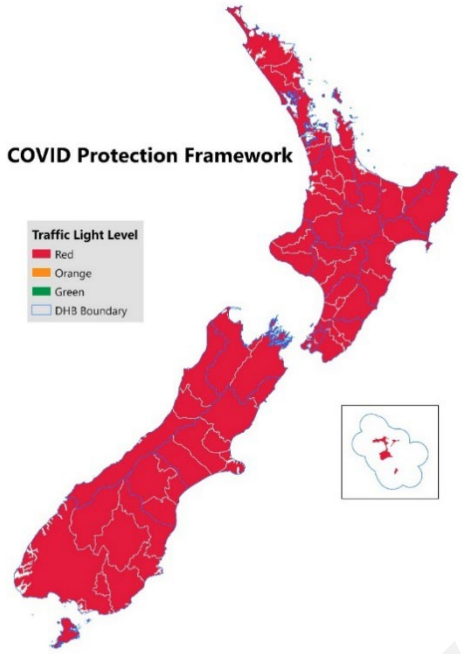
Trends and Insights Report

For the week ending Sunday 23 January 2022 – Updated 28 January 2022

Current State of Aotearoa



Contents

Snapshot of the past 7 days

- Hawke's Bay DHB experienced the fastest increase in cases this week with 9 cases (450 percent increase) with Counties Manukau experiencing the second largest increase with 22 cases (183 percent increase).
- There were decreases in cases for several DHBs this past week in Bay of Plenty (12 fewer cases), Canterbury (6 fewer cases), Capital and Coast (2 fewer cases), Hutt Valley (1 fewer case), South Canterbury (1 fewer case) and Wairarapa (5 fewer cases).
- Cases among Māori and Pacific People have continued to stay low and at more comparative levels to Europeans.
- The youngest age group (0-9) has the highest case count, but middle-aged cases (30-59) are most likely to be hospitalised.
- Europeans and Māori are represented the most in hospitalisations, then Pacific people, although overall hospitalisation numbers are low.

Demographic Trends

The tables in this section show the new cases reported in the previous week between 17 January 2022 and 23 January 2022 by DHB, age band and ethnicity. Omicron is now in the community. 22 new cases have been identified by whole genomic sequencing. The other 188 new cases are not identified as part of the current omicron clusters.

The most common ages of cases are still predominantly 0-12, continuing the pattern observed last week after a brief change to the 26-45 band having the most cases the week before that. Though the youngest age band is experiencing the most cases, those aged 30-49 are most likely to be hospitalised.

Cases and Hospitalisations by DHB

DHB	Omicron Cases	Cases	Change in cases compared to previous week		Hospitalisations	Hospitalisations compared to previous week	
			#	%		#	%
Auckland	3	34	0	0%	0	0	0%
Bay of Plenty	0	1	↓-12	↓ -92%	0	0	0%
Canterbury	0	1	↓ -6	↓ -86%	0	0	0%
Capital and Coast	0	1	↓ -2	↓ -67%	0	0	0%
Counties Manukau	5	34	↑ +22	↑ +183%	0	0	0%
Hawke's Bay	0	11	↑ +9	↑ +450%	0	0	0%
Hutt Valley	0	1	↓ -1	↓ -50%	0	0	0%
Lakes	0	45	↑ +15	↑ +50%	1	↑ +1	*
MidCentral	2	1	↑ +1	*	0	0	0%
Nelson Marlborough	10	11	↑ +11	*	0	0	0%
Northland	0	7	↑ +3	↑ +75%	0	0	0%
South Canterbury	0	0	↓ -1	↓ -100%	0	0	0%
Southern	0	0	-	-	0	0	0%
Tairawhiti	0	0	-	-	0	0	0%
Taranaki	0	0	-	-	0	0	0%
Waikato	0	11	↑ +1	↑ +10%	0	-1	↓ -100%
Wairarapa	0	0	↓ -5	↓ -100%	0	0	0%
Waitemata	2	29	0	0%	0	0	0%
West Coast	0	1	0	0%	0	-1	↓ -100%
Whanganui	0	0	-	-	0	0	0%
National	**22**	**188**	**↑ +35**	**↑ +29%**	**1**	**↓ -2**	**↓ -50%**

* Denotes any increase % when numbers increase from 0

Cases and Hospitalisations by demographic						
Ethnicity	**Cases**	**Change in cases compared to previous week**		**Hospitalisations**	**Hospitalisations compared to previous week**	
		#	**%**		**#**	**%**
Unknown	8	↑ +1	↑ +14%	0	0	0%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	1	0	0%	0	0	0%
Asian	54	↑ +39	↑ +360%	0	0	0%
European or Other	32	↓ -32	↓ -50%	0	↓ -2	↓ -100%
Pacific	28	↑ +18	↑ +280%	0	0	0%
Māori	65	↑ +9	↑ +16%	1	↑ +1	*
Gender/Sex						
Female	98	↑ +13	↑ +15%	1	↑ +1	*
Male	89	↑ +22	↑ +33%	0	↓ -2	↓ -100%
Unknown	1	0	0%	0	0	0%
Age Group						
0-9	26	↑ +1	↑ +4%	0	0	0%
10-19	30	↑ +4	↑ + 15%	0	0	0%
20-29	41	↑ +11	↑ + 37%	0	0	0%
30-39	26	↓ -1	↓ -4%	1	↑ +1	*
40-49	28	↑ +9	↑ + 47%	0	0	0%
50-59	18	↑ +5	↑ + 38%	0	↓ -2	↓ -100%
60-69	11	↑ +1	↑ + 10%	0	0	0%
70-79	7	↑ +6	↑ +700%	0	0	0%
80-89	1	0	0%	0	0	0%
90+	0	↓ -1	↓ -100%	0	0	0%
Average Age	**31**			**33**		

