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

**March 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**

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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: March 2022

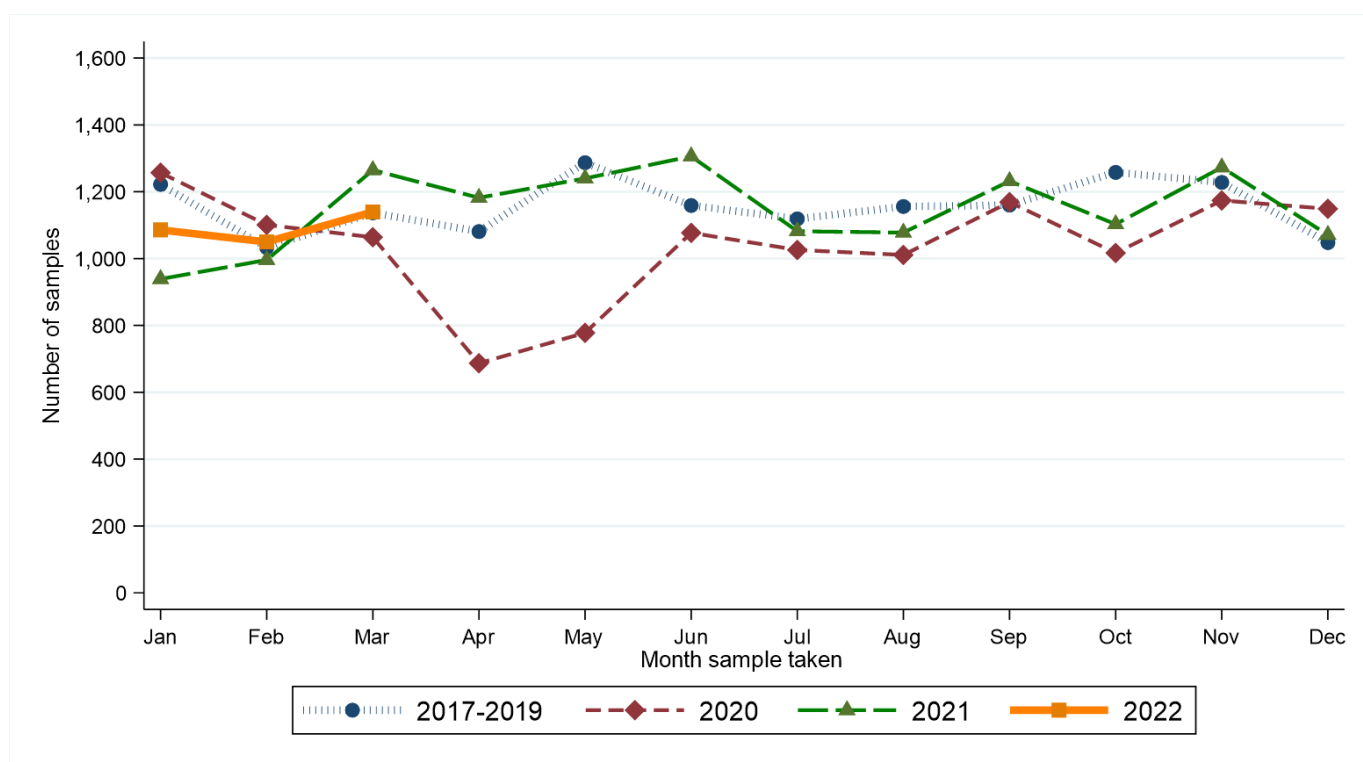
This summary provides an overview of recent trends in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, NMSC) taken from January 2020 to March 2022 in Northern Ireland.

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 March 2022 the number of pathological samples indicating cancer (ex NMSC) was 5.9% lower than the average number for the same time period in 2017-2019.



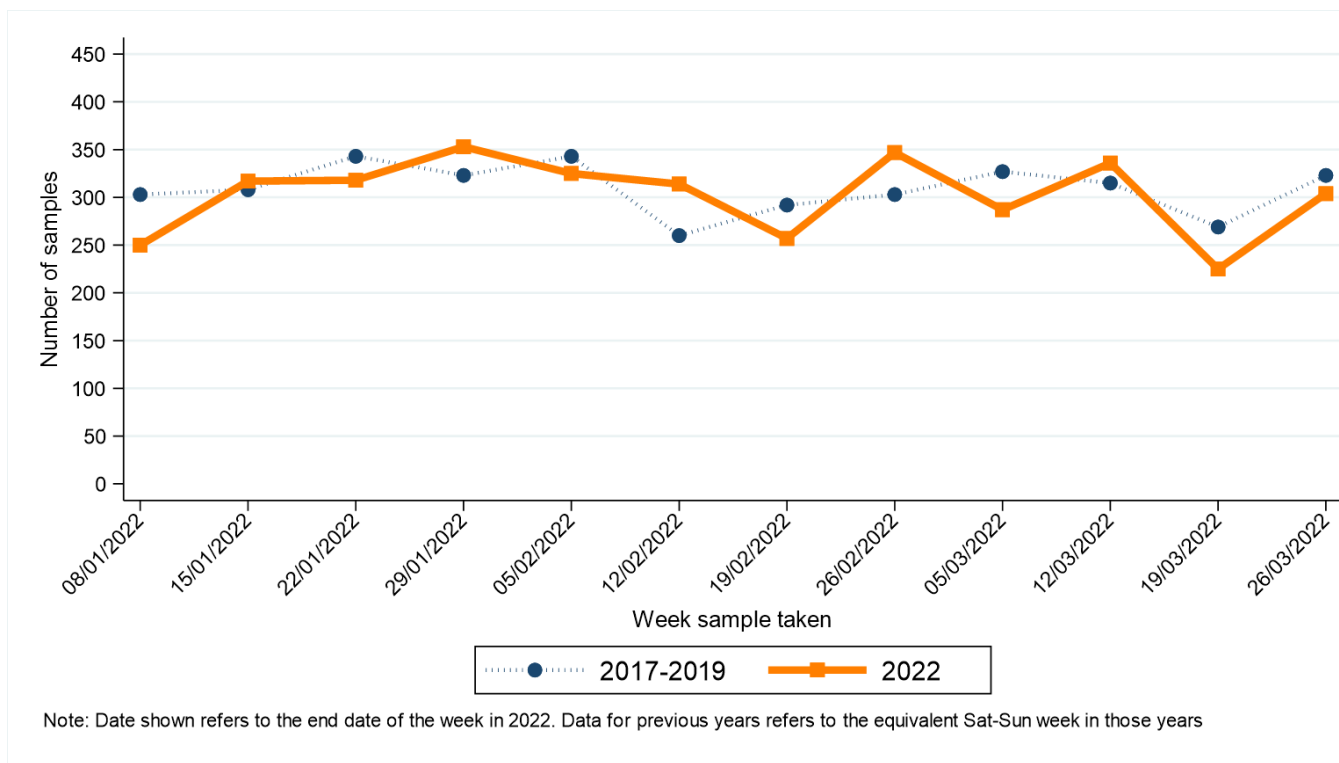
From March 2020 to March 2022 there was a 5.8% decrease in the number of samples among males and a 6.1% decrease among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. A decrease of 6.4% occurred in the number of samples among those aged 0-69 years, while there was a decrease of 5.3% in the number of samples among those aged 70 and older.

Compared to the annual average in 2017-2019, from March 2020 to March 2022 the number of pathology samples indicating lung cancer decreased by 25.7%. 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)**

