



COVID-19 Weekly Surveillance report

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Summary for the week 16 October to 22 October 2023 (inclusive)

In the week of 16 October to 22 October 2023 there were:

- 304 COVID-19 cases reported *
- 39 new hospital admissions and 0 admission into an intensive care unit
- 4 deaths, with a median age of 79
- 3,923 COVID-19 PCR tests conducted

Surveillance summary

This week, **case numbers** increased by 43% compared to the previous week.

The number of **PCR tests** remained steady compared to the previous week, with a 7-day average positivity rate of 4.5%.

The moving seven-day average **case rate** per 100,000 population increased in the Goldfields and Midwest region and Perth metropolitan area, remained steady in the Pilbara region, and decreased in the Great Southern, Kimberley, South West and Wheatbelt regions. The seven-day average case rate for the Perth metropolitan area (2 cases/100,000 population) is higher than the non-metropolitan regions combined (1 case/100,000 population).

The seven-day average **age-specific rate** remained steady in all age groups, except the 20 – 29 and 70+ years age groups, which increased. The highest rates were in the 70+ years age group (7 cases/100,000 population), and the lowest rates in the 10 - 19 years age group (<1 case/100,000 population).

The 7-day average of **hospitalised cases** increased by 18% from 67 last week to 79 this week, and **intensive care unit cases** remained at 2 this week. **New hospital admissions** related to COVID-19 increased from 23 last week to 39 this week, and **direct intensive care unit admissions** decreased from 1 last week to 0 this week.

Deaths decreased this week with 4 deaths reported compared to 6 deaths last week.

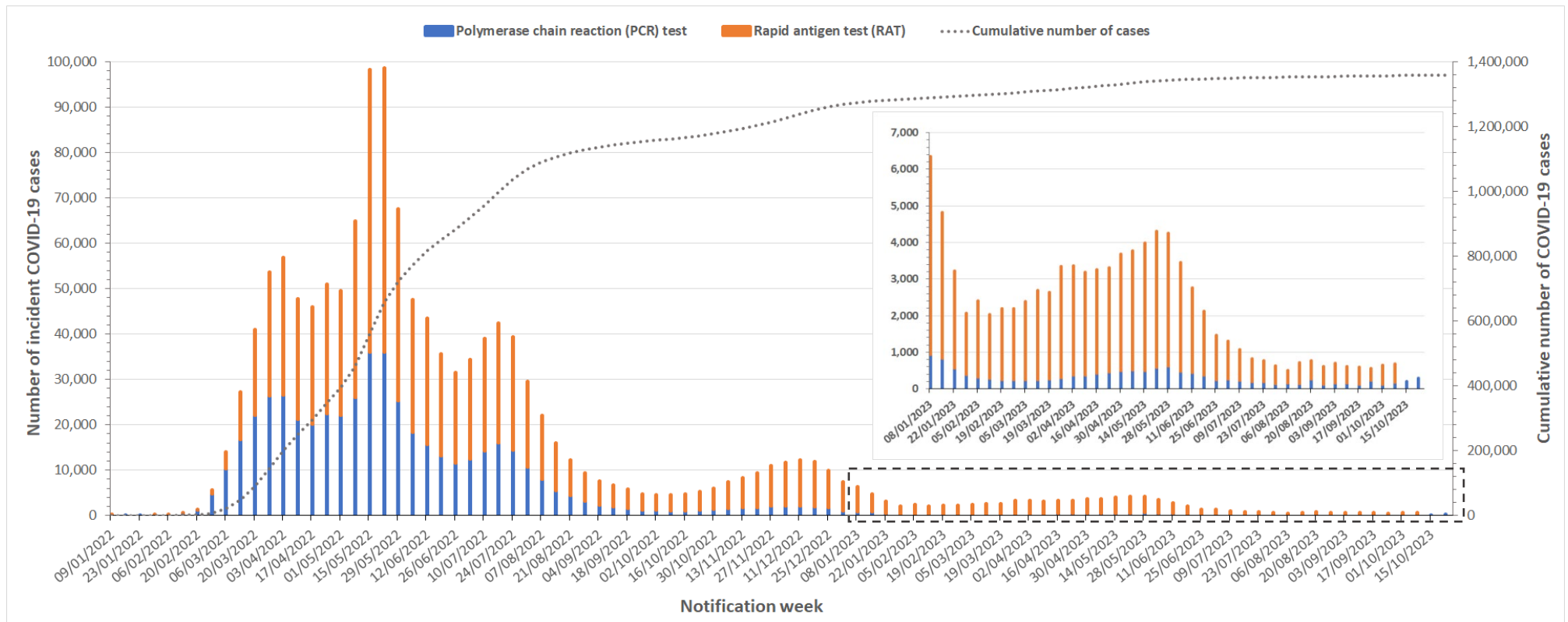
This week, 11 cases were reported in the **Aboriginal population**, slightly lower compared to last week. Case rates in the Aboriginal population are lower than the non-Aboriginal population, with a 7-day average rate ratio of 0.9 this reporting week. There was one death reported in the Aboriginal population this week.

