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# Recent trends in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer in Northern Ireland

## February 2022 update

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### Further information

Further information is available at: [www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nicr](http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nicr)

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### Acknowledgements

The Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (NICR) is funded by the Public Health Agency and is based in Queen's University, Belfast.

NICR uses data provided by patients and collected by the health service as part of their care and support.



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## SUMMARY

### Recent trends in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer: February 2022

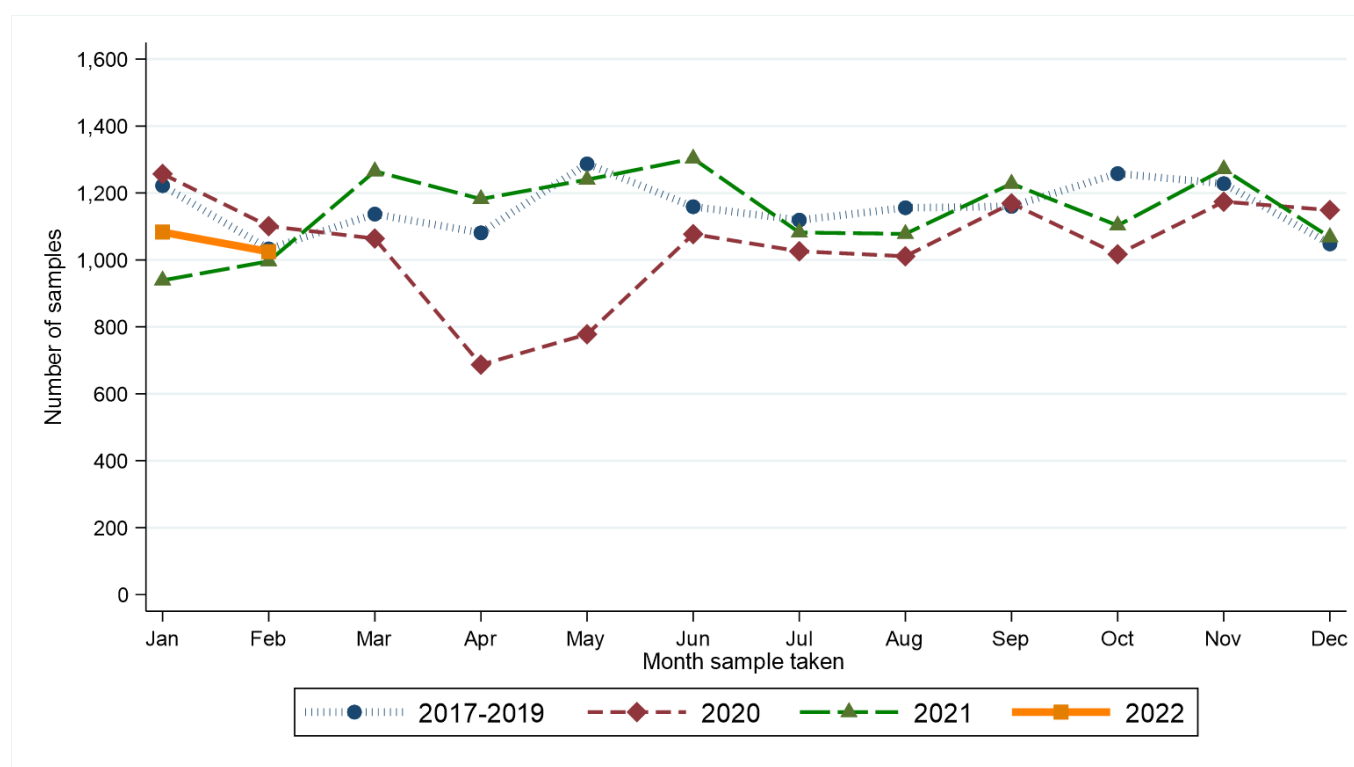
This summary provides an overview of recent trends in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, NMSC) taken from January 2020 to February 2022 in Northern Ireland.

These trends are contrasted with the annual average number of pathology samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC) during 2017-2019 in order to provide an indication of the potential impact of the Covid-19 restrictions on diagnostic cancer services.

Data are sourced from the four NHS pathology laboratories in NI (Belfast, Altnagelvin, Antrim, Craigavon), which are usually provided to NICR on a monthly basis. **Altnagelvin laboratory is excluded from some analysis as a change in recording systems led to an undercount in the number of reported samples in Jan-Apr 2021.**

#### CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 (Excludes Altnagelvin)

From March 2020 to February 2022 the number of pathological samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC) was 6.3% lower than the average number for the same time period in 2017-2019.



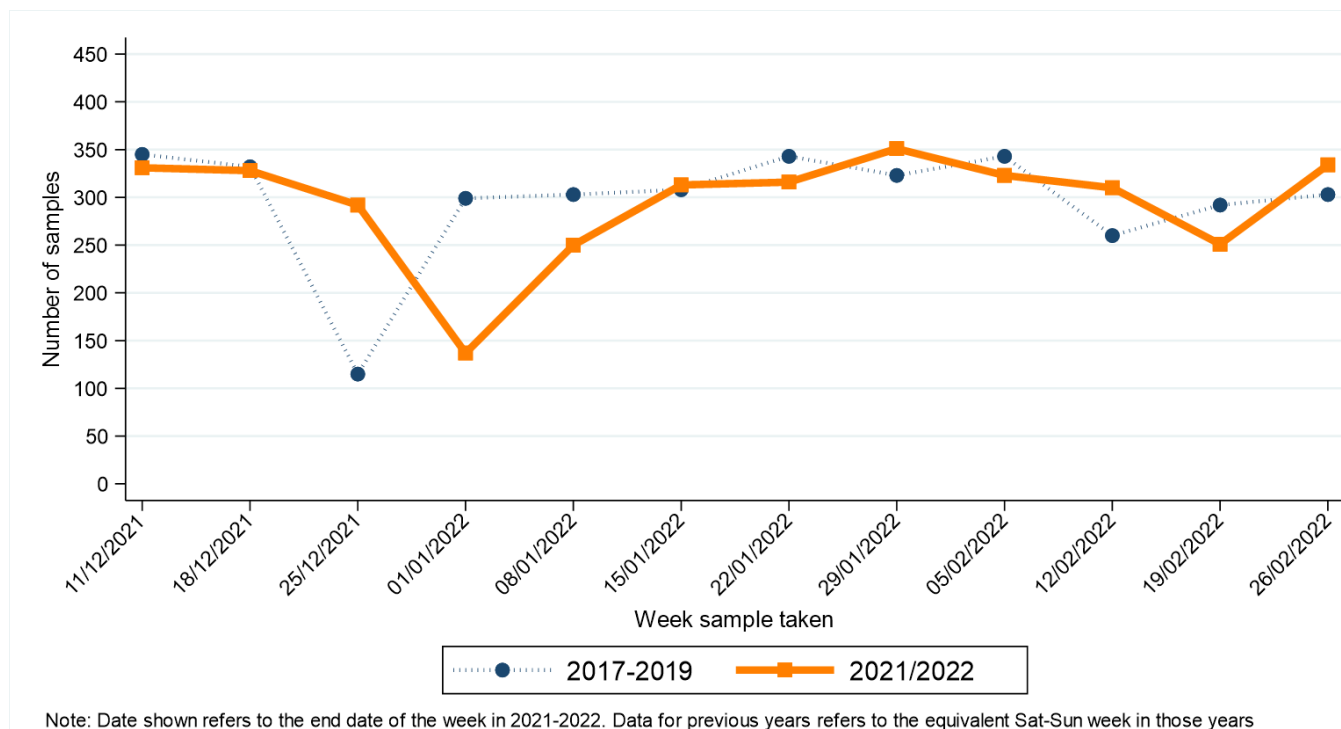
From March 2020 to February 2022 there was a 5.6% decrease in the number of samples among males and a 6.9% decrease among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. A decrease of 6.7% occurred in the number of samples among those aged 0-69 years, while there was a decrease of 5.8% in the number of samples among those aged 70 and older.

Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, from March 2020 to February 2022 the number of pathology samples indicating lung cancer decreased by 25.8%. No cancer types had an increase in the number of samples between the two periods, while decreases of more than 10% were recorded for gynaecological cancer, head and neck cancer and non-melanoma skin cancer.



#### **RECENT CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF SAMPLES (Includes Altnagelvin)**

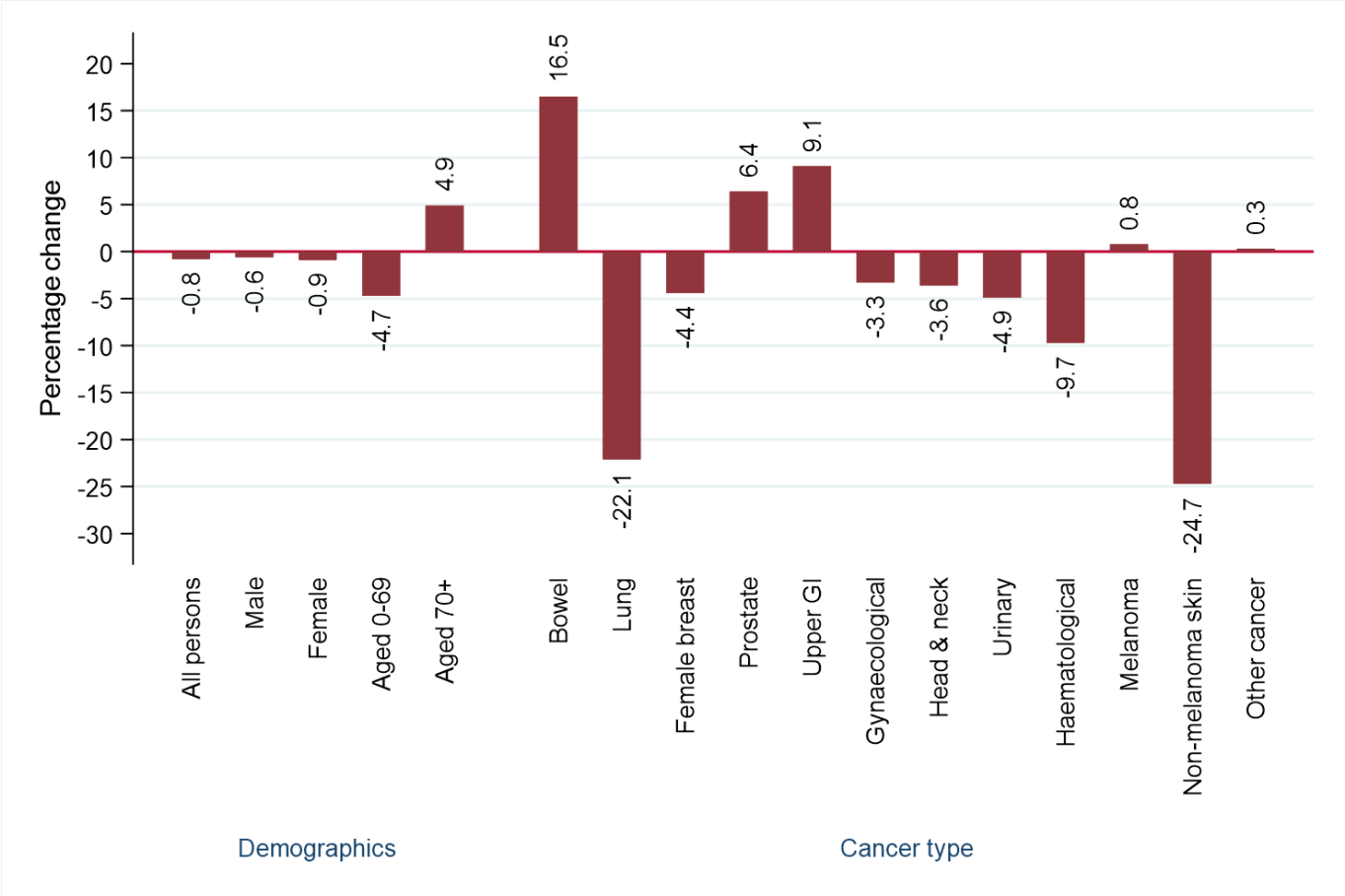
There was a 0.8% decrease in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to the average value in the equivalent weeks in 2017-2019.



In the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 there was a 0.6% decrease in the number of samples among males and a 0.9% decrease among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. A decrease of 4.7% occurred in

the number of samples among those aged 0-69 years, while there was an increase of 4.9% in the number of samples among those aged 70 and older.

Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, in the twelve weeks up to February 2022 the number of pathology samples indicating lung cancer decreased by 22.1%. Increases were recorded for bowel cancer, prostate cancer, upper gastrointestinal cancer and melanoma, while decreases of more than 10% were recorded for non-melanoma skin cancer.

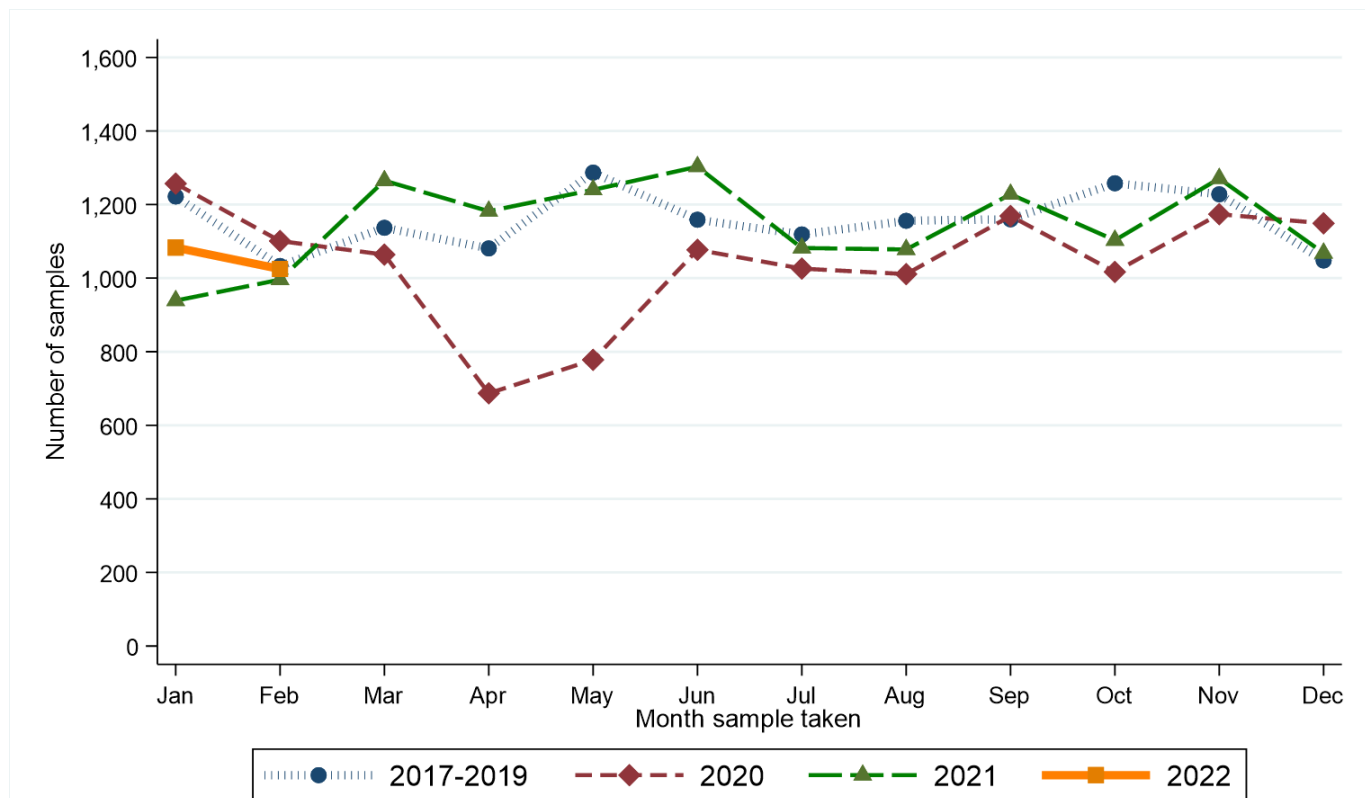


# ALL PERSONS: CANCER (EX NMSC)

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-6.3%**



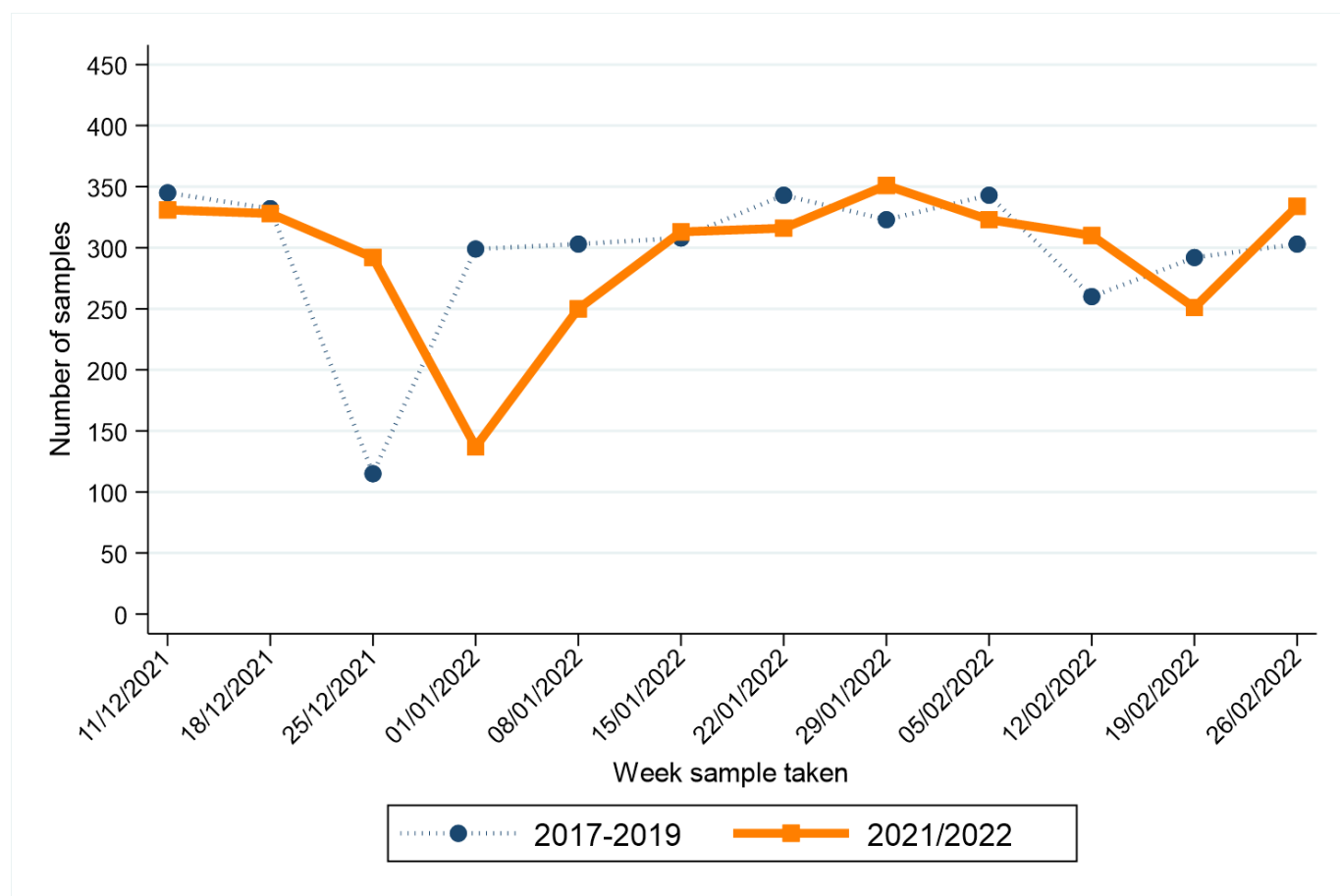
| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |       |       |       |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  |
| Jan                | 1,222             | 1,257 | 939   | 1,083 |
| Feb                | 1,033             | 1,101 | 996   | 1,025 |
| Mar                | 1,137             | 1,064 | 1,265 | .     |
| Apr                | 1,081             | 687   | 1,182 | .     |
| May                | 1,287             | 778   | 1,240 | .     |
| Jun                | 1,159             | 1,077 | 1,303 | .     |
| Jul                | 1,119             | 1,026 | 1,082 | .     |
| Aug                | 1,156             | 1,011 | 1,078 | .     |
| Sep                | 1,160             | 1,169 | 1,228 | .     |
| Oct                | 1,258             | 1,017 | 1,103 | .     |
| Nov                | 1,228             | 1,174 | 1,271 | .     |
| Dec                | 1,048             | 1,149 | 1,068 | .     |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-0.8%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 345               | 331       |
| 18/12/2021          | 332               | 328       |
| 25/12/2021          | 115               | 292       |
| 01/01/2022          | 299               | 137       |
| 08/01/2022          | 303               | 250       |
| 15/01/2022          | 308               | 313       |
| 22/01/2022          | 343               | 316       |
| 29/01/2022          | 323               | 351       |
| 05/02/2022          | 343               | 323       |
| 12/02/2022          | 260               | 310       |
| 19/02/2022          | 292               | 251       |
| 26/02/2022          | 303               | 334       |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