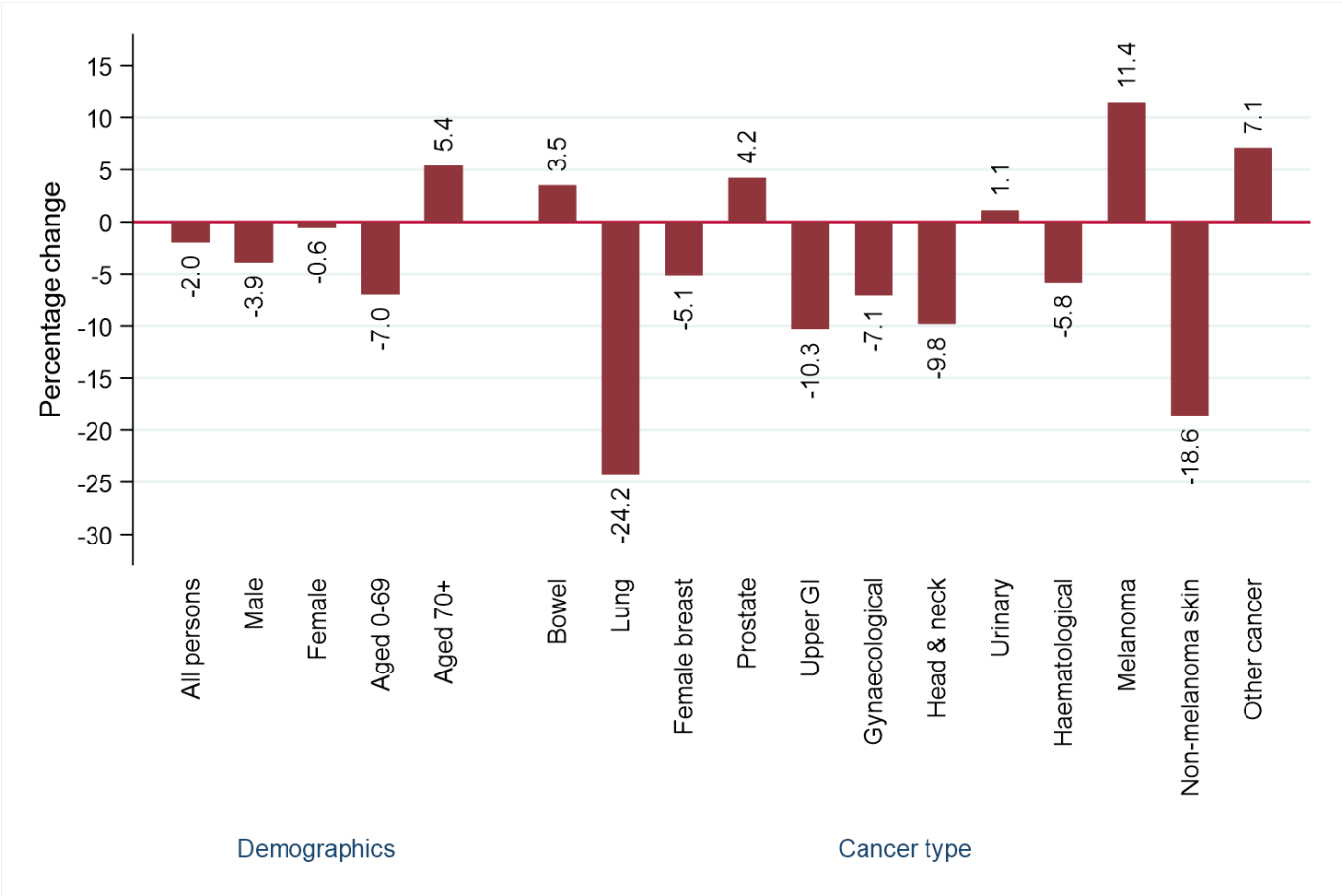
There was a 2.0% decrease in the number of pathology samples indicating cancer in the twelve weeks up to 26/03/2022 compared to the average value in the equivalent weeks in 2017-2019.



In the twelve weeks up to 26/03/2022 there was a 3.9% decrease in the number of samples among males and a 0.6% decrease among females compared to the same time period in 2017-2019. A decrease of 7.0% occurred in

the number of samples among those aged 0-69 years, while there was an increase of 5.4% 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 March 2022 the number of pathology samples indicating lung cancer decreased by 24.2%. Increases were recorded for bowel cancer, prostate cancer, urinary cancer and melanoma, while decreases of more than 10% were recorded for upper gastrointestinal cancer and non-melanoma skin cancer.

