



# COVID-19 Weekly Surveillance Report

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## Summary for the week 19 September to 25 September 2022 (inclusive)

In the week of 19 September to 25 September 2022 there were:

- 4,821 COVID-19 cases reported
  - 1,192 with positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests
  - 3,629 with positive rapid antigen tests (RAT)
  - 4,440 locally acquired, 155 interstate acquired, 226 overseas acquired
  - 649 were reinfections (see definition in Table 2)
- 32 new hospital admissions and no new admissions directly into an intensive care unit
- 9 deaths reported, aged between 86 and 104 years old
- 11,387 COVID-19 PCR tests conducted

### Surveillance summary

There was a 27% 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 11%.

Overall, **case numbers** decreased by 17% compared to the previous week. Cases diagnosed by PCR and RAT decreased by 30% and 10%, respectively. The steady proportion of positive PCR tests over the past week suggests the case load in the community remains at a continued low level.

**Case rates** per 100,000 population continue to decline for all public health regions, except for the Goldfields where rates remain steady. The Pilbara region has the lowest case rates during the current reporting week. The Perth metropolitan area rate was tracking 1% higher 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.

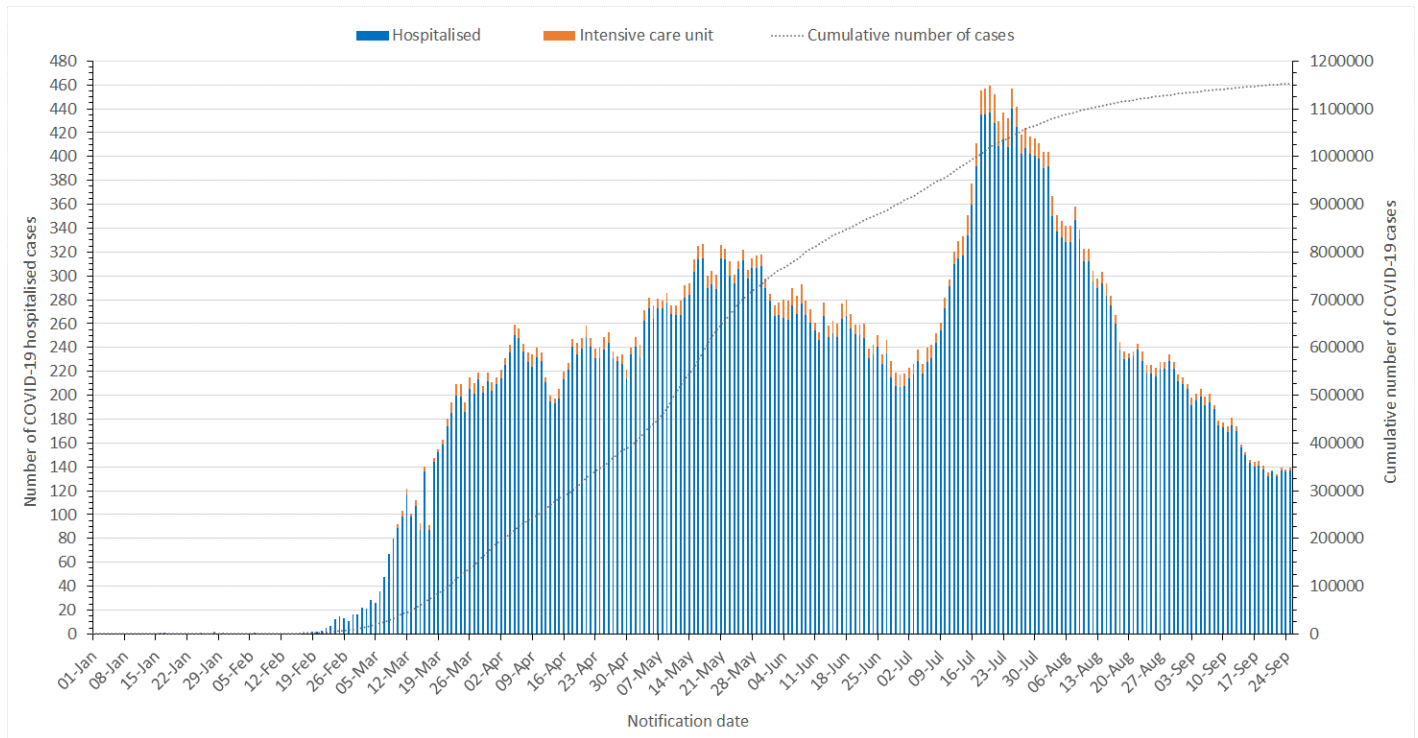
The 7-day average of **hospitalised cases** and **intensive care unit cases** decreased by 12% and 42%, respectively, compared to the previous reporting week. New hospital admissions related to COVID-19 decreased by 24% from 42 in the last reporting week to 32 this week, and direct intensive care unit admissions decreased by 100% from 2 in the last reporting week to zero this week.

There was a 30% decrease in **deaths** reported in the current reporting week with 9 deaths reported compared to the 13 in the previous reporting week.