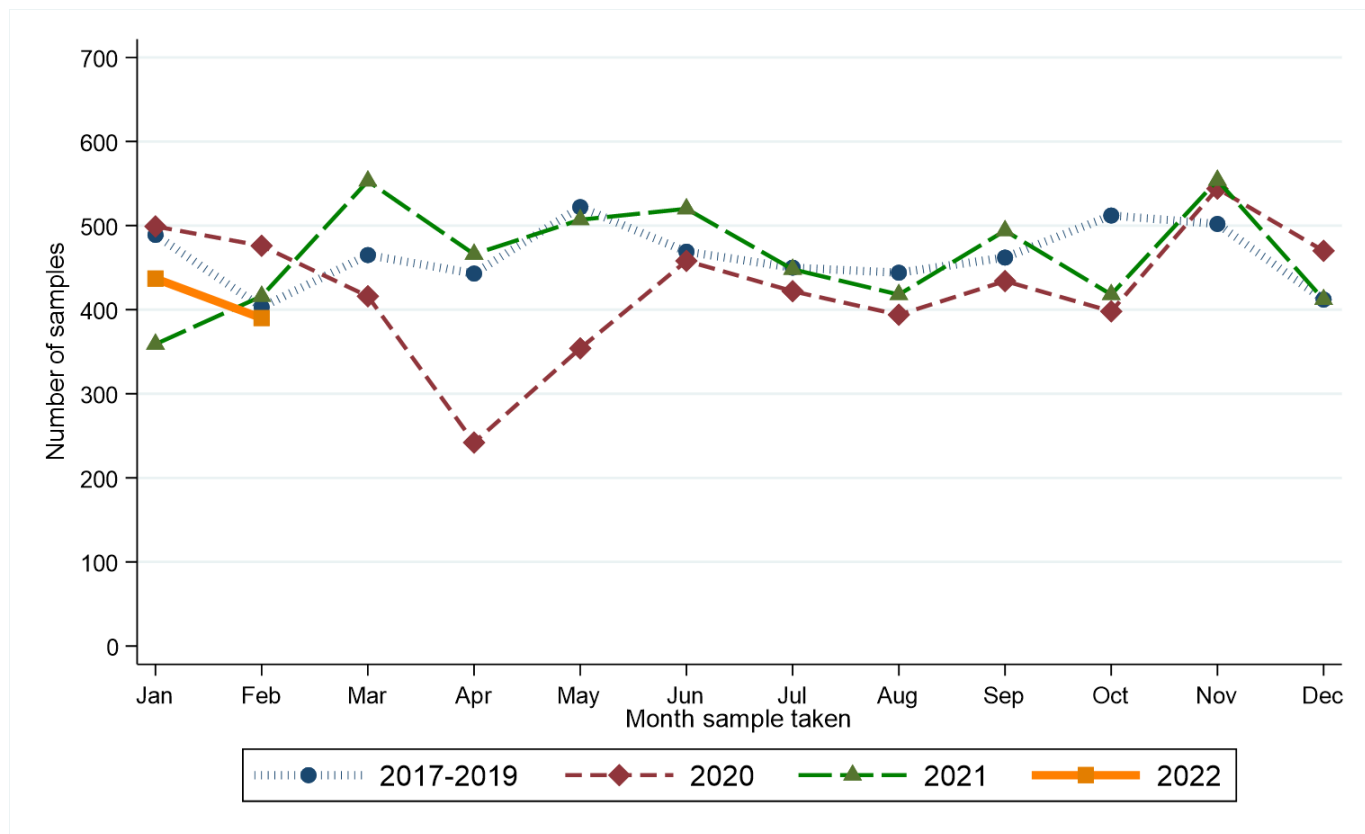
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# MALE: CANCER (EX NMSC)

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-5.6%**



| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 489               | 499  | 359  | 437  |
| Feb                | 403               | 476  | 416  | 390  |
| Mar                | 465               | 416  | 553  | .    |
| Apr                | 443               | 242  | 466  | .    |
| May                | 522               | 354  | 507  | .    |
| Jun                | 469               | 458  | 520  | .    |
| Jul                | 450               | 422  | 448  | .    |
| Aug                | 444               | 394  | 418  | .    |
| Sep                | 462               | 434  | 494  | .    |
| Oct                | 512               | 398  | 418  | .    |
| Nov                | 502               | 544  | 554  | .    |
| Dec                | 412               | 470  | 412  | .    |

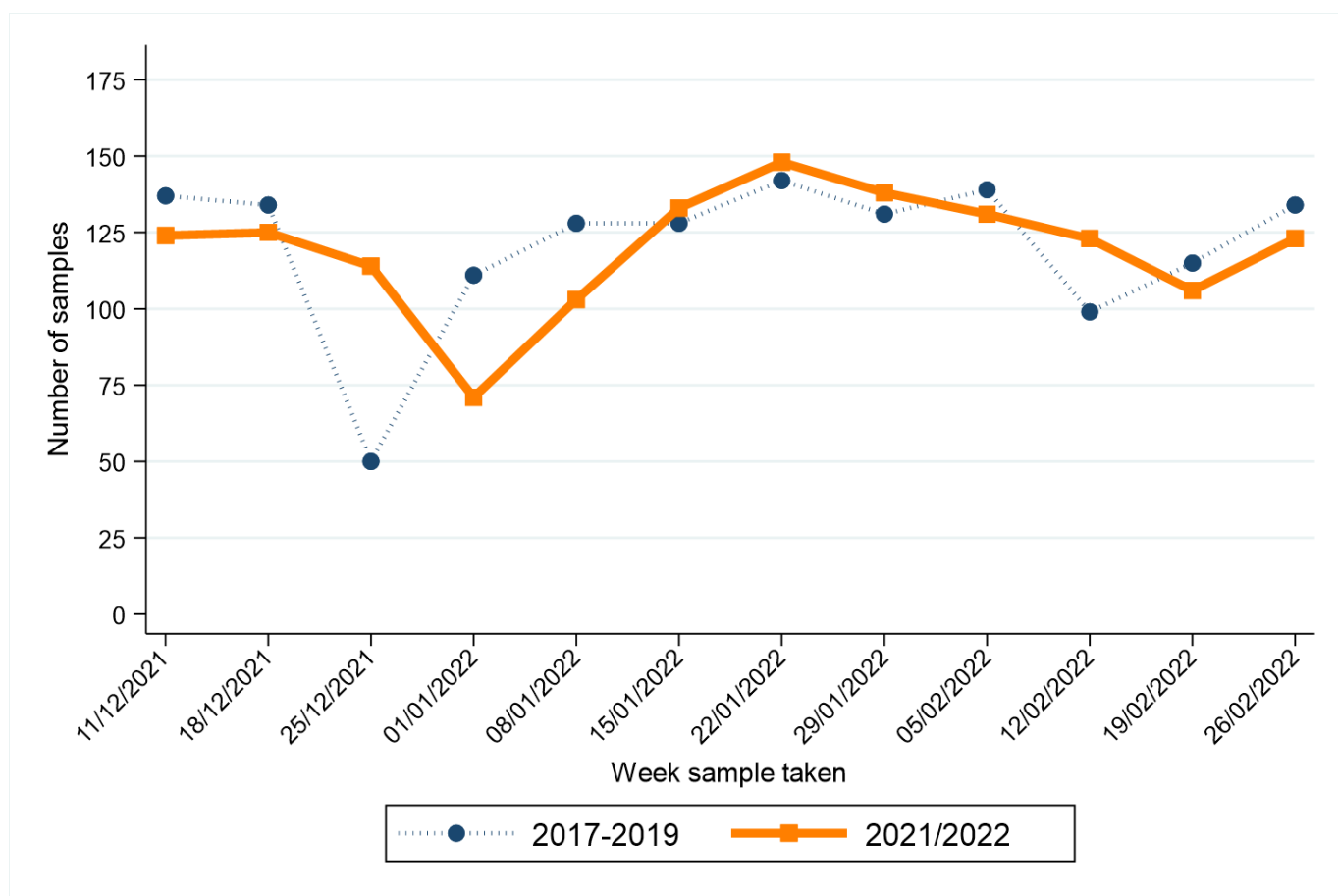
\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.



### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-0.6%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 137               | 124       |
| 18/12/2021          | 134               | 125       |
| 25/12/2021          | 50                | 114       |
| 01/01/2022          | 111               | 71        |
| 08/01/2022          | 128               | 103       |
| 15/01/2022          | 128               | 133       |
| 22/01/2022          | 142               | 148       |
| 29/01/2022          | 131               | 138       |
| 05/02/2022          | 139               | 131       |
| 12/02/2022          | 99                | 123       |
| 19/02/2022          | 115               | 106       |
| 26/02/2022          | 134               | 123       |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

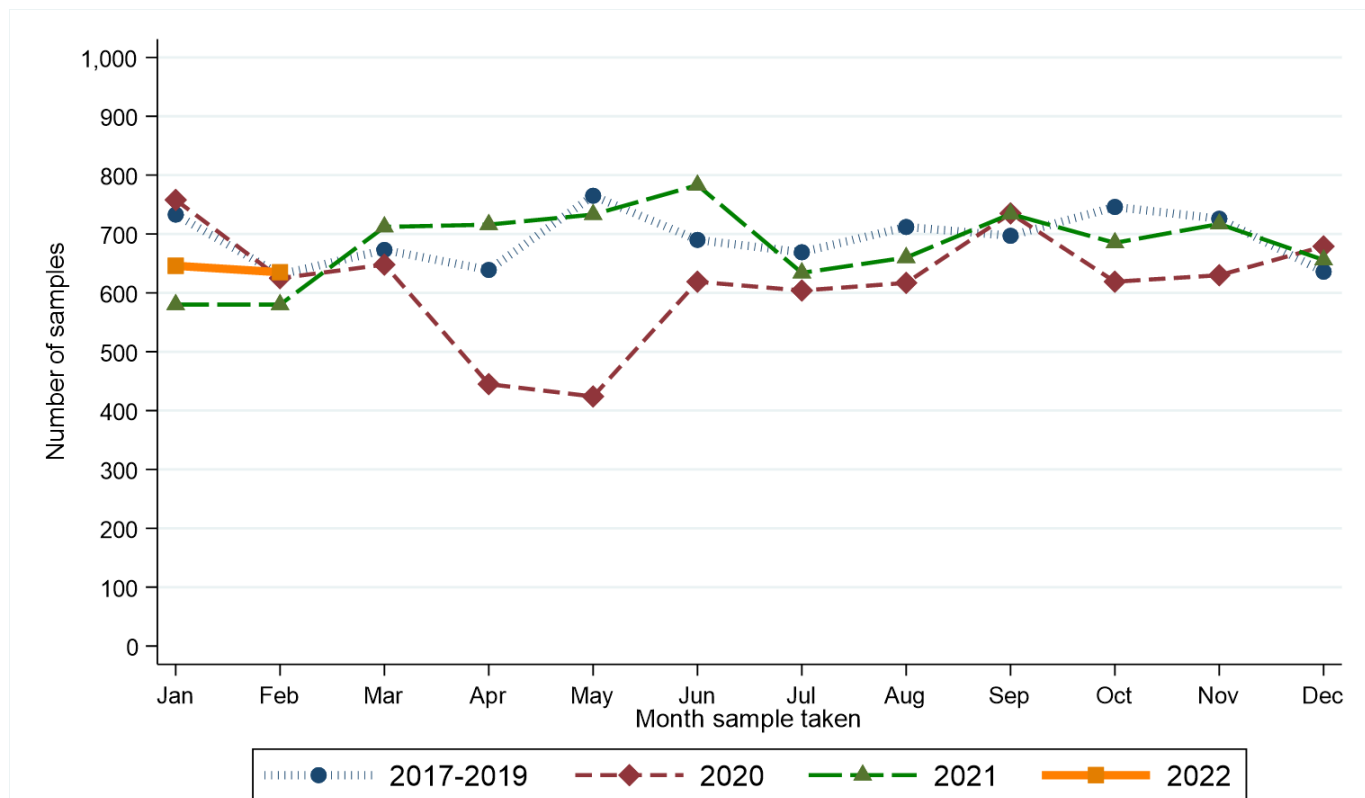
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# FEMALE: CANCER (EX NMSC)

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-6.9%**



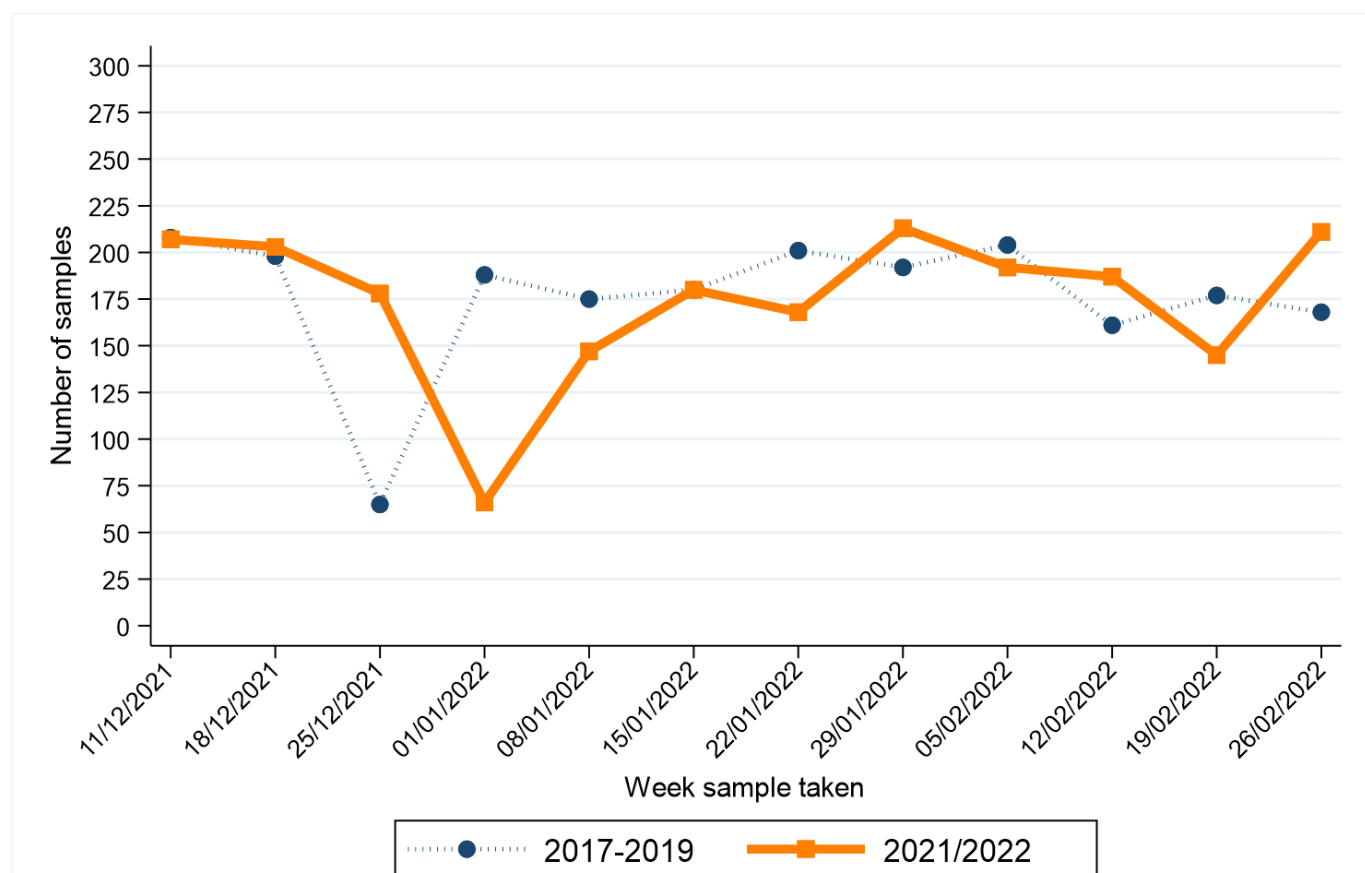
| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 733               | 758  | 580  | 646  |
| Feb                | 631               | 625  | 580  | 635  |
| Mar                | 673               | 648  | 712  | .    |
| Apr                | 639               | 445  | 716  | .    |
| May                | 765               | 424  | 733  | .    |
| Jun                | 690               | 619  | 783  | .    |
| Jul                | 669               | 604  | 634  | .    |
| Aug                | 712               | 617  | 660  | .    |
| Sep                | 697               | 735  | 734  | .    |
| Oct                | 746               | 619  | 685  | .    |
| Nov                | 726               | 630  | 717  | .    |
| Dec                | 636               | 679  | 656  | .    |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-0.9%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 208               | 207       |
| 18/12/2021          | 198               | 203       |
| 25/12/2021          | 65                | 178       |
| 01/01/2022          | 188               | 66        |
| 08/01/2022          | 175               | 147       |
| 15/01/2022          | 180               | 180       |
| 22/01/2022          | 201               | 168       |
| 29/01/2022          | 192               | 213       |
| 05/02/2022          | 204               | 192       |
| 12/02/2022          | 161               | 187       |
| 19/02/2022          | 177               | 145       |
| 26/02/2022          | 168               | 211       |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

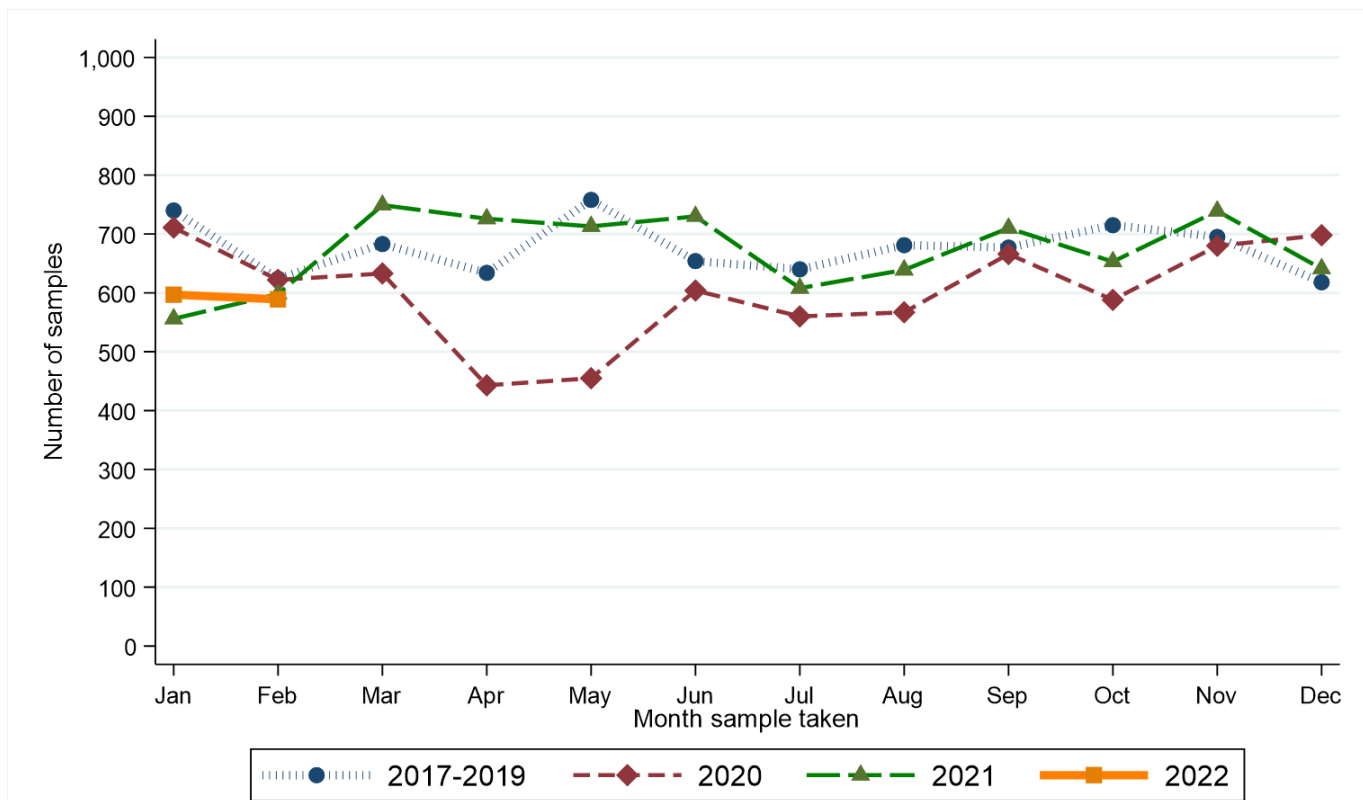
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# AGED 0-69: CANCER (EX NMSC)

