COVID-19 IN IRELAND

As most remaining public health restrictions are removed (22 January 2022)

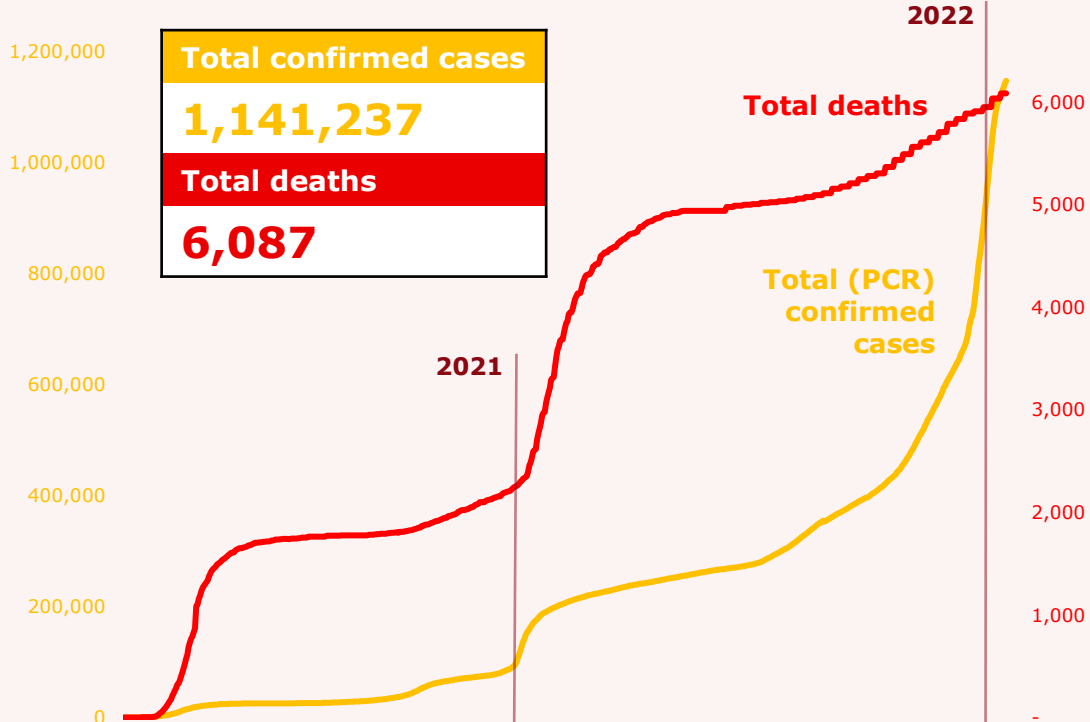**Author**: Darren Lawlor, Senior Parliamentary Researcher (Economics)

HEADLINE NUMBERS

Explainer: This section visualises the trends in the headline figures behind the COVID-19 pandemic in Ireland since 29 February 2020.
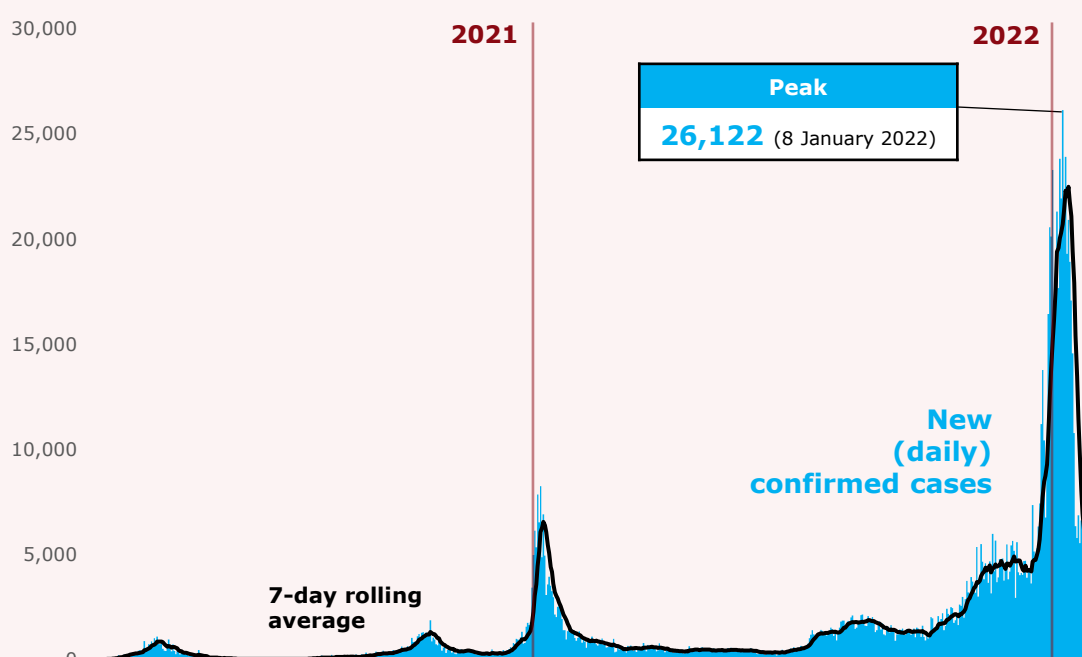
1 Looking at the period 29 February 2020 to 22 January 2022, confirmed case numbers have grown exponentially, particularly in the latter half of 2021. A number of peaks are evident in the daily (confirmed) case number data, with the most significant peak (by far) recorded at the end of 2021 when daily confirmed case numbers hit a peak of **26,122**. However, the peak in daily recorded deaths (**101**) occurred in February 2021.