There were 347 cases in the **Aboriginal population** during the current reporting week, a 1% decrease in cases compared to the previous reporting week. Case rates in the Aboriginal population are higher than in the non-Aboriginal population, with the 7-day average rate ratio increasing to 1.87 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 25 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 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and then to a 4pm to 4pm cycle from 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

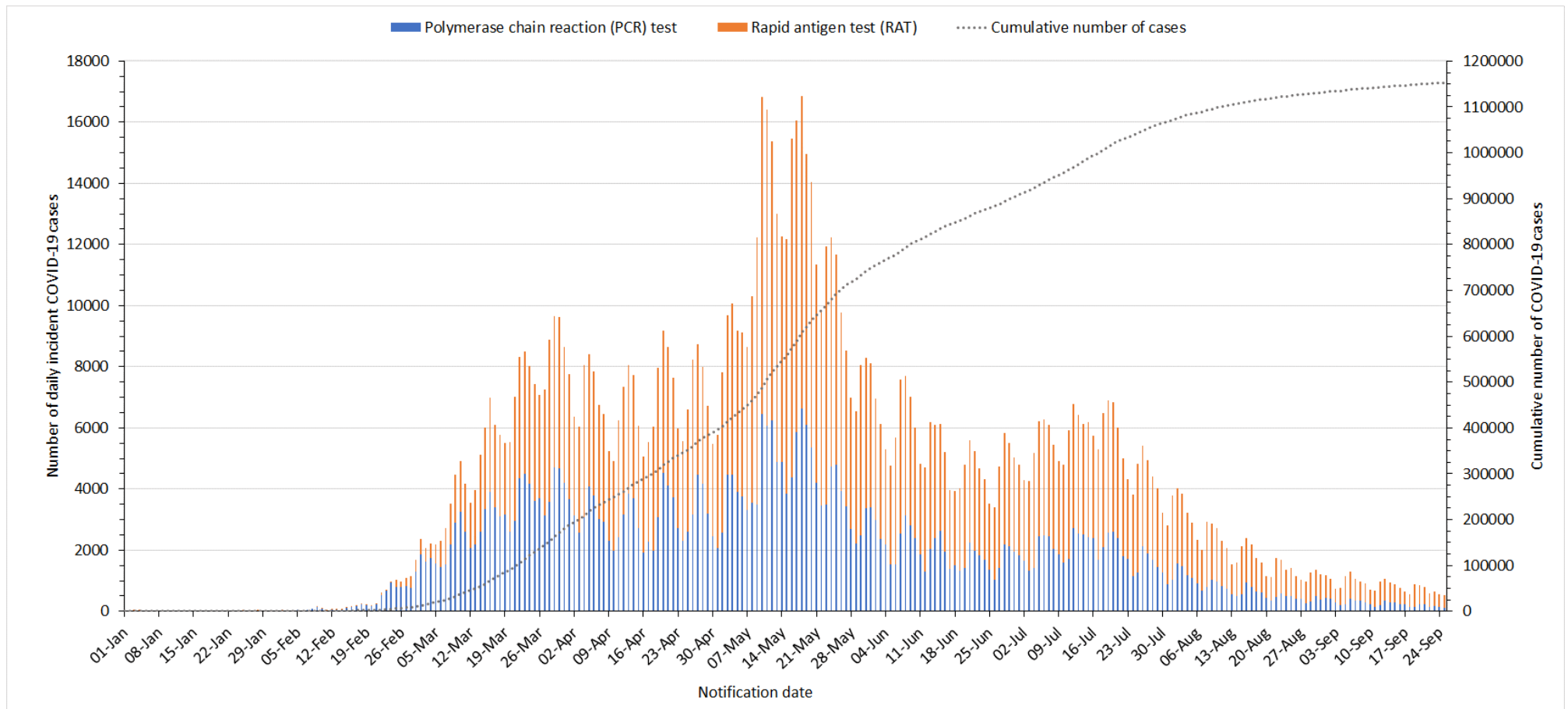
**Table 1. Number of COVID-19 related deaths reported by vaccination status and age group, 19 September to 25 September 2022 and 01 January to 25 September 2022.**

	<b>Week 19 Sep – 25 Sep 2022</b>	<b>01 Jan 2022 – 25 Sep 2022</b>
<b>Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses</b>	<b>Deaths n=9</b>	<b>Deaths n=641</b>
<b>0</b>	1 (11.1%)	130 (20.3%)
<b>1</b>	0 (0%)	27 (4.2%)
<b>2</b>	1 (11.1%)	84 (13.1%)
<b>3+</b>	7 (77.8%)	400 (62.4%)
<b>Age group (years)</b>		
<b>0-9</b>	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>10-19</b>	0 (0%)	2 (0.3%)
<b>20-29</b>	0 (0%)	1 (0.2%)
<b>30-39</b>	0 (0%)	4 (0.6%)
<b>40-49</b>	0 (0%)	9 (1.4%)
<b>50-59</b>	0 (0%)	26 (4.0%)
<b>60-69</b>	0 (0%)	52 (8.1%)
<b>70-79</b>	0 (0%)	112 (17.5%)
<b>80-89</b>	4 (44.4%)	242 (37.8%)
<b>90+</b>	5 (55.6%)	193 (30.1%)

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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  
 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 25 September 2022.