* Denotes any increase % when numbers increase from 0

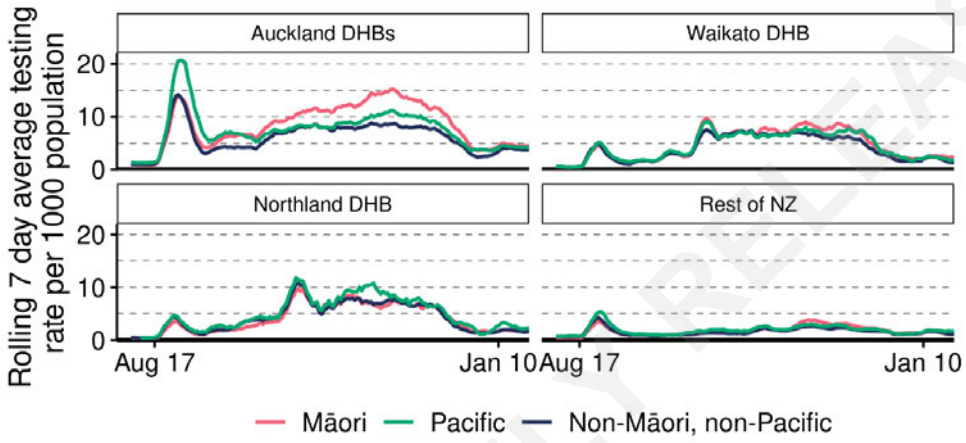
Tests

The figures in this section show the number of tests in the six weeks from Monday 13 December 2021 to Sunday 23 January 2022.

The three Auckland DHBs continue to have the highest number of tests per 100,000 population out of all the DHBs.

Testing rates in New Zealand are significantly lower than those in Australia, which 4,518 per 100,000 per day over the week covering 18-25 January 2022. Lower test rates may be hiding undetected transmission especially over the holiday period which occurred in the last six weeks. This combined with the threat of Omicron may mean case figures are higher than they appear in our current data.

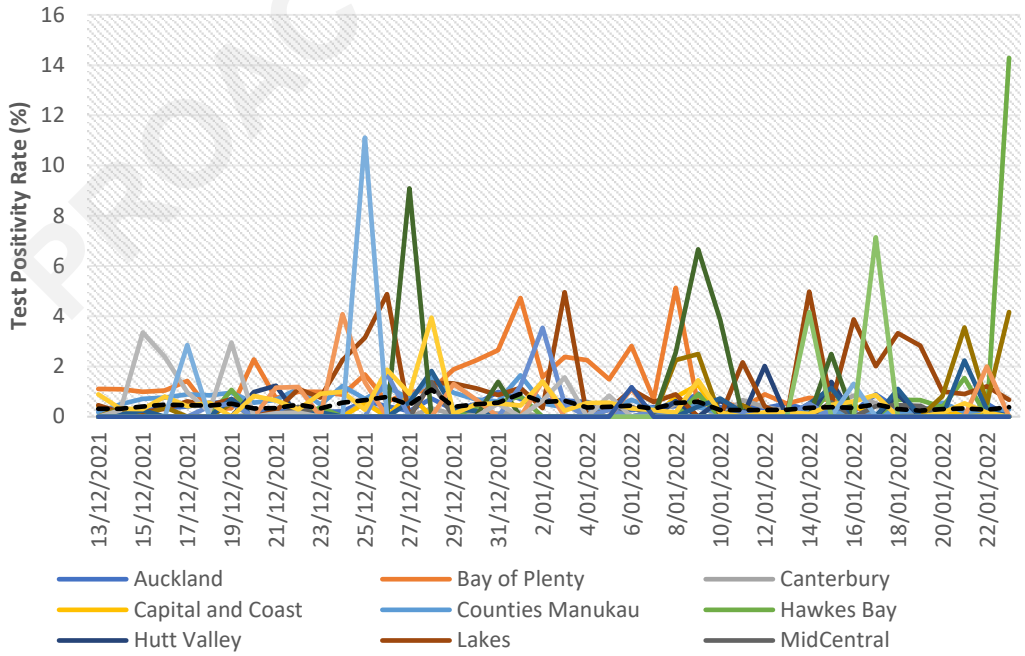
Figure 1 Seven-day rolling average COVID-19 testing rate by prioritised ethnic group and region, 01 August to 23 January 2022



Source: Éclair testing database 27 January 2022; Excludes tests in returnees and border workers.

Test positivity remained low, but the spike for Hawkes Bay last week should be followed up (Figure 2).

Figure 2 Test positivity by DHB



Epidemiological Curves

The figures in this section show the number of new cases reported in the six weeks from Monday 13 December 2021 to Sunday 23 January 2022.

The number of cases this week (210) is lower than the number of cases reported in the previous week (304). This is still part of an overall decrease in cases observed from the end of 2021 onwards. Case numbers in Auckland Metro and Bay of Plenty are declining while Waikato DHB is steady after a spike in cases from 27-29 December 2021. Though Lakes is declining in case numbers now, there was an increase from 12-20 of January 2021