Nationally, the moving seven-day average case rates increased in most jurisdictions, except Queensland and Northern Territory, which remained steady. Tasmania and Australian Capital Territory reported the highest rates (9 cases/100,000 population) and Western Australia the lowest rate (1 case/100,000 population).

* **Note: From 9 October 2023, COVID-19 cases detected by Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) are no longer counted due to the closure of the online RAT registration system. Therefore, from this date forward, percentage changes reported week to week are for COVID-19 cases detected by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test only.**

Case data

Figure 1. COVID-19 cases by notification week and test type, Western Australia, 03 January 2022 to 22 October 2023.



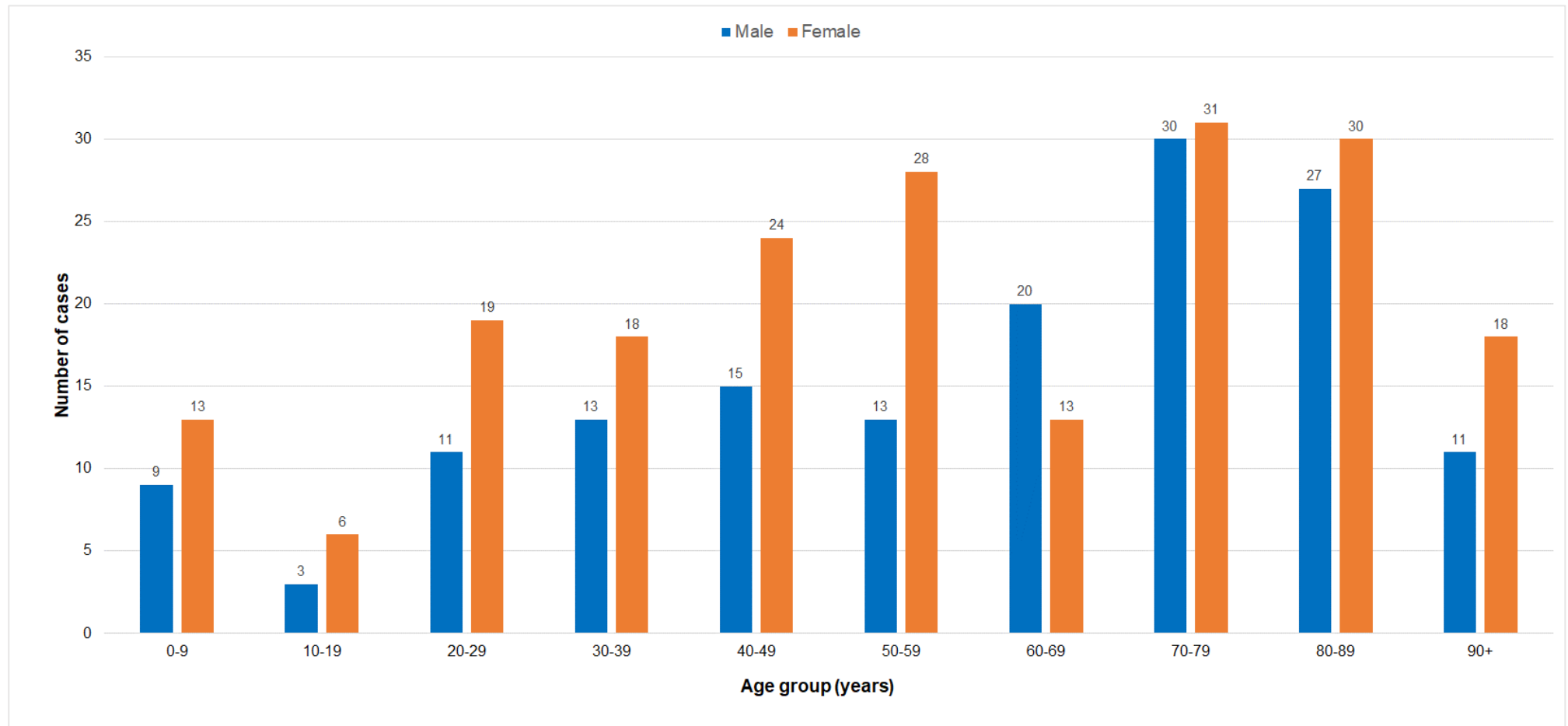
Notes

Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset

From 9th October 2023, COVID-19 cases detected by Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) are no longer counted due to the closure of the online RAT registration system

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, 16 October to 22 October 2023.



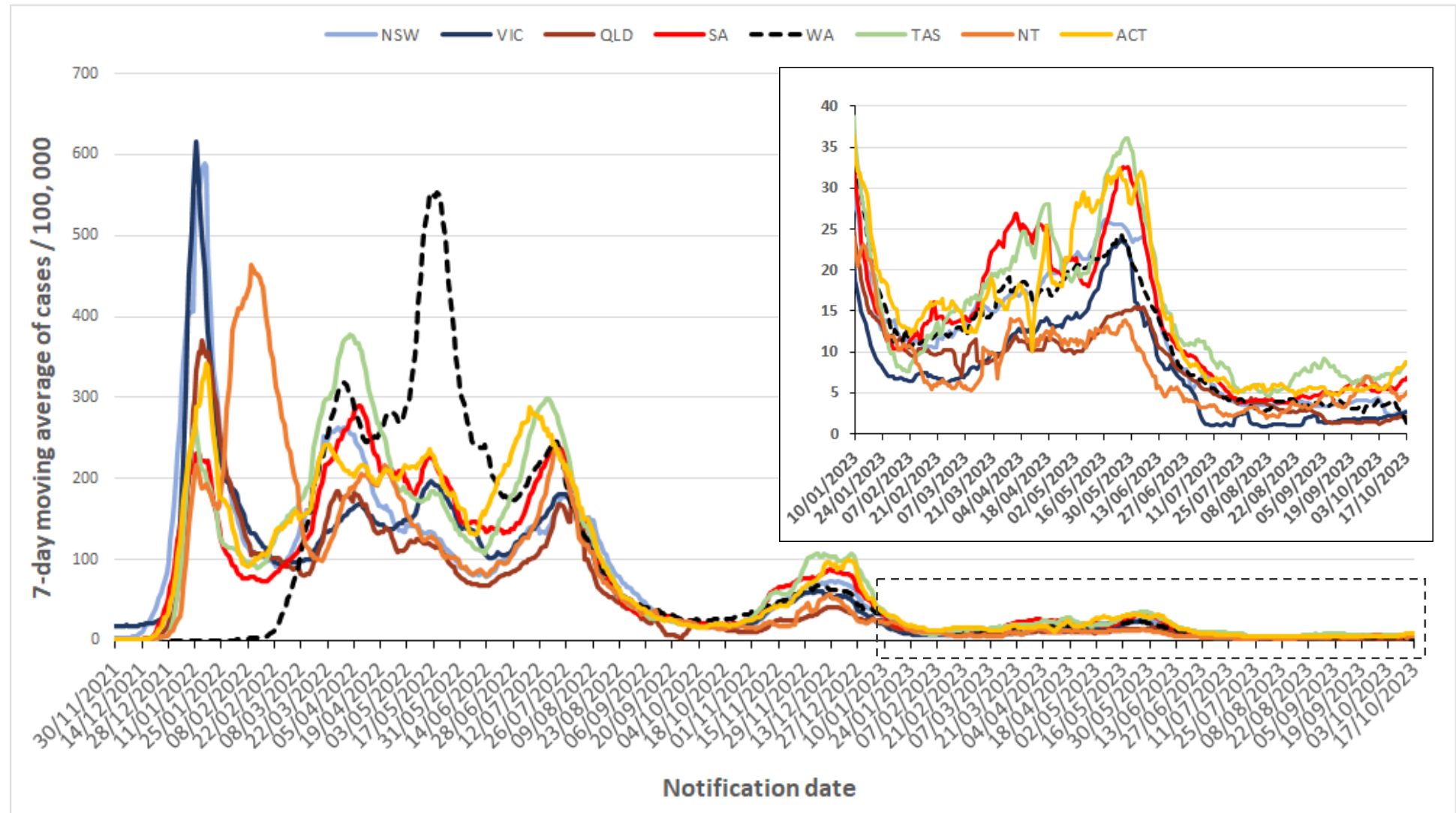
Notes

Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset

From 9th October 2023, COVID-19 cases detected by Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) are no longer counted due to the closure of the online RAT registration system