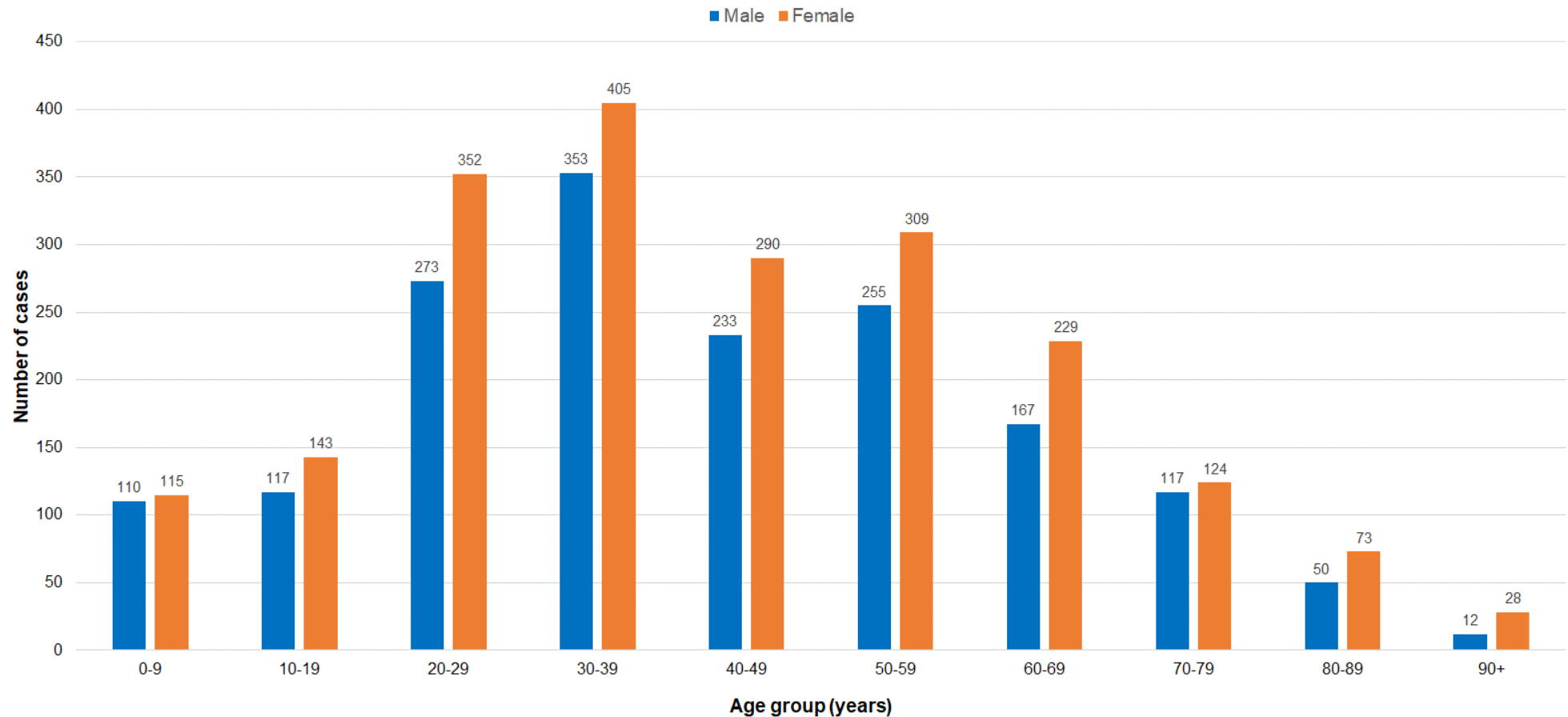
### Notes

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, 19 September to 25 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=1,687 (44.9%) Females: n=2,068 (55.1%)
- Median age = 40 years; range: 0 to 104 years

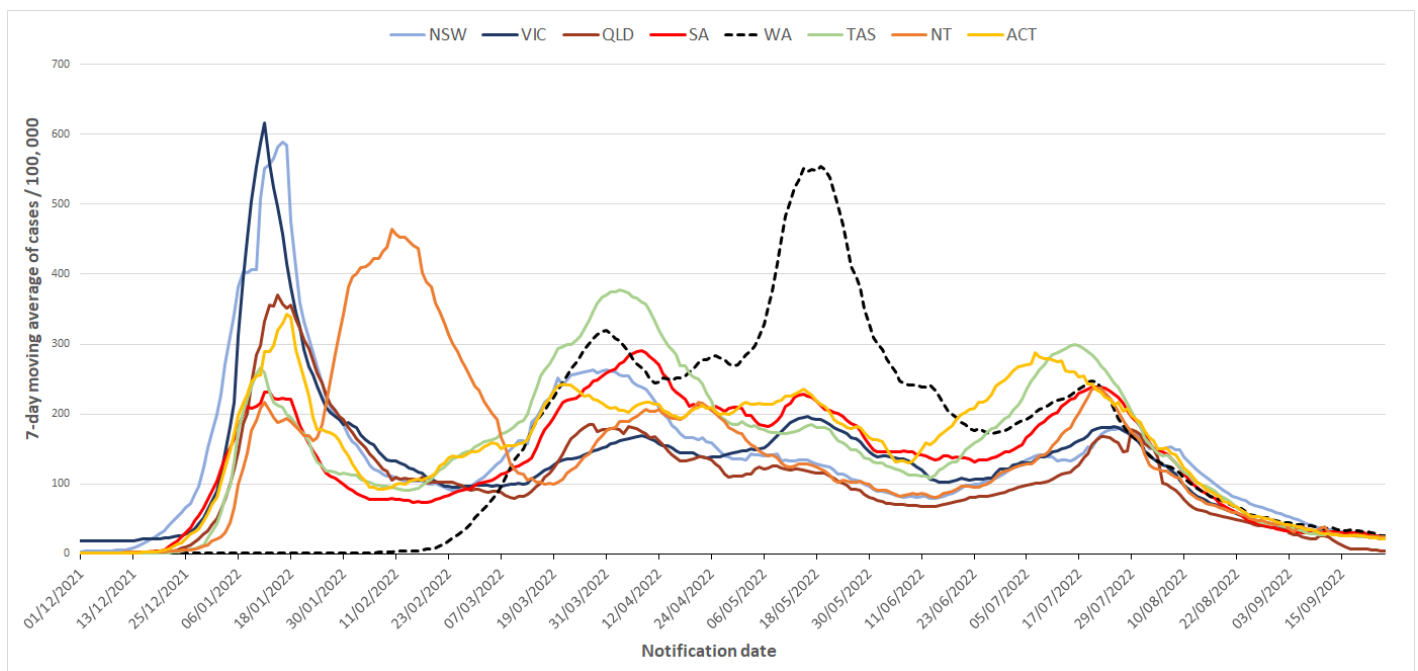
**Table 2. COVID-19 reinfections in Western Australia, 02 March to 25 September 2022.**