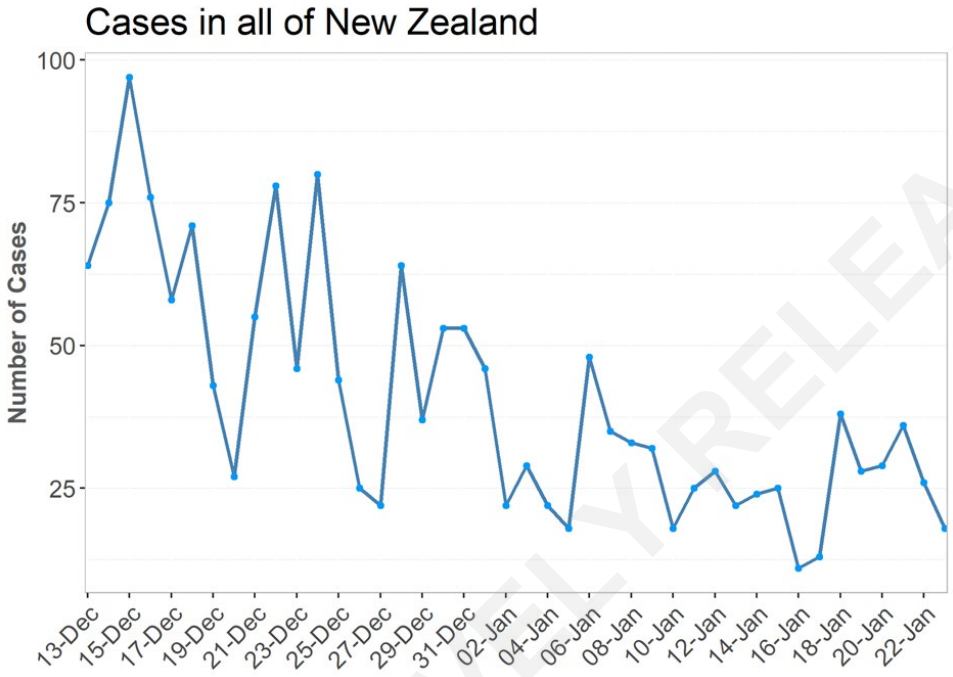
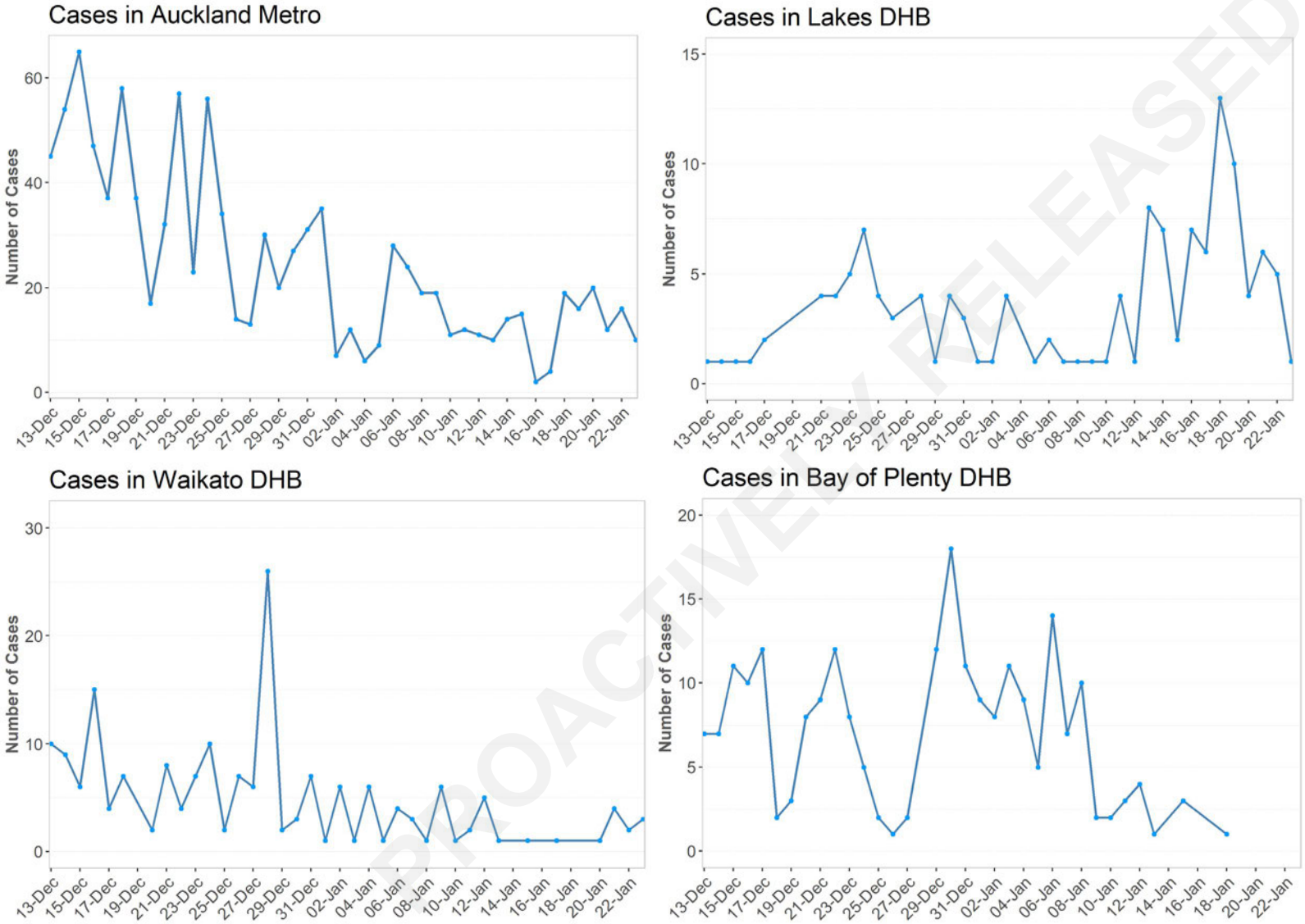


Figure 3: Daily community cases across New Zealand from 13 December 2021 to 23 January 2022

Figure 4: Daily community cases by DHB from 13 December 2021 to 23 January 2022



Cases by Ethnicity

The figures below show the number of new cases reported in the six weeks from Monday 13 December 2021 to Sunday 23 January 2022.

Cases across all ethnicities continue to decline with Māori and Pacific Peoples, who were once most represented, experiencing lower numbers similar to that of European and other groups. Asians are experiencing an increase in cases compared to previous weeks and on some days have even had higher case numbers than Māori.

In Auckland Metro, cases for Māori and Pacific People have steadily declined in alignment with the national figures described above. Cases for other ethnic groups have generally remained steady with European or other and Asian groups experiencing slight increases towards the end of the period before declining to low levels also.