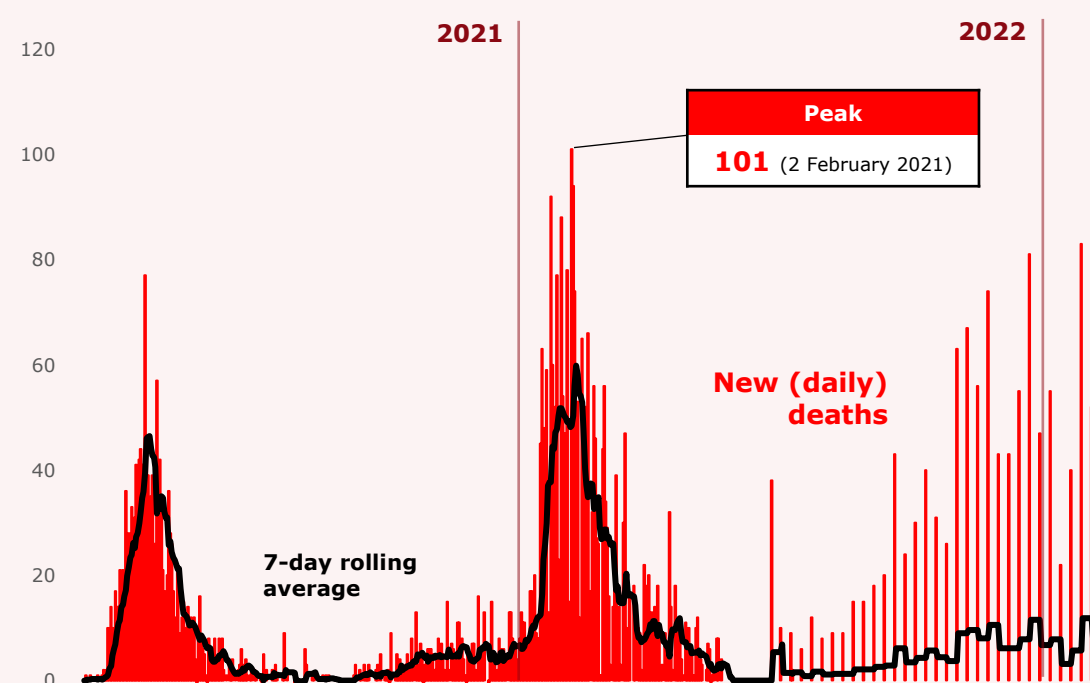### Headline numbers (as of 22 January 2022)

Total confirmed cases
1,141,237

Total deaths
6,087

Source: COVID-19 data hub and detailed statistics profile (data.gov.ie). **Please note** use of secondary axis to show trends in deaths compared to trends in confirmed cases (primary axis).