Month	Number of reinfections *
Mar-2022	14
Apr-2022	28
May-2022	105
Jun-2022	840
Jul-2022	5,034
Aug-2022	5,687
Sep-2022 ^	3,002
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,710</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 current, COVID-19 reinfections are defined as a positive COVID-19 test occurring 28 days after previously recovering from the virus

^ Data from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 25<sup>th</sup> September inclusive

**Figure 4. 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people, by Australian jurisdiction, 01 December 2021 to 25 September 2022.**



**Notes**

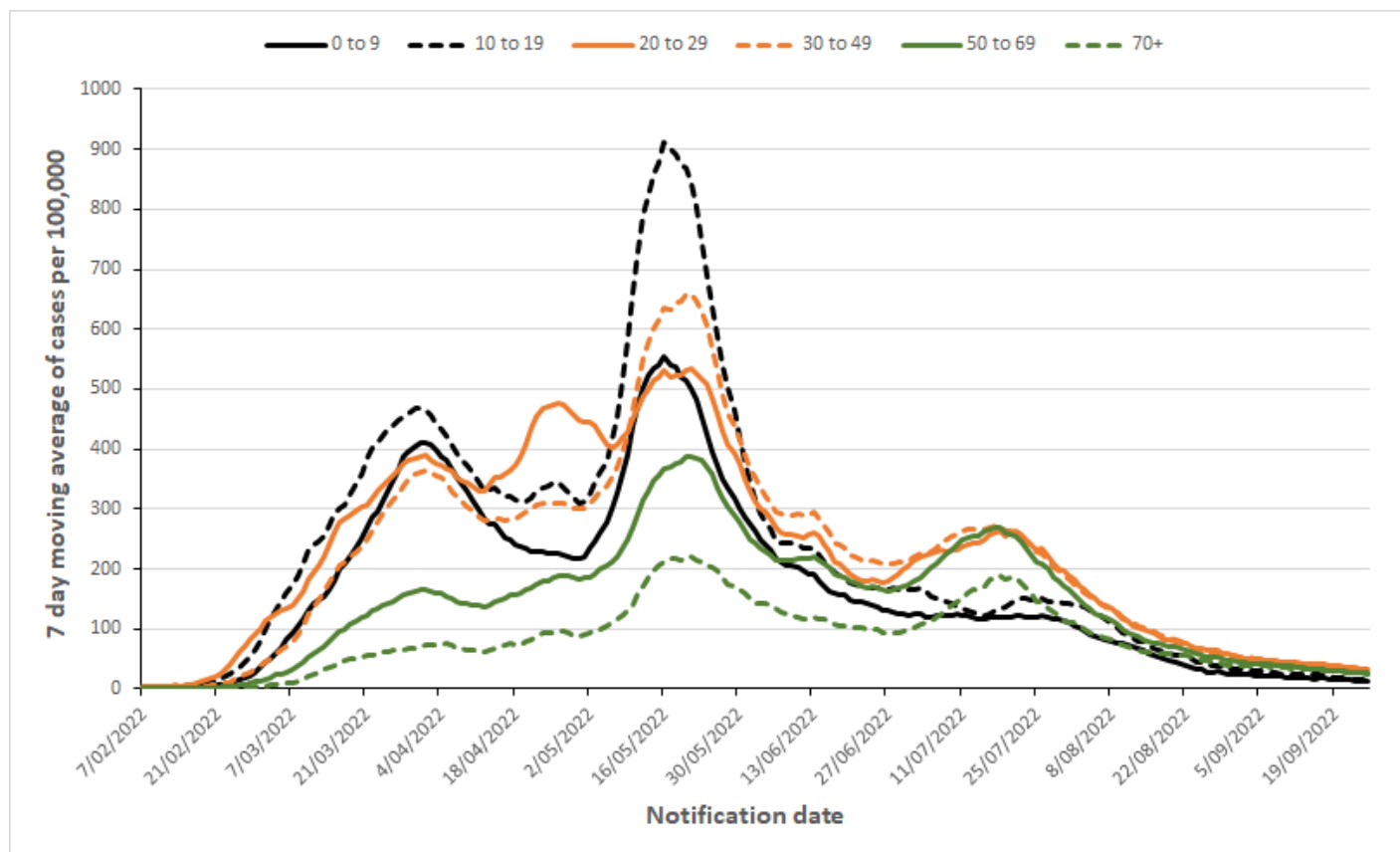
Data sourced from the respective jurisdictional health department datasets

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 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and then to a 4pm to 4pm cycle from 24<sup>th</sup> 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 25 September 2022.**