In the Bay of Plenty, cases for Pacific Peoples have been low while those for European and Māori groups have had several peaks and troughs before declining to the low rates observed nationally. Europeans experienced a recent surge during late December which did not taper off until the second week of January. Any surges in cases could reflect the travel and general increased movement around the Christmas/New Year period as well as the summer festival season

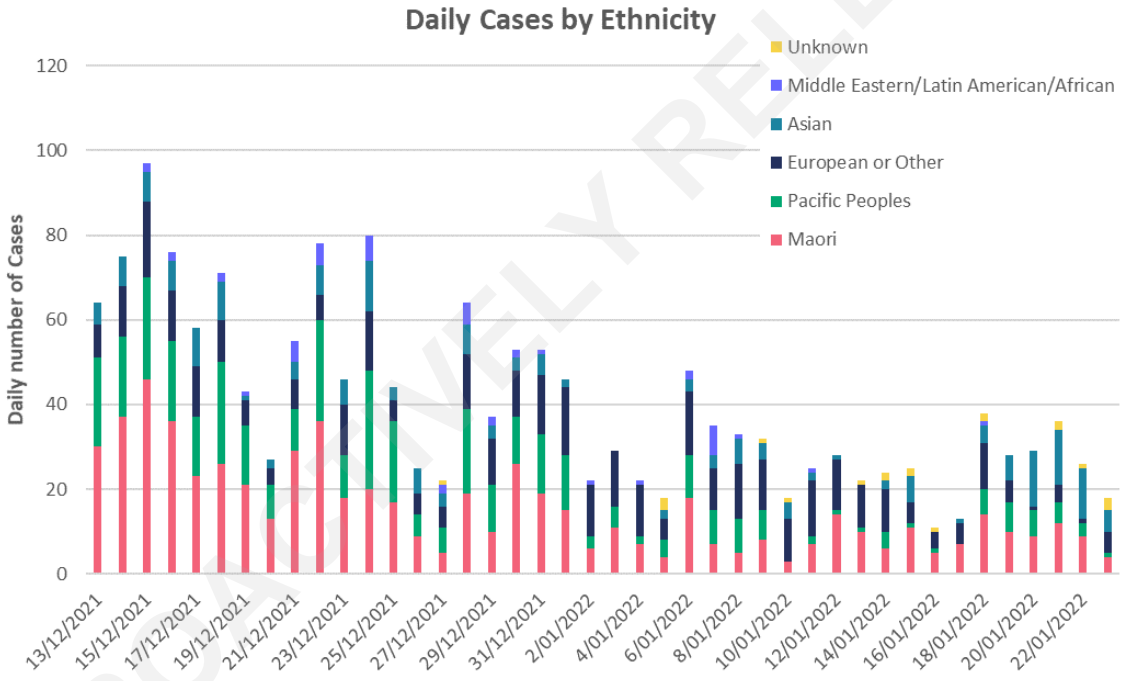
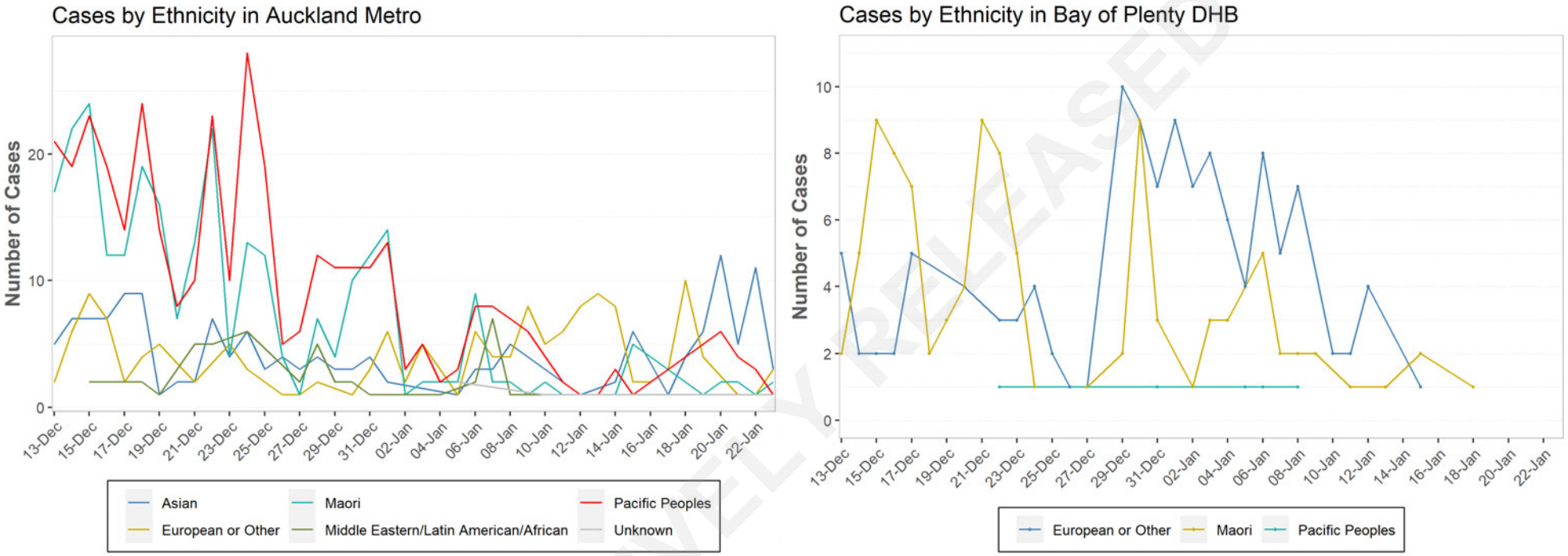


Figure 5: Daily community cases across New Zealand broken down by Ethnicity from 13 December 2021 to 23 January 2022

Figure 6: Daily cases broken down by Ethnicity by DHB from 13 December 2021 to 23 January 2022



Cases by Age

The figures below show the number of new cases reported in the six weeks from Monday 13 December 2021 to Sunday 23 January 2022.

All age groups have experienced a steady decline following peaks in mid- to late-December 2021 except for the 66+ age group which has experienced low case numbers throughout this time which has been the case for the whole outbreak. The 0-12 and 26-45 age groups had both the highest case numbers throughout most of this period as well as the most dramatic peaks. This could have been due to dependents having to isolate with COVID-19 positive family members (or vice versa).