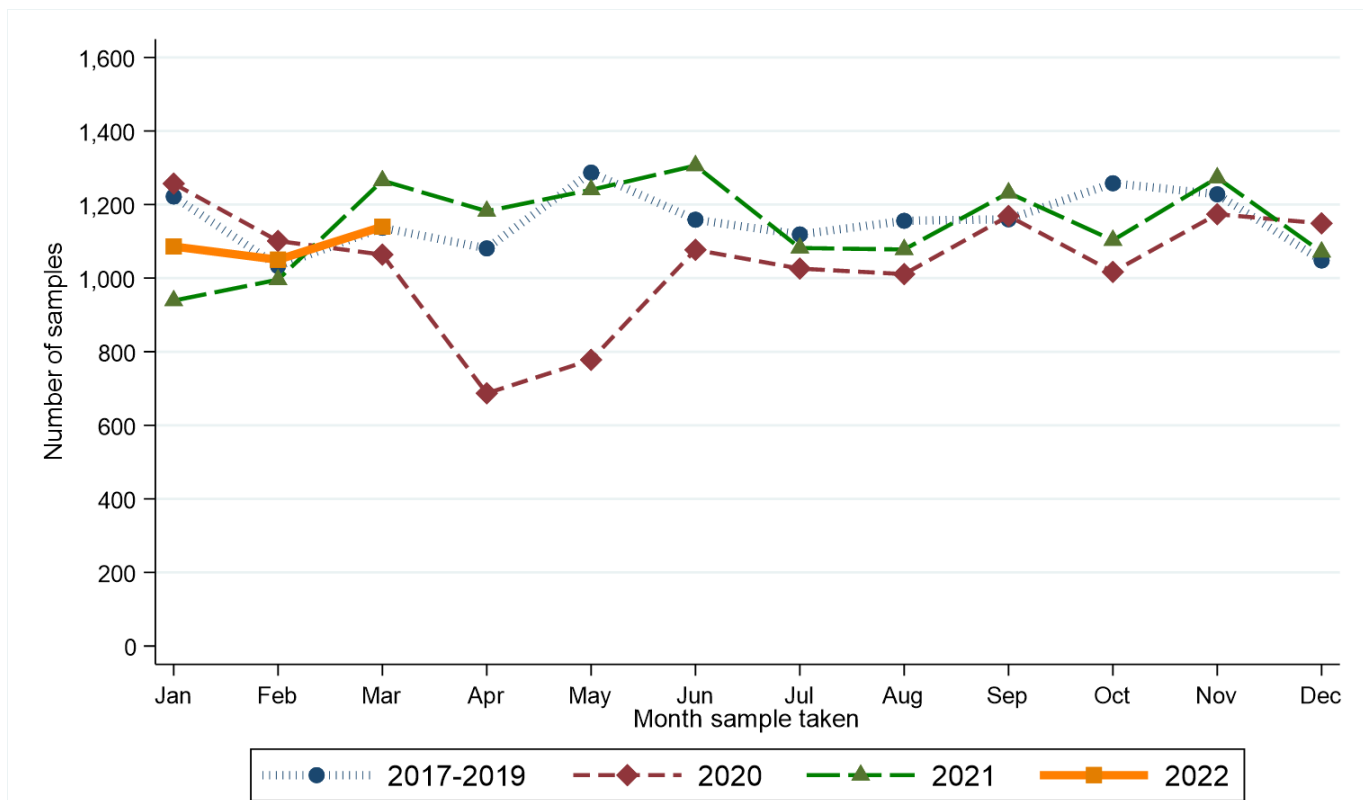


# ALL PERSONS: CANCER (EX NMSC)

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

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

**-5.9%**



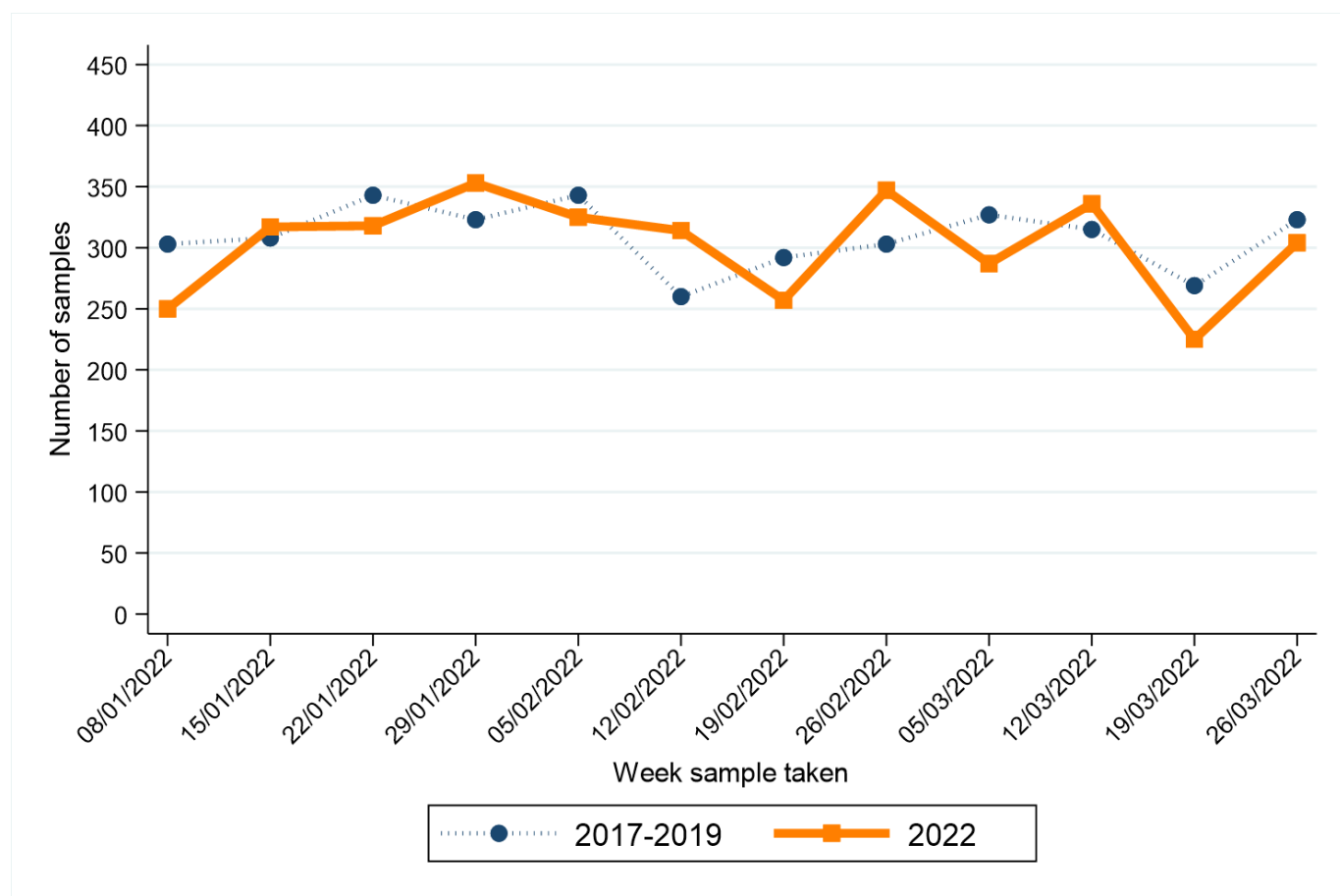
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	1,222	1,257	939	1,086
Feb	1,033	1,101	996	1,050
Mar	1,137	1,064	1,265	1,140
Apr	1,081	687	1,182	.
May	1,287	778	1,240	.
Jun	1,159	1,077	1,306	.
Jul	1,119	1,026	1,082	.
Aug	1,156	1,011	1,078	.
Sep	1,160	1,169	1,232	.
Oct	1,258	1,017	1,103	.
Nov	1,228	1,174	1,273	.
Dec	1,048	1,149	1,071	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-2.0%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
08/01/2022	303	250
15/01/2022	308	317
22/01/2022	343	318
29/01/2022	323	353
05/02/2022	343	325
12/02/2022	260	314
19/02/2022	292	257
26/02/2022	303	347
05/03/2022	327	287
12/03/2022	315	336
19/03/2022	269	225
26/03/2022	323	304

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

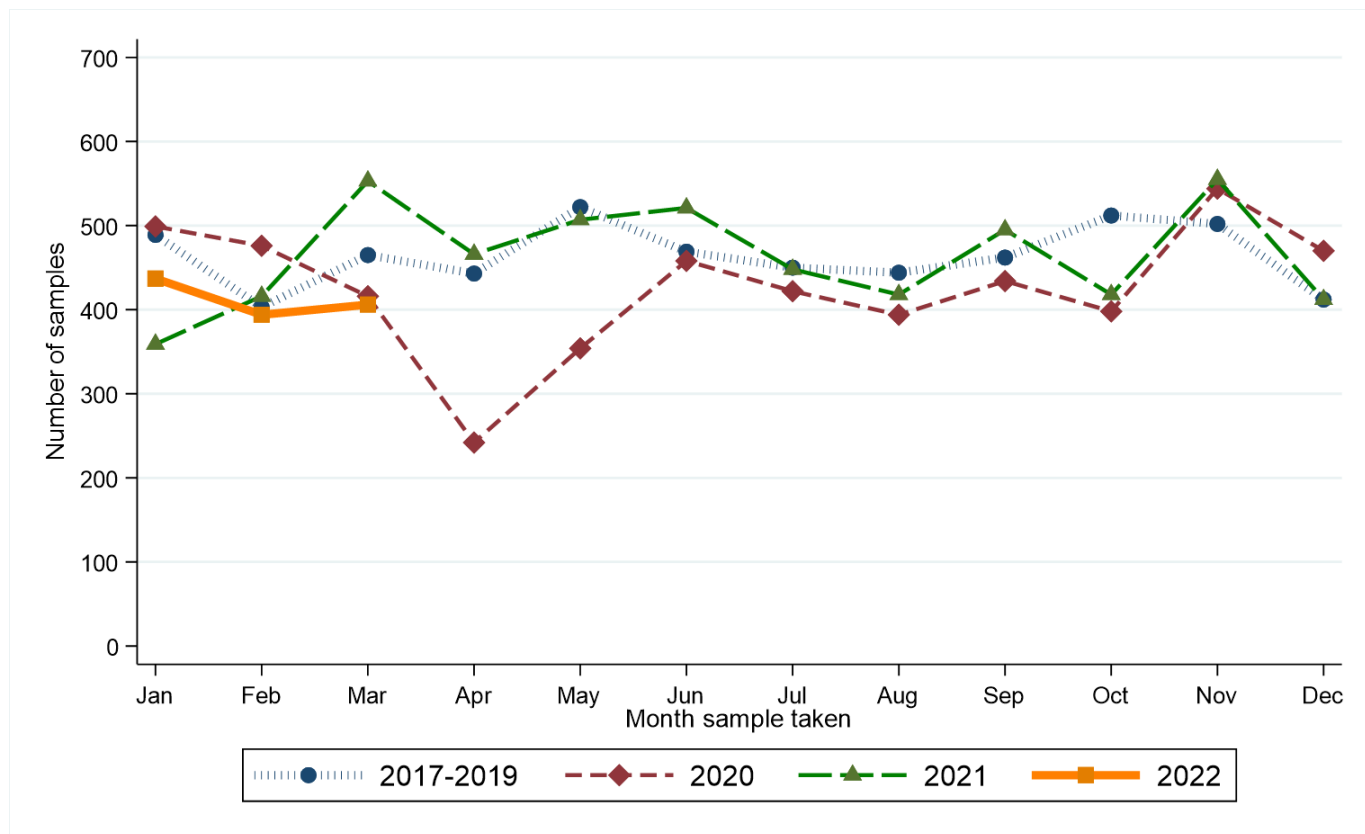
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# MALE: CANCER (EX NMSC)