- Males: n=152 (43.2%) Females: n=200 (56.8%)
- Median age = 63 years; range: 0 to 98 years

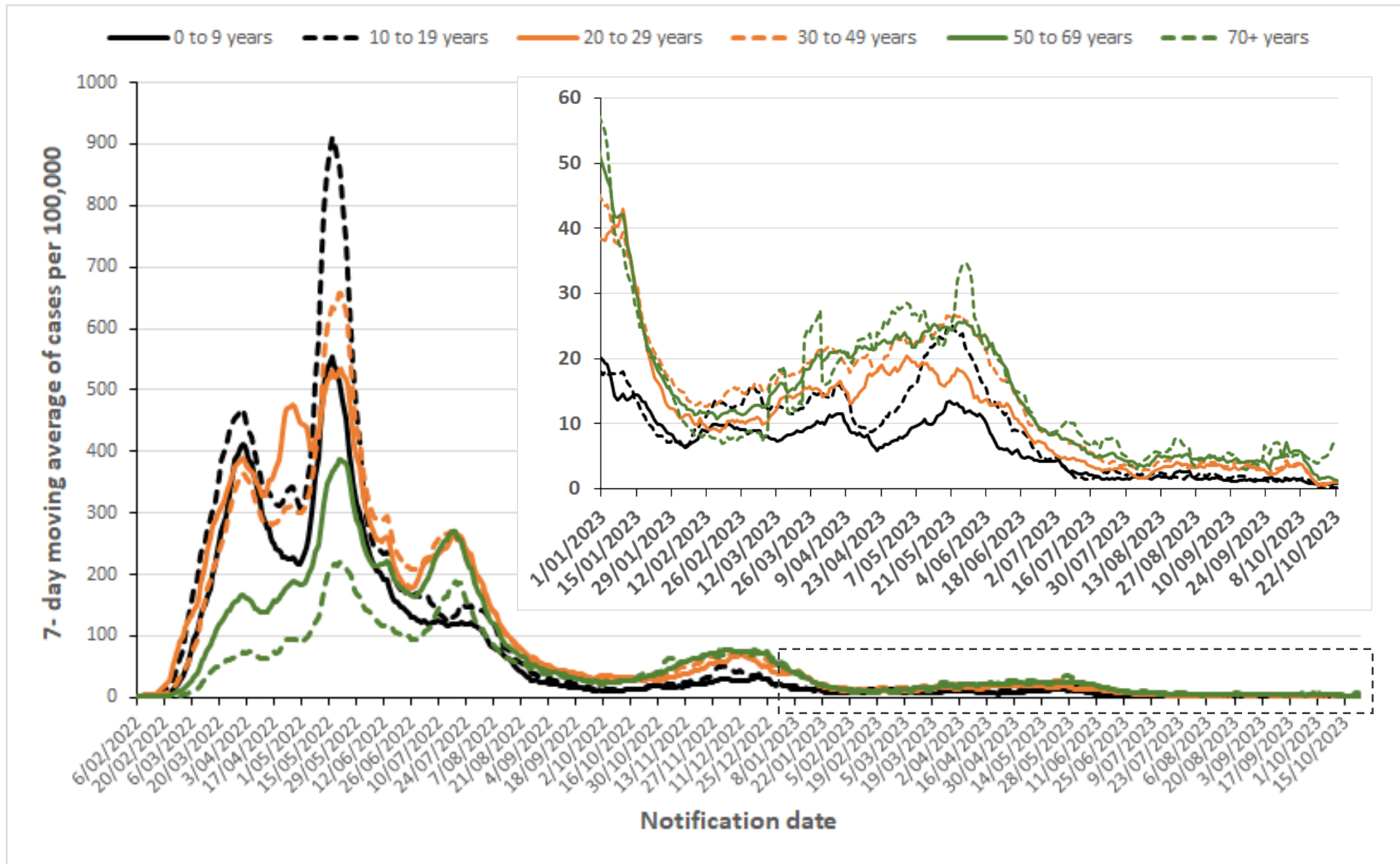
Figure 3. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by Australian jurisdiction, 01 December 2021 to 17 October 2023.