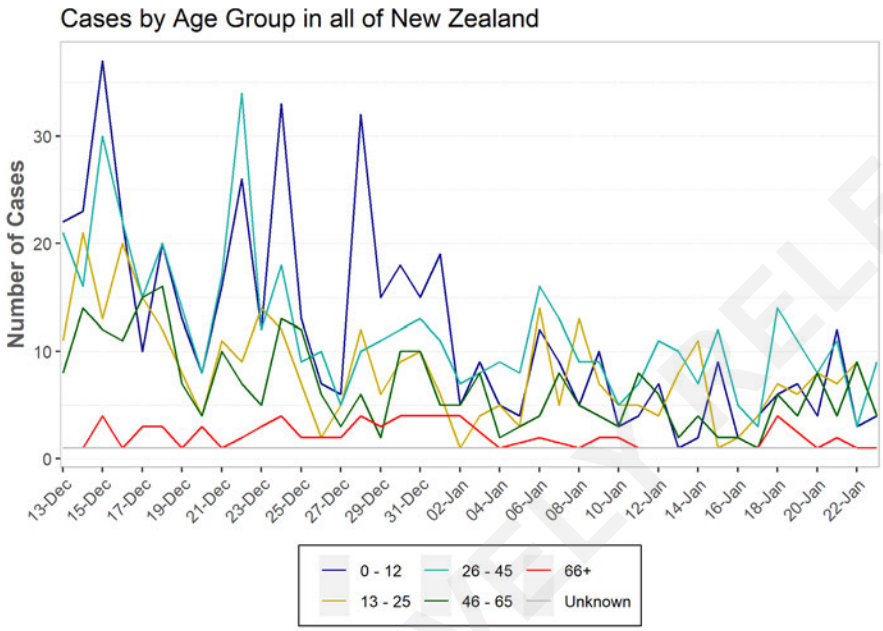
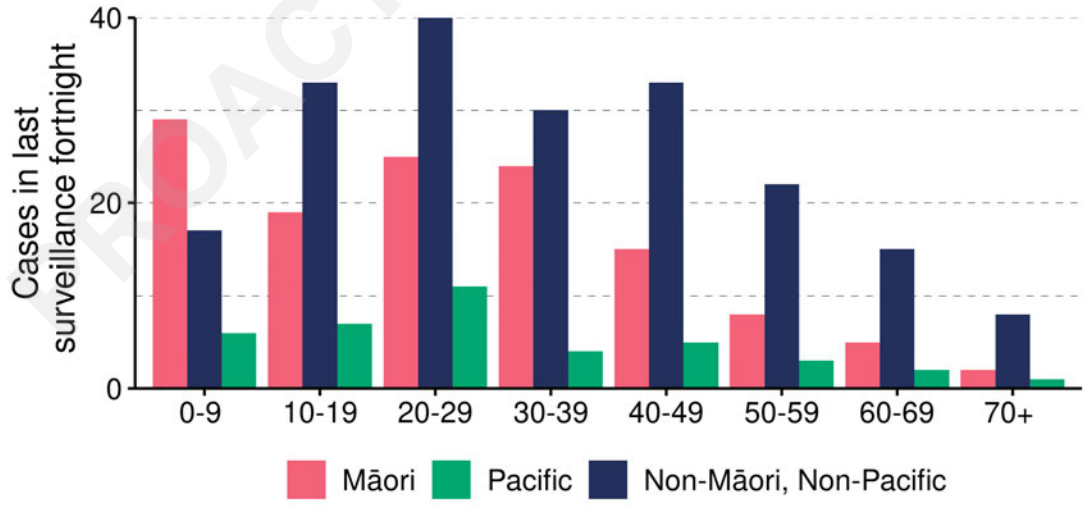


Figure 4 COVID-19 community case numbers by prioritised ethnic group and age group, 10 January to 23 January 2022