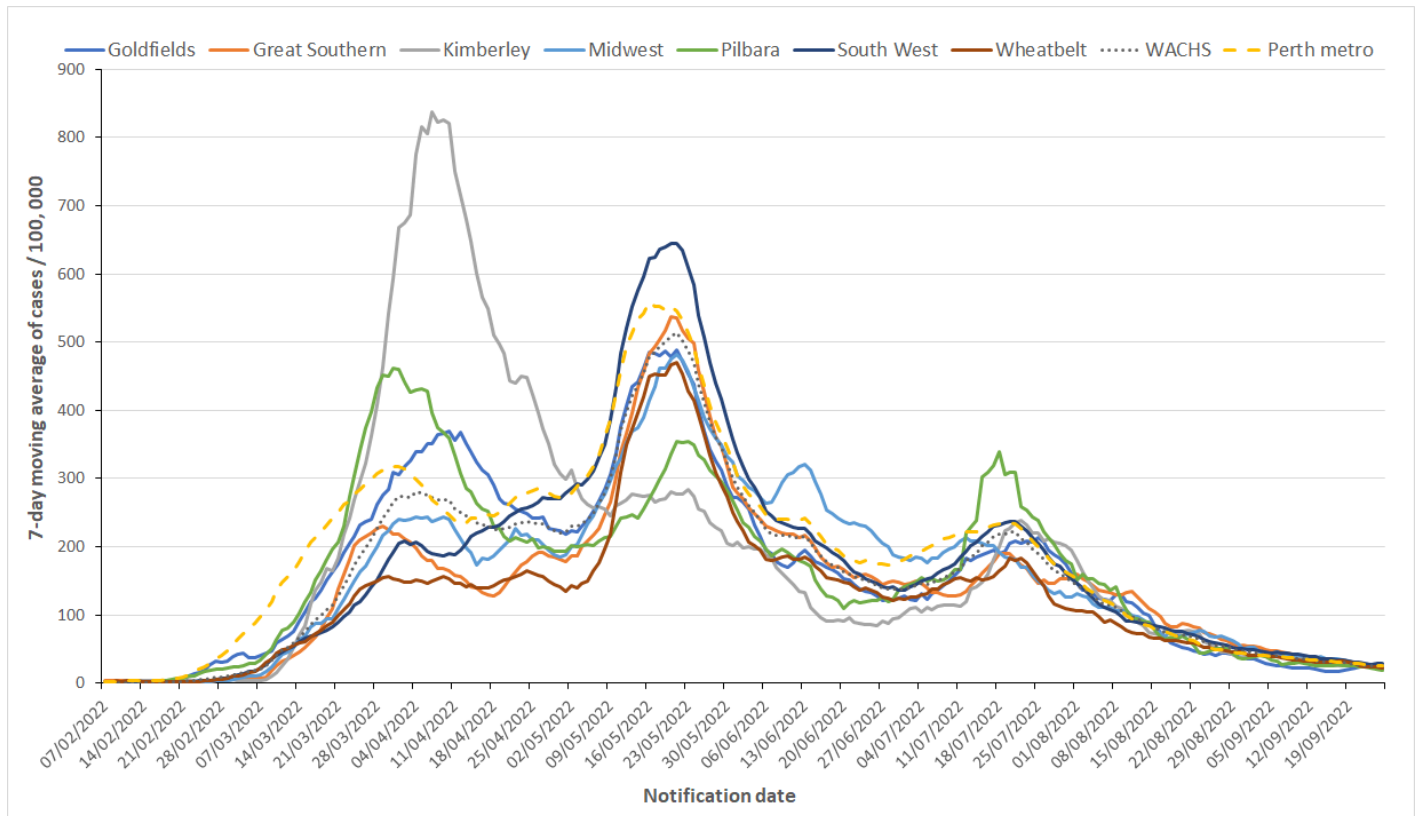


**Notes**

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 25 September 2022.**



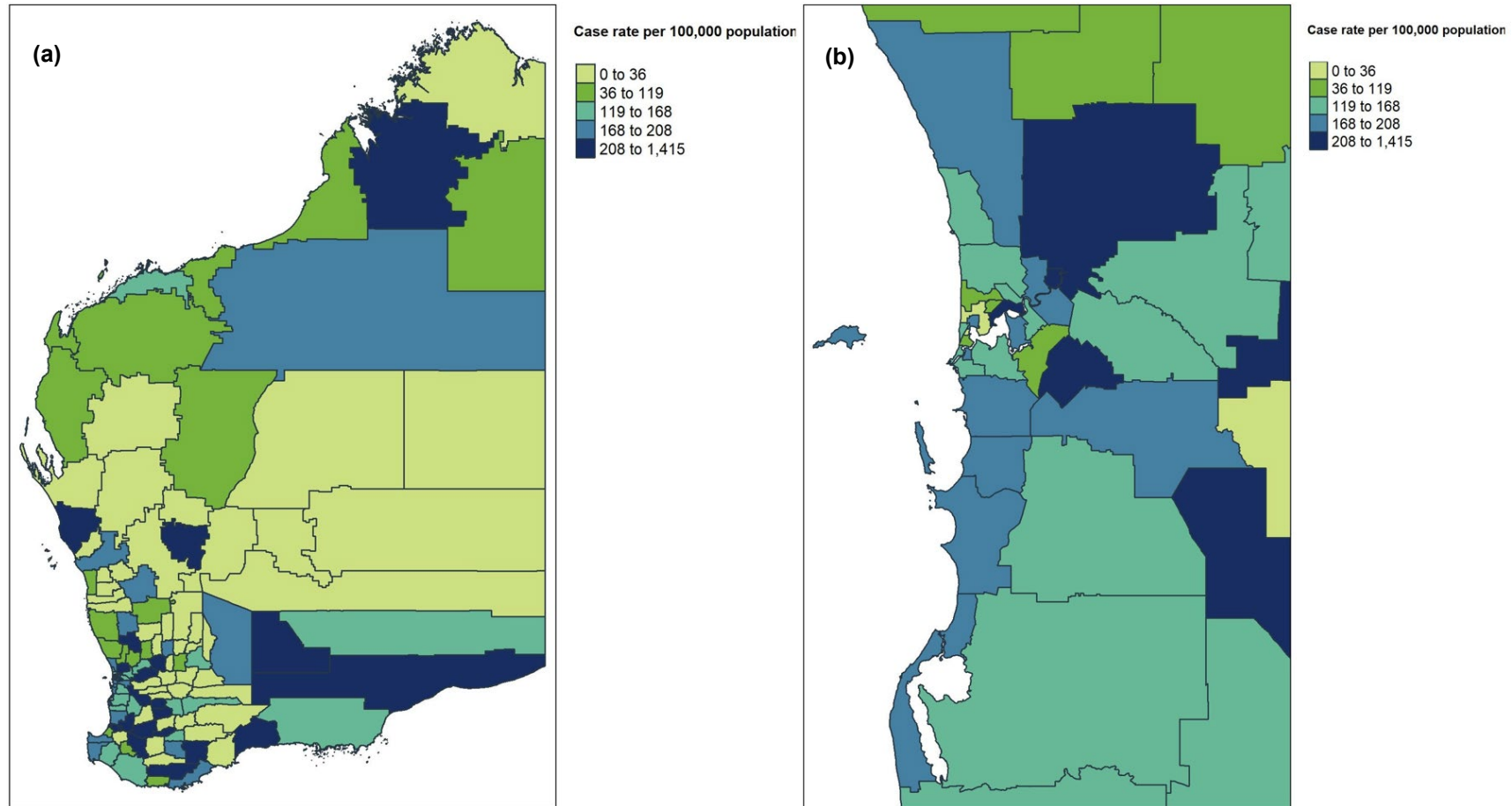
**Notes**  
 Data sourced from Western Australia Department of Health dataset  
 Notification date refers to data collected up to the end of the 24-hour reporting period 8pm to 8pm  
 The reporting period transitioned to a 6pm to 6pm cycle from 18th June 2022 and then to a 4pm to 4pm cycle from 24th 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, 19 September to 25 September 2022 and 12 September to 18 September 2022.**