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

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

**-5.8%**



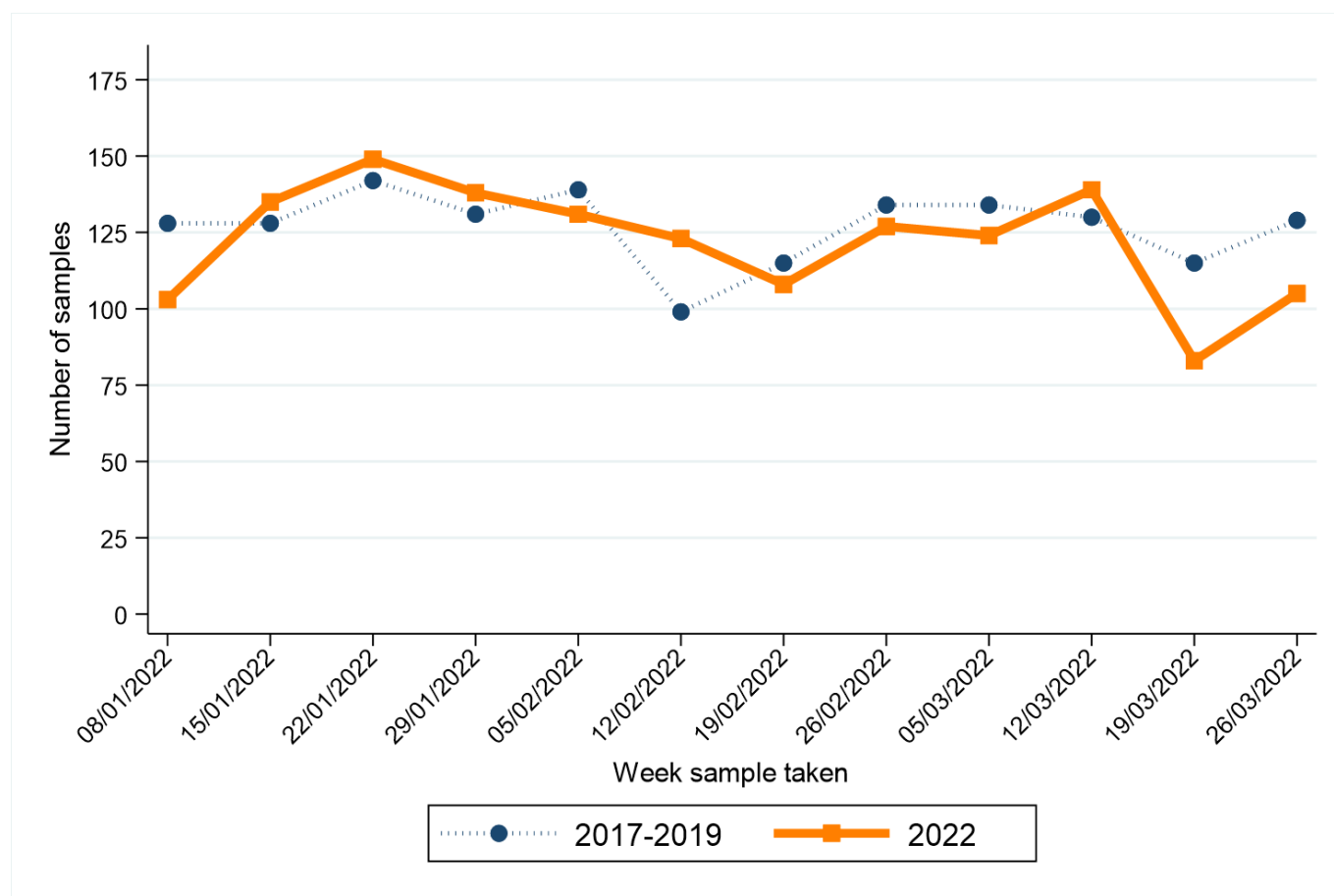
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	489	499	359	437
Feb	403	476	416	394
Mar	465	416	553	406
Apr	443	242	466	.
May	522	354	507	.
Jun	469	458	521	.
Jul	450	422	448	.
Aug	444	394	418	.
Sep	462	434	495	.
Oct	512	398	418	.
Nov	502	544	555	.
Dec	412	470	412	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-3.9%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
08/01/2022	128	103
15/01/2022	128	135
22/01/2022	142	149
29/01/2022	131	138
05/02/2022	139	131
12/02/2022	99	123
19/02/2022	115	108
26/02/2022	134	127
05/03/2022	134	124
12/03/2022	130	139
19/03/2022	115	83
26/03/2022	129	105

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

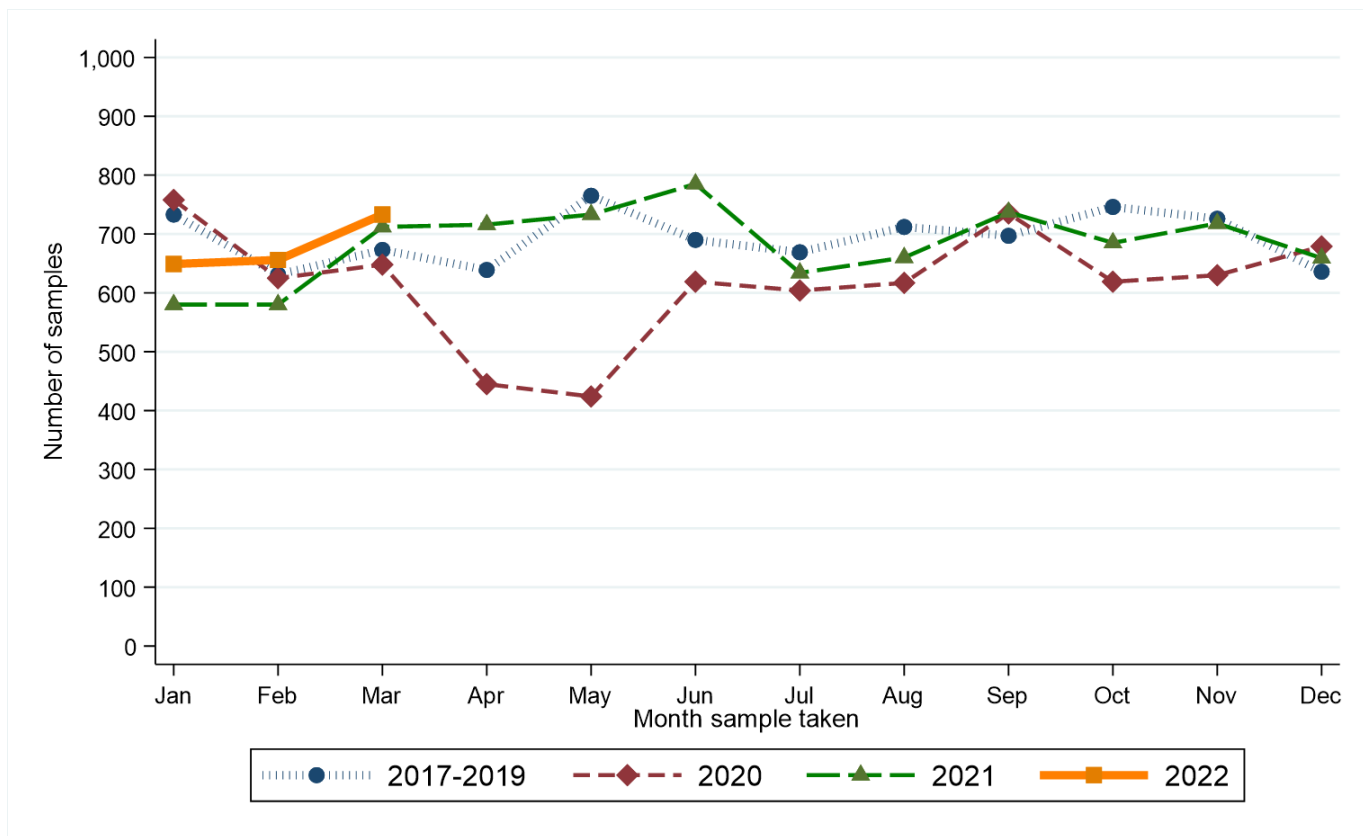
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# FEMALE: CANCER (EX NMSC)

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

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

**-6.1%**



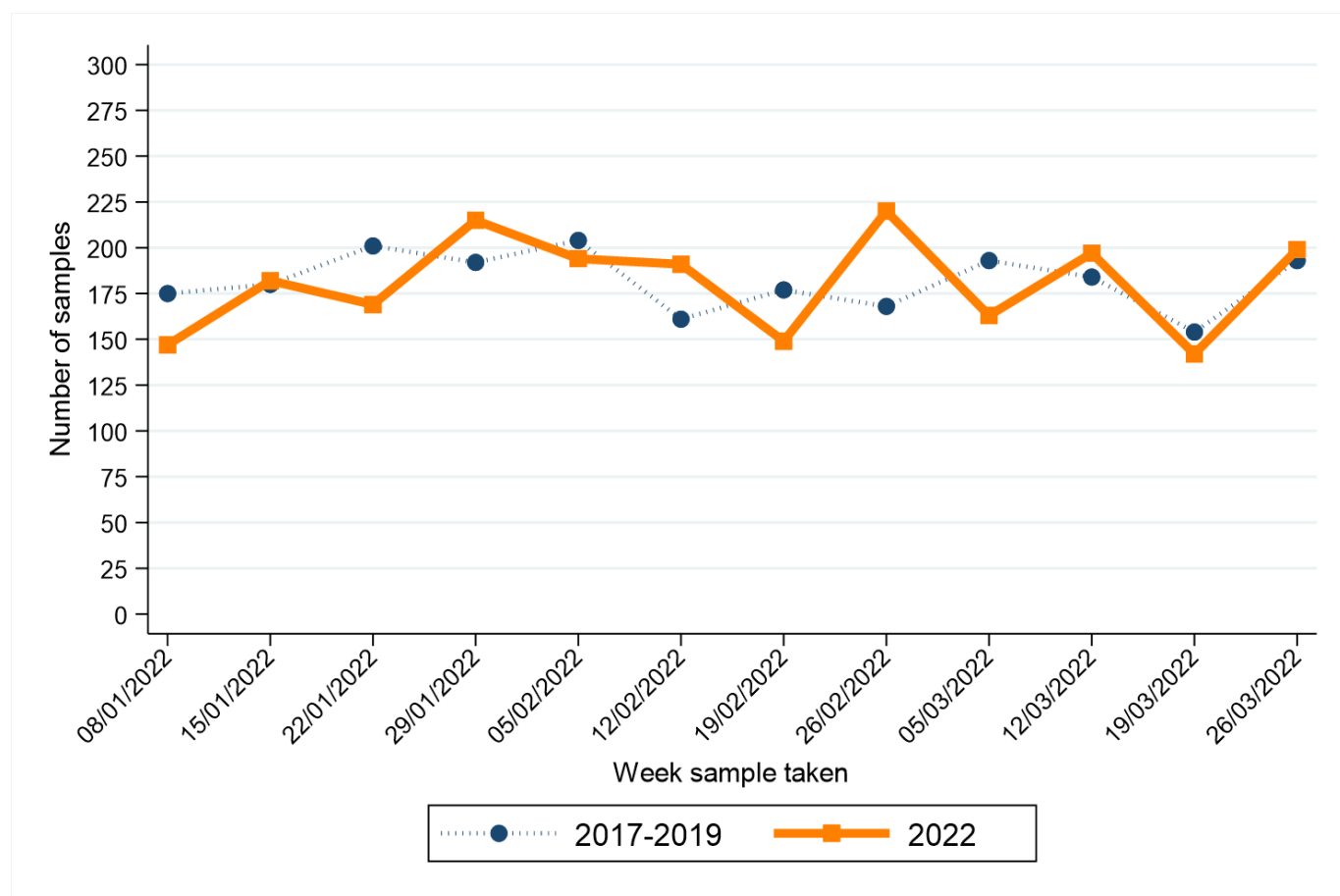
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	733	758	580	649
Feb	631	625	580	656
Mar	673	648	712	733
Apr	639	445	716	.
May	765	424	733	.
Jun	690	619	785	.
Jul	669	604	634	.
Aug	712	617	660	.
Sep	697	735	737	.
Oct	746	619	685	.
Nov	726	630	718	.
Dec	636	679	659	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-0.6%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
08/01/2022	175	147
15/01/2022	180	182
22/01/2022	201	169
29/01/2022	192	215
05/02/2022	204	194
12/02/2022	161	191
19/02/2022	177	149
26/02/2022	168	220
05/03/2022	193	163
12/03/2022	184	197
19/03/2022	154	142
26/03/2022	193	199