Source: EpiSurv 0900hrs 27 January 2022

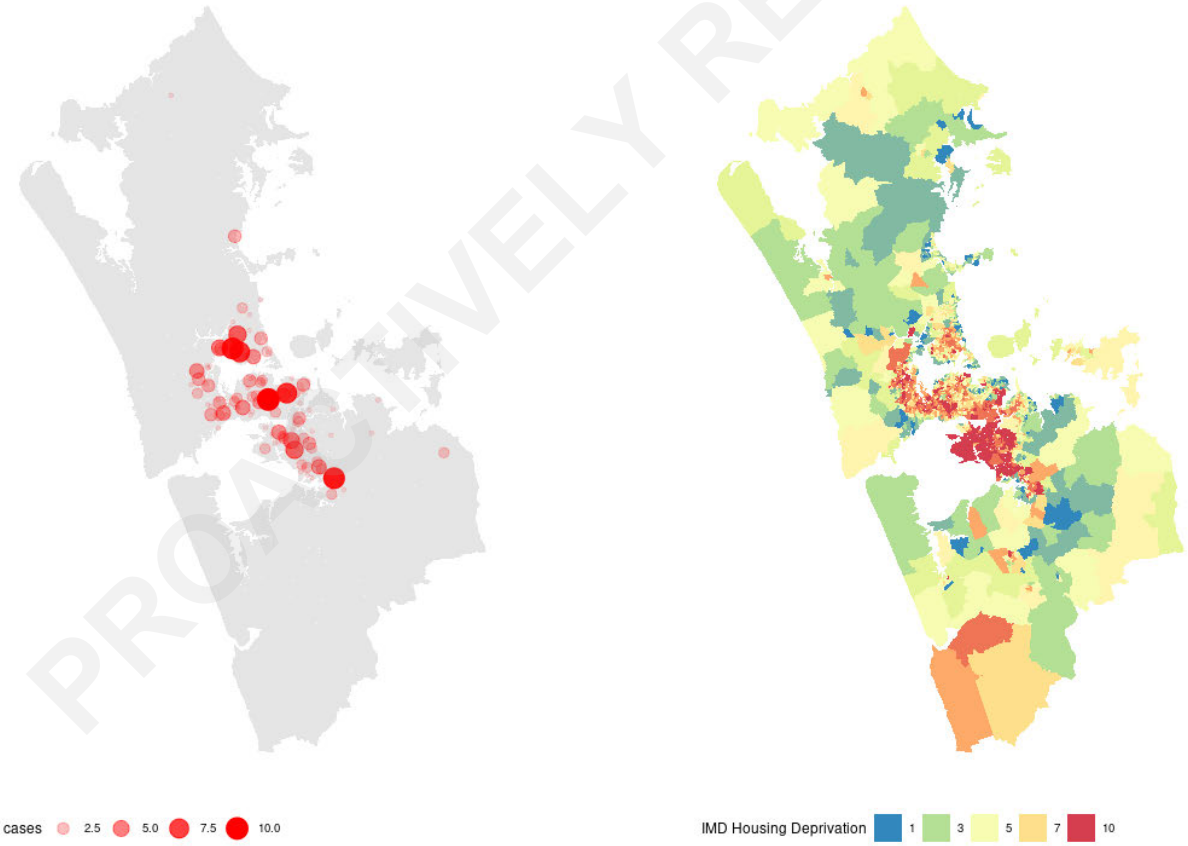
Cases by socio-economic indicators

The figures in this section show the number of new cases reported in the six weeks from Monday 13 December 2021 to Sunday 23 January 2022.

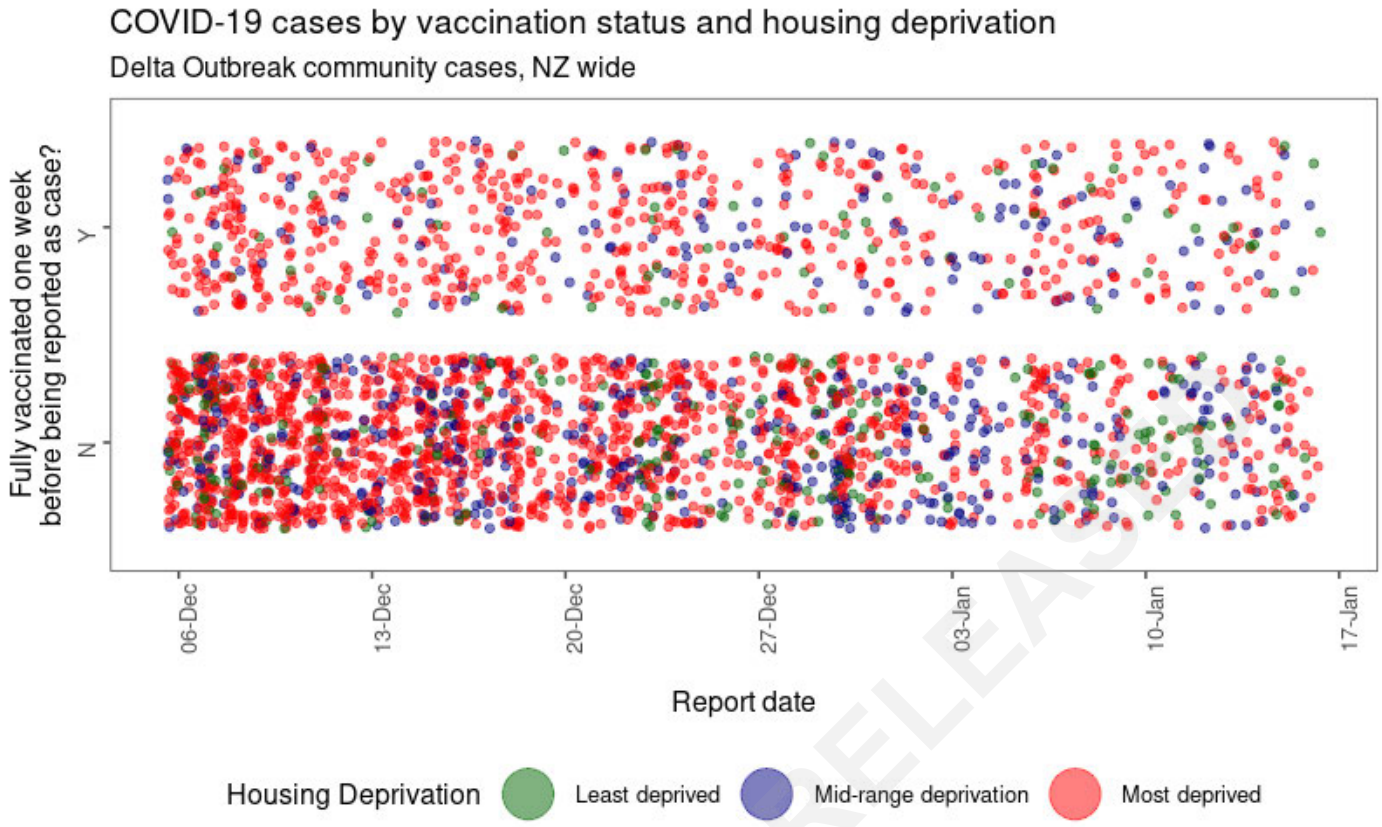
The maps show the cases reported in the past six weeks in the three Auckland DHBs, with a housing deprivation score of the region of the case's home address. There continues to be is a clear correlation between the number of cases reported, and area deprivation score.

In early December, the figure illustrating cases by vaccination status and housing deprivation (see next page) showed that the majority of cases in the outbreak across New Zealand are unvaccinated. There is also a correlation between cases and housing deprivation regardless of vaccination status with those most deprived being most represented in case numbers. Within the most deprived group, those who had not been fully vaccinated were significantly more likely to test positive for covid. However, by mid-December onwards as case numbers declined overall, this pattern was less apparent with cases appearing more evenly distributed among all deprivation scores regardless of vaccination status. However, in the last week a pattern of cases among those most deprived appeared again in both vaccinated and unvaccinated groups. The higher case rate amongst those not fully vaccinated is still clear.

COVID-19 community cases in the Auckland metropolitan region
(from 06 December to 16 January)
geographical concentration and Housing deprivation status



Please note that a small proportion of cases (usually between 1% and 2% of the total) do not have a valid geolocation code and are not included in this map



Hospitalisations

The figures in this section show the 48 hospitalised cases who have been reported in the six weeks between Monday 13 January 2022 to Sunday 23 January 2022 (rolling four-day average) by age band, ethnicity, and vaccination status at the time of being reported as a case.