	Region	Week 19 to 25 September 2022		Week 12 to 18 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)
<b>WACHS Regions</b>	<b>Goldfields</b>	83	154	74	137
	<b>Great Southern</b>	107	174	134	219
	<b>Kimberley</b>	63	175	65	180
	<b>Midwest</b>	100	161	149	240
	<b>Pilbara</b>	77	123	109	174
	<b>South West</b>	364	200	431	237
	<b>Wheatbelt</b>	116	152	172	226
<b>WACHS total*</b>		<b>910</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>1134</b>	<b>212</b>
<b>Other**</b>		112	-	112	-
<b>Metropolitan</b>		3,799	178	4,552	214
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,821</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>5,798</b>	<b>218</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 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, 19 September to 25 September 2022. (b) Locally acquired COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 population by LGA, Perth metropolitan area, 19 September to 25 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)

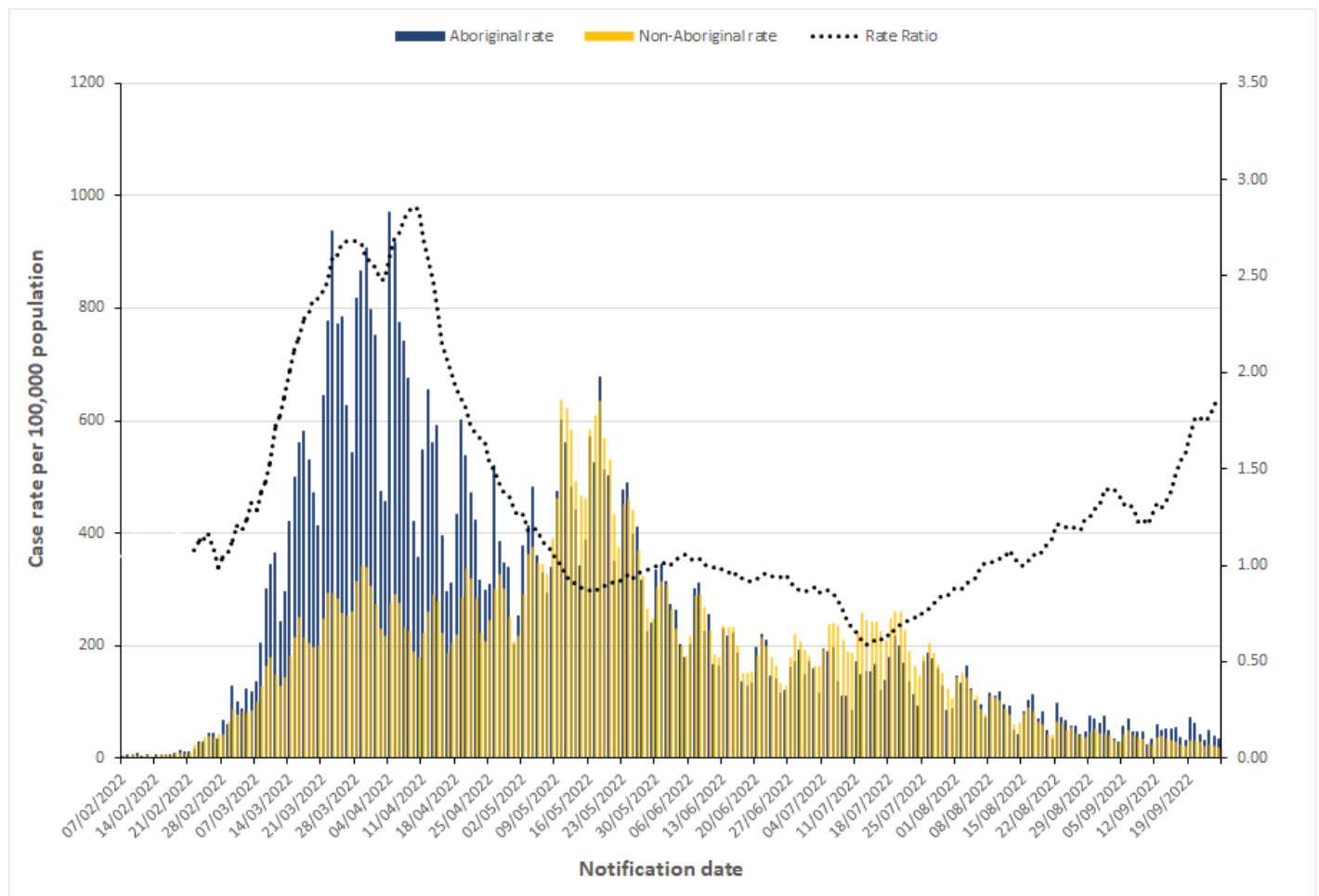
Case data includes those determined by both polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests and rapid antigen tests (RAT)