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

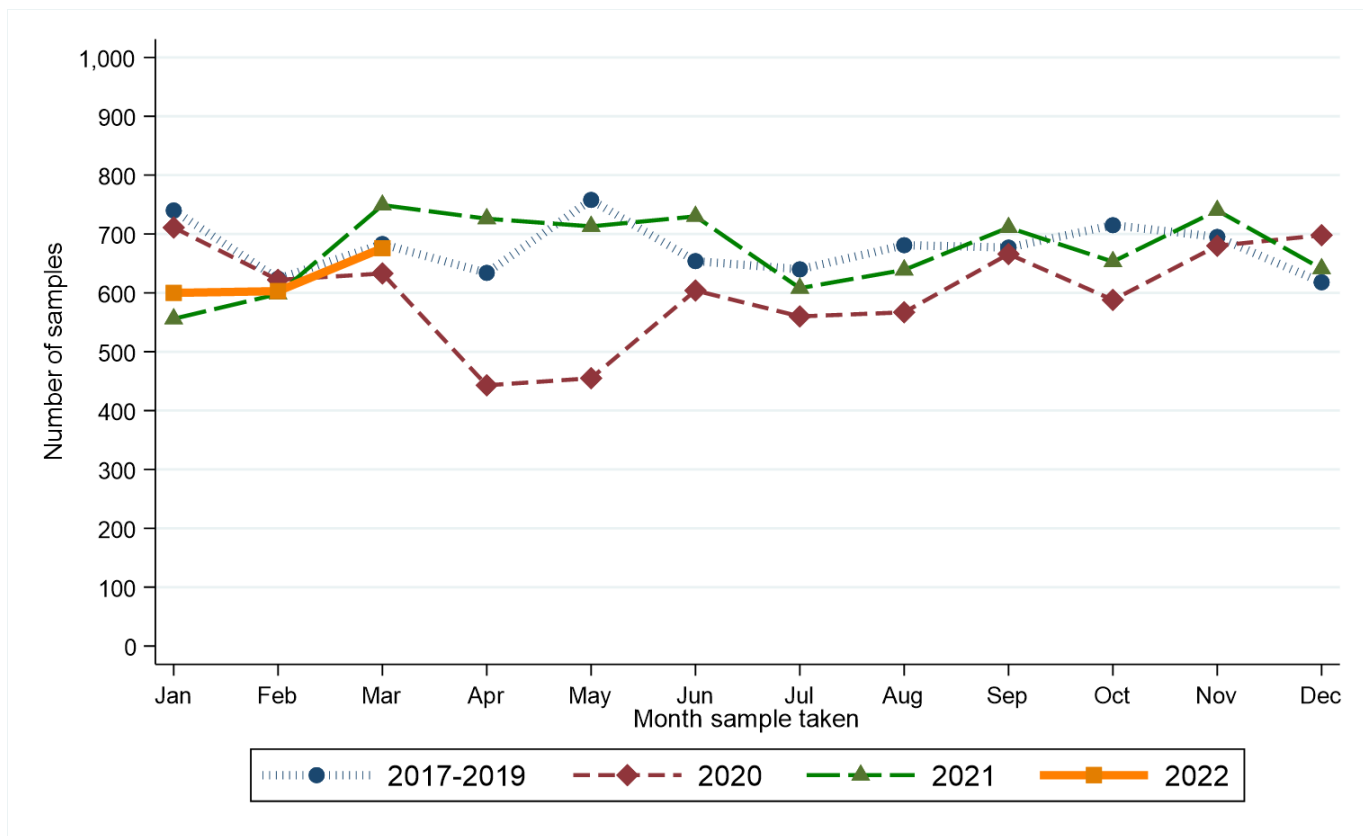
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# AGED 0-69: CANCER (EX NMSC)

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

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

**-6.4%**



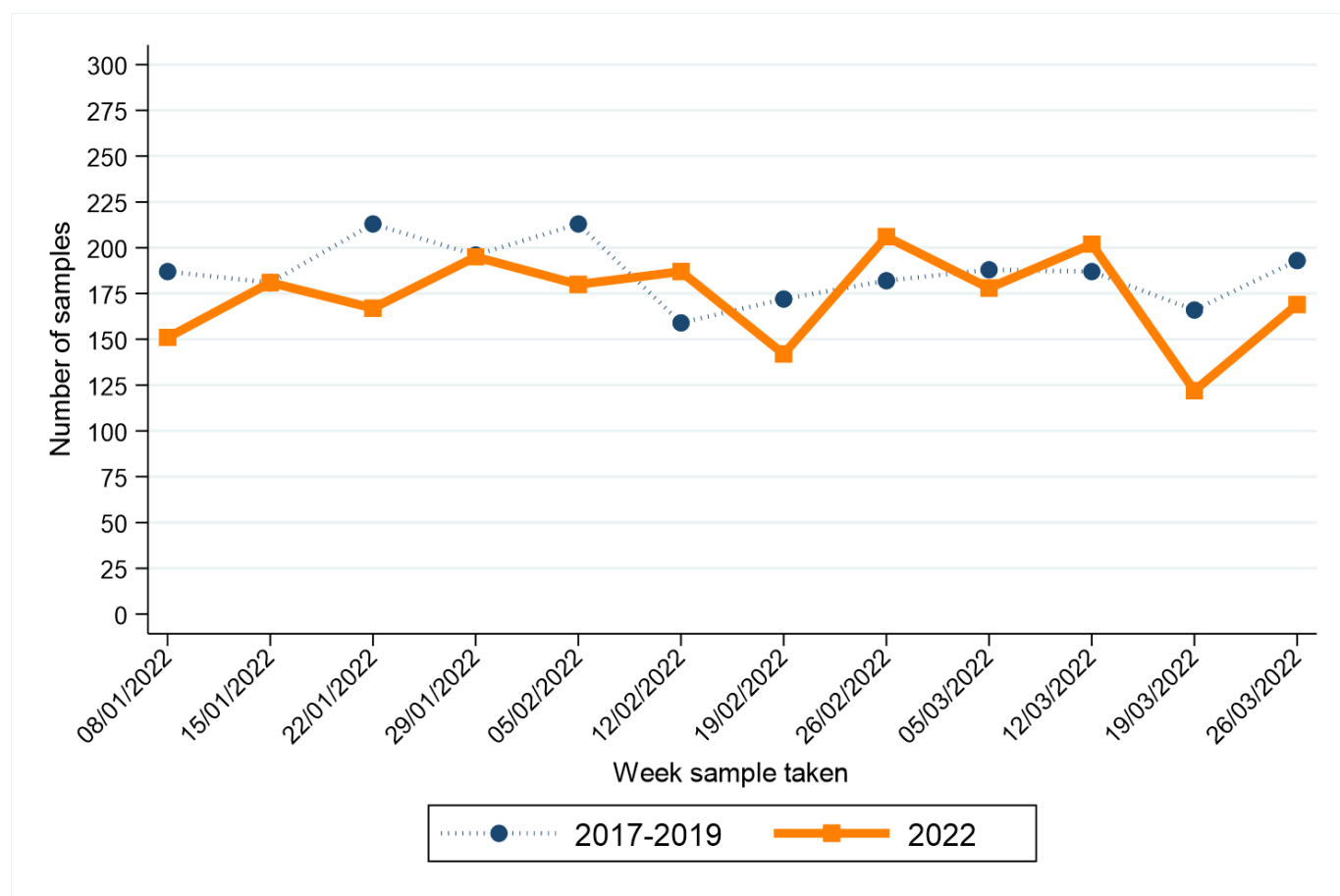
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	740	711	556	600
Feb	624	622	598	603
Mar	683	633	749	676
Apr	634	443	726	.
May	758	455	713	.
Jun	654	604	730	.
Jul	640	560	608	.
Aug	681	567	639	.
Sep	677	666	711	.
Oct	715	588	653	.
Nov	695	680	740	.
Dec	618	698	641	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-7.0%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
08/01/2022	187	151
15/01/2022	181	181
22/01/2022	213	167
29/01/2022	196	195
05/02/2022	213	180
12/02/2022	159	187
19/02/2022	172	142
26/02/2022	182	206
05/03/2022	188	178
12/03/2022	187	202
19/03/2022	166	122
26/03/2022	193	169