Hospitalisations have declined with cases, as expected (see figure 8, note that cases and hospitalisations are on different scales).

Those aged 30-59 years have been more represented in hospitalisations compared with those 0-29 and 60-89 years old (Figure 9).

As with case numbers, hospitalisations were highest in both Europeans and Māori ethnicities, with Pacific Peoples being the third most represented (Figure 10). All other ethnicities in New Zealand have had low hospitalisation rates.

Figure 8: Four-day rolling average of community cases and hospitalisations from 16 December 2021 to 23 January 2022

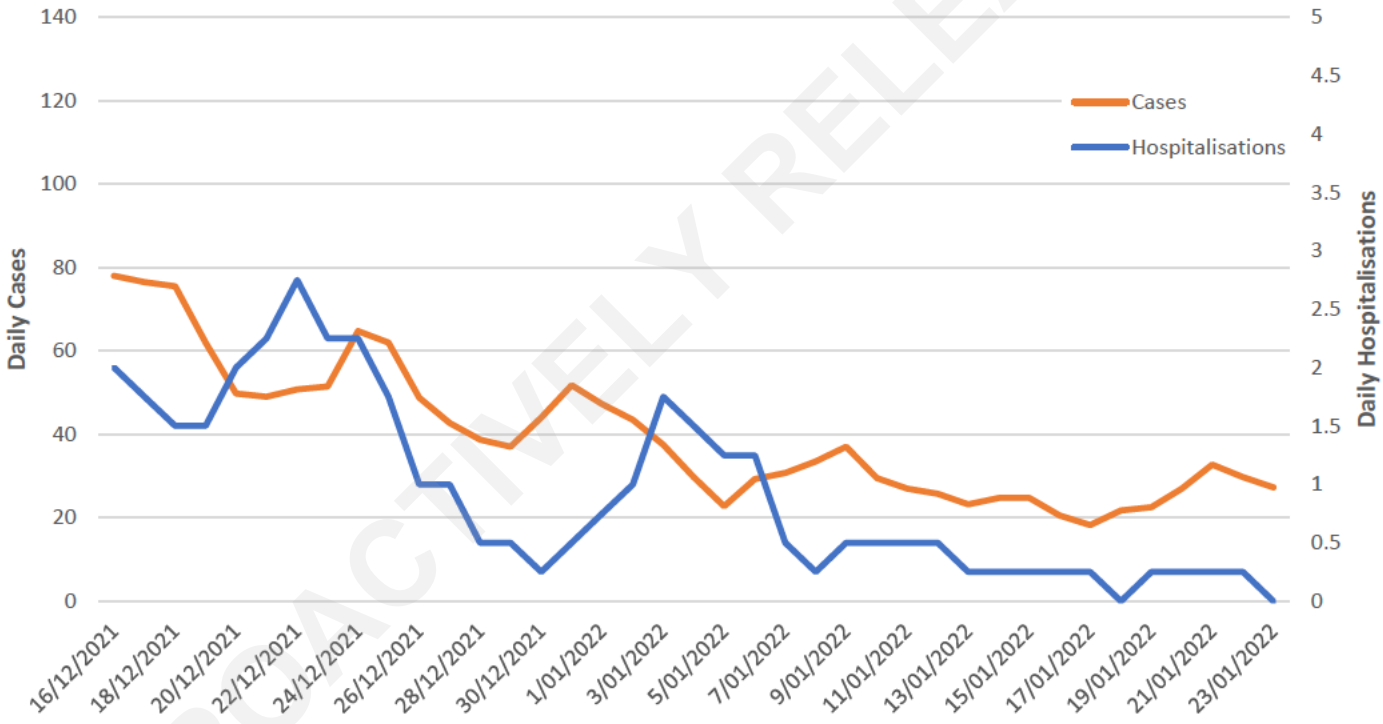


Figure 9: Hospitalised case breakdown by Age group from 16 December 2021 to 23 January 2022. Average age of Hospitalised cases during this period is 40

