Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

STATISTICS

Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection survey: 31 October to 6 November 2020

Analysis of the proportion of people testing positive for COVID-19 for 31 October to 6 November 2020.

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Contents

The COVID-19 Infection Survey (CIS) aims to estimate:

- how many people have the infection over a given time
- how many new cases occur over a given period
- how many people have antibodies to COVID-19.

The survey will help track the extent of infection and transmission of COVID-19 among people in private residences, referred to as the community population.

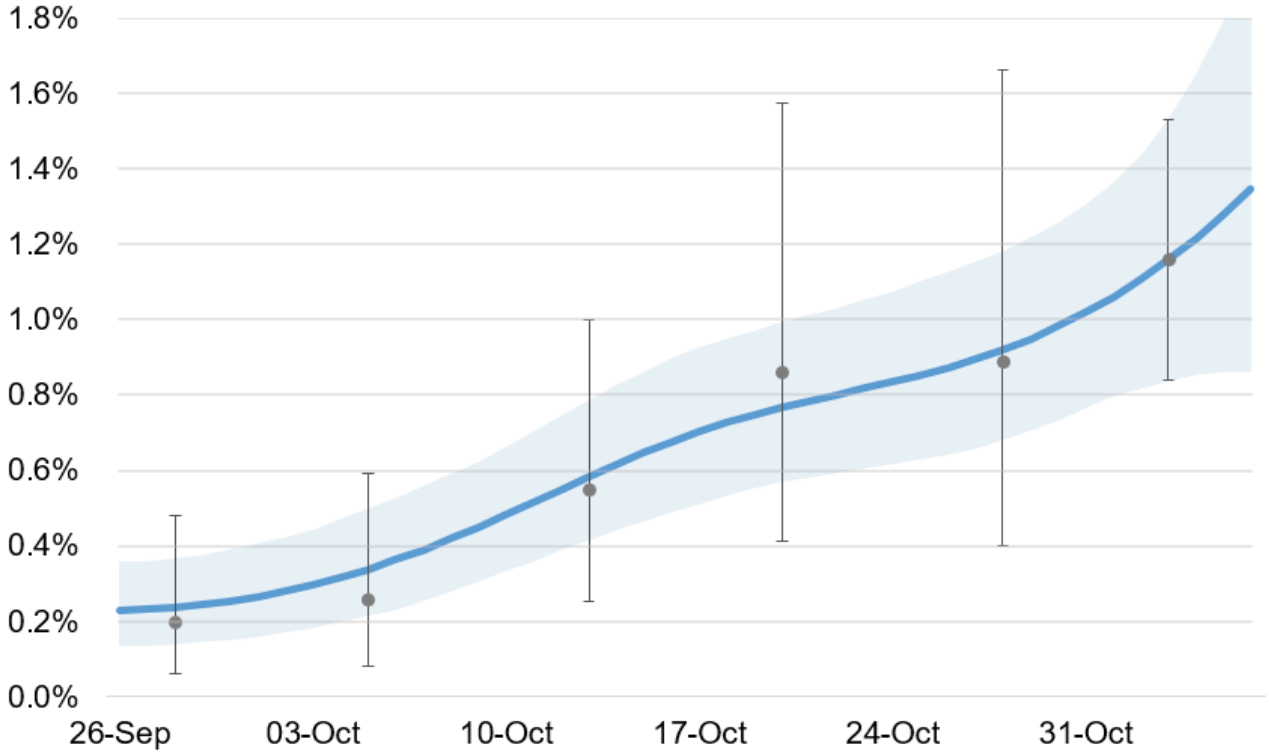
Proportion of people in Wales who had COVID-19

For the week of 31 October to 6 November 2020 it is estimated that an average of 1.16% of the community population had COVID-19 (95% credible interval: 0.84% to 1.53%).

This equates to around 1 in 85 individuals (95% credible interval: 1 in 120 to 1 in 65), or an estimated 35,300 people in total (credible interval: 25,500 to 46,600).

The rate has increased in recent weeks. Since the estimates are based on a relatively low number of positive tests, there is a significant degree of uncertainty and the results should be interpreted with caution.

Chart 1: Official estimates of the percentage of the population in Wales testing positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19) on nose and throat swabs since 20 September 2020



Source: COVID-19 Infection Survey, ONS
The blue line and shading represents the modelled trend and credible intervals based on the latest data. The point estimates and error bars are the official estimates published at the time.