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

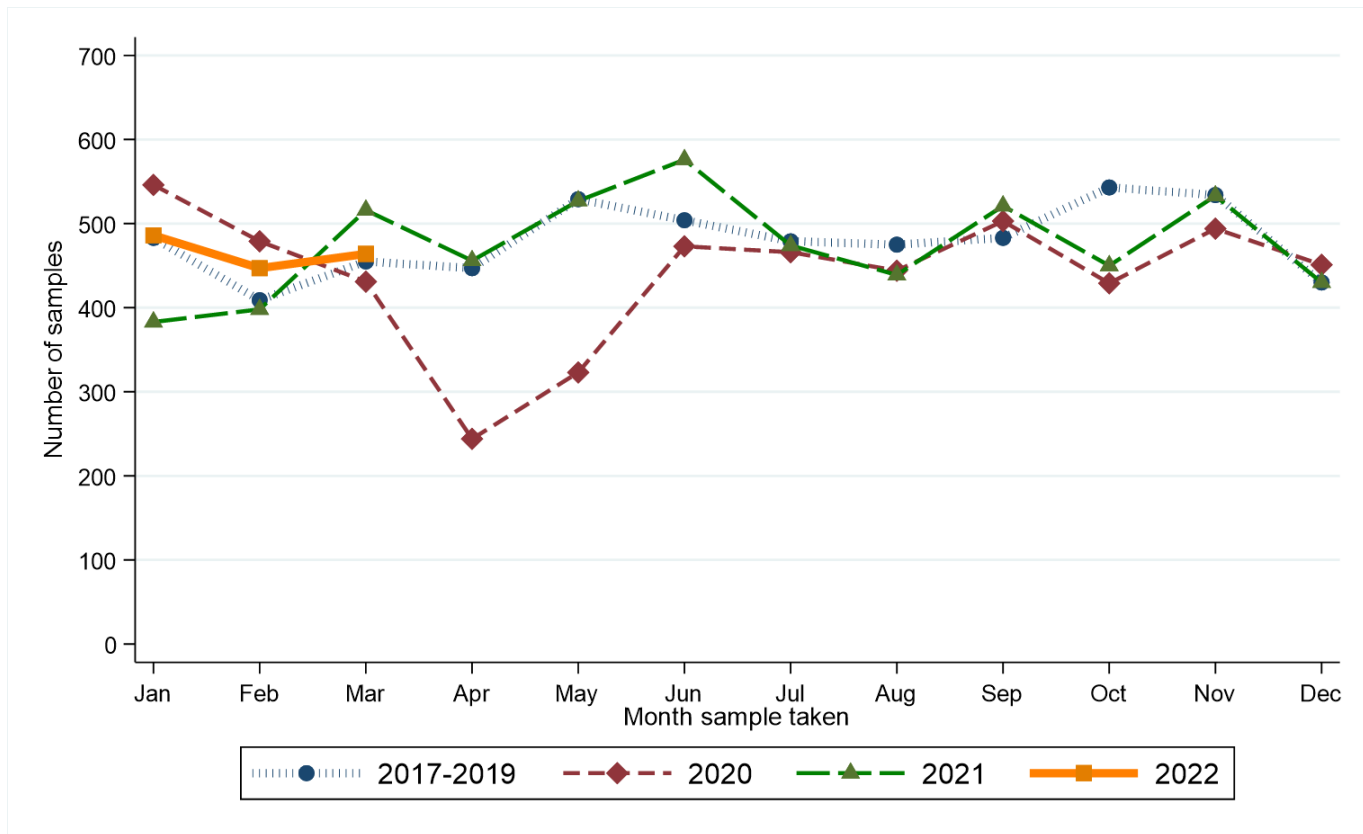
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# AGED 70+: CANCER (EX NMSC)

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

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

**-5.3%**



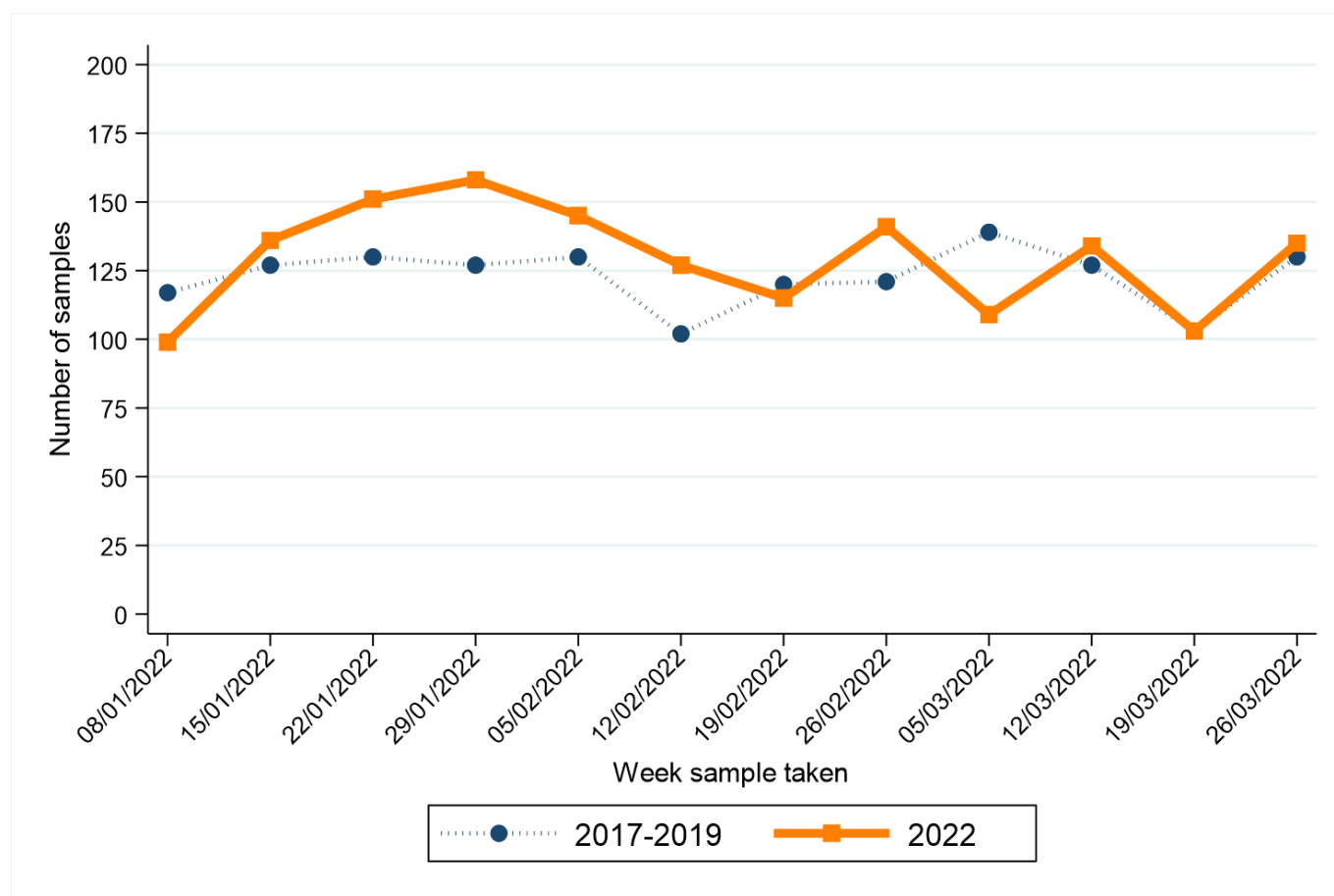
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	483	546	383	486
Feb	409	479	398	447
Mar	455	431	516	464
Apr	447	244	456	.
May	529	323	527	.
Jun	504	473	576	.
Jul	479	466	474	.
Aug	475	444	439	.
Sep	483	503	521	.
Oct	543	429	450	.
Nov	534	494	533	.
Dec	430	451	430	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**+5.4%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
08/01/2022	117	99
15/01/2022	127	136
22/01/2022	130	151
29/01/2022	127	158
05/02/2022	130	145
12/02/2022	102	127
19/02/2022	120	115
26/02/2022	121	141
05/03/2022	139	109
12/03/2022	127	134
19/03/2022	103	103
26/03/2022	130	135