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 25 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)

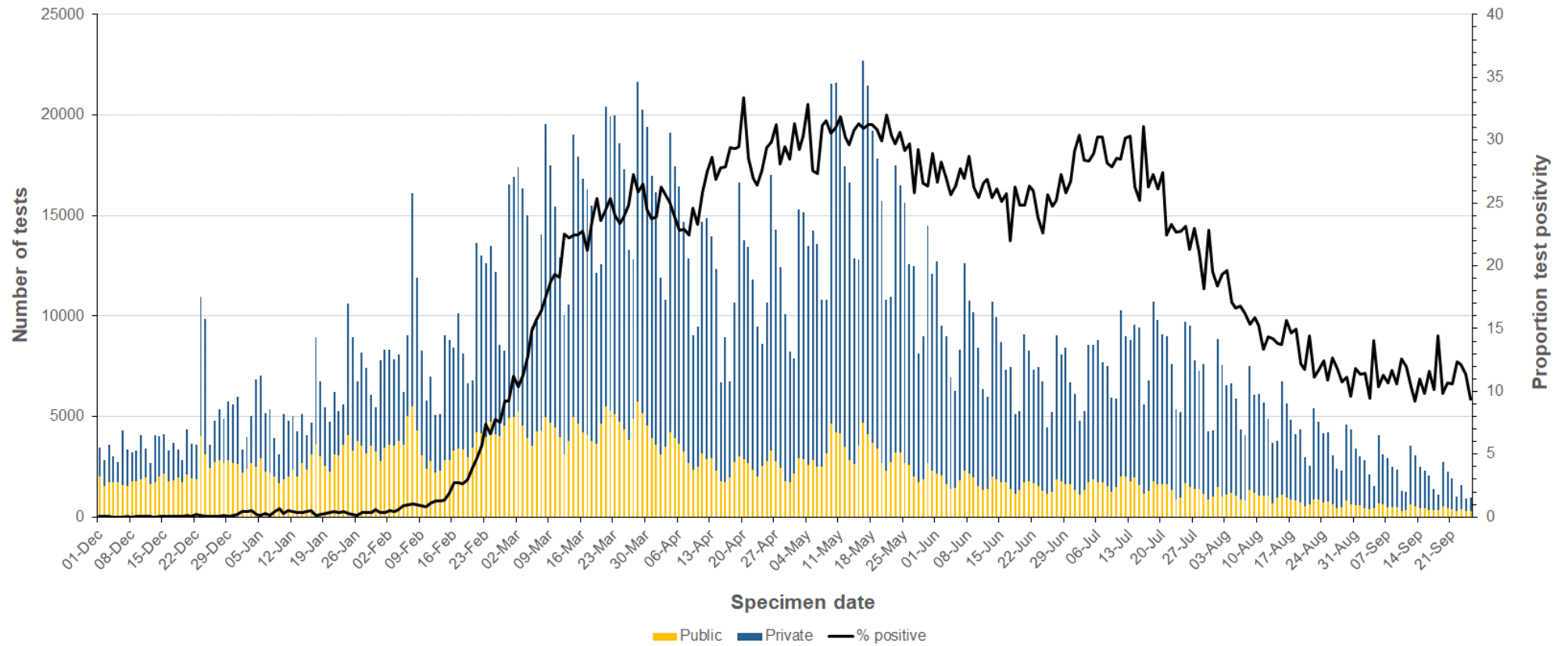
Population denominator is sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 estimates

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 25 September 2022.