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 Test
 From 31 August 2023, Queensland ceased reporting COVID-19 cases detected by Rapid Antigen Test
 From 01 October 2023, New South Wales ceased reporting COVID-19 cases detected by Rapid Antigen Test
 Population denominators are sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics December 2020 estimates.
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Figure 4. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 age-specific rates per 100,000 population, Western Australia, 06 February 2022 to 22 October 2023.



Notes

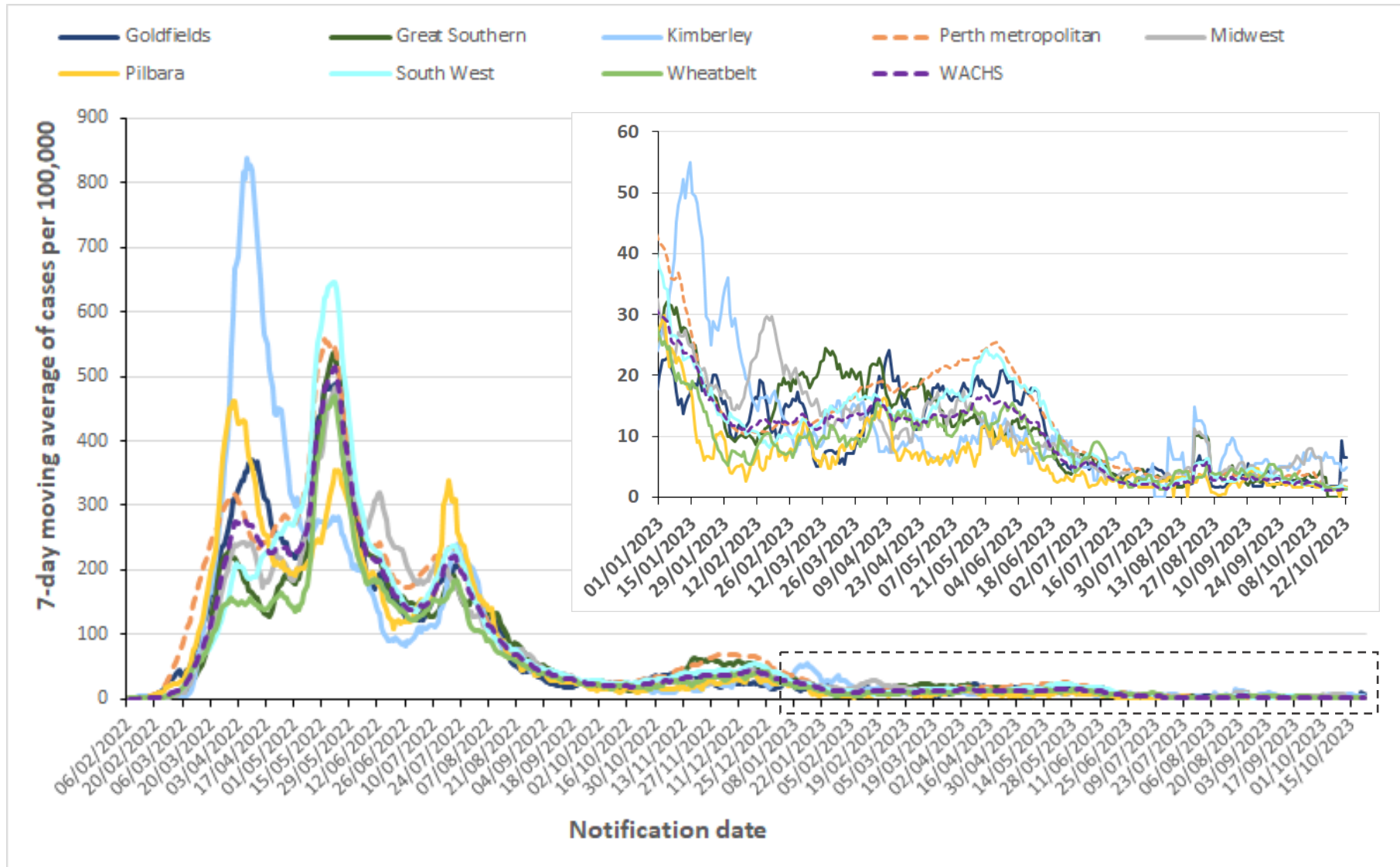
Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset