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

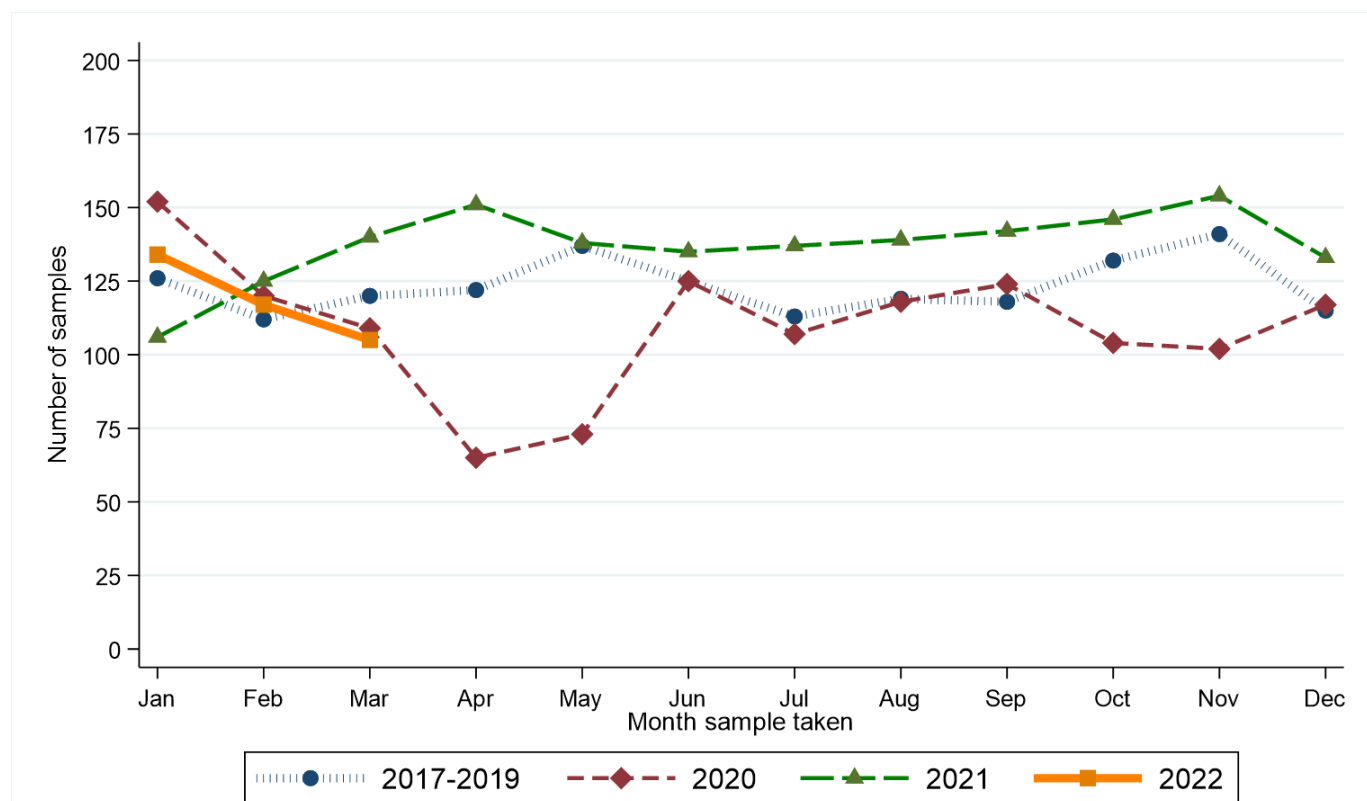
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# BOWEL CANCER

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

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

**-1.1%**



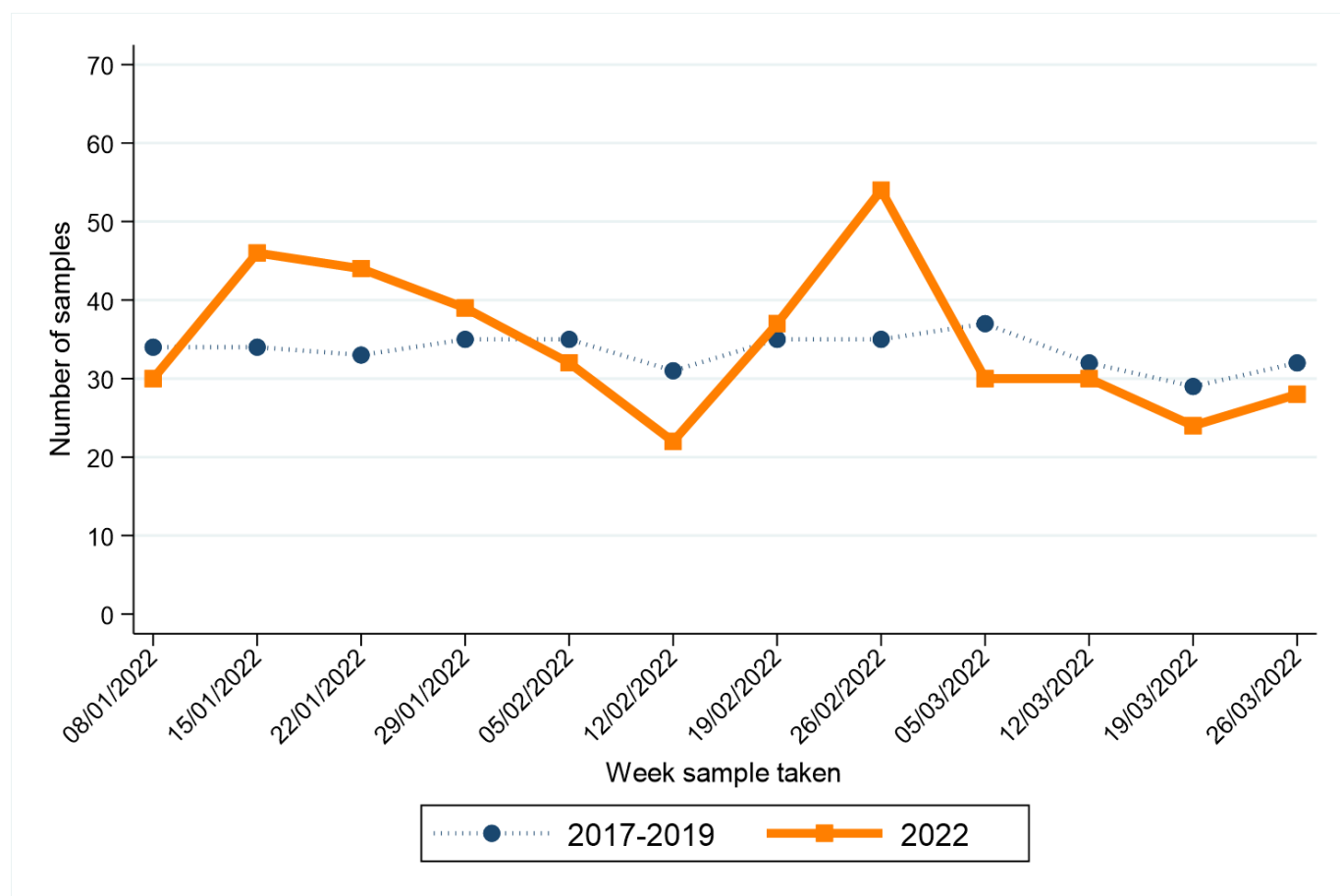
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	126	152	106	134
Feb	112	120	125	117
Mar	120	109	140	105
Apr	122	65	151	.
May	137	73	138	.
Jun	125	125	135	.
Jul	113	107	137	.
Aug	119	118	139	.
Sep	118	124	142	.
Oct	132	104	146	.
Nov	141	102	154	.
Dec	115	117	133	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**+3.5%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
08/01/2022	34	30
15/01/2022	34	46
22/01/2022	33	44
29/01/2022	35	39
05/02/2022	35	32
12/02/2022	31	22
19/02/2022	35	37
26/02/2022	35	54
05/03/2022	37	30
12/03/2022	32	30
19/03/2022	29	24
26/03/2022	32	28