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-6.7%**



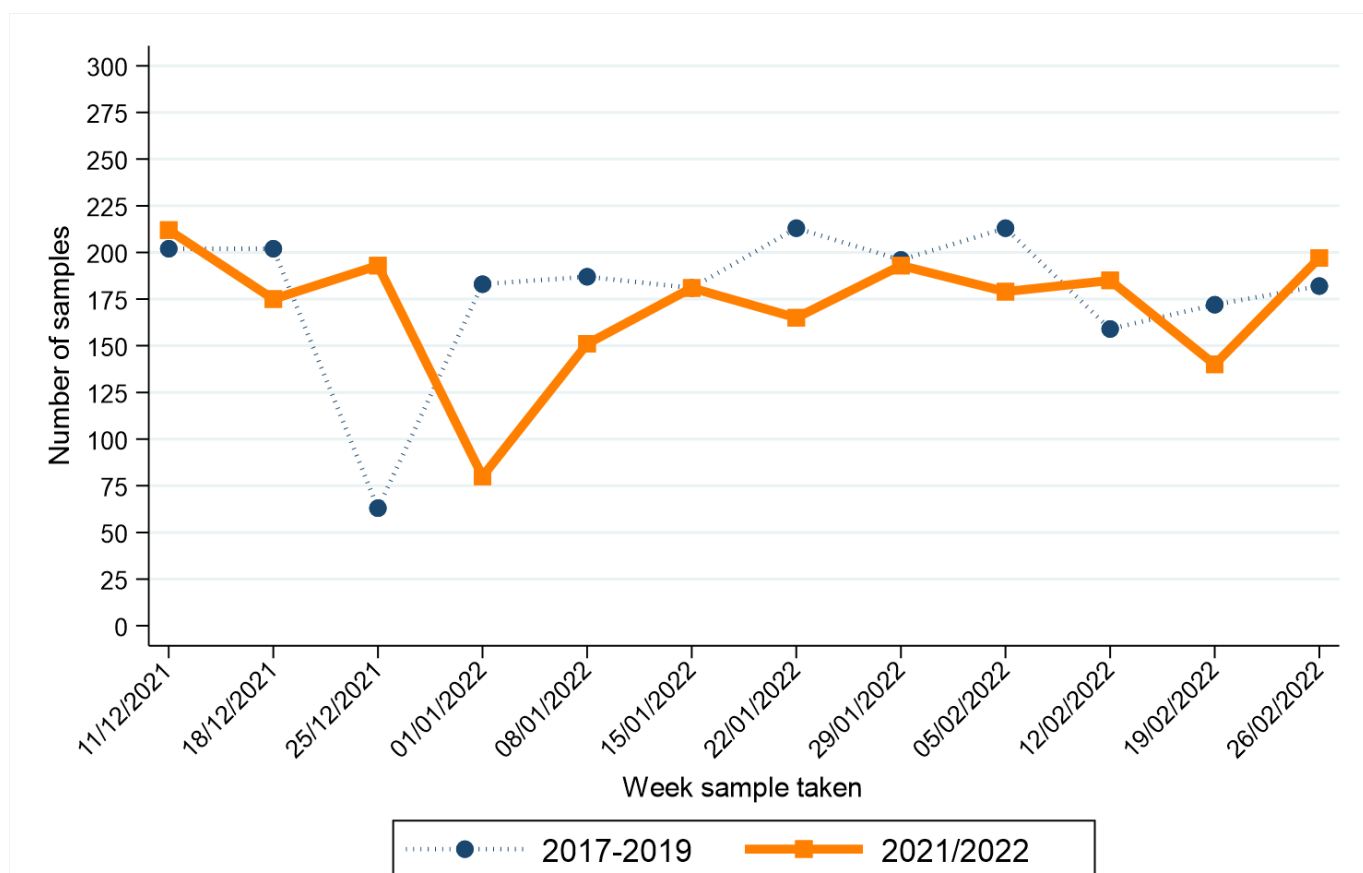
| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 740               | 711  | 556  | 597  |
| Feb                | 624               | 622  | 598  | 589  |
| Mar                | 683               | 633  | 749  | .    |
| Apr                | 634               | 443  | 726  | .    |
| May                | 758               | 455  | 713  | .    |
| Jun                | 654               | 604  | 730  | .    |
| Jul                | 640               | 560  | 608  | .    |
| Aug                | 681               | 567  | 639  | .    |
| Sep                | 677               | 666  | 710  | .    |
| Oct                | 715               | 588  | 653  | .    |
| Nov                | 695               | 680  | 739  | .    |
| Dec                | 618               | 698  | 641  | .    |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-4.7%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 202               | 212       |
| 18/12/2021          | 202               | 175       |
| 25/12/2021          | 63                | 193       |
| 01/01/2022          | 183               | 80        |
| 08/01/2022          | 187               | 151       |
| 15/01/2022          | 181               | 181       |
| 22/01/2022          | 213               | 165       |
| 29/01/2022          | 196               | 193       |
| 05/02/2022          | 213               | 179       |
| 12/02/2022          | 159               | 185       |
| 19/02/2022          | 172               | 140       |
| 26/02/2022          | 182               | 197       |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

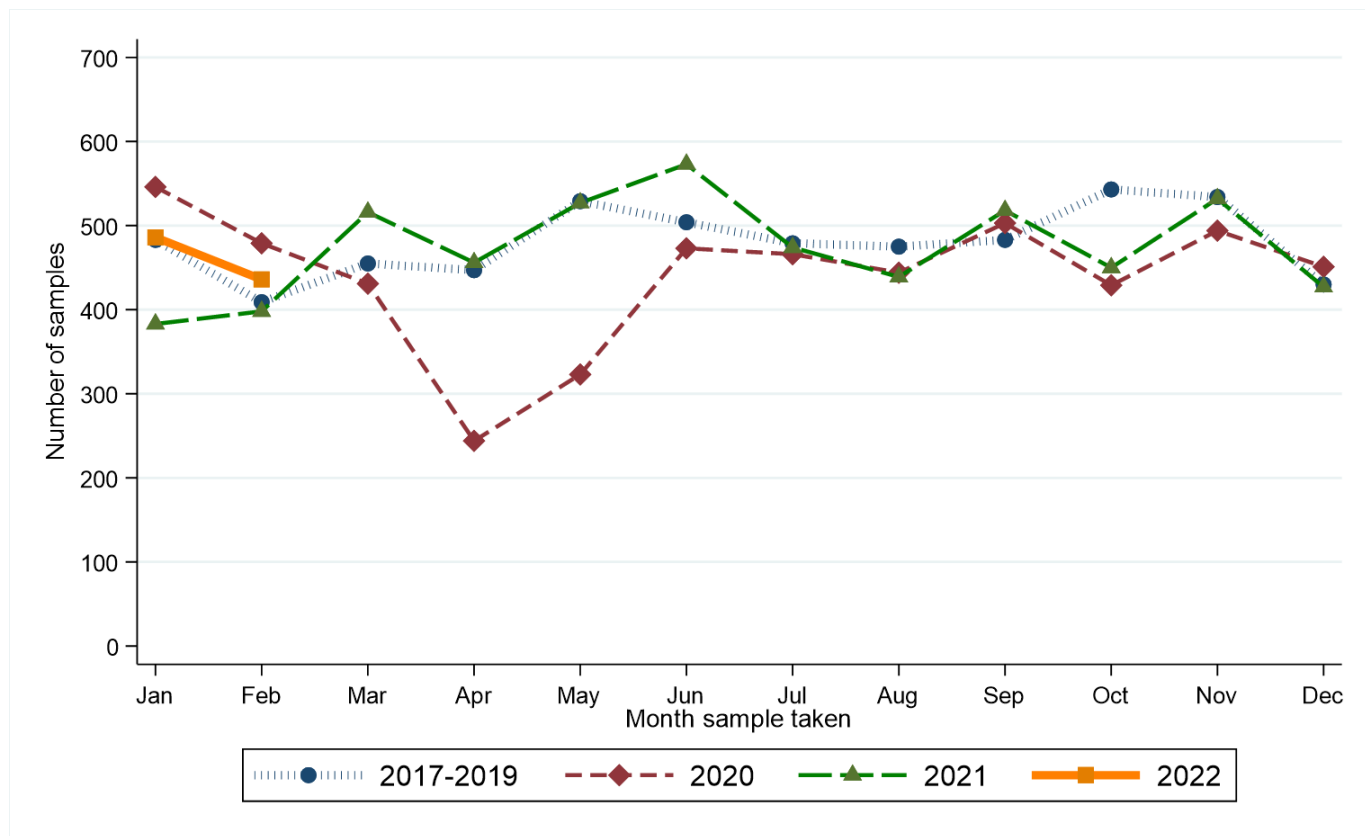
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# AGED 70+: CANCER (EX NMSC)

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-5.8%**



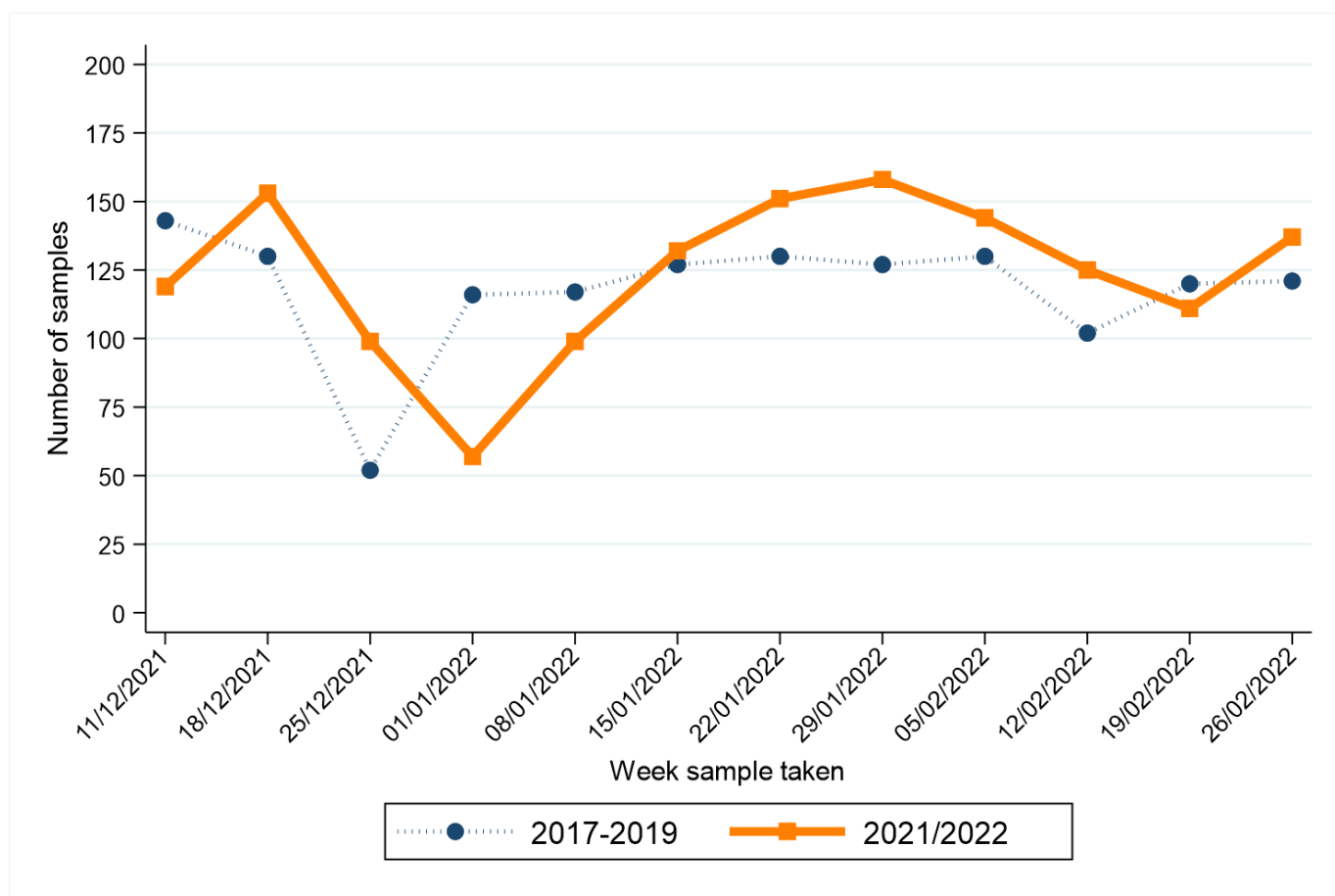
| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 483               | 546  | 383  | 486  |
| Feb                | 409               | 479  | 398  | 436  |
| Mar                | 455               | 431  | 516  | .    |
| Apr                | 447               | 244  | 456  | .    |
| May                | 529               | 323  | 527  | .    |
| Jun                | 504               | 473  | 573  | .    |
| Jul                | 479               | 466  | 474  | .    |
| Aug                | 475               | 444  | 439  | .    |
| Sep                | 483               | 503  | 518  | .    |
| Oct                | 543               | 429  | 450  | .    |
| Nov                | 534               | 494  | 532  | .    |
| Dec                | 430               | 451  | 427  | .    |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**+4.9%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 143               | 119       |
| 18/12/2021          | 130               | 153       |
| 25/12/2021          | 52                | 99        |
| 01/01/2022          | 116               | 57        |
| 08/01/2022          | 117               | 99        |
| 15/01/2022          | 127               | 132       |
| 22/01/2022          | 130               | 151       |
| 29/01/2022          | 127               | 158       |
| 05/02/2022          | 130               | 144       |
| 12/02/2022          | 102               | 125       |
| 19/02/2022          | 120               | 111       |
| 26/02/2022          | 121               | 137       |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

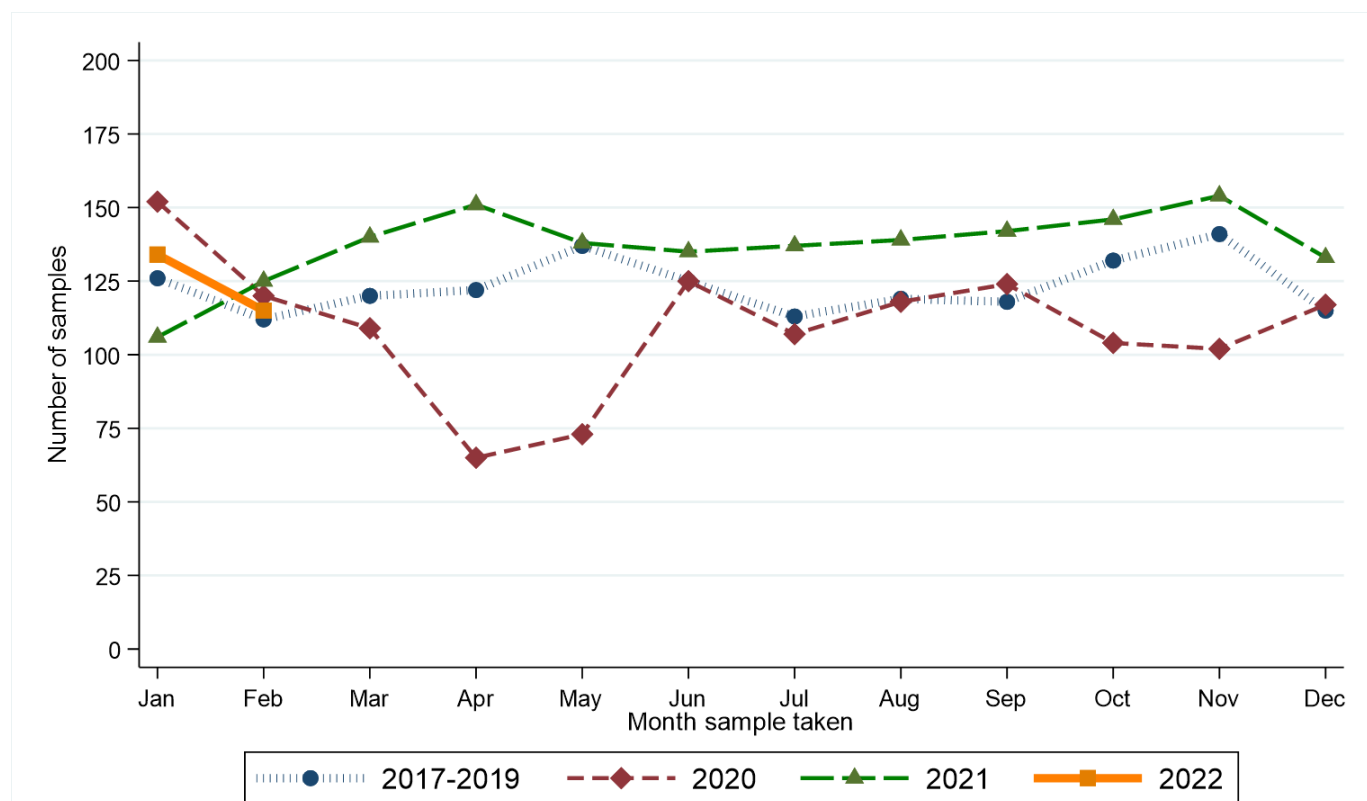
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# BOWEL CANCER

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-0.7%**



| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 126               | 152  | 106  | 134  |
| Feb                | 112               | 120  | 125  | 115  |
| Mar                | 120               | 109  | 140  | .    |
| Apr                | 122               | 65   | 151  | .    |
| May                | 137               | 73   | 138  | .    |
| Jun                | 125               | 125  | 135  | .    |
| Jul                | 113               | 107  | 137  | .    |
| Aug                | 119               | 118  | 139  | .    |
| Sep                | 118               | 124  | 142  | .    |
| Oct                | 132               | 104  | 146  | .    |
| Nov                | 141               | 102  | 154  | .    |
| Dec                | 115               | 117  | 133  | .    |

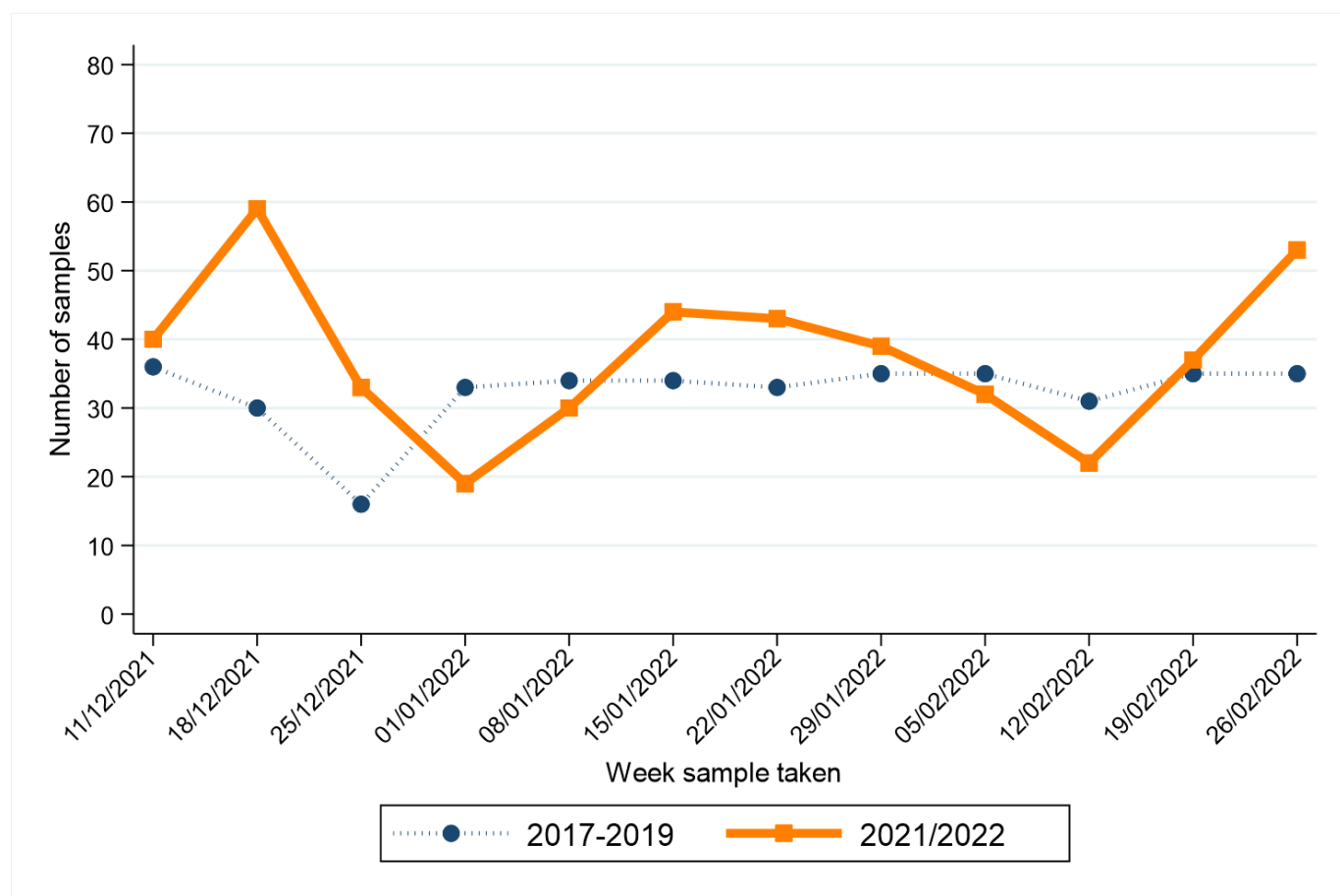
\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.



### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**+16.5%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 36                | 40        |
| 18/12/2021          | 30                | 59        |
| 25/12/2021          | 16                | 33        |
| 01/01/2022          | 33                | 19        |
| 08/01/2022          | 34                | 30        |
| 15/01/2022          | 34                | 44        |
| 22/01/2022          | 33                | 43        |
| 29/01/2022          | 35                | 39        |
| 05/02/2022          | 35                | 32        |
| 12/02/2022          | 31                | 22        |
| 19/02/2022          | 35                | 37        |
| 26/02/2022          | 35                | 53        |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

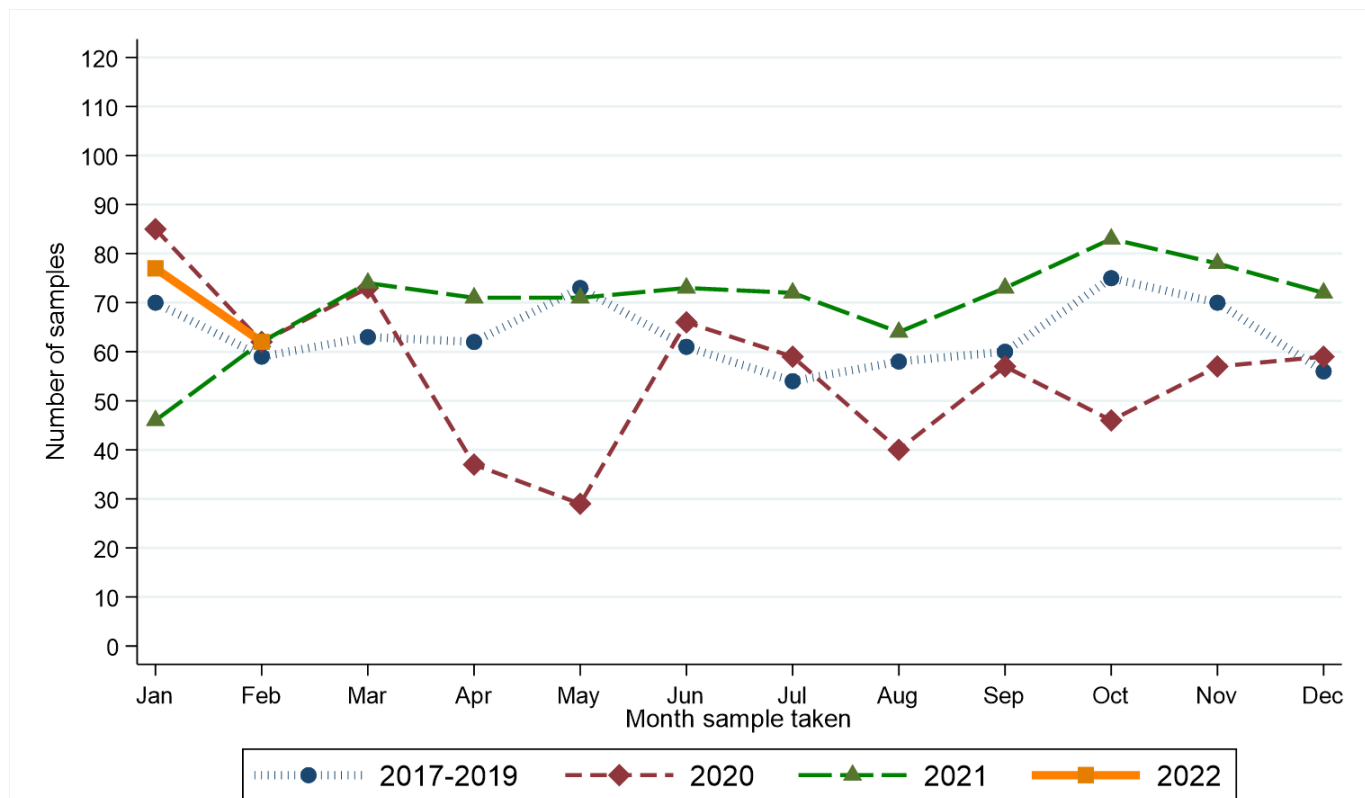
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# BOWEL CANCER (SCREENING AGE)

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-1.4%**



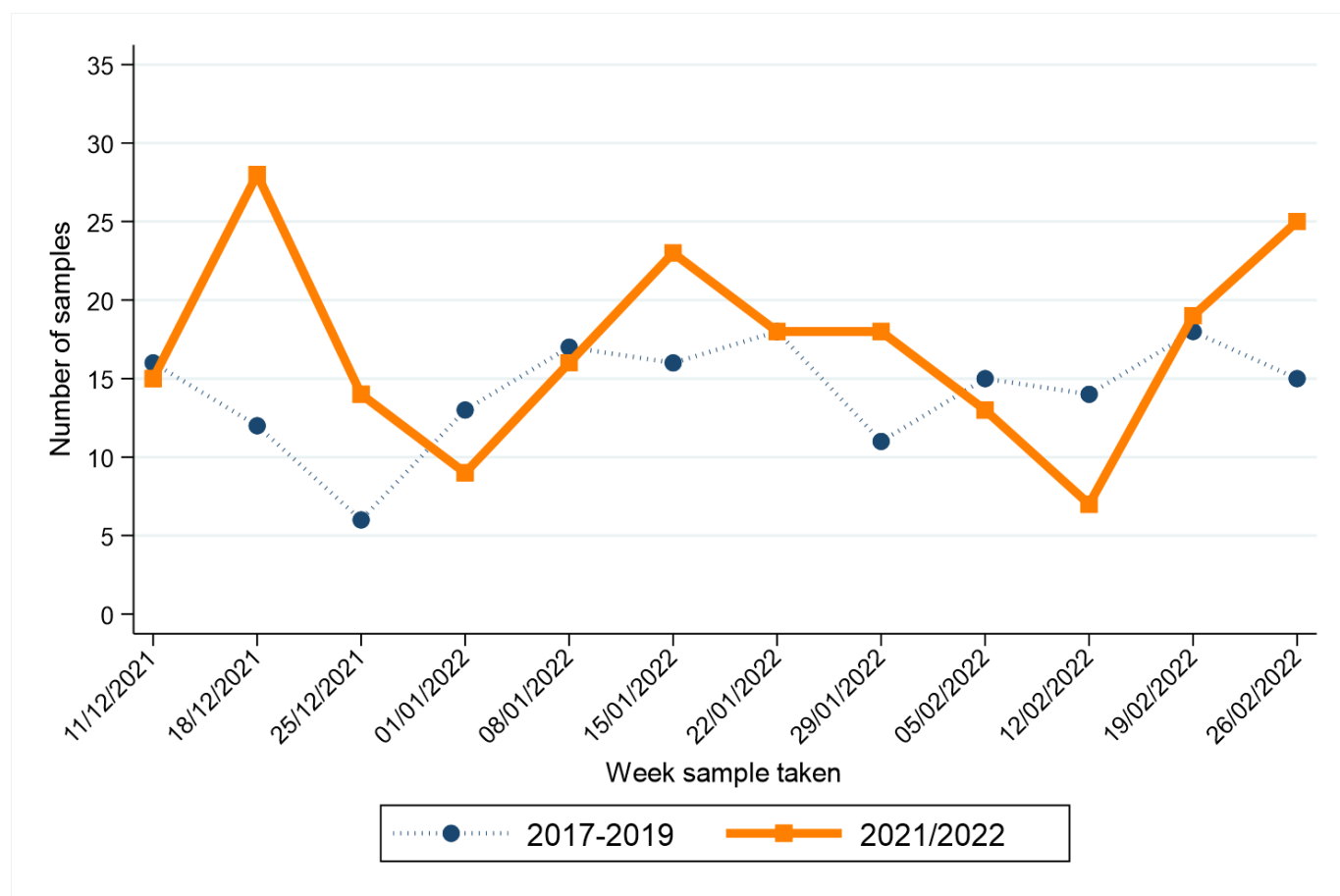
| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 70                | 85   | 46   | 77   |
| Feb                | 59                | 62   | 62   | 62   |
| Mar                | 63                | 73   | 74   | .    |
| Apr                | 62                | 37   | 71   | .    |
| May                | 73                | 29   | 71   | .    |
| Jun                | 61                | 66   | 73   | .    |
| Jul                | 54                | 59   | 72   | .    |
| Aug                | 58                | 40   | 64   | .    |
| Sep                | 60                | 57   | 73   | .    |
| Oct                | 75                | 46   | 83   | .    |
| Nov                | 70                | 57   | 78   | .    |
| Dec                | 56                | 59   | 72   | .    |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**+19.9%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 16                | 15        |
| 18/12/2021          | 12                | 28        |
| 25/12/2021          | 6                 | 14        |
| 01/01/2022          | 13                | 9         |
| 08/01/2022          | 17                | 16        |
| 15/01/2022          | 16                | 23        |
| 22/01/2022          | 18                | 18        |
| 29/01/2022          | 11                | 18        |
| 05/02/2022          | 15                | 13        |
| 12/02/2022          | 14                | 7         |
| 19/02/2022          | 18                | 19        |
| 26/02/2022          | 15                | 25        |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

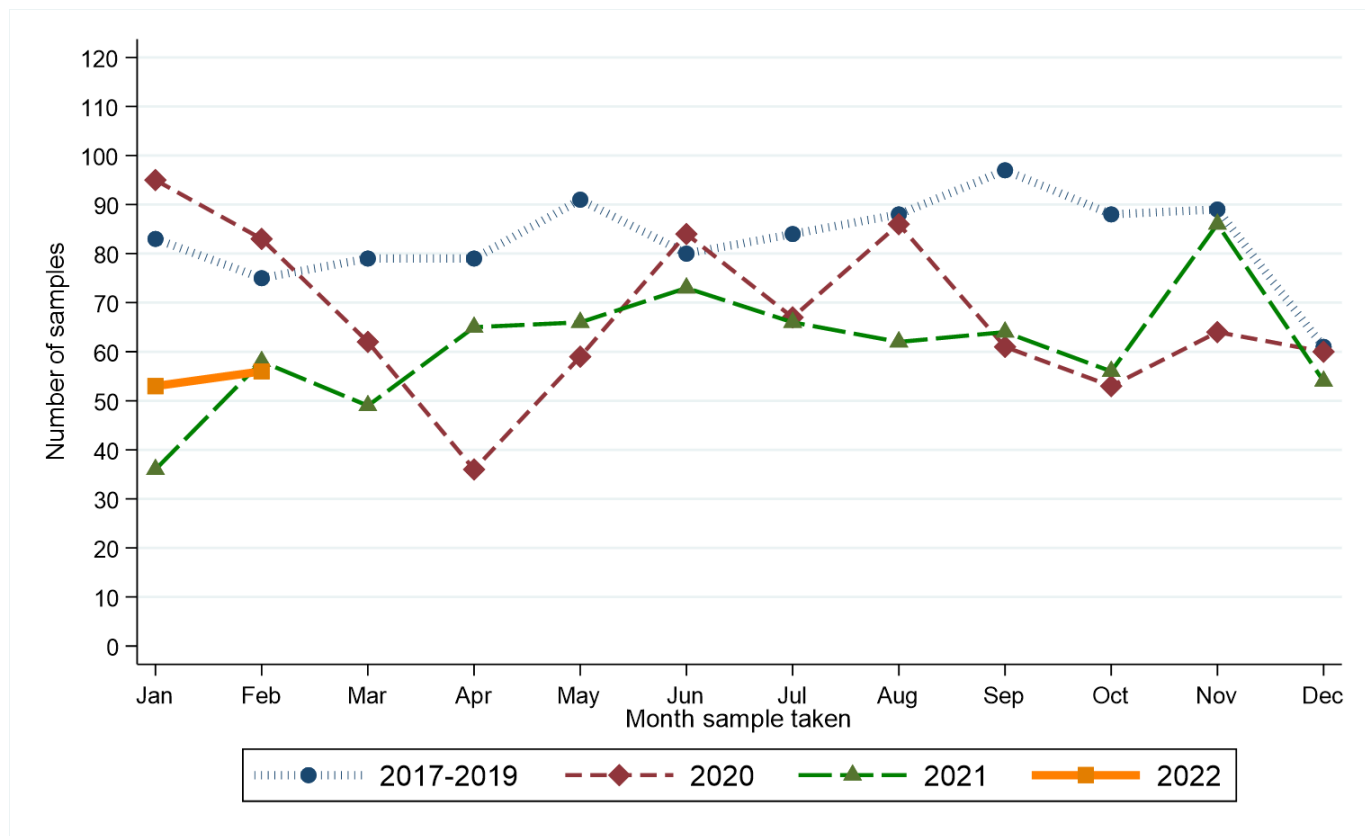
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# LUNG CANCER

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-25.8%**



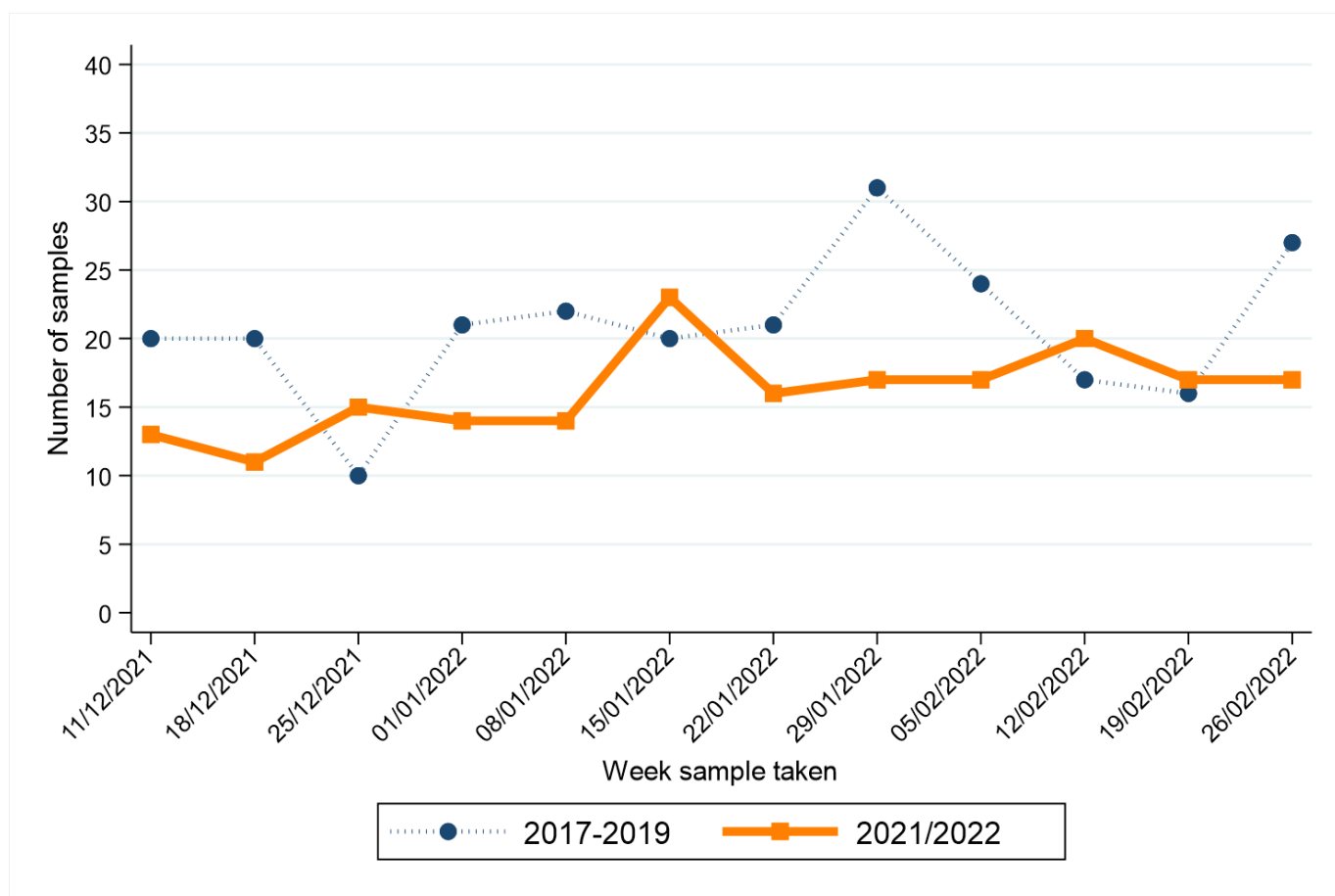
| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 83                | 95   | 36   | 53   |
| Feb                | 75                | 83   | 58   | 56   |
| Mar                | 79                | 62   | 49   | .    |
| Apr                | 79                | 36   | 65   | .    |
| May                | 91                | 59   | 66   | .    |
| Jun                | 80                | 84   | 73   | .    |
| Jul                | 84                | 67   | 66   | .    |
| Aug                | 88                | 86   | 62   | .    |
| Sep                | 97                | 61   | 64   | .    |
| Oct                | 88                | 53   | 56   | .    |
| Nov                | 89                | 64   | 86   | .    |
| Dec                | 61                | 60   | 54   | .    |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-22.1%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 20                | 13        |
| 18/12/2021          | 20                | 11        |
| 25/12/2021          | 10                | 15        |
| 01/01/2022          | 21                | 14        |
| 08/01/2022          | 22                | 14        |
| 15/01/2022          | 20                | 23        |
| 22/01/2022          | 21                | 16        |
| 29/01/2022          | 31                | 17        |
| 05/02/2022          | 24                | 17        |
| 12/02/2022          | 17                | 20        |
| 19/02/2022          | 16                | 17        |
| 26/02/2022          | 27                | 17        |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

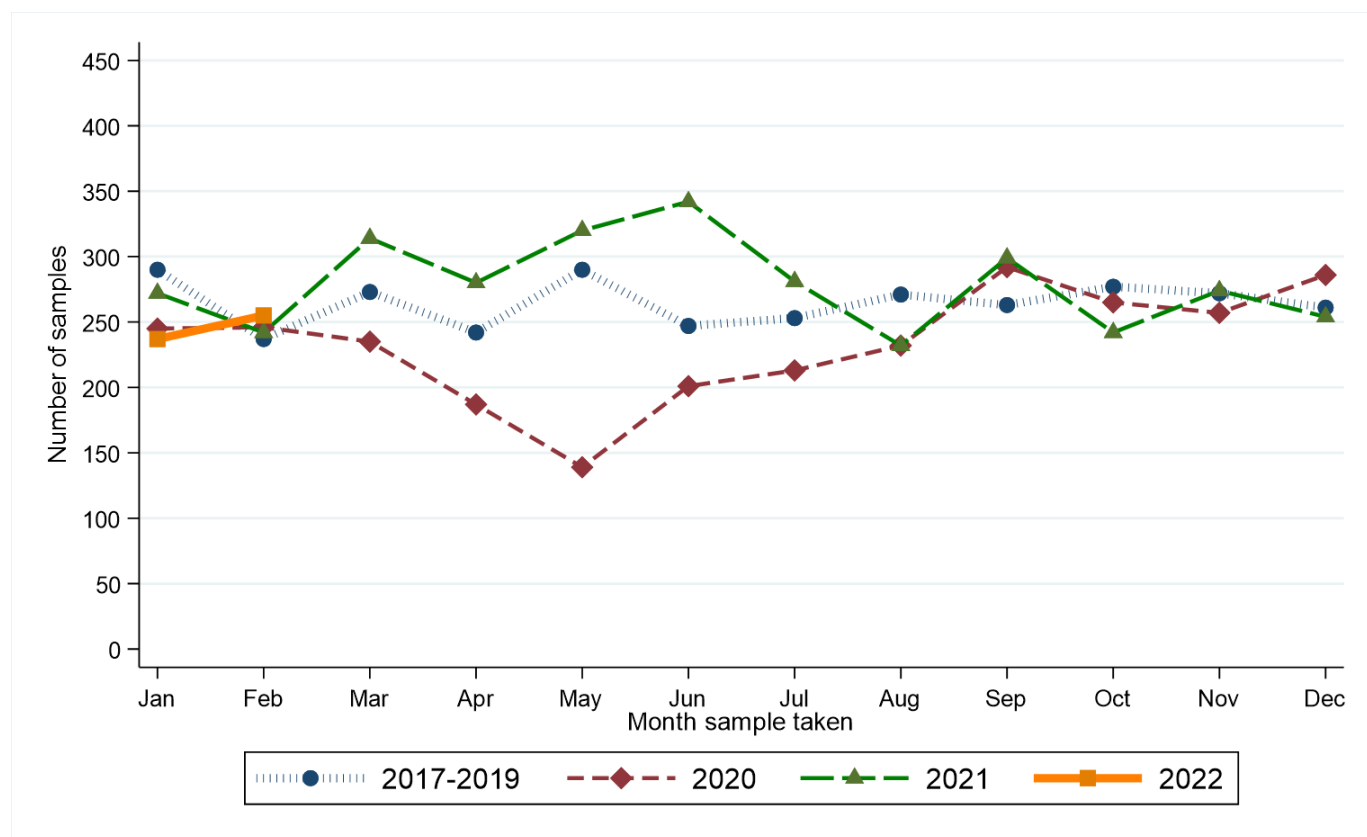
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# FEMALE BREAST CANCER

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-3.2%**



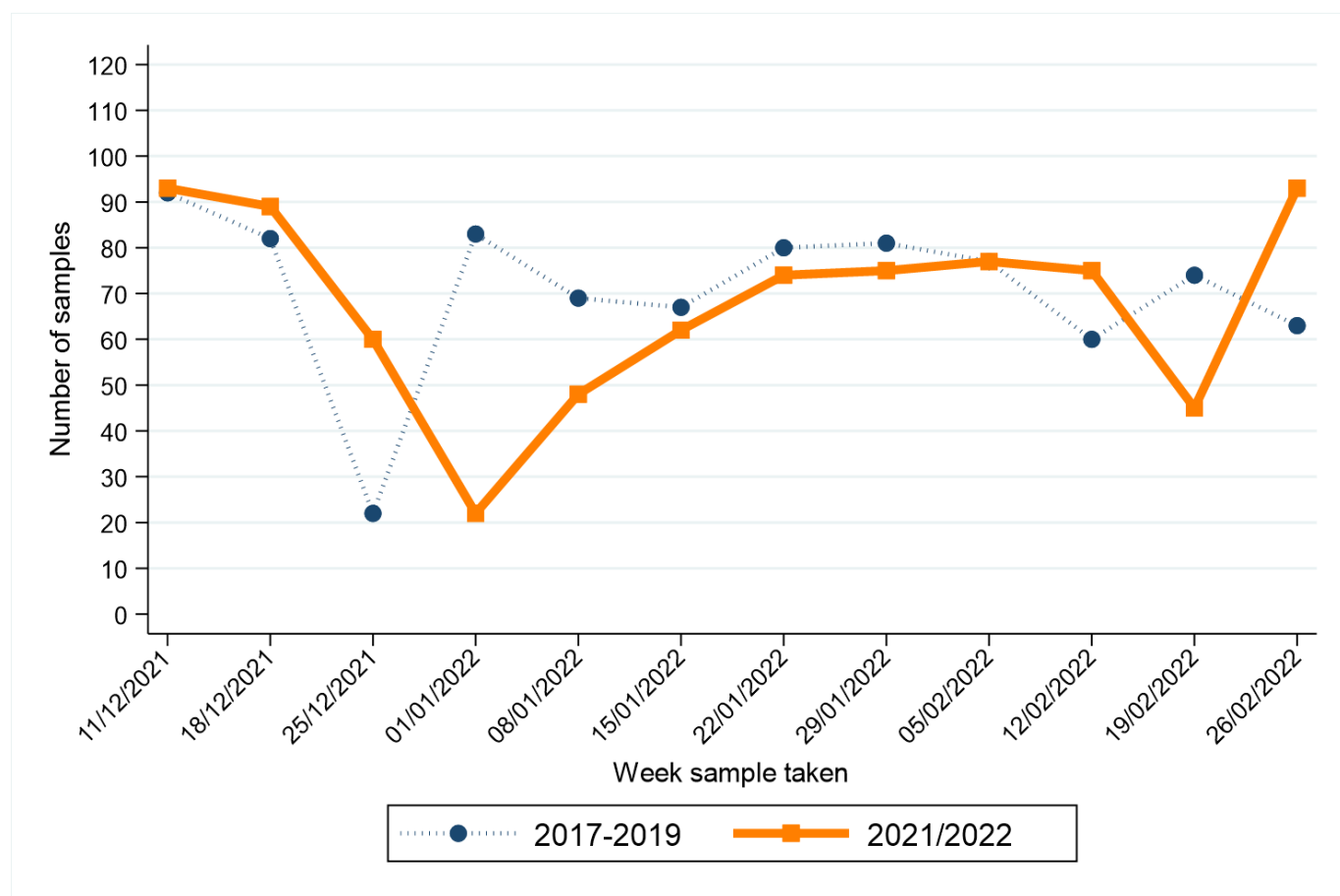
| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 290               | 245  | 272  | 237  |
| Feb                | 237               | 246  | 242  | 255  |
| Mar                | 273               | 235  | 314  | .    |
| Apr                | 242               | 187  | 280  | .    |
| May                | 290               | 139  | 320  | .    |
| Jun                | 247               | 201  | 342  | .    |
| Jul                | 253               | 213  | 281  | .    |
| Aug                | 271               | 232  | 232  | .    |
| Sep                | 263               | 292  | 299  | .    |
| Oct                | 277               | 265  | 242  | .    |
| Nov                | 272               | 257  | 274  | .    |
| Dec                | 261               | 286  | 254  | .    |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-4.4%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 92                | 93        |
| 18/12/2021          | 82                | 89        |
| 25/12/2021          | 22                | 60        |
| 01/01/2022          | 83                | 22        |
| 08/01/2022          | 69                | 48        |
| 15/01/2022          | 67                | 62        |
| 22/01/2022          | 80                | 74        |
| 29/01/2022          | 81                | 75        |
| 05/02/2022          | 77                | 77        |
| 12/02/2022          | 60                | 75        |
| 19/02/2022          | 74                | 45        |
| 26/02/2022          | 63                | 93        |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