Daily confirmed (PCR) cases (as of 22 January 2022)

Peak
26,122 (8 January 2022)

New (daily) confirmed cases

7-day rolling average

Source: COVID-19 data hub and detailed statistics profile (data.gov.ie)

Daily deaths (as of 22 January 2022)

Peak
101 (2 February 2021)

New (daily) deaths

7-day rolling average

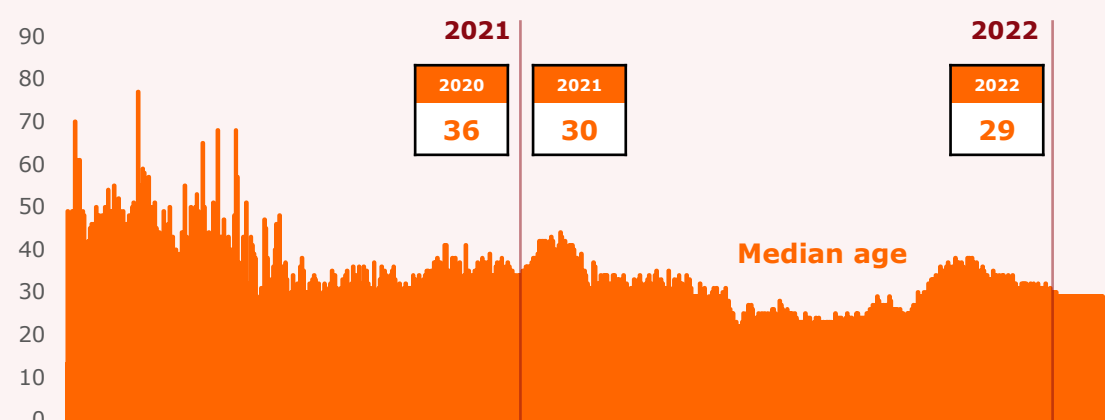**Source**: COVID-19 data hub and detailed statistics profile (data.gov.ie)

Explainer: This section visualises how the median age of confirmed cases has changed over time.

MEDIAN AGE

2 The median age of confirmed cases has evolved over time. The median age in 2020 was **36** years old, dropping to **30** in 2021 and slightly younger to **29** in 2022, though there have been evident intermittent periods where the median age has both fallen/trended downward (Q2-Q3 2021) and risen sharply (Q4 2021).

Median age (As of 22 January 2022)

2020	2021	2022
36	30	29

Median age

Source: COVID-19 data hub and detailed statistics profile (data.gov.ie)
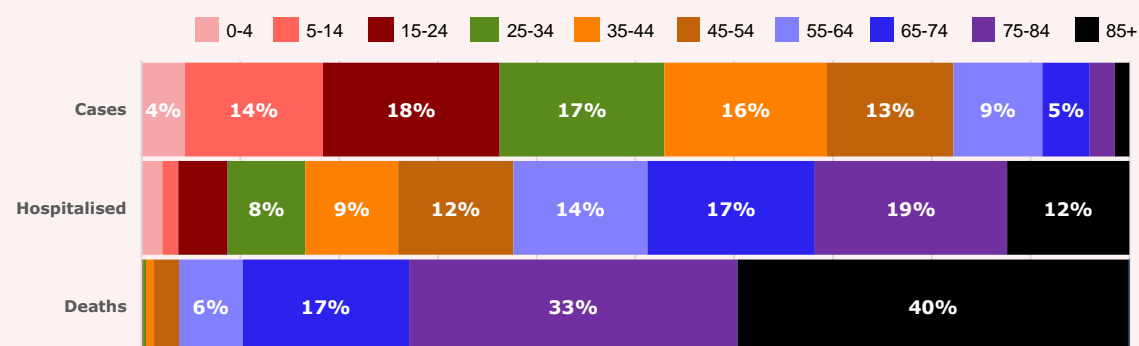

