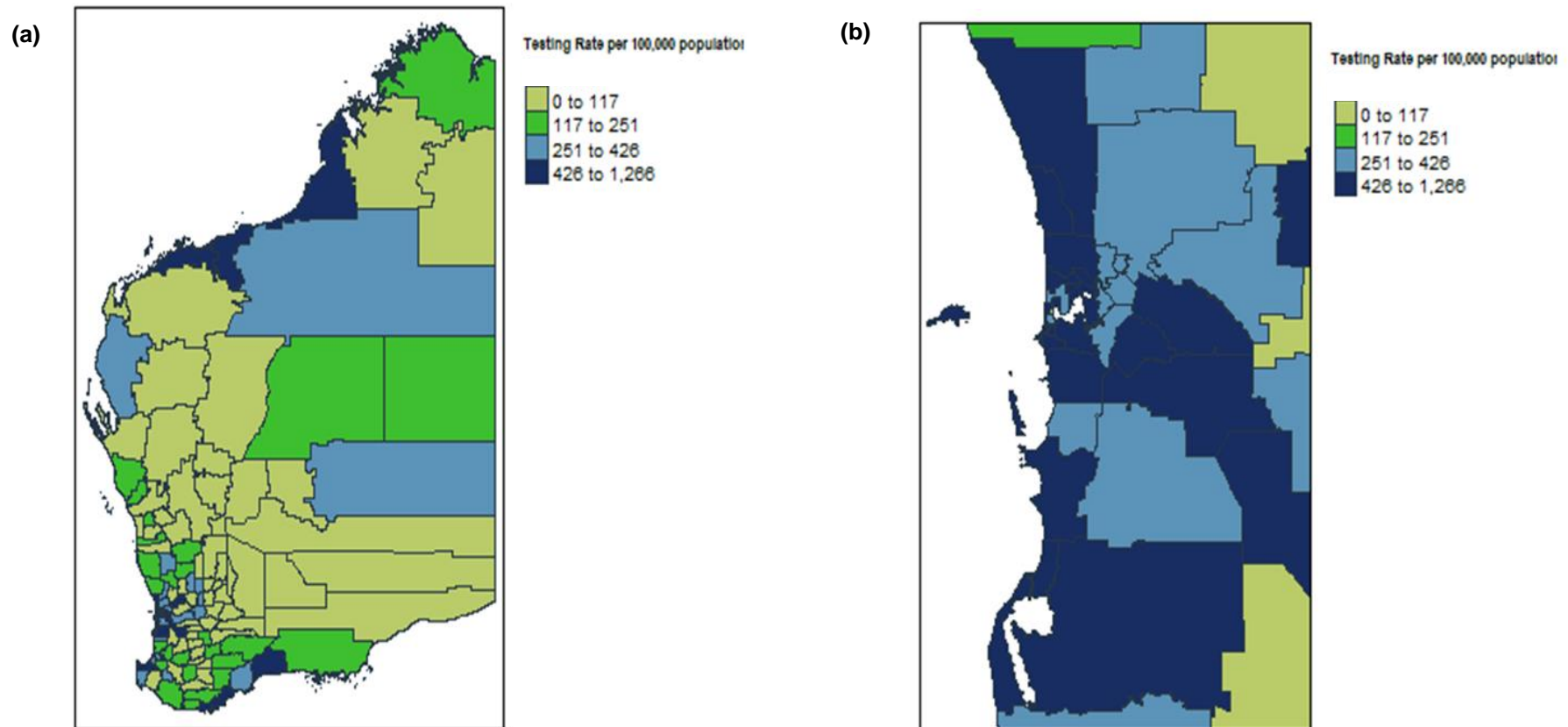
Data sourced from Western Australian public and private pathology laboratories
Specimen date refers to the date that specimen was collected
Number of tests includes both positive and negative tests.

Table 4. Number of COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction tests and testing rates, by region, Western Australia, 12 September to 18 September 2022 and 05 September to 11 September 2022.