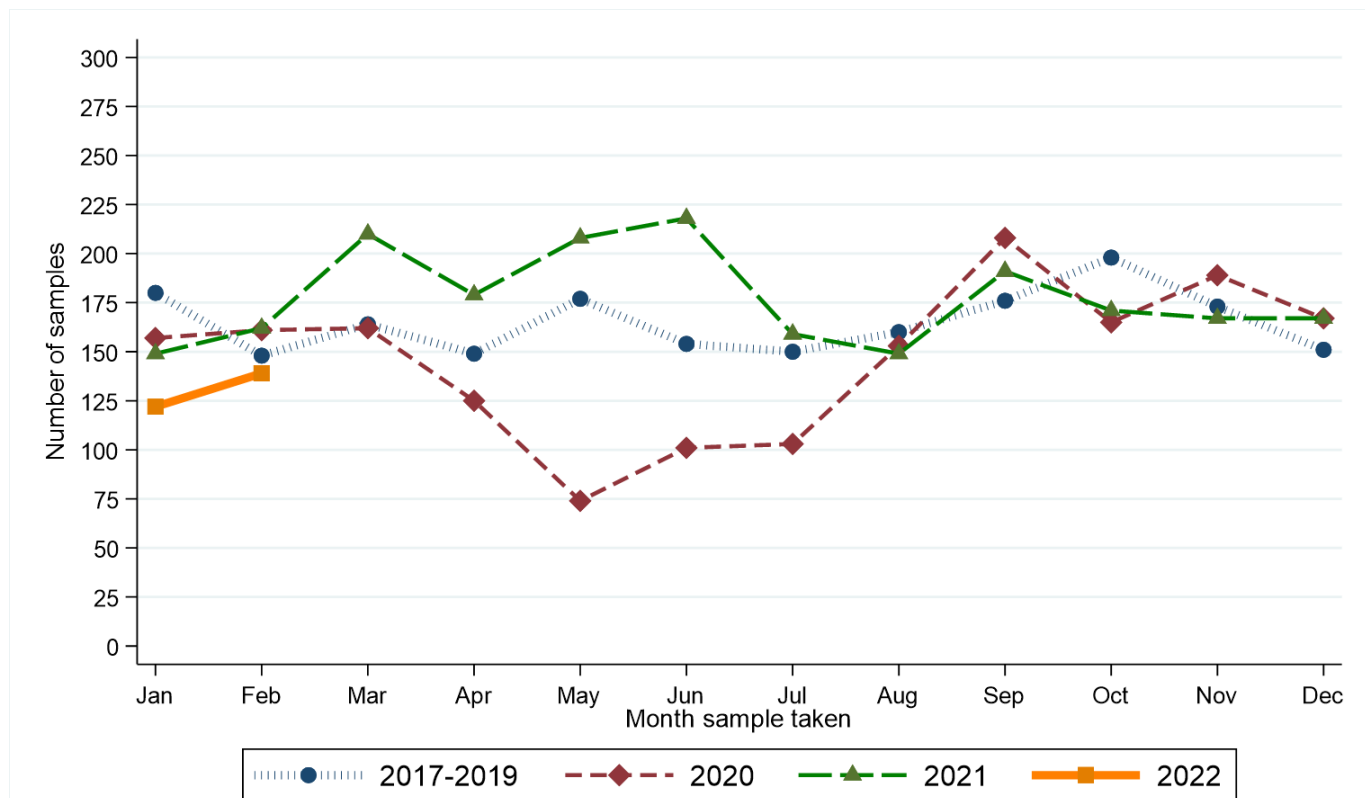
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# FEMALE BREAST CANCER (SCREENING AGE)

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-3.1%**



| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 180               | 157  | 149  | 122  |
| Feb                | 148               | 161  | 162  | 139  |
| Mar                | 164               | 162  | 210  | .    |
| Apr                | 149               | 125  | 179  | .    |
| May                | 177               | 74   | 208  | .    |
| Jun                | 154               | 101  | 218  | .    |
| Jul                | 150               | 103  | 159  | .    |
| Aug                | 160               | 153  | 149  | .    |
| Sep                | 176               | 208  | 191  | .    |
| Oct                | 198               | 165  | 171  | .    |
| Nov                | 173               | 189  | 167  | .    |
| Dec                | 151               | 167  | 167  | .    |

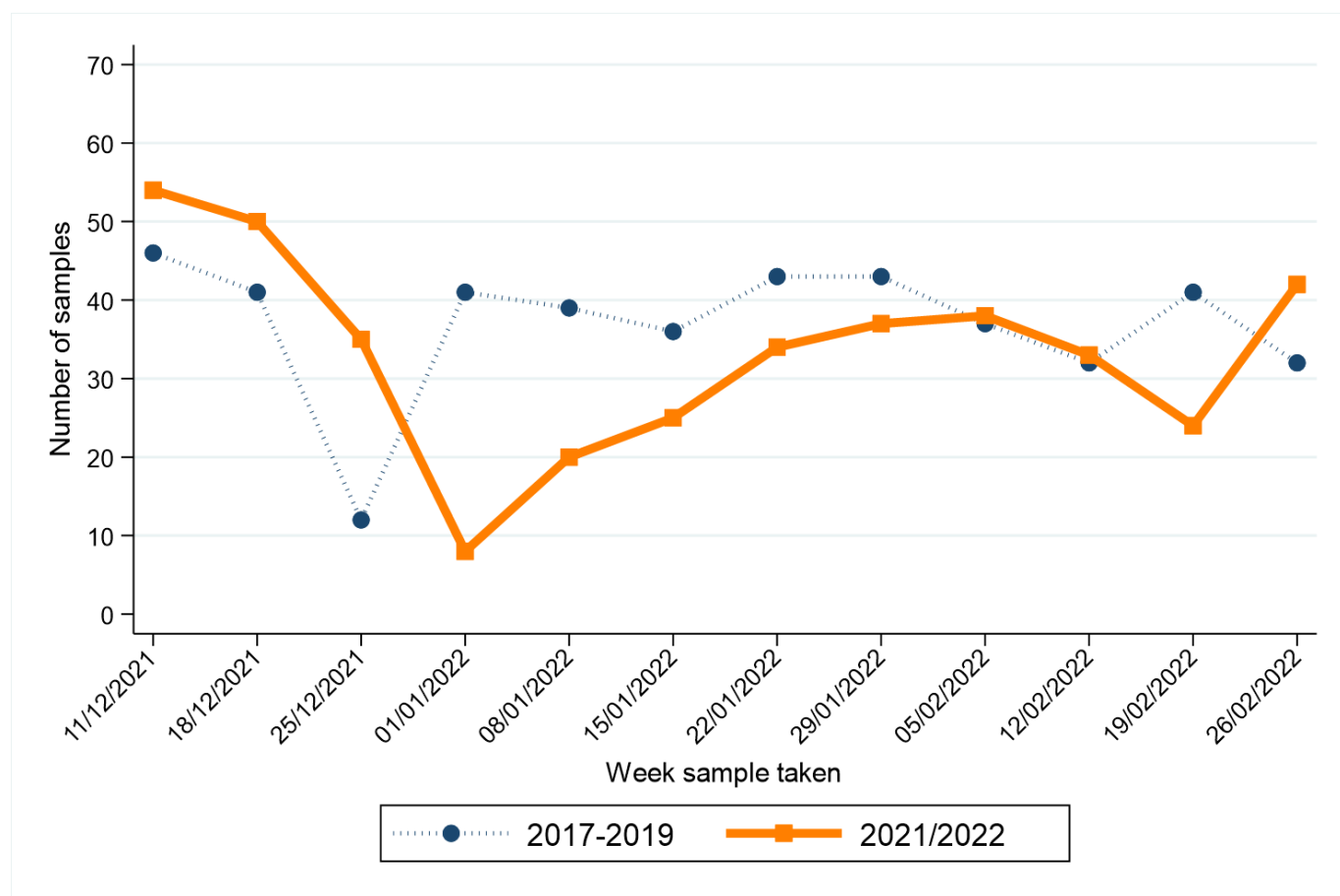
\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.



### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-9.7%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 46                | 54        |
| 18/12/2021          | 41                | 50        |
| 25/12/2021          | 12                | 35        |
| 01/01/2022          | 41                | 8         |
| 08/01/2022          | 39                | 20        |
| 15/01/2022          | 36                | 25        |
| 22/01/2022          | 43                | 34        |
| 29/01/2022          | 43                | 37        |
| 05/02/2022          | 37                | 38        |
| 12/02/2022          | 32                | 33        |
| 19/02/2022          | 41                | 24        |
| 26/02/2022          | 32                | 42        |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

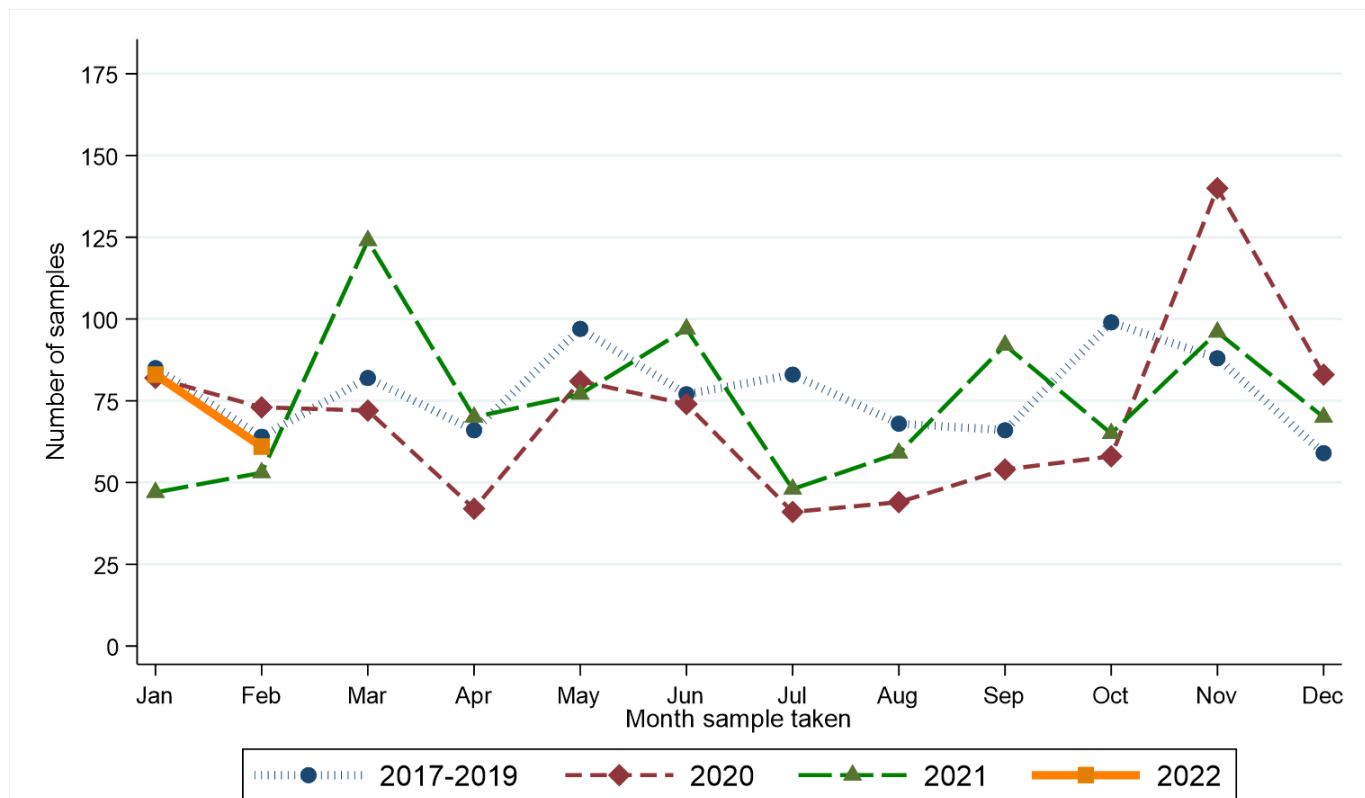
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# PROSTATE CANCER

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-7.3%**



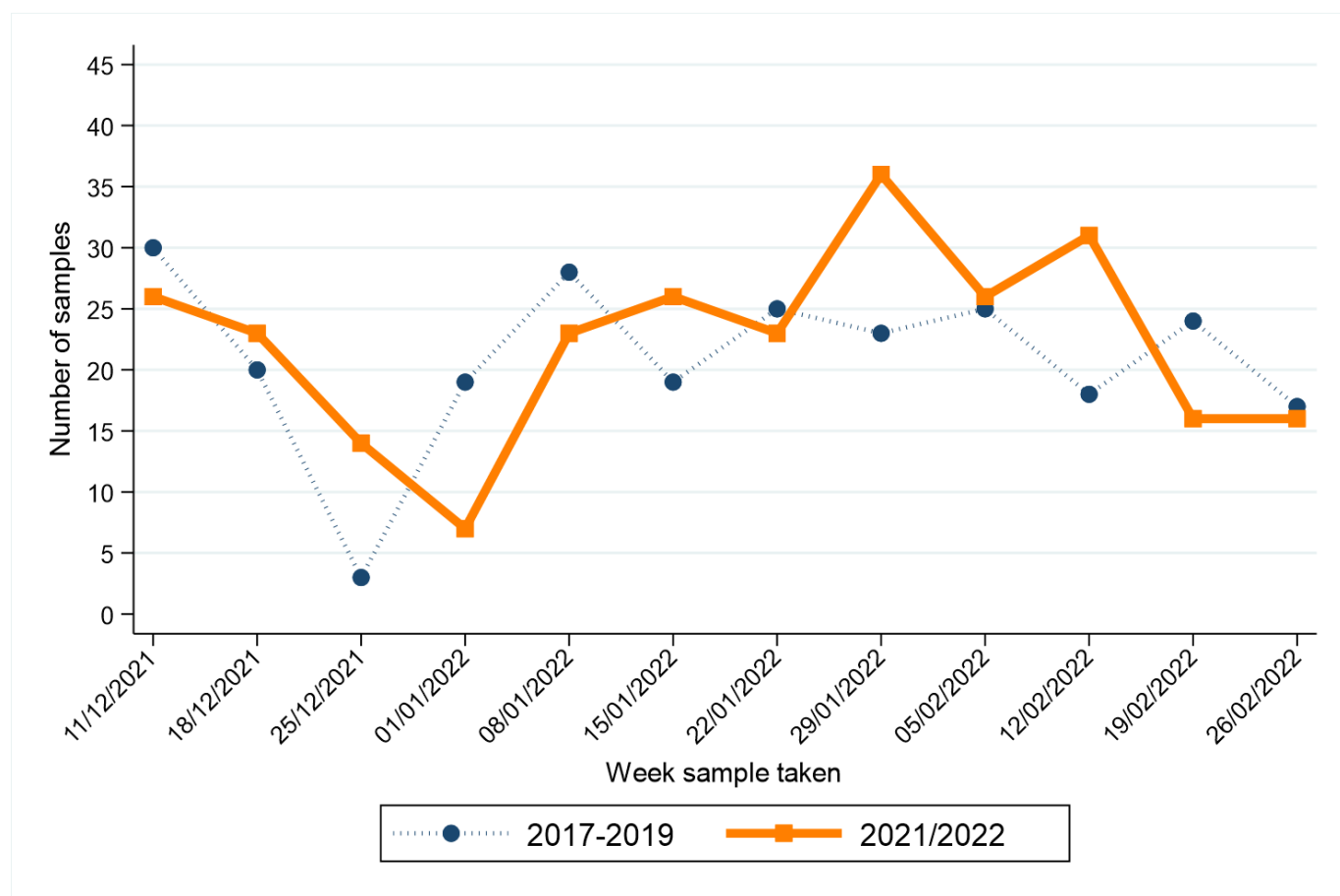
| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 85                | 82   | 47   | 83   |
| Feb                | 64                | 73   | 53   | 61   |
| Mar                | 82                | 72   | 124  | .    |
| Apr                | 66                | 42   | 70   | .    |
| May                | 97                | 81   | 77   | .    |
| Jun                | 77                | 74   | 97   | .    |
| Jul                | 83                | 41   | 48   | .    |
| Aug                | 68                | 44   | 59   | .    |
| Sep                | 66                | 54   | 92   | .    |
| Oct                | 99                | 58   | 65   | .    |
| Nov                | 88                | 140  | 96   | .    |
| Dec                | 59                | 83   | 70   | .    |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**+6.4%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 30                | 26        |
| 18/12/2021          | 20                | 23        |
| 25/12/2021          | 3                 | 14        |
| 01/01/2022          | 19                | 7         |
| 08/01/2022          | 28                | 23        |
| 15/01/2022          | 19                | 26        |
| 22/01/2022          | 25                | 23        |
| 29/01/2022          | 23                | 36        |
| 05/02/2022          | 25                | 26        |
| 12/02/2022          | 18                | 31        |
| 19/02/2022          | 24                | 16        |
| 26/02/2022          | 17                | 16        |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

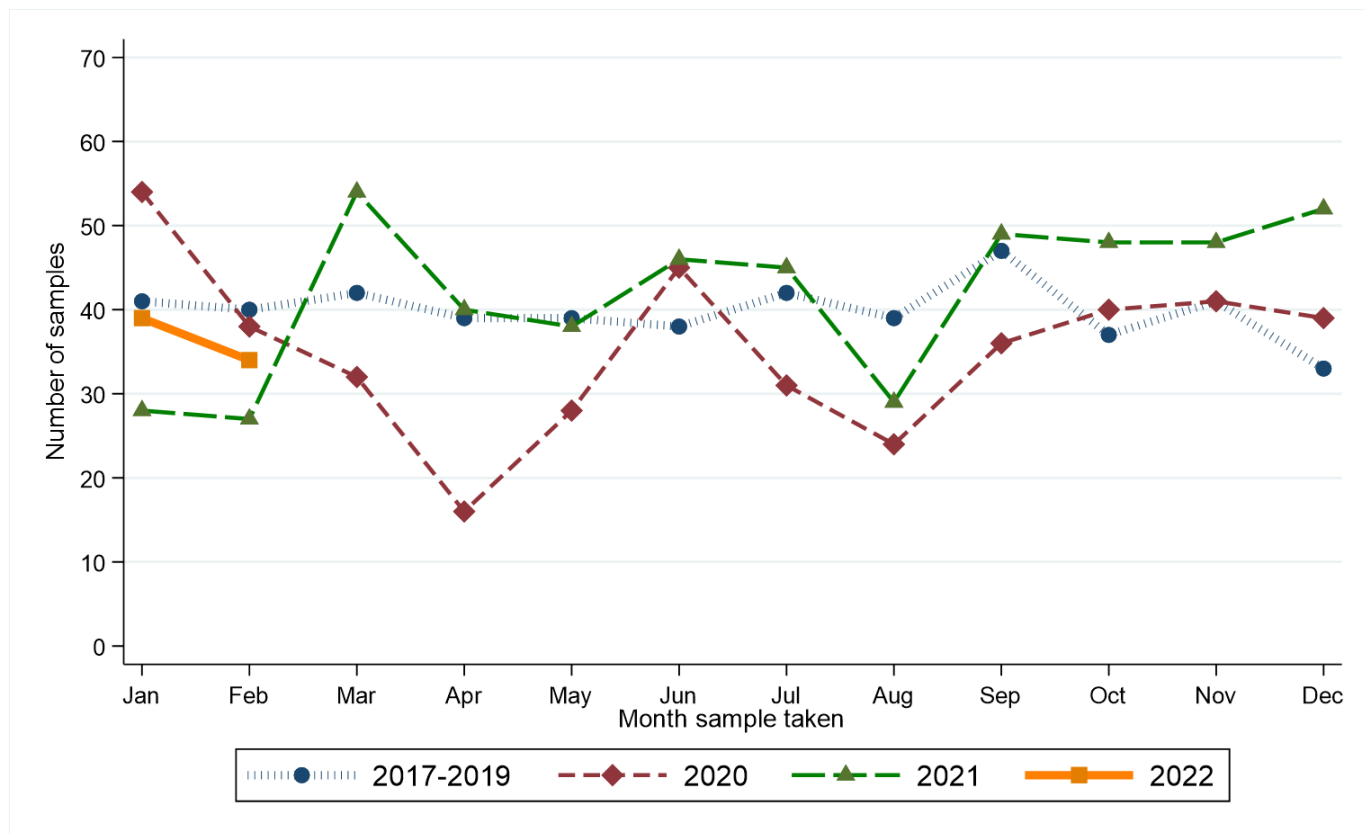
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL CANCER