Explainer: This section shows the age distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases, hospitalisations and deaths.
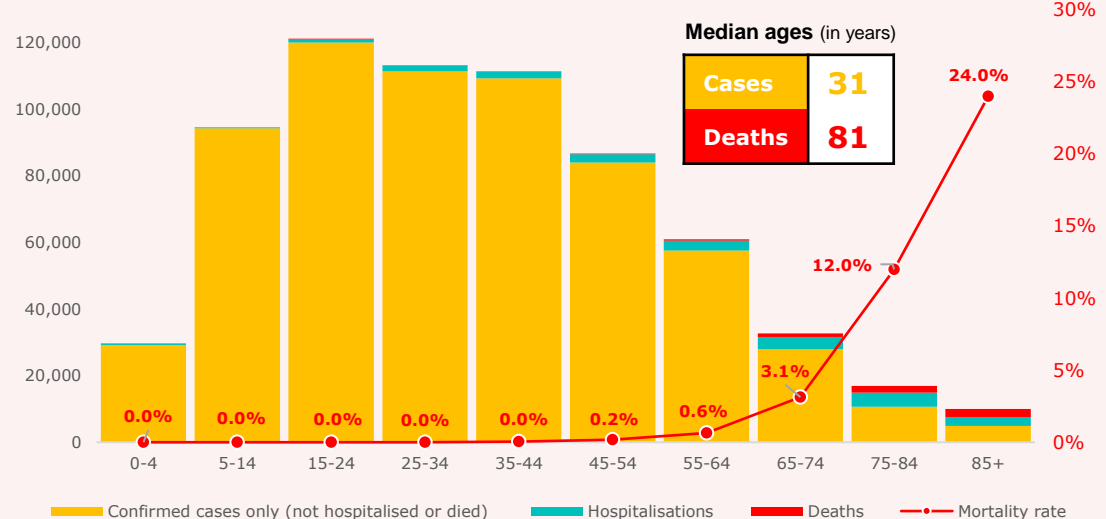
AGE PROFILE

3 The age distribution of COVID-19 shows that there are **significant differences across the various status categories**, particularly comparing younger and older groups. **The mortality rate is also largely age-specific,** as visualised below. Notably, though the three aged 65+ categories (65-74, 75-84 and 85+) account for just **9%** of PCR confirmed cases, they account for **49%** of all hospitalisations and **90%** of deaths.

Age profile of COVID-19 (As of 19 January and 22 January 2022, see Note)

Legend: 0-4 | 5-14 | 15-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | 75-84 | 85+

	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Cases	4%	14%	18%	17%	16%	13%	9%	5%		
Hospitalised			8%	9%	12%	14%	17%	19%	12%	
Deaths				6%	17%	33%	40%			

Sources: COVID-19 data hub (Cases and hospitalisations) and HPSC Weekly Report on COVID deaths (deaths). **Note**: Cases and hospitalisation numbers are as of 22 January 2022. Lab-confirmed deaths are as of 18 January 2022. The figure for lab-confirmed deaths may be lower than daily reported figures.
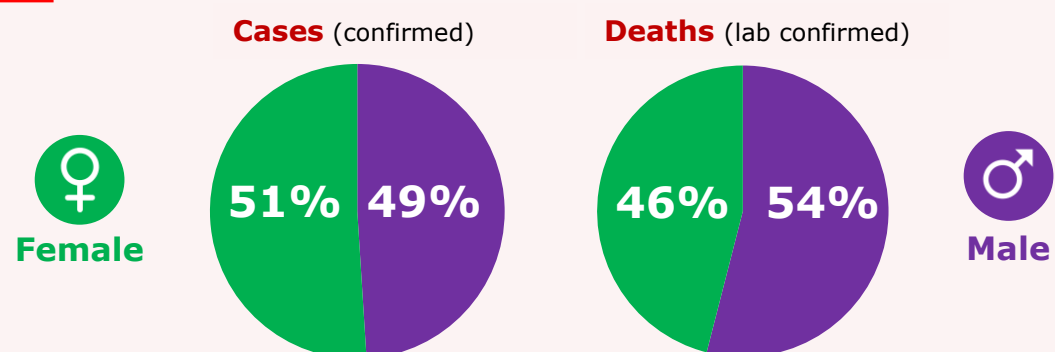
Age profile of COVID-19 and mortality rate

Median ages (in years)

Cases	31
Deaths	**81**

Mortality rates: 0.0% (0-4), 0.0% (5-14), 0.0% (15-24), 0.0% (25-34), 0.0% (35-44), 0.2% (45-54), 0.6% (55-64), 3.1% (65-74), 12.0% (75-84), 24.0% (85+)

Legend: Confirmed cases only (not hospitalised or died) | Hospitalisations | Deaths | Mortality rate

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Explainer: This section provides the gender breakdown of confirmed cases and compares it to lab confirmed deaths.

GENDER

4 The majority of confirmed cases (**51%**) are in females but the majority of lab-confirmed deaths are in males (**54%**).

Cases (confirmed)

Female 51% | 49%

Deaths (lab confirmed)

46% | 54% Male

Sources: COVID-19 data hub (Cases and hospitalisations) and HPSC Weekly Report on COVID deaths..