	Region	Week 12 to 18 September 2022		Week 05 to 11 September 2022	
		Number for current week	Rates for current week (tests/100,000 pop)	Number for previous week	Rates for previous week (tests/100,000 pop)
WACHS Regions	Goldfields	157	291	171	317
	Great Southern	266	434	322	525
	Kimberley	111	308	120	333
	Midwest	152	245	158	255
	Pilbara	291	463	214	341
	South West	685	377	835	459
	Wheatbelt	140	184	154	202
WACHS total *		1,802	337	1,974	370
Other**		234	-	189	-
Metropolitan		13,632	640	15,233	715
Total		15,668	588	17,396	653

Notes
 Data sourced from Western Australian public and private pathology laboratories
 Number of tests includes both positive and negative tests
 Region of residential address for person tested
 *Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS) includes Goldfields, Great Southern, Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara, South West and Wheatbelt public health regions
 Total excludes WACHS*
 **Other includes overseas and interstate residential addresses
 Population denominator is sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 estimates.

Figure 10 (a). Polymerase chain reaction testing rates per 100,000 population by LGA, regional Western Australia, 12 September to 18 September 2022. (b) Polymerase chain reaction testing rates per 100,000 population by LGA, Perth metropolitan area, 12 September to 18 September 2022.



Notes

Data sourced from Western Australian pathology laboratories and includes both positive and negative tests
 RAT testing numbers could not be included due to the department only receiving positive RAT tests
 Population denominator is sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 estimates
 Testing data is represented on the map by place of usual residence for person tested (due to unavailability of data for place of test)
 Areas on the map are defined by Local Government Area (LGA) boundaries.

Appendix 1

Regional cases by postcode, 12 September – 18 September 2022

WACHS Region	Postcode	Week 12 to 18 Sept 2022	WACHS Region	Postcode	Week 12 to 18 Sept 2022
Goldfields	0872	<5	Pilbara (continued)	6716	8
	6430	22		6720	7
	6431	<5		6721	<5
	6432	8		6722	18
	6437	<5		6751	10
	6438	<5		6753	26
	6440	<5		6754	<5
	6442	10	South West	6218	<5
	6450	18		6220	10
Great Southern	6317	14	6223	<5	
	6320	<5	6224	<5	
	6321	<5	6225	25	
	6323	<5	6226	<5	
	6324	5	6230	142	
	6326	<5	6232	28	
	6330	93	6233	52	
	6333	8	6236	7	
	6346	<5	6237	<5	
	6348	<5	6239	<5	
	6394	<5	6244	<5	
	6395	<5	6254	<5	
	6397	<5	6255	5	
	Kimberley	6725	28	6258	5
6726		8	6260	<5	
6728		14	6262	<5	
6740		<5	6271	13	
6743		<5	6280	86	
6765		6	6281	15	
6770		<5	6282	<5	
			6284	5	
Midwest	6515	<5	6285	21	
	6517	<5	6286	<5	
	6522	<5	6290	<5	
	6525	7	Wheatbelt	6302	8
	6530	97		6304	<5
	6532	8		6306	<5
	6536	<5		6308	<5
	6616	<5		6309	<5
	6623	<5		6311	<5
	6642	<5		6312	14
	6701	14		6315	24
	6707	8		6350	<5
	Pilbara	6710		<5	6369
6713		<5		6370	<5
6714		30			

Wheatbelt (continued)	6383	<5			
	6390	<5			
	6391	<5			
	6392	<5			
	6401	33			
	6407	<5			
	6409	<5			
	6415	<5			
	6423	<5			
	6426	<5			
	6460	<5			
	6479	<5			
	6501	<5			
	6502	7			
	6503	8			
	6505	<5			
	6510	7			
	6511	<5			
	6516	<5			
	6521	<5			
	6560	5			
	6562	<5			
	6564	<5			
	6566	5			
	6603	<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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