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-4.9%**



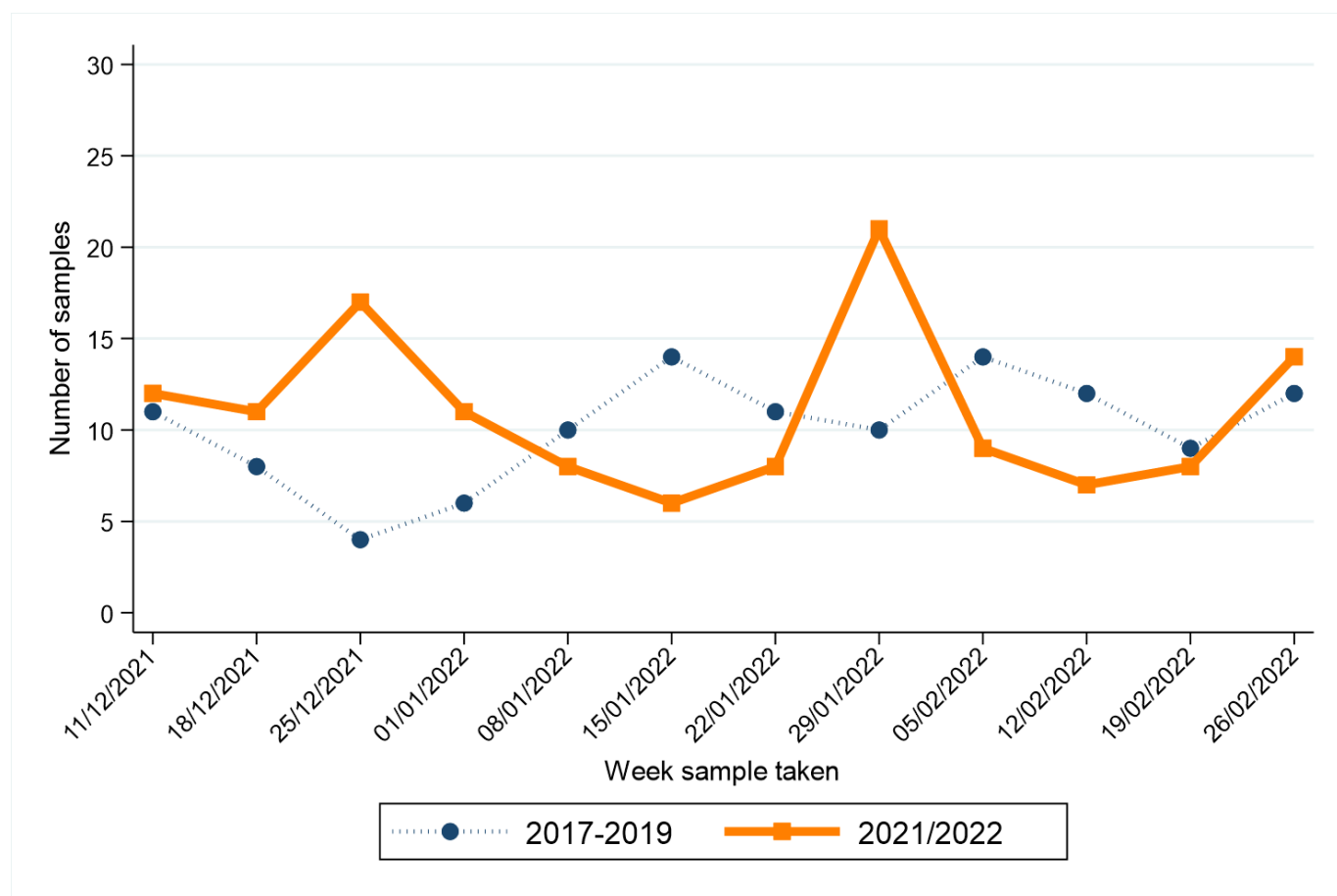
| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 41                | 54   | 28   | 39   |
| Feb                | 40                | 38   | 27   | 34   |
| Mar                | 42                | 32   | 54   | .    |
| Apr                | 39                | 16   | 40   | .    |
| May                | 39                | 28   | 38   | .    |
| Jun                | 38                | 45   | 46   | .    |
| Jul                | 42                | 31   | 45   | .    |
| Aug                | 39                | 24   | 29   | .    |
| Sep                | 47                | 36   | 49   | .    |
| Oct                | 37                | 40   | 48   | .    |
| Nov                | 41                | 41   | 48   | .    |
| Dec                | 33                | 39   | 52   | .    |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**+9.1%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 11                | 12        |
| 18/12/2021          | 8                 | 11        |
| 25/12/2021          | 4                 | 17        |
| 01/01/2022          | 6                 | 11        |
| 08/01/2022          | 10                | 8         |
| 15/01/2022          | 14                | 6         |
| 22/01/2022          | 11                | 8         |
| 29/01/2022          | 10                | 21        |
| 05/02/2022          | 14                | 9         |
| 12/02/2022          | 12                | 7         |
| 19/02/2022          | 9                 | 8         |
| 26/02/2022          | 12                | 14        |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

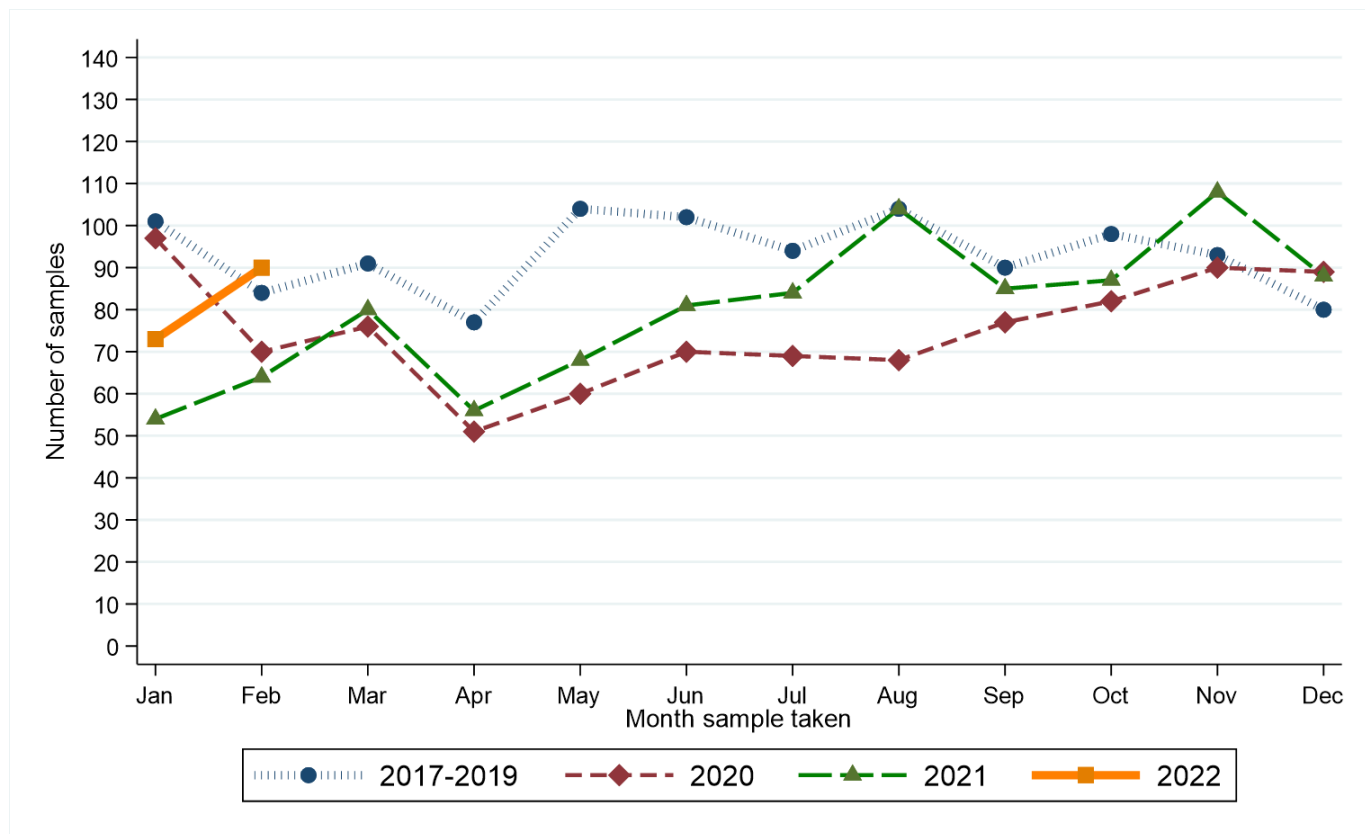
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-17.1%**



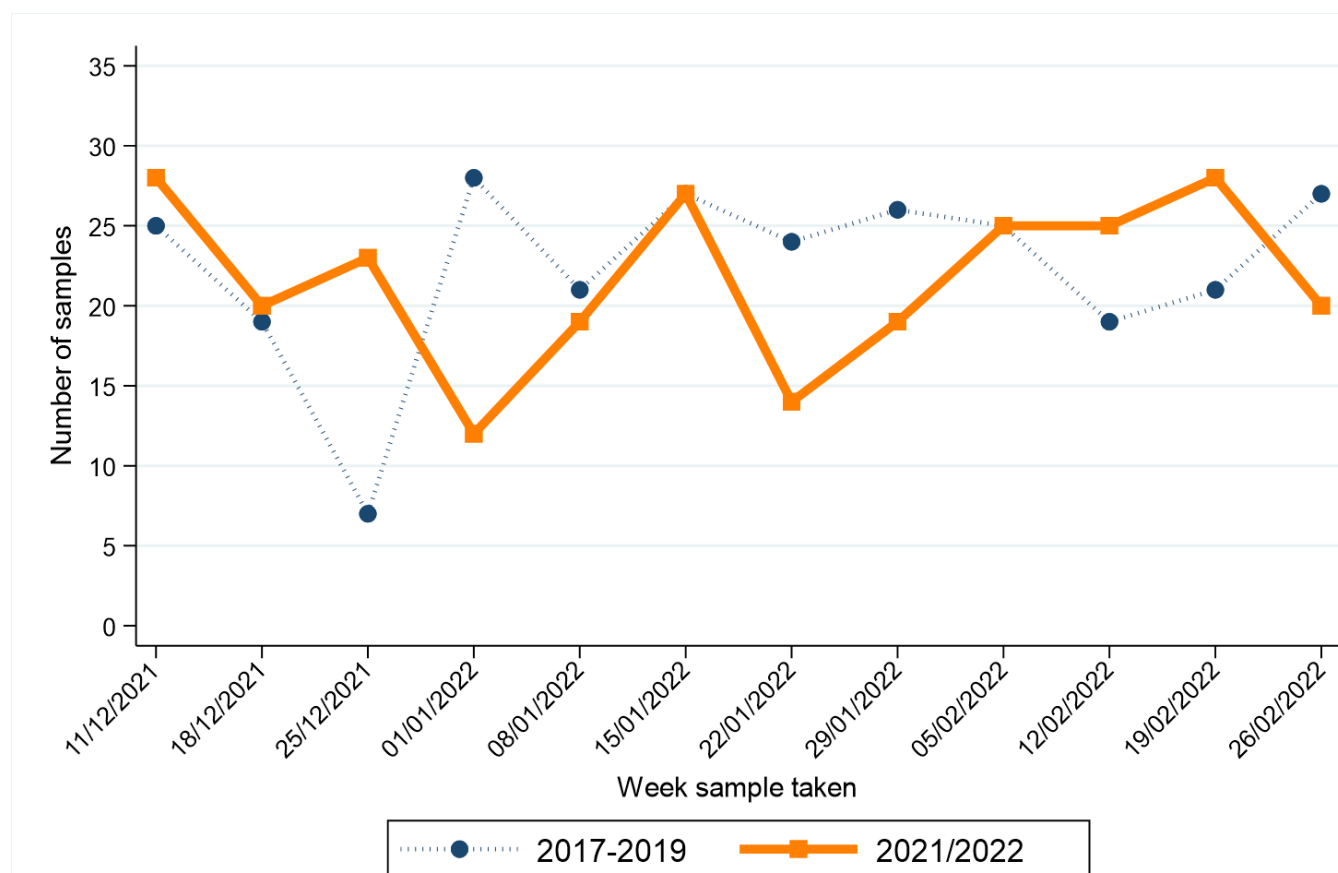
| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 101               | 97   | 54   | 73   |
| Feb                | 84                | 70   | 64   | 90   |
| Mar                | 91                | 76   | 80   | .    |
| Apr                | 77                | 51   | 56   | .    |
| May                | 104               | 60   | 68   | .    |
| Jun                | 102               | 70   | 81   | .    |
| Jul                | 94                | 69   | 84   | .    |
| Aug                | 104               | 68   | 104  | .    |
| Sep                | 90                | 77   | 85   | .    |
| Oct                | 98                | 82   | 87   | .    |
| Nov                | 93                | 90   | 108  | .    |
| Dec                | 80                | 89   | 88   | .    |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

## RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-3.3%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 25                | 28        |
| 18/12/2021          | 19                | 20        |
| 25/12/2021          | 7                 | 23        |
| 01/01/2022          | 28                | 12        |
| 08/01/2022          | 21                | 19        |
| 15/01/2022          | 27                | 27        |
| 22/01/2022          | 24                | 14        |
| 29/01/2022          | 26                | 19        |
| 05/02/2022          | 25                | 25        |
| 12/02/2022          | 19                | 25        |
| 19/02/2022          | 21                | 28        |
| 26/02/2022          | 27                | 20        |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

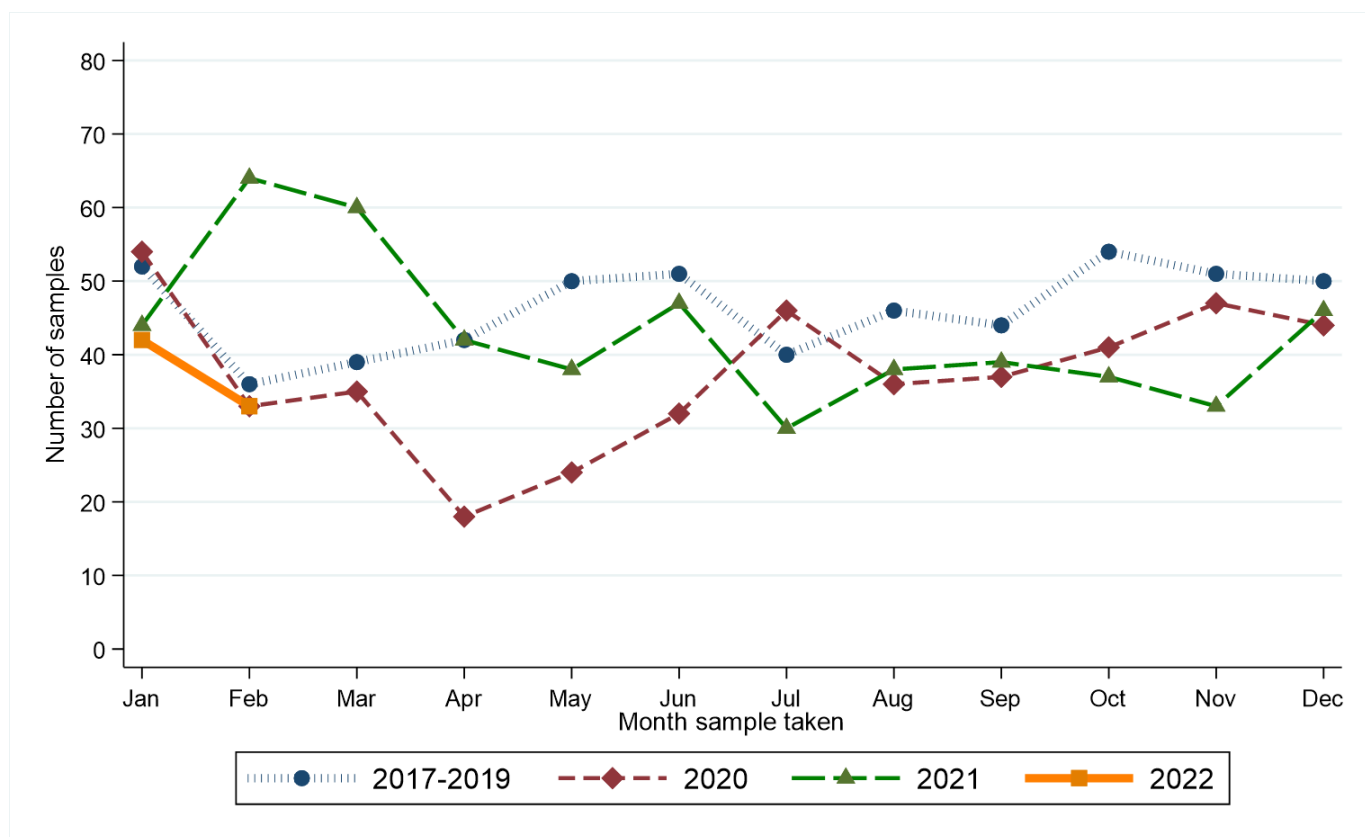
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# HEAD AND NECK CANCER

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-14.1%**



| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 52                | 54   | 44   | 42   |
| Feb                | 36                | 33   | 64   | 33   |
| Mar                | 39                | 35   | 60   | .    |
| Apr                | 42                | 18   | 42   | .    |
| May                | 50                | 24   | 38   | .    |
| Jun                | 51                | 32   | 47   | .    |
| Jul                | 40                | 46   | 30   | .    |
| Aug                | 46                | 36   | 38   | .    |
| Sep                | 44                | 37   | 39   | .    |
| Oct                | 54                | 41   | 37   | .    |
| Nov                | 51                | 47   | 33   | .    |
| Dec                | 50                | 44   | 46   | .    |

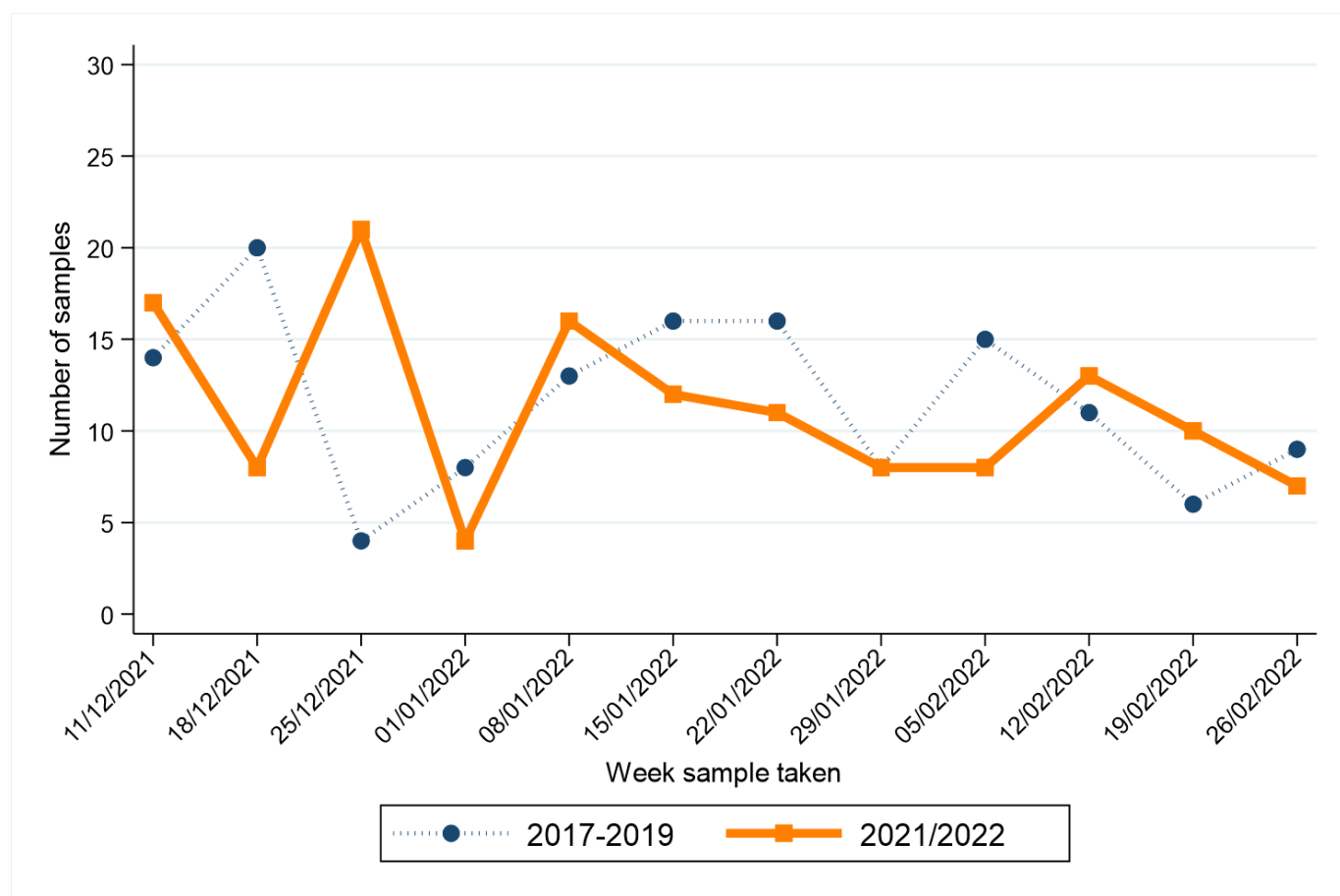
\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.



### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-3.6%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 14                | 17        |
| 18/12/2021          | 20                | 8         |
| 25/12/2021          | 4                 | 21        |
| 01/01/2022          | 8                 | 4         |
| 08/01/2022          | 13                | 16        |
| 15/01/2022          | 16                | 12        |
| 22/01/2022          | 16                | 11        |
| 29/01/2022          | 8                 | 8         |
| 05/02/2022          | 15                | 8         |
| 12/02/2022          | 11                | 13        |
| 19/02/2022          | 6                 | 10        |
| 26/02/2022          | 9                 | 7         |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

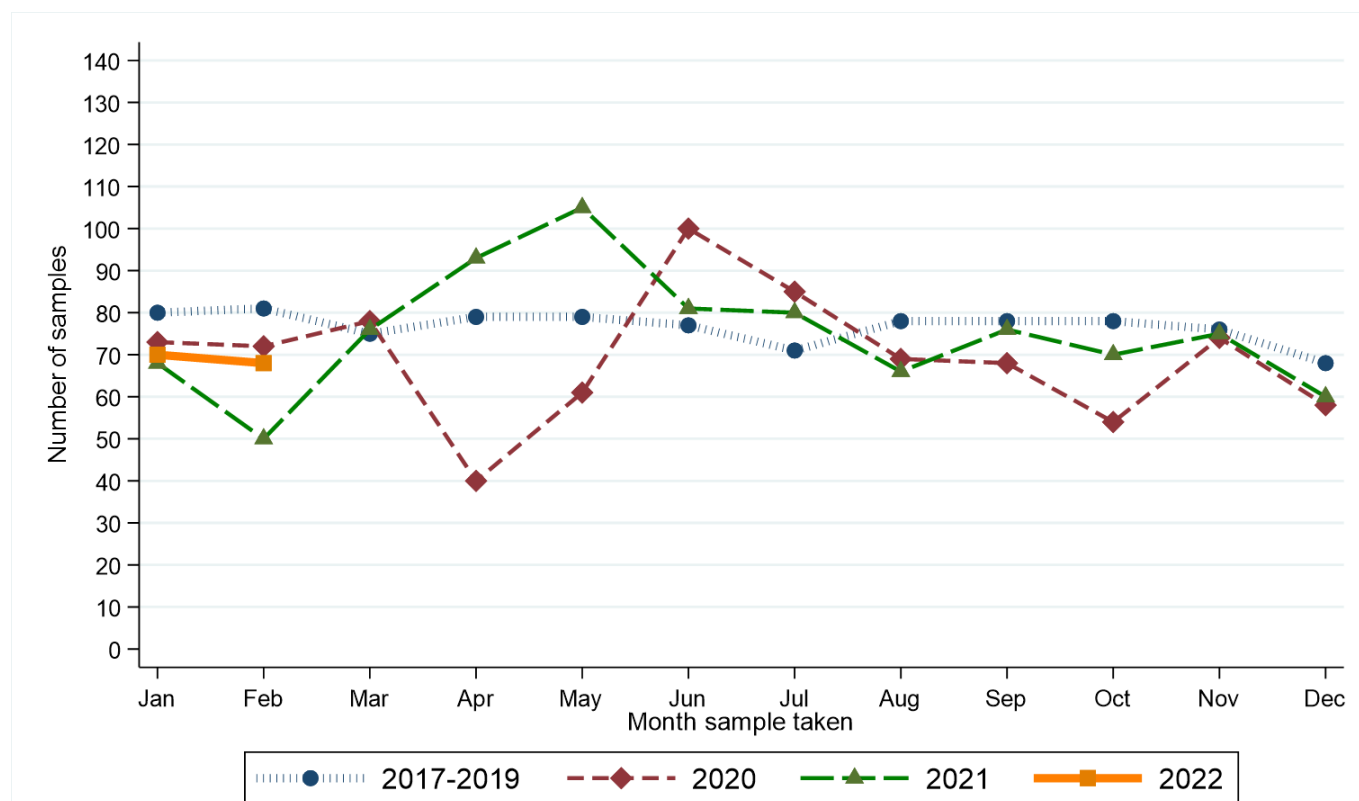
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# URINARY CANCER

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-6.2%**



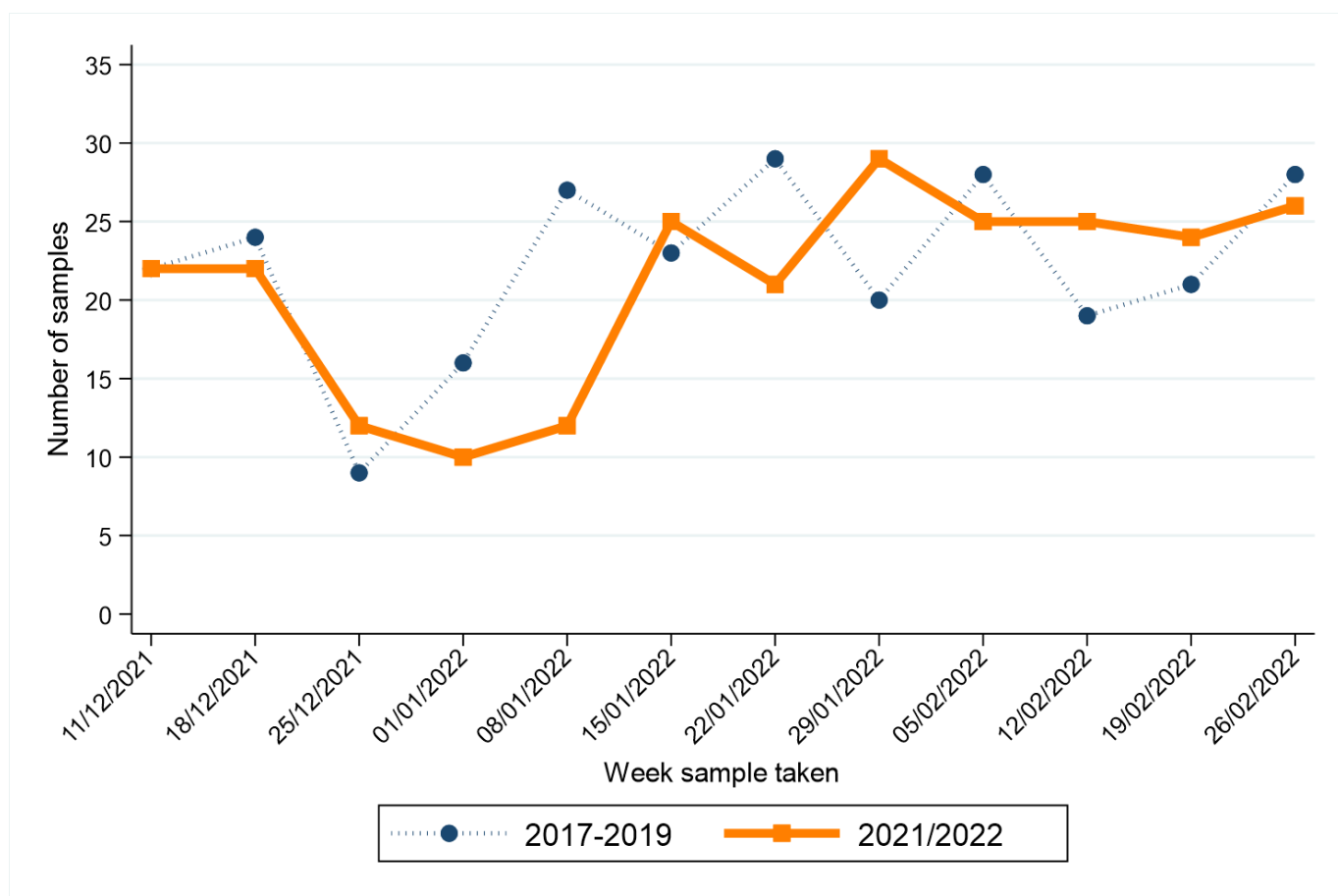
| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 80                | 73   | 68   | 70   |
| Feb                | 81                | 72   | 50   | 68   |
| Mar                | 75                | 78   | 76   | .    |
| Apr                | 79                | 40   | 93   | .    |
| May                | 79                | 61   | 105  | .    |
| Jun                | 77                | 100  | 81   | .    |
| Jul                | 71                | 85   | 80   | .    |
| Aug                | 78                | 69   | 66   | .    |
| Sep                | 78                | 68   | 76   | .    |
| Oct                | 78                | 54   | 70   | .    |
| Nov                | 76                | 74   | 75   | .    |
| Dec                | 68                | 58   | 60   | .    |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-4.9%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 22                | 22        |
| 18/12/2021          | 24                | 22        |
| 25/12/2021          | 9                 | 12        |
| 01/01/2022          | 16                | 10        |
| 08/01/2022          | 27                | 12        |
| 15/01/2022          | 23                | 25        |
| 22/01/2022          | 29                | 21        |
| 29/01/2022          | 20                | 29        |
| 05/02/2022          | 28                | 25        |
| 12/02/2022          | 19                | 25        |
| 19/02/2022          | 21                | 24        |
| 26/02/2022          | 28                | 26        |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

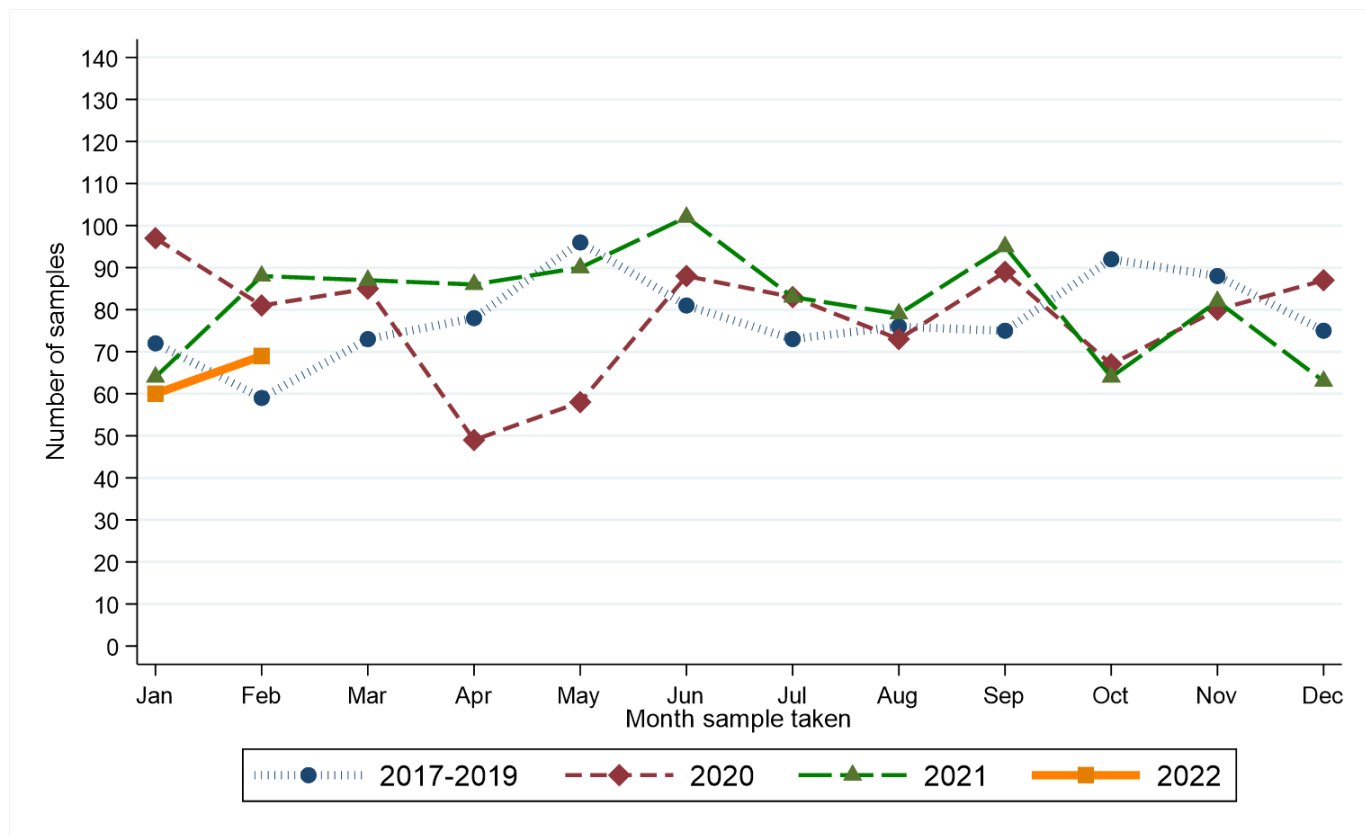
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# HAEMATOLOGICAL CANCER

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-0.3%**



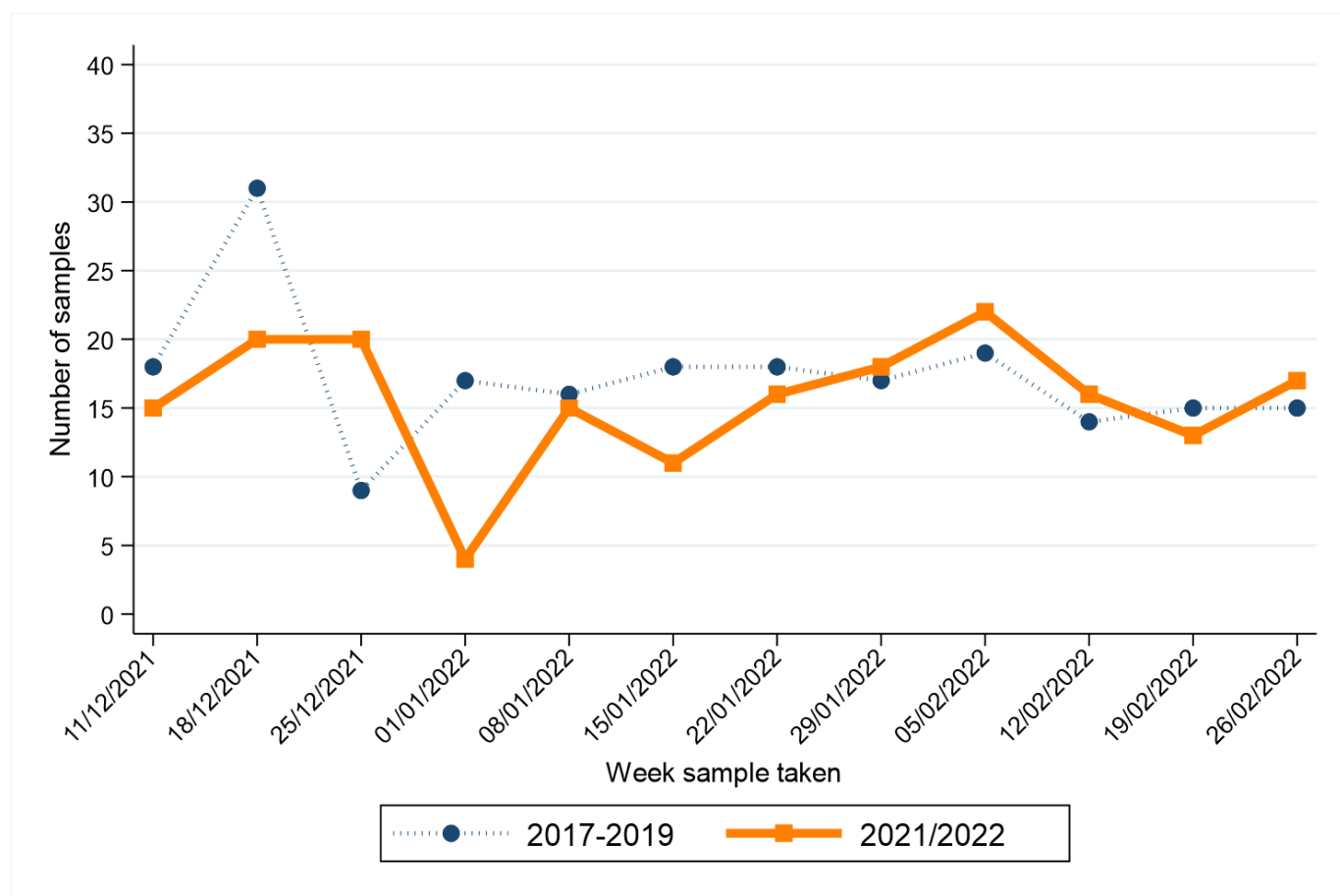
| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 72                | 97   | 64   | 60   |
| Feb                | 59                | 81   | 88   | 69   |
| Mar                | 73                | 85   | 87   | .    |
| Apr                | 78                | 49   | 86   | .    |
| May                | 96                | 58   | 90   | .    |
| Jun                | 81                | 88   | 102  | .    |
| Jul                | 73                | 83   | 83   | .    |
| Aug                | 76                | 73   | 79   | .    |
| Sep                | 75                | 89   | 95   | .    |
| Oct                | 92                | 67   | 64   | .    |
| Nov                | 88                | 80   | 82   | .    |
| Dec                | 75                | 87   | 63   | .    |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-9.7%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 18                | 15        |
| 18/12/2021          | 31                | 20        |
| 25/12/2021          | 9                 | 20        |
| 01/01/2022          | 17                | 4         |
| 08/01/2022          | 16                | 15        |
| 15/01/2022          | 18                | 11        |
| 22/01/2022          | 18                | 16        |
| 29/01/2022          | 17                | 18        |
| 05/02/2022          | 19                | 22        |
| 12/02/2022          | 14                | 16        |
| 19/02/2022          | 15                | 13        |
| 26/02/2022          | 15                | 17        |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

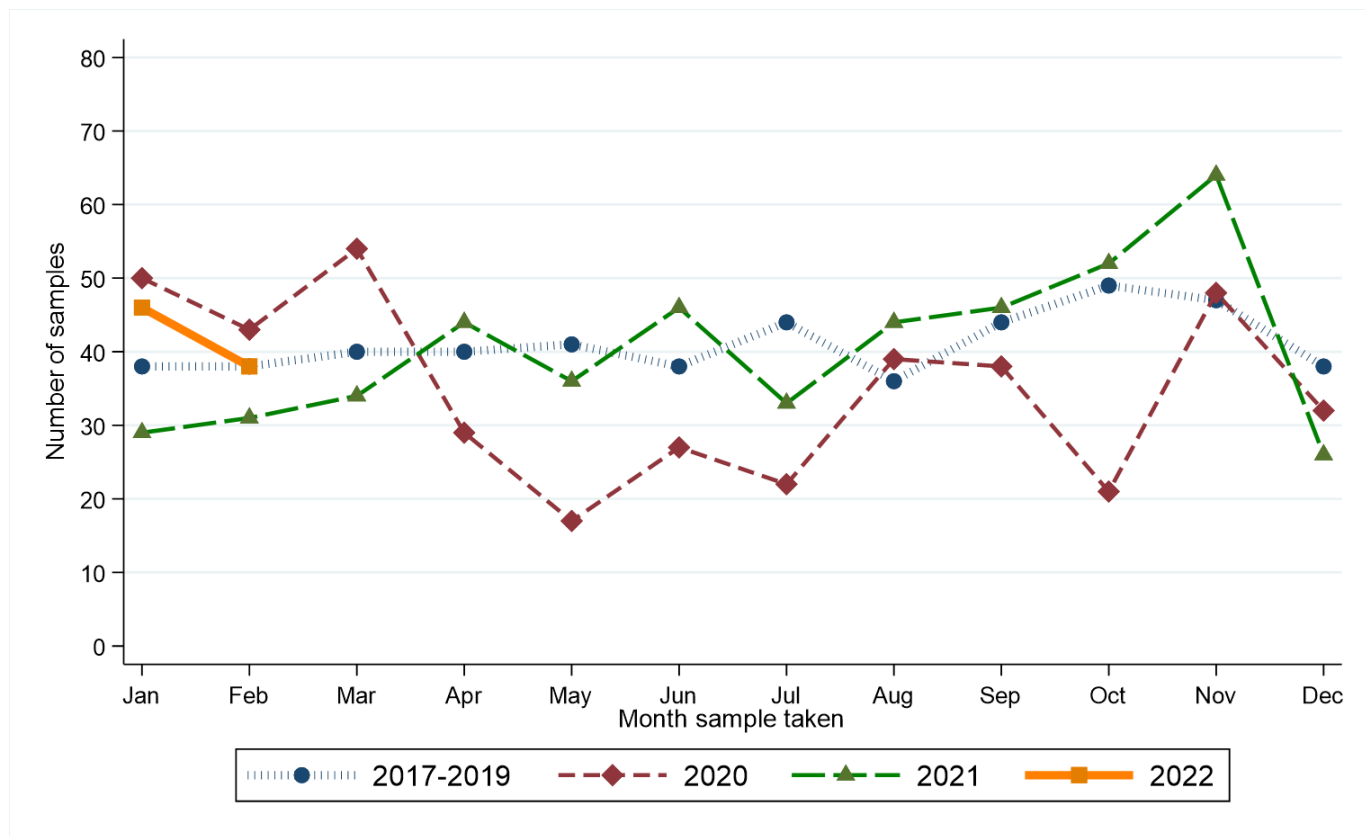
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# MELANOMA

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-9.1%**



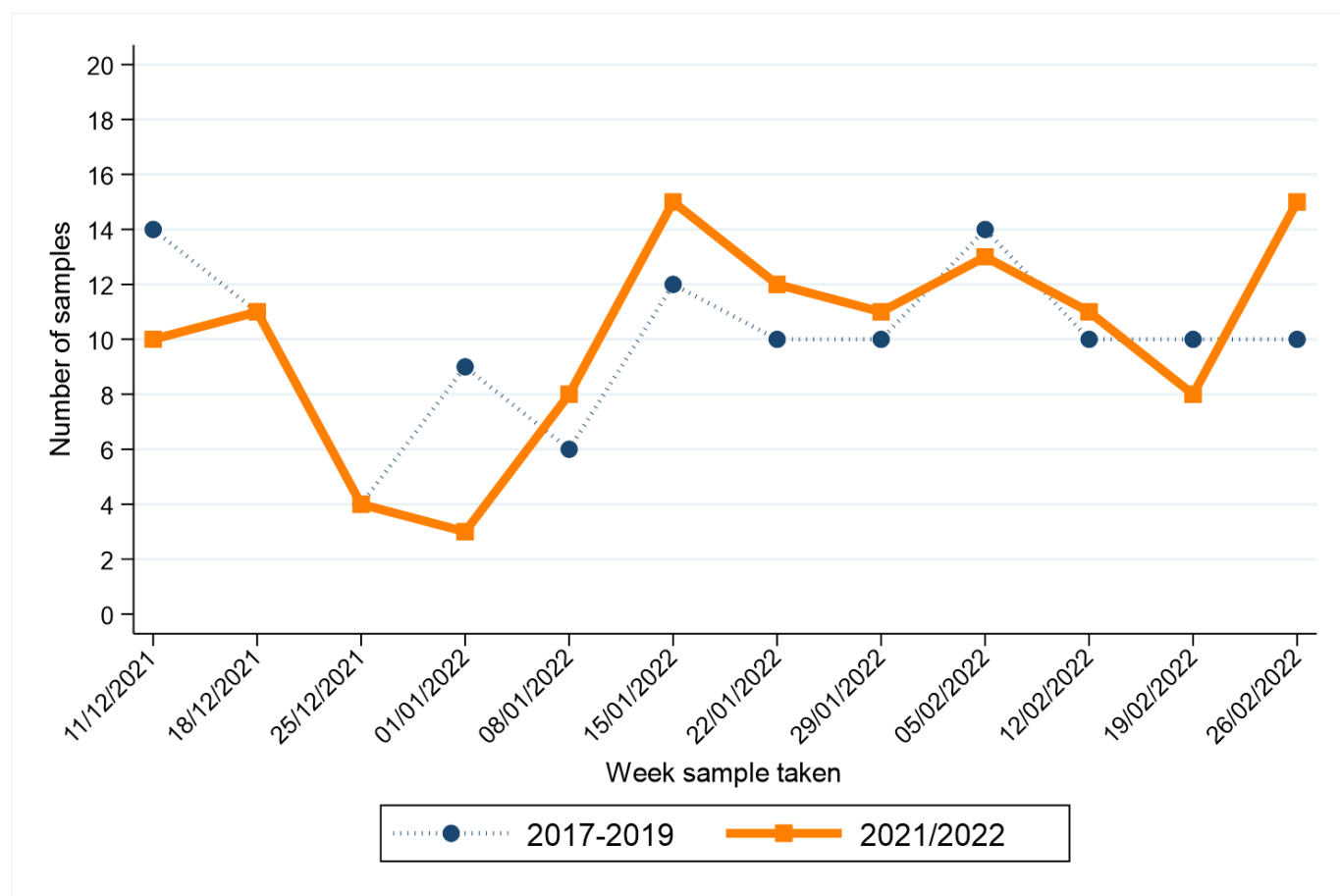
| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 38                | 50   | 29   | 46   |
| Feb                | 38                | 43   | 31   | 38   |
| Mar                | 40                | 54   | 34   | .    |
| Apr                | 40                | 29   | 44   | .    |
| May                | 41                | 17   | 36   | .    |
| Jun                | 38                | 27   | 46   | .    |
| Jul                | 44                | 22   | 33   | .    |
| Aug                | 36                | 39   | 44   | .    |
| Sep                | 44                | 38   | 46   | .    |
| Oct                | 49                | 21   | 52   | .    |
| Nov                | 47                | 48   | 64   | .    |
| Dec                | 38                | 32   | 26   | .    |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**+0.8%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 14                | 10        |
| 18/12/2021          | 11                | 11        |
| 25/12/2021          | 4                 | 4         |
| 01/01/2022          | 9                 | 3         |
| 08/01/2022          | 6                 | 8         |
| 15/01/2022          | 12                | 15        |
| 22/01/2022          | 10                | 12        |
| 29/01/2022          | 10                | 11        |
| 05/02/2022          | 14                | 13        |
| 12/02/2022          | 10                | 11        |
| 19/02/2022          | 10                | 8         |
| 26/02/2022          | 10                | 15        |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