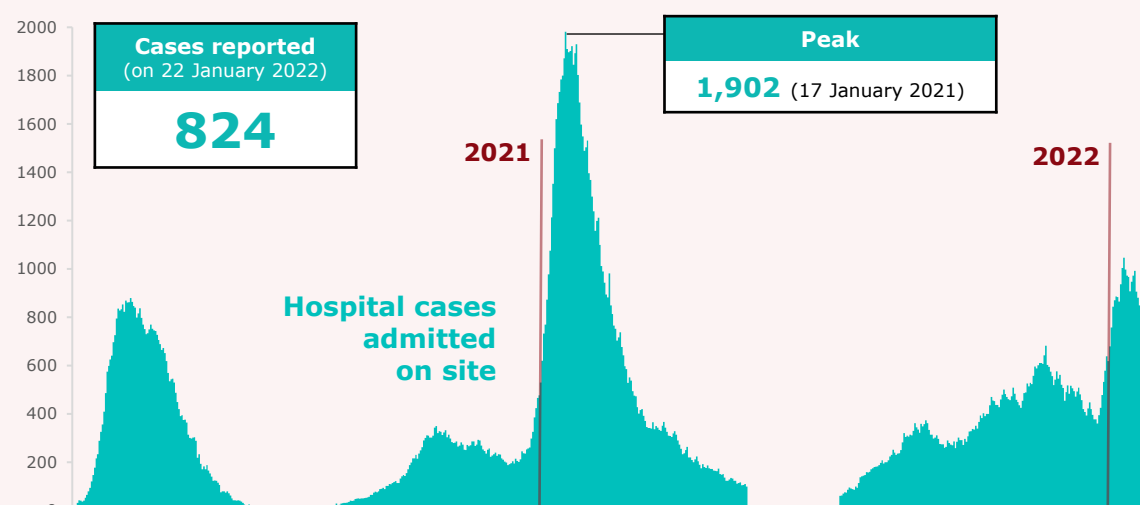View our **Data Visualisation and Analysis** page here

HOSPITALISATION AND CRITICAL CARE

Explainer: This section analyses the daily HSE operational figures for COVID-19 hospitalisations and ICU cases.
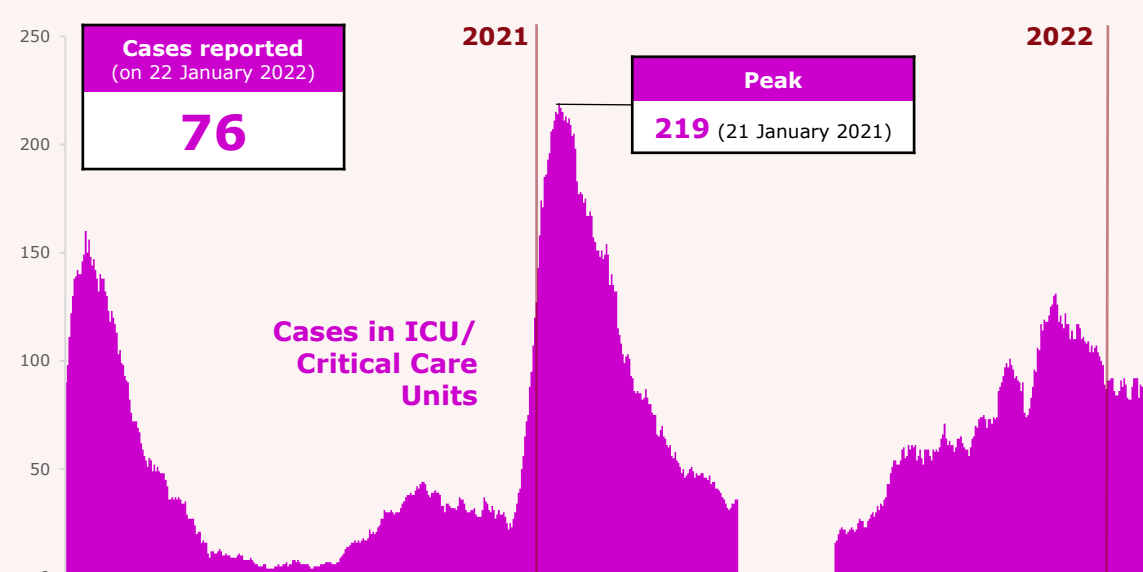
Explainer: This section visualises the cumulative COVID-19 cases and incidence rates across the State.