Notification date refers to the date that a case is notified to Western Australia Department of Health

From 9th October 2023, COVID-19 cases detected by Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) are no longer counted due to the closure of the online RAT registration system

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 22 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

From 9th October 2023, COVID-19 cases detected by Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) are no longer counted due to the closure of the online RAT registration system

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 16 October to 22 October		Previous report week 09 October to 15 October	
		Number	Rate [^]	Number	Rate [^]
Perth metropolitan region		252	12	169	8
WACHS Regions		47	9	40	7
	Goldfields	7	13	2	4
	Great Southern	2	3	0	0
	Kimberley	7	19	14	39
	Midwest	5	8	3	5
	Pilbara	3	5	2	3
	South West	19	10	14	8
	Wheatbelt	4	5	5	7
Other*		5	-	3	-
Total		304	11	212	8

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

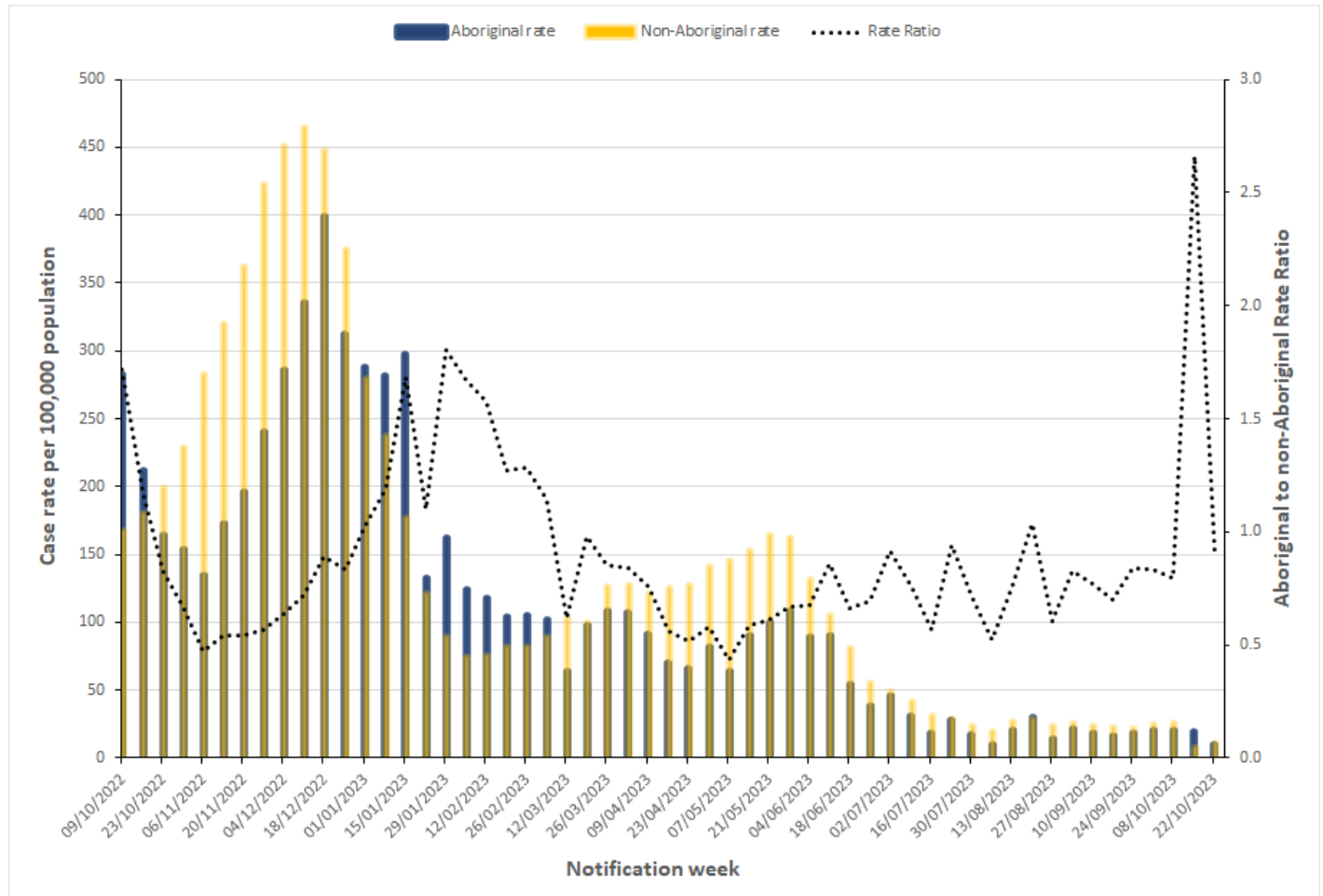
[^] Rate reported as cases per 100,000 population. The total rate excludes "Other" cases, as there is no denominator population representing this group