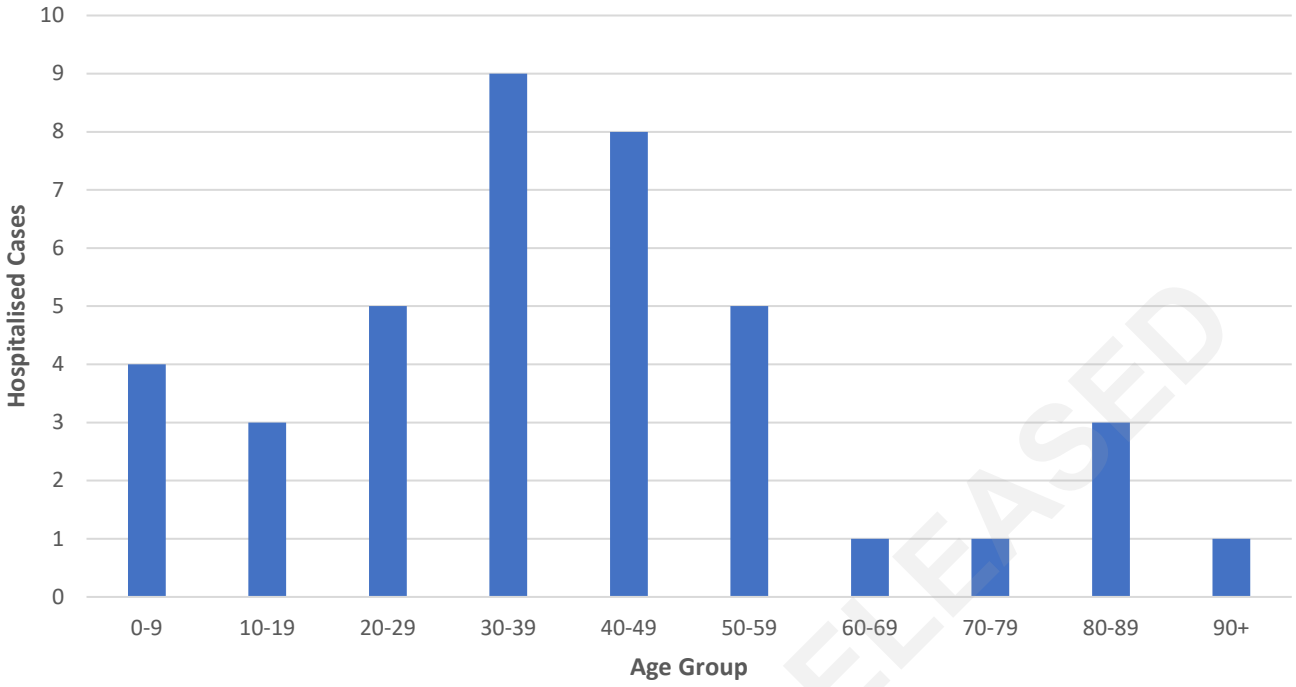
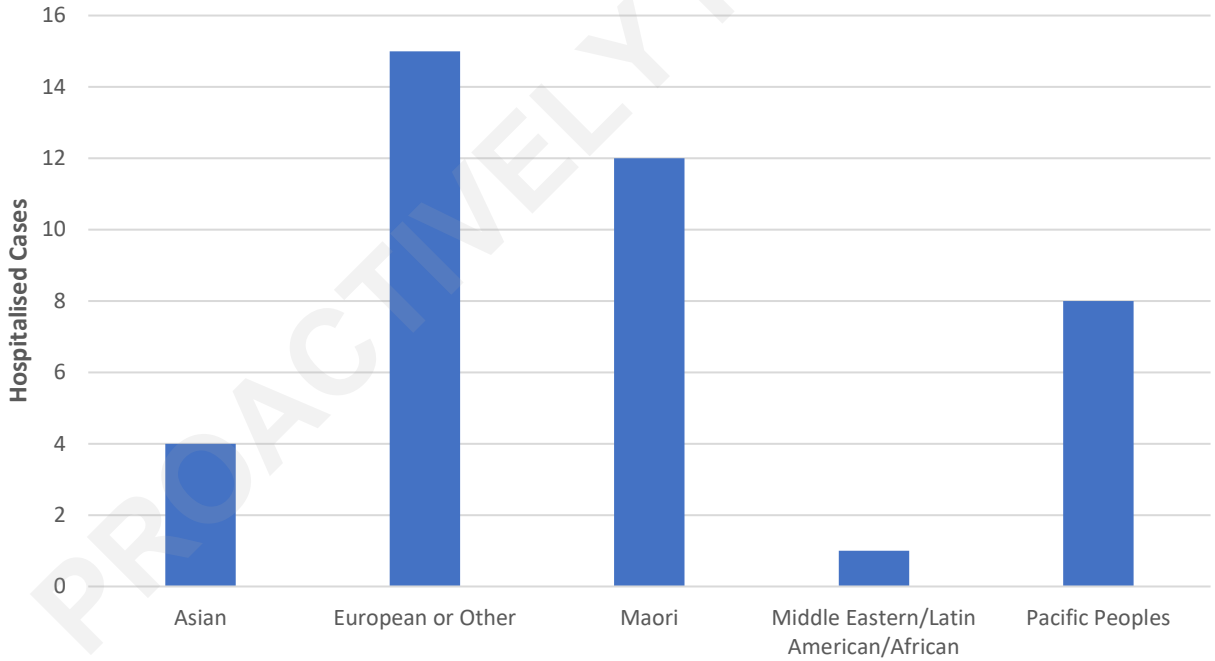


Figure 10: Hospitalised case breakdown by Ethnicity from 16 December 2021 to 23 January 2022



Points of Interest

Summary of Omicron Cases and Clusters (updated as at 1600hrs 27 January)

- January Soundsplash Festival Cluster
  - As at 1600hrs 27 January, 9 people in Auckland have tested positive after having attended Soundsplash music festival in Hamilton over the weekend. Of these, 7 cases are not known to each other. It has been reported that there were 8,000 attendees to the festival.
  - WGS has confirmed that one of the cases who attended the festival has the Omicron variant which is identical but with a 4/5 generation gap to the Auckland Airport s 9(2)(a) . ARPHS have noted that they are concerned of possible undetected intermediary cases.

- Stamford Plaza Cluster
  - As at 0900hrs 27 January there are a total of eight cases within the cluster. Six cases are household contacts of the Stamford Plaza worker and one is a returnee from India who completed isolation at the Stamford Plaza who is considered to be the index case of the cluster due to having an identical genomic link the Stamford Plaza worker. The infection acquisition is determined to be in-facility transmission.
  - On Sunday 16 January 2022 an Omicron case was reported in a s 9(2)(a) The case was tested as part of routine surveillance testing on Wednesday 12 January which returned a positive result on Friday 14 January. Case is deemed to be infectious since Monday 10 January.
  - All six household contacts who are now cases were in isolation while infectious.

- Auckland AIA Worker
  - There is only one case associated with this situation
  - On Tuesday 18 January 2022 an Auckland Airport worker case was reported in a s 9(2)(a) The case was tested on Monday 17 January, the day of onset of symptoms, which returned a positive result on the afternoon of Tuesday 18 January. Case is deemed to be infectious since Saturday 15 January. On Wednesday 19 January WGS confirmed this case as having the Omicron variant.
  - The case lives with s 9(2)(a) , who to date has returned negative tests as at 0900hrs 27 January

- Menzies Worker Cluster
  - As at 0900hrs 27 January there are a total of five cases within the cluster. This includes the initially detected Menzies workers and s 9(2)(a) and three further Menzies workers
  - On Thursday 20 January 2020 a case was reported in a s 9(2)(a) The case was tested as part of routine surveillance testing on Tuesday 18 January. Case is asymptomatic and is deemed to be infectious since Sunday 16 January. s 9(2)(a)

Rotorua Emergency Housing Cluster – Delta:

- As at 12:00 p.m. 25 January 2022, the cluster is made up of 32 Cases. The cluster includes 4 hotels with links between facilities among cases (see figure on next page)