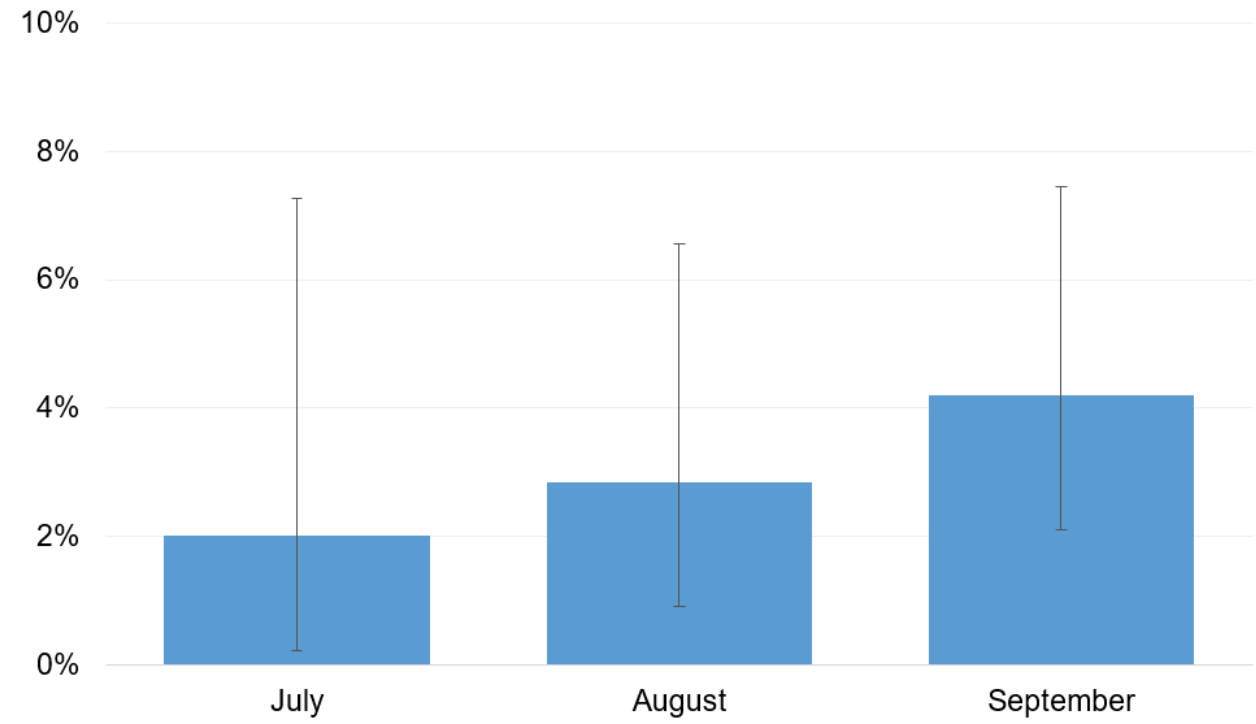
Antibodies

In September, 4.2% (95% confidence interval: 2.1% to 7.5%) of people aged 16 and over tested positive for antibodies to the coronavirus (COVID-19). The estimate is weighted to be representative of the overall population, and equates to around 1 in 24 people (95% confidence interval: 1 in 48, to 1 in 13), or around 107,000 individuals in total (95% confidence interval: 53,000 to 189,000).

Over the full course of survey from to July to 19 October, an estimated 3.75%

(95% confidence interval: 2.1% to 6.1%) tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies. Chart 2 gives monthly estimates from July, but since confidence intervals are wide, there is currently no evidence of a trend over time. Antibody levels in the blood can decline over time, meaning that some people who have previously had COVID-19 may subsequently test negative. For this reason, these figures should be regarded as estimates of monthly antibodies prevalence, not cumulative exposure.

Chart 2: Estimated percentage of the population in Wales testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) antibodies, July 2020 to September 2020



Source: COVID-19 Infection Survey, ONS

The blue bars give point estimates and the vertical lines indicate the 95% confidence intervals

One way the body fights infections like COVID-19 is by producing small particles in the blood called antibodies. It takes between two and three weeks for the body to make enough antibodies to fight the infection.

We measure the presence of antibodies to understand who has had COVID-19 in the past, although the length of time antibodies remain at detectable levels in the blood is not fully known. It is also not yet known how having detectable antibodies, now or at some time in the past, affects the chance of getting COVID-19 again. Updates to antibodies estimates are provided on a monthly basis.

Quality and methodology information

The results are based on nose and throat swabs provided by participants to the study. As well as looking at incidence overall, the survey will be used to examine the characteristics of those testing positive for COVID-19 and the extent to which those infected experience symptoms.

Fieldwork started in Wales on 29 June 2020. It is important to note that there is a significant degree of uncertainty with the estimates. This is because, despite a large sample of participants, the number of positive cases identified is small. Estimates are provided with 95% credible intervals to indicate the range within which we may be confident the true figure lies.

The results are for private households only and do not apply to those in hospitals, care homes or other institutional settings.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes **weekly statistical bulletins and references tables**, including results for England and Wales, on its website.

The estimates are based on statistical modelling. Modelling is carried out afresh each week using the latest 6 weeks' data. The model works by smoothing the series to understand the trend and is revised each week to incorporate new test results. This means that the latest estimate for an earlier period may be different to the official estimate that was produced at the time. Chart 1 shows the latest modelled trend and the official estimates that were published at the time.

Samples from this survey are not yet large enough to support more detailed analysis than is provided here. Fieldwork is being scaled up with the intention of delivering approximately 9 thousand participants per fortnight by mid-December.

This will enable more detailed analysis, which may include incidence (the number of new infections over a period of time) and analysis of the characteristics of people testing positive. The type of analysis that is possible will also depend on the underlying prevalence of the virus, with higher infection rates enabling more analysis and vice versa.

Further information about quality and methodology can be found on the **ONS website**.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the **Well-being of Wales report**.

Further information on the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**.

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

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About this document

This document is a copy of the web page **Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection survey: 31 October to 6 November 2020** downloaded.

Go to **https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-infection-survey-31-october-6-november-2020-html** for the latest version.

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