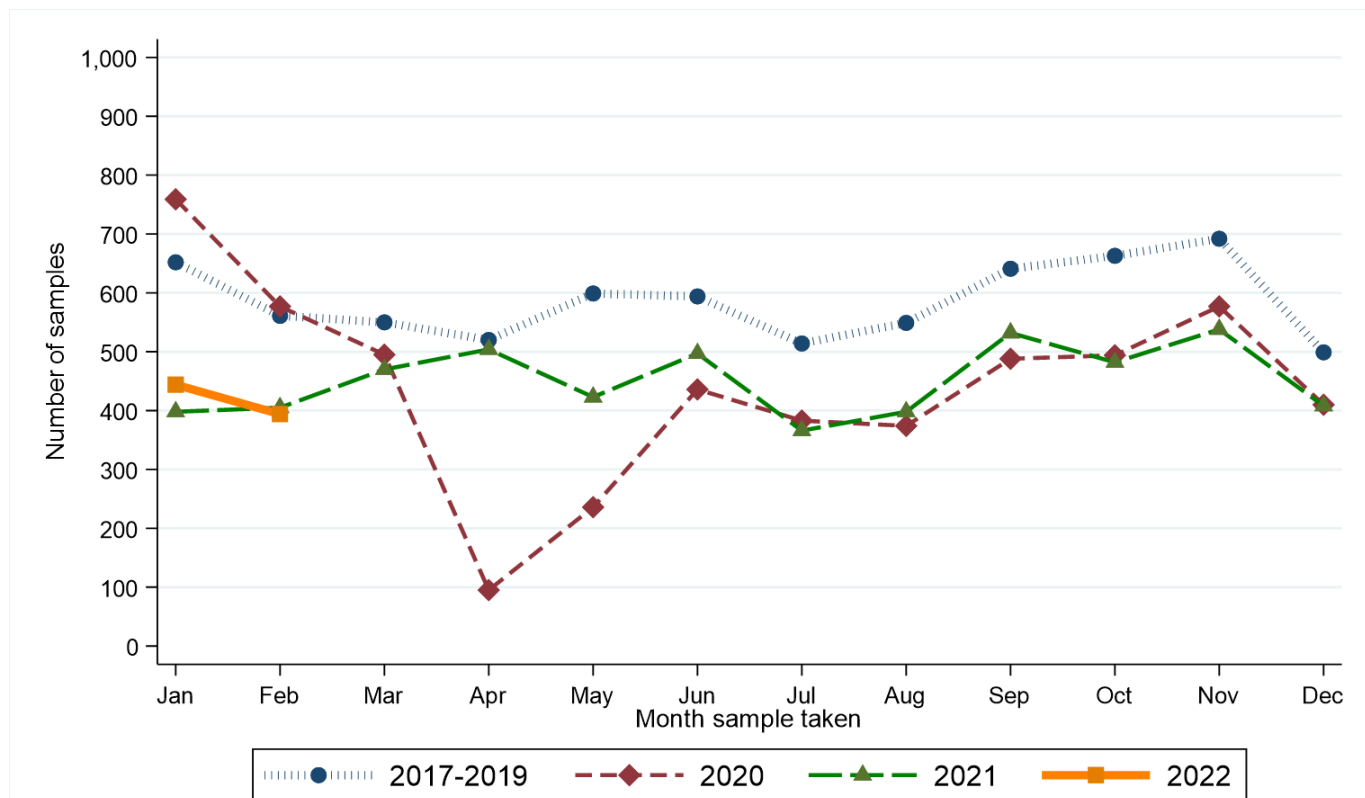
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCER

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-27.2%**



| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 652               | 759  | 398  | 444  |
| Feb                | 561               | 577  | 405  | 394  |
| Mar                | 550               | 495  | 470  | .    |
| Apr                | 520               | 95   | 504  | .    |
| May                | 599               | 236  | 423  | .    |
| Jun                | 594               | 436  | 497  | .    |
| Jul                | 514               | 383  | 366  | .    |
| Aug                | 549               | 374  | 398  | .    |
| Sep                | 641               | 488  | 532  | .    |
| Oct                | 663               | 494  | 482  | .    |
| Nov                | 692               | 577  | 538  | .    |
| Dec                | 499               | 410  | 408  | .    |

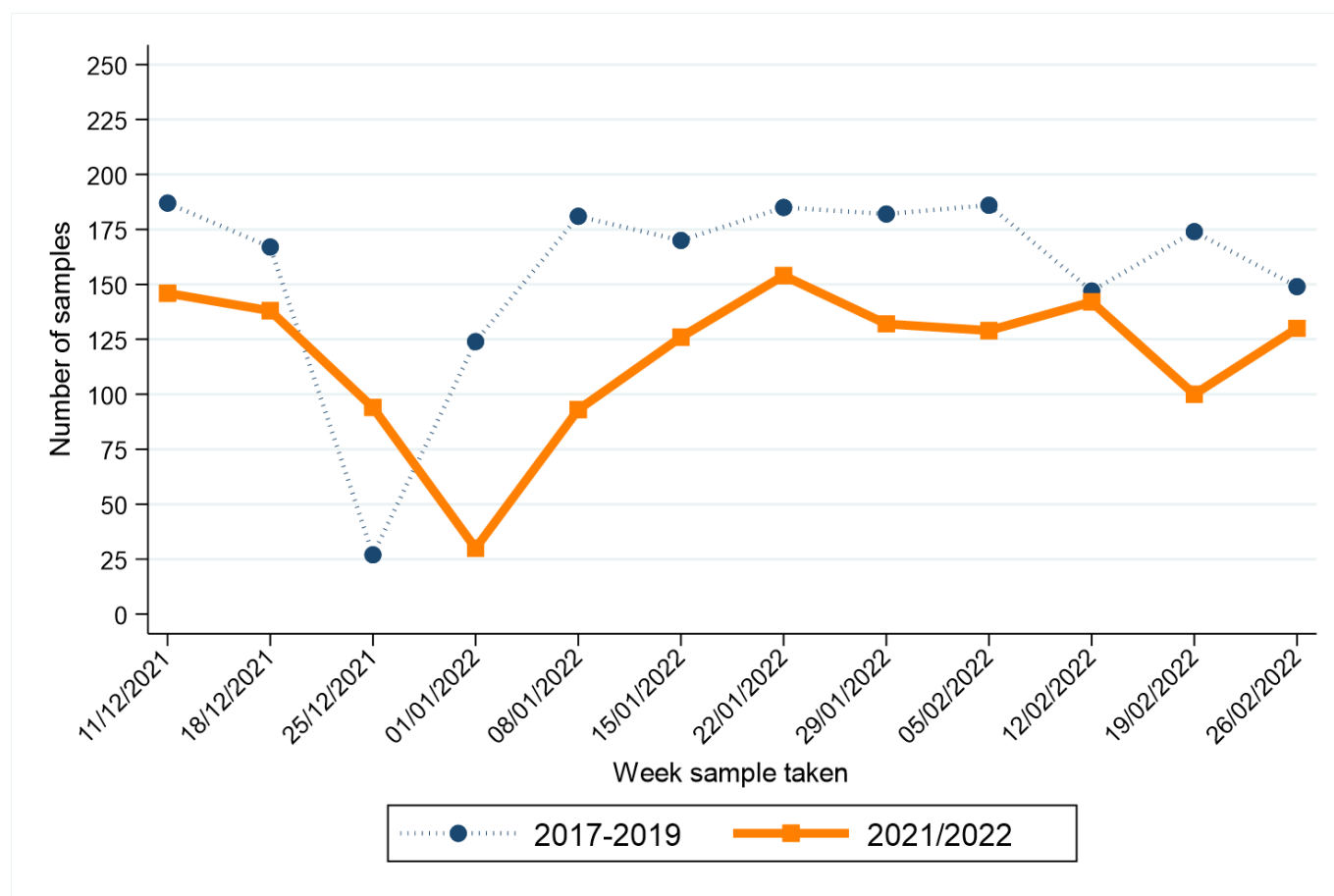
\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.



### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-24.7%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 187               | 146       |
| 18/12/2021          | 167               | 138       |
| 25/12/2021          | 27                | 94        |
| 01/01/2022          | 124               | 30        |
| 08/01/2022          | 181               | 93        |
| 15/01/2022          | 170               | 126       |
| 22/01/2022          | 185               | 154       |
| 29/01/2022          | 182               | 132       |
| 05/02/2022          | 186               | 129       |
| 12/02/2022          | 147               | 142       |
| 19/02/2022          | 174               | 100       |
| 26/02/2022          | 149               | 130       |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

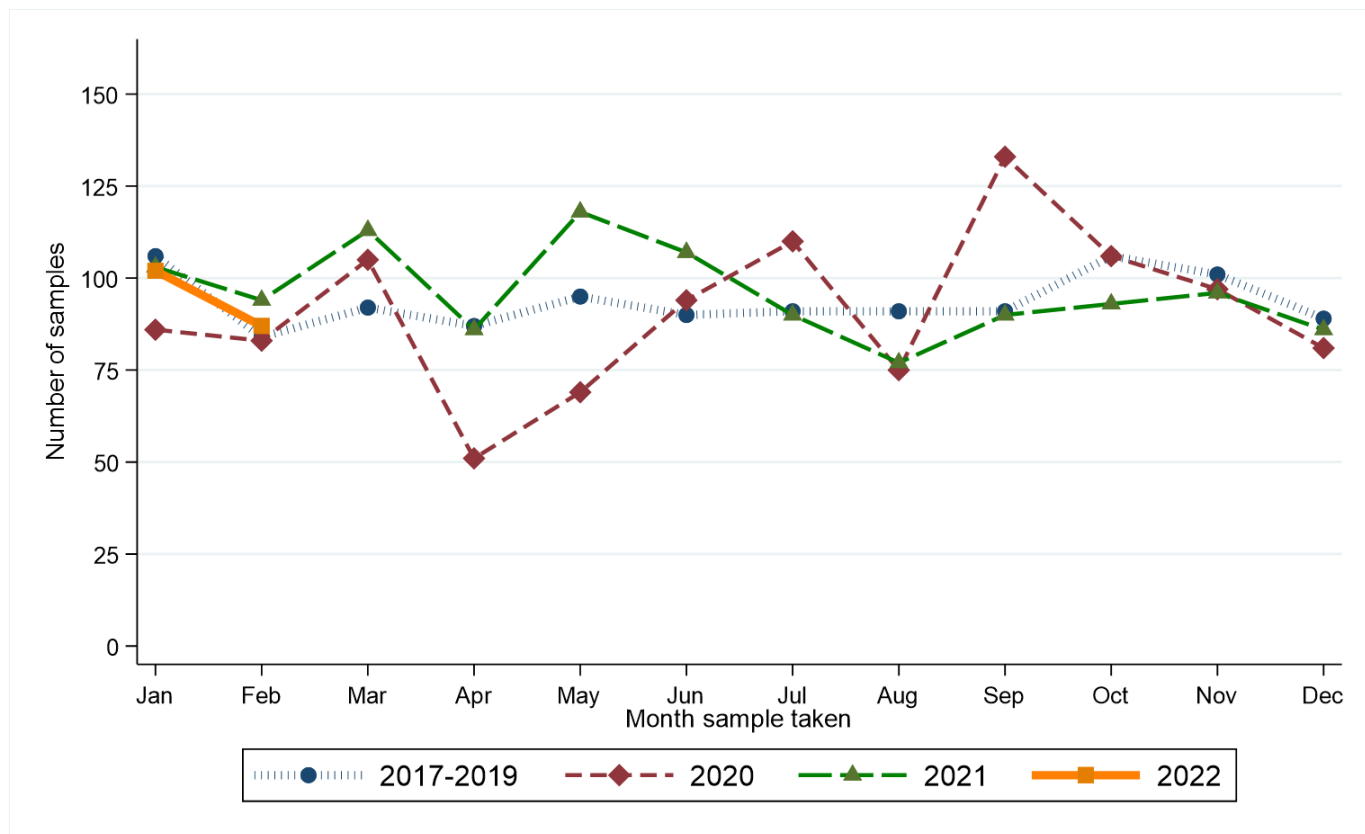
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# OTHER CANCER

## CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES SINCE MARCH 2020 - Excluding Altnagelvin

Percentage change from March 2020 to February 2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**+0.8%**



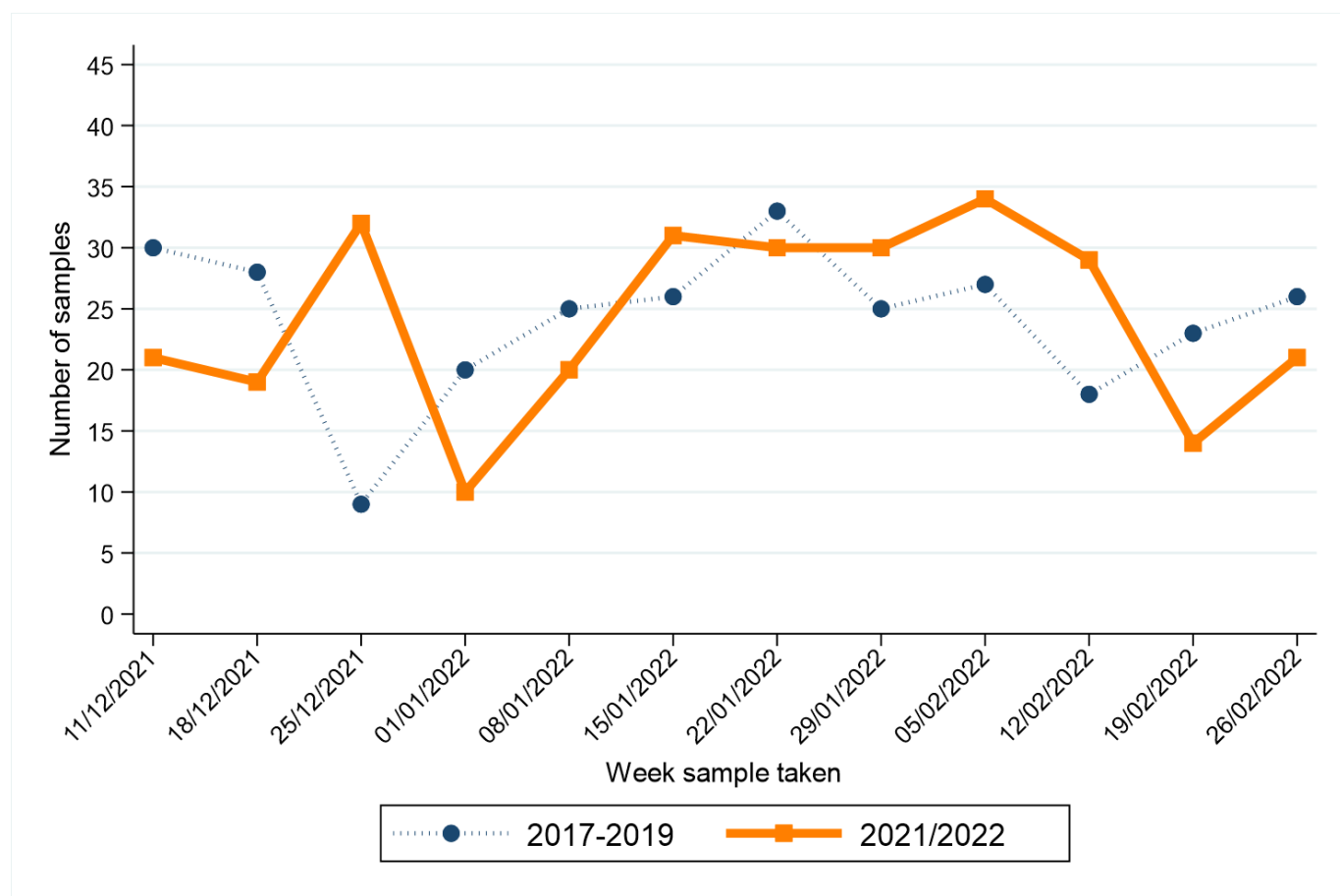
| Month sample taken | Year sample taken |      |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|                    | 2017-2019*        | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Jan                | 106               | 86   | 103  | 102  |
| Feb                | 84                | 83   | 94   | 87   |
| Mar                | 92                | 105  | 113  | .    |
| Apr                | 87                | 51   | 86   | .    |
| May                | 95                | 69   | 118  | .    |
| Jun                | 90                | 94   | 107  | .    |
| Jul                | 91                | 110  | 90   | .    |
| Aug                | 91                | 75   | 77   | .    |
| Sep                | 91                | 133  | 90   | .    |
| Oct                | 106               | 106  | 93   | .    |
| Nov                | 101               | 97   | 96   | .    |
| Dec                | 89                | 81   | 86   | .    |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

### RECENT CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SAMPLES - Including Altnagelvin

Percentage change in the twelve weeks up to 26/02/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**+0.3%**



| Week sample taken** | Year sample taken |           |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                     | 2017-2019*        | 2021/2022 |
| 11/12/2021          | 30                | 21        |
| 18/12/2021          | 28                | 19        |
| 25/12/2021          | 9                 | 32        |
| 01/01/2022          | 20                | 10        |
| 08/01/2022          | 25                | 20        |
| 15/01/2022          | 26                | 31        |
| 22/01/2022          | 33                | 30        |
| 29/01/2022          | 25                | 30        |
| 05/02/2022          | 27                | 34        |
| 12/02/2022          | 18                | 29        |
| 19/02/2022          | 23                | 14        |
| 26/02/2022          | 26                | 21        |

\* Average samples per year rounded to the nearest integer.

\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2021-2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

1. NMSC: Non-melanoma skin cancer

2. Data is sourced from the four NHS pathology laboratories in Northern Ireland (Altnagelvin, Antrim, Belfast, Craigavon), which is provided to the NI Cancer Registry on a monthly basis. It does not include information on pathology samples processed by private laboratories.

3. Figures represent the number of pathology samples that indicated a malignant tumour and had this result coded and recorded by the end of February 2022. Due to potential reporting delays, pathology data from the month following February 2022 are used in compiling the presented results.

4. Assignment of week number is based upon a Sunday to Saturday week. The week ending label used in graphs and tables is based upon the date of the end of the week (a Saturday) in 2021-2022. This is compared with the equivalent Sunday-Saturday week in 2017-2019, although the actual date ending this week in 2017-2019 will differ.

5. Cancer types are defined as follows:

**Bowel cancer:** Includes colon, rectum and rectosigmoid junction (ICD10 codes: C18-C20).

**Lung cancer:** Includes lung and trachea (ICD10 codes: C33-C34).

**Breast cancer:** Includes female breast only (ICD10 codes: C50).

**Prostate cancer:** (ICD10 codes: C61).

**Gynaecological cancer:** Includes uterus, ovary, cervix, vulva, vagina, placenta and other female genital (ICD10 codes: C51-C58).

**Upper GI cancer:** Includes oesophagus and stomach (ICD10 codes: C15, C16).

**Head and neck cancer:** Includes lip, tongue, mouth, parotid & salivary glands, tonsil, oropharynx, nasopharynx, pyriform sinus, hypopharynx, nasal cavity, middle ear, sinuses and larynx (ICD10 codes: C00-C14, C30-C32).

**Urinary cancer:** Includes kidney, renal pelvis, ureter, bladder and other urinary (ICD10 codes: C64-C68).

**Haematological cancer:** Includes lymphoma (all types), leukaemia (all types), myeloma, malignant immunoproliferative disease and other lymphoid and haematopoietic (ICD10 codes: C81-C96).

**Melanoma:** (ICD10 code: C43).

**Non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC):** (ICD10 code: C44).

**Other cancer:** Includes cancers of small intestine, anus, liver, gallbladder, thymus, bone, mesothelioma, soft tissue, penis, testis, eye, brain, endocrine system and thyroid (ICD10 codes: C16, C21-C26, C37-C41, C45-C49, C60, C62, C63, C69-C75). Excludes cancer of unknown primary.