From 9th October 2023, COVID-19 cases detected by Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) are no longer counted due to the closure of the online RAT registration system

Population denominator is sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 estimates.

Aboriginal case summary

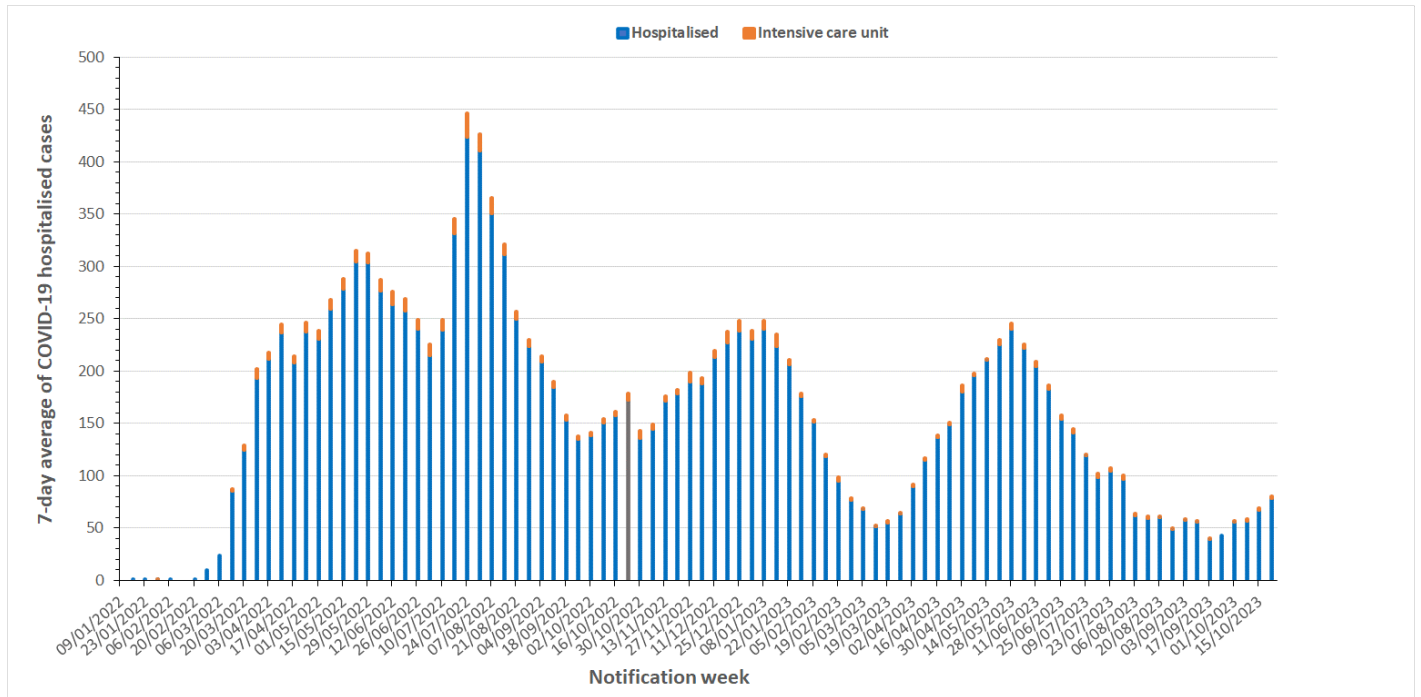
Figure 6. COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population and rate ratio by Aboriginal status and notification week, Western Australia, 09 October 2022 to 22 October 2023.