### Notes

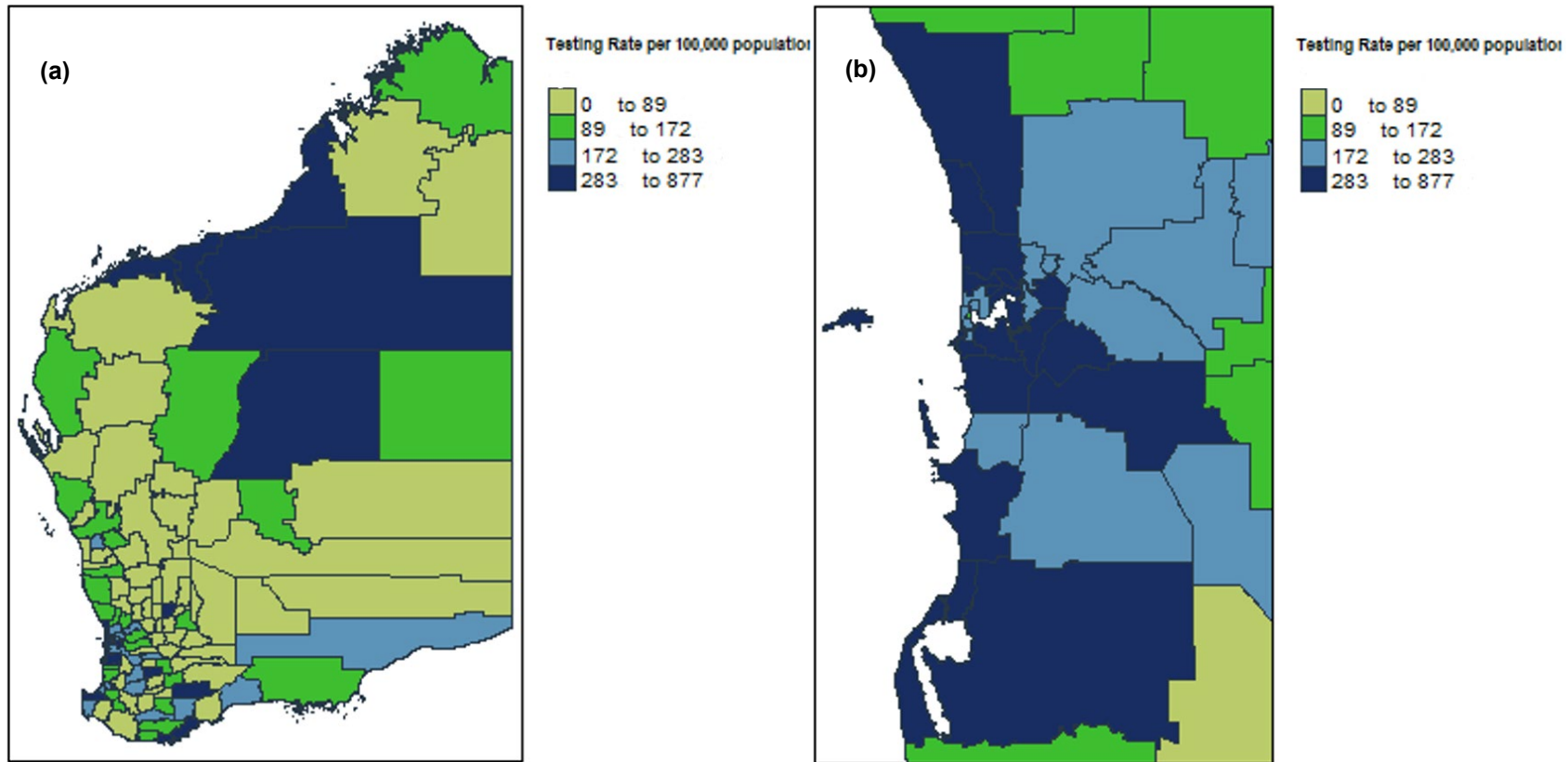
Data sourced from Western Australian public and private pathology laboratories  
Specimen date refers to the date that specimen was collected  
Number of tests includes both positive and negative tests.

**Table 4. Number of COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction tests and testing rates, by region, Western Australia, 19 September to 25 September 2022 and 12 September to 18 September 2022.**

	Region	Week 19 to 25 September 2022		Week 12 to 18 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)
<b>WACHS Regions</b>	<b>Goldfields</b>	134	248	157	291
	<b>Great Southern</b>	204	333	266	434
	<b>Kimberley</b>	86	239	111	308
	<b>Midwest</b>	132	213	152	245
	<b>Pilbara</b>	263	419	291	463
	<b>South West</b>	486	267	685	377
	<b>Wheatbelt</b>	123	161	140	184
<b>WACHS total *</b>		<b>1,428</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>1,802</b>	<b>337</b>
<b>Other**</b>		184	-	234	-
<b>Metropolitan</b>		9,775	459	13,632	640
<b>Total</b>		11,387	428	15,668	588

**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, 19 September to 25 September 2022. (b) Polymerase chain reaction testing rates per 100,000 population by LGA, Perth metropolitan area, 19 September to 25 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, 19 September – 25 September 2022

WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 19 Sept to 25 Sept 2022	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 19 Sept to 25 Sept 2022	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 19 Sept to 25 Sept 2022
Goldfields	6346	<5	Midwest (continued)	6630	<5	South West (continued)	6282	<5
	6348	<5		6638	<5		6284	8
	6430	24		6642	<5		6285	16
	6431	<5		6701	5		6286	<5
	6432	14		6707	<5		6288	<5
	6442	18	Pilbara	6710	<5	6290	5	
	6443	<5		6713	7	Wheatbelt	6041	<5
	6445	<5		6714	21		6044	<5
	6448	<5		6716	5		6302	9
	6450	17		6720	<5		6308	6
6458	<5	6721		7	6309		<5	
Great Southern	6317	8		6722	7		6311	<5
	6318	<5		6751	<5		6312	30
	6320	<5		6753	22		6313	<5
	6323	5		South West	6220		10	6315
	6324	5	6223		<5		6359	<5
	6326	<5	6224		<5	6365	<5	
	6327	<5	6225		18	6372	<5	
	6330	71	6226		<5	6390	<5	
	6332	<5	6227		<5	6391	<5	
	6333	6	6228		<5	6401	14	
	6335	<5	6230		89	6405	<5	
	6337	<5	6232		26	6407	<5	
	6338	<5	6233		40	6410	<5	
	6348	<5	6236		<5	6415	5	
6394	<5	6237	7		6426	<5		
Kimberley	6725	16	6239		<5	6485	<5	
	6726	9	6244		<5	6501	<5	
	6728	19	6254	<5	6502	<5		
	6740	<5	6255	5	6503	<5		
	6743	<5	6258	8	6510	<5		
	6765	15	6260	6	6516	<5		
	6770	<5	6262	<5	6560	<5		
	Midwest	6525	<5	6271	14	6562	<5	
6530		71	6275	<5	6564	<5		
6532		9	6280	68	6566	<5		
6623		<5	6281	12	6567	<5		



WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 19 Sept to 25 Sept 2022	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 19 Sept to 25 Sept 2022	WACHS Regions	Postcode	Week 19 Sept to 25 Sept 2022
Wheatbelt (continued)	6568	<5						
	6569	<5						
	6575	<5						
	6603	<5						
	6609	<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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