COUNTY ANALYSIS

5 Daily recorded COVID-19 cases admitted to hospital peaked on 17 January 2021 (**1,902**) compared to **824** cases on 22 January 2022. In terms of ICU/Critical Care Units, the peak occurred on 21 January 2021 (**219**) compared to **76** cases on 22 January 2022.

7 As of 24 December 2021 (most recent confirmed data), the **highest** proportion of confirmed cases was recorded in Counties Dublin (32.8%), Cork (9.8%) and Kildare (4.7%). The **lowest** proportions were in Counties Sligo (1%), Longford (0.9%) and Leitrim (0.5%).

Hospitalisations of confirmed cases – daily (as of 22 January 2022)

Cases reported (on 22 January 2022)
824

Peak
1,902 (17 January 2021)

2021

2022

Hospital cases admitted on site

Total number of confirmed cases, by county

Rank, by county

1	Dublin
2	Cork
3	Kildare
24	Sligo
25	Longford
26	Leitrim

Cases in Critical Care Units – daily (as of 22 January 2022)

Cases reported (on 22 January 2022)
76

2021

Peak
219 (21 January 2021)

2022

Cases in ICU/ Critical Care Units

8 However, the **incidence rates (number of confirmed cases per 100,000 people) tell a different story**, notably in border counties. Cumulatively, the **highest** incidence rates were reported in Counties Monaghan (18,440.69 cases per 100,000), Donegal (18,209.46 cases) and Louth (18,111.64 cases). The **lowest** rates were recorded in Counties Wexford (11,387.77 cases), Sligo (10,759.14 cases) and Wicklow (10,361.94 cases).
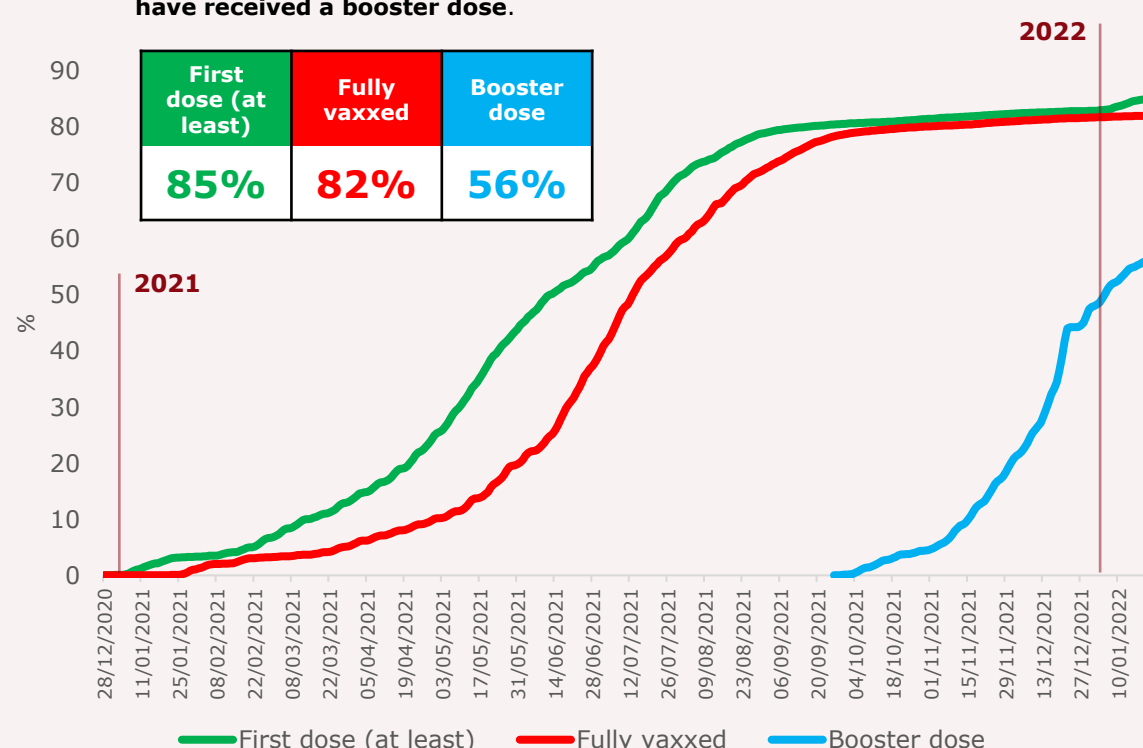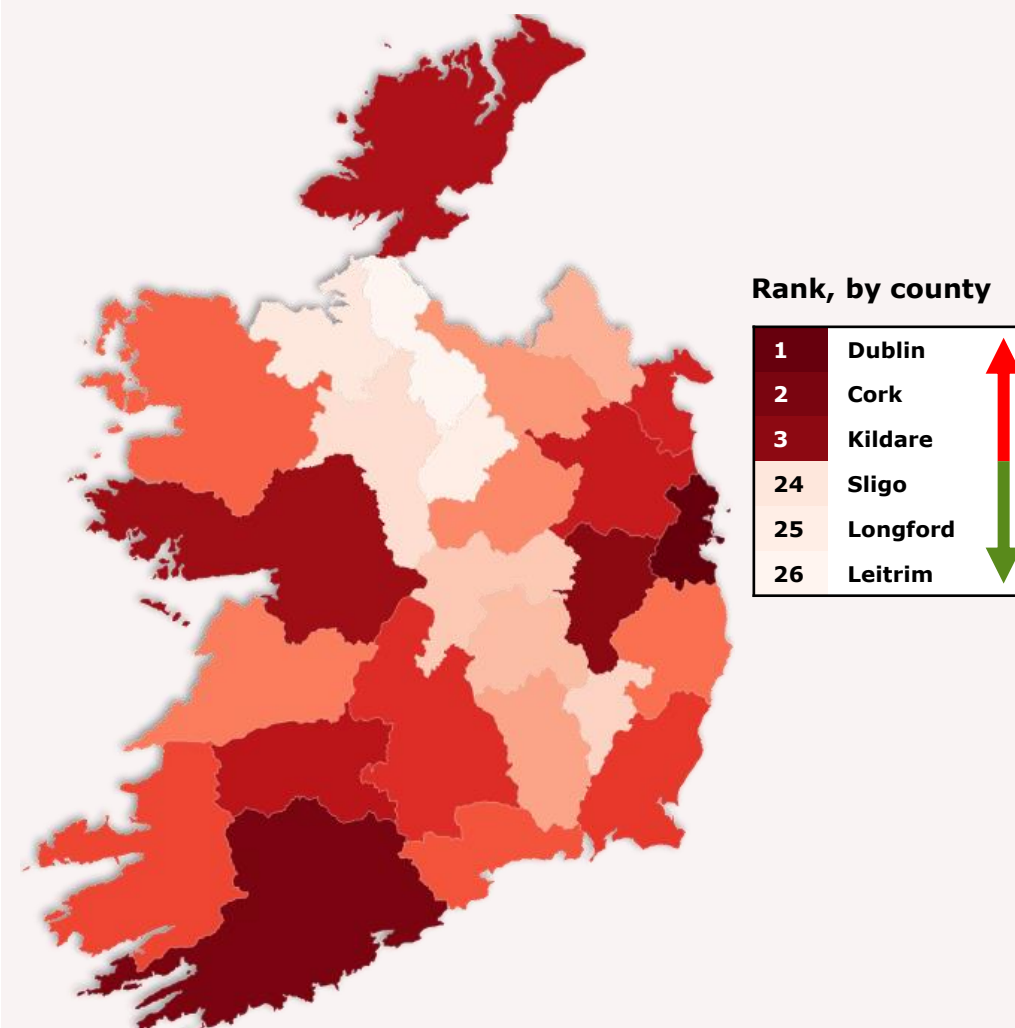
Source: HSE Daily Operations Updates. **Note**: Data verification was suspended between 14 May 2021 to 11 July 2021 (inclusive) due to a cyberattack.

Incidence rates (Confirmed cases per 100,000 people)

VACCINE DATA

Explainer: This section visualises the headline HSE daily vaccination figures.

6 As of 22 January 2022, **82%** of the eligible Irish population (aged 5+) or 3,862,491 people have been **fully vaccinated** against COVID-19 though **85%** (4,006,953 people) have **received at least one dose**. Furthermore, **56%** (2,542,519) of the population **have received a booster dose**.

First dose (at least)	Fully vaxxed	Booster dose
85%	**82%**	**56%**

2022

2021

%

— First dose (at least) — Fully vaxxed — Booster dose

Rank, by county

1	Monaghan
2	Donegal
3	Louth
24	Wexford
25	Sligo
26	Wicklow

Source: HSE Daily Vaccination Figures (data.gov.ie)