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
 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
 From 9th October 2023, COVID-19 cases detected by Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) are no longer counted due to the closure of the online RAT registration system
 Population denominator data were sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 estimates

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 22 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, 16 October to 22 October 2023 and 01 January 2022 to 22 October 2023.

	Current report week 16 October – 22 October 2023	Year 2022 to date 1 Jan 2022 – 22 October 2023
Sex	Deaths (n= 4)	Deaths (n= 1,263)
Female	3 (75.0%)	614 (48.6%)
Male	1 (25.0%)	649 (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	0 (0%)	10 (0.8%)
40-49	0 (0%)	14 (1.1%)
50-59	0 (0%)	38 (3.0%)
60-69	2 (50.0%)	92 (7.3%)
70-79	0 (0%)	236 (18.7%)
80-89	1 (25.0%)	472 (37.3%)
90+	1 (25.0%)	398 (31.5%)

Notes

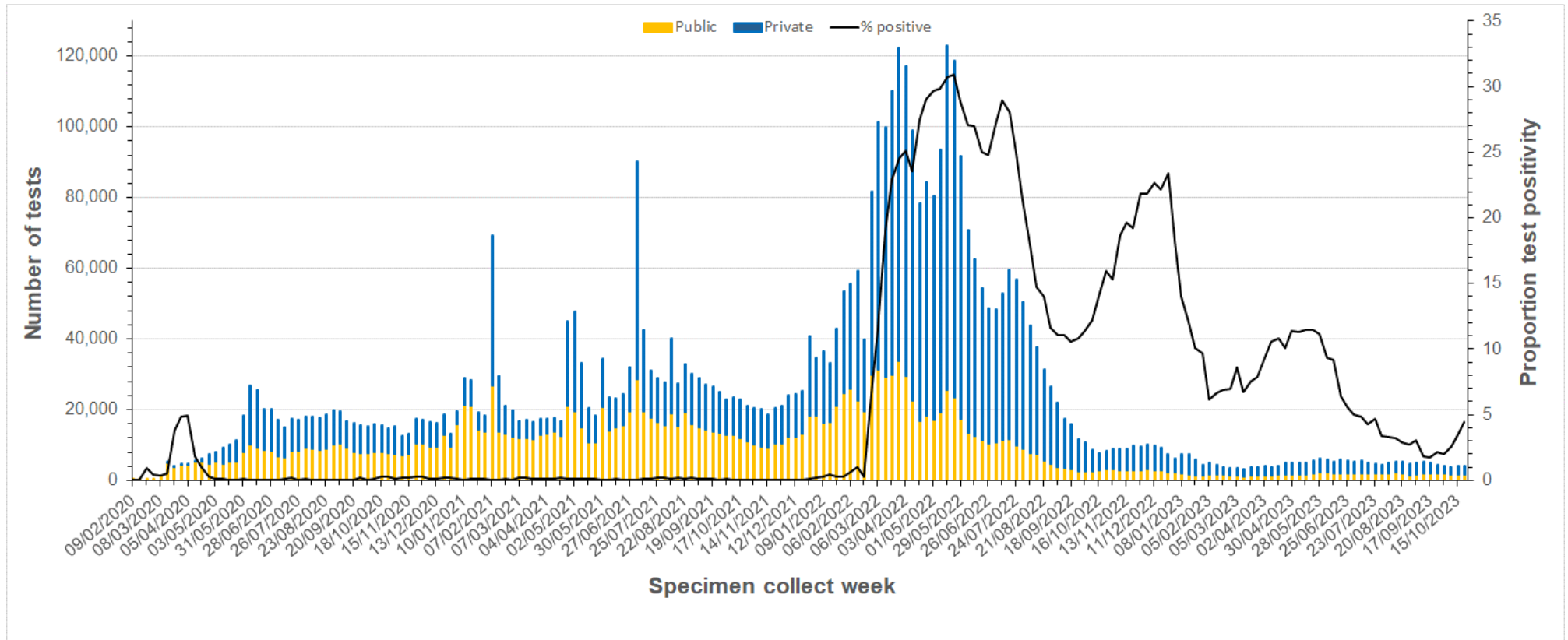
Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset

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 22 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.

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