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

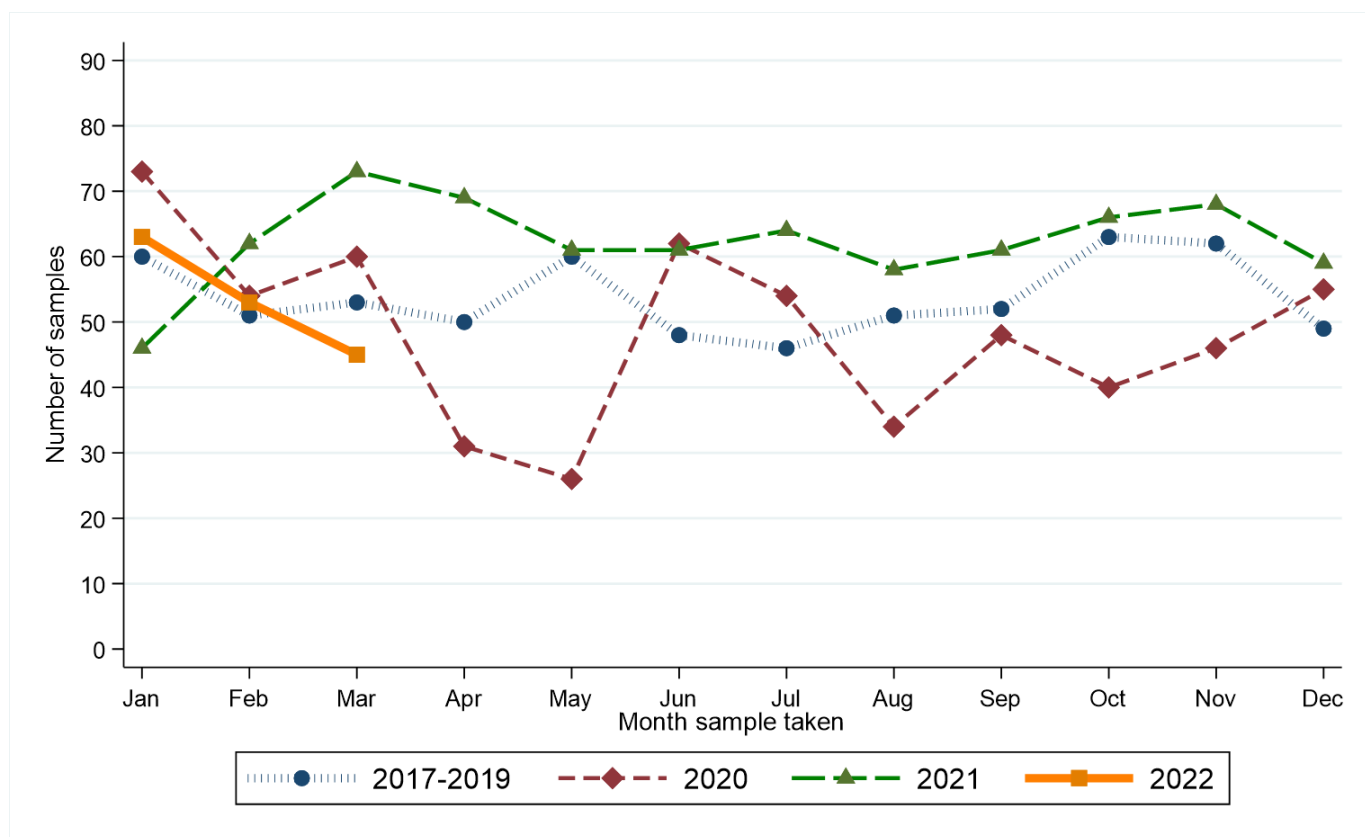
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# BOWEL CANCER (SCREENING AGE)

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

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

**+1.6%**



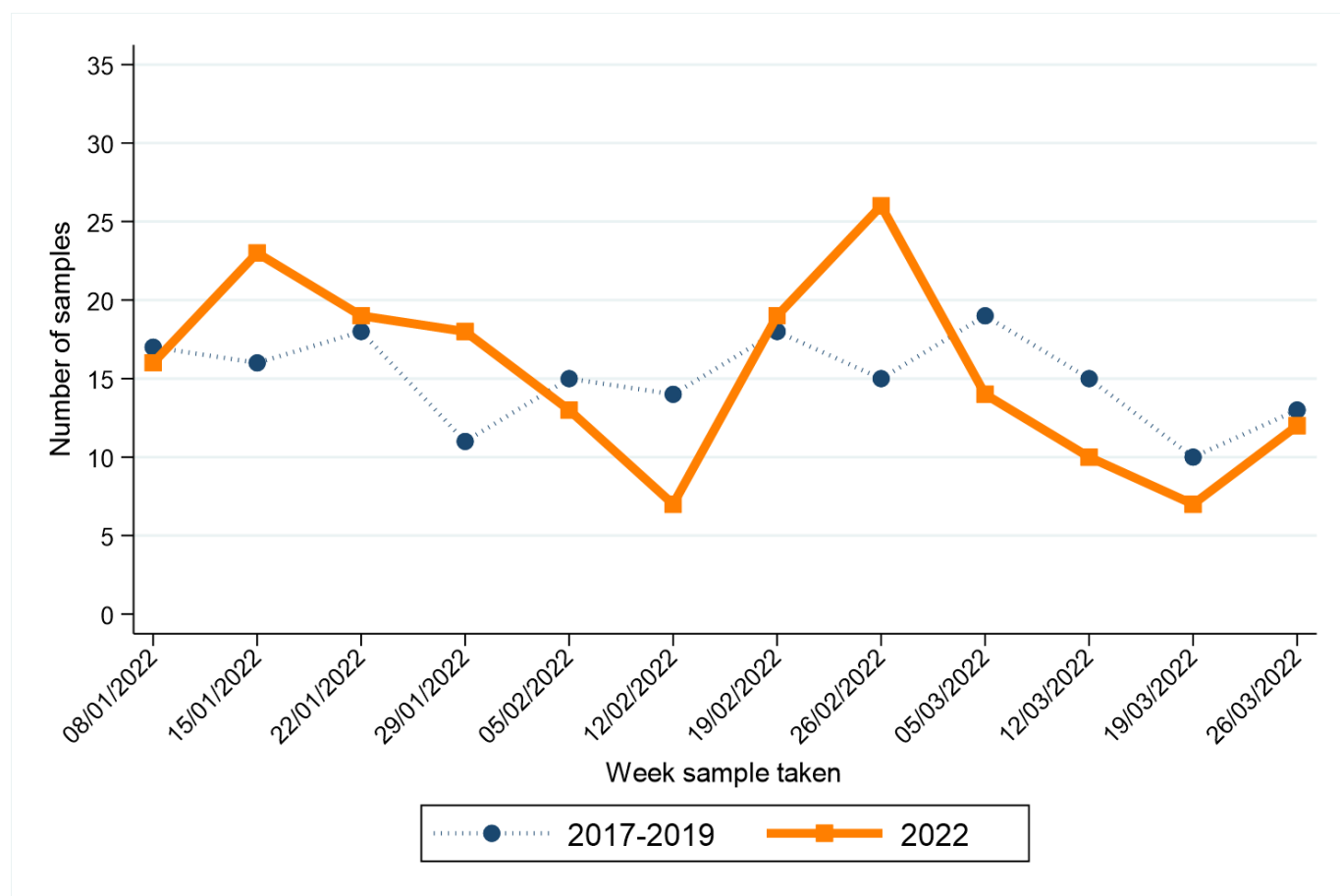
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	60	73	46	63
Feb	51	54	62	53
Mar	53	60	73	45
Apr	50	31	69	.
May	60	26	61	.
Jun	48	62	61	.
Jul	46	54	64	.
Aug	51	34	58	.
Sep	52	48	61	.
Oct	63	40	66	.
Nov	62	46	68	.
Dec	49	55	59	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**+1.7%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
08/01/2022	17	16
15/01/2022	16	23
22/01/2022	18	19
29/01/2022	11	18
05/02/2022	15	13
12/02/2022	14	7
19/02/2022	18	19
26/02/2022	15	26
05/03/2022	19	14
12/03/2022	15	10
19/03/2022	10	7
26/03/2022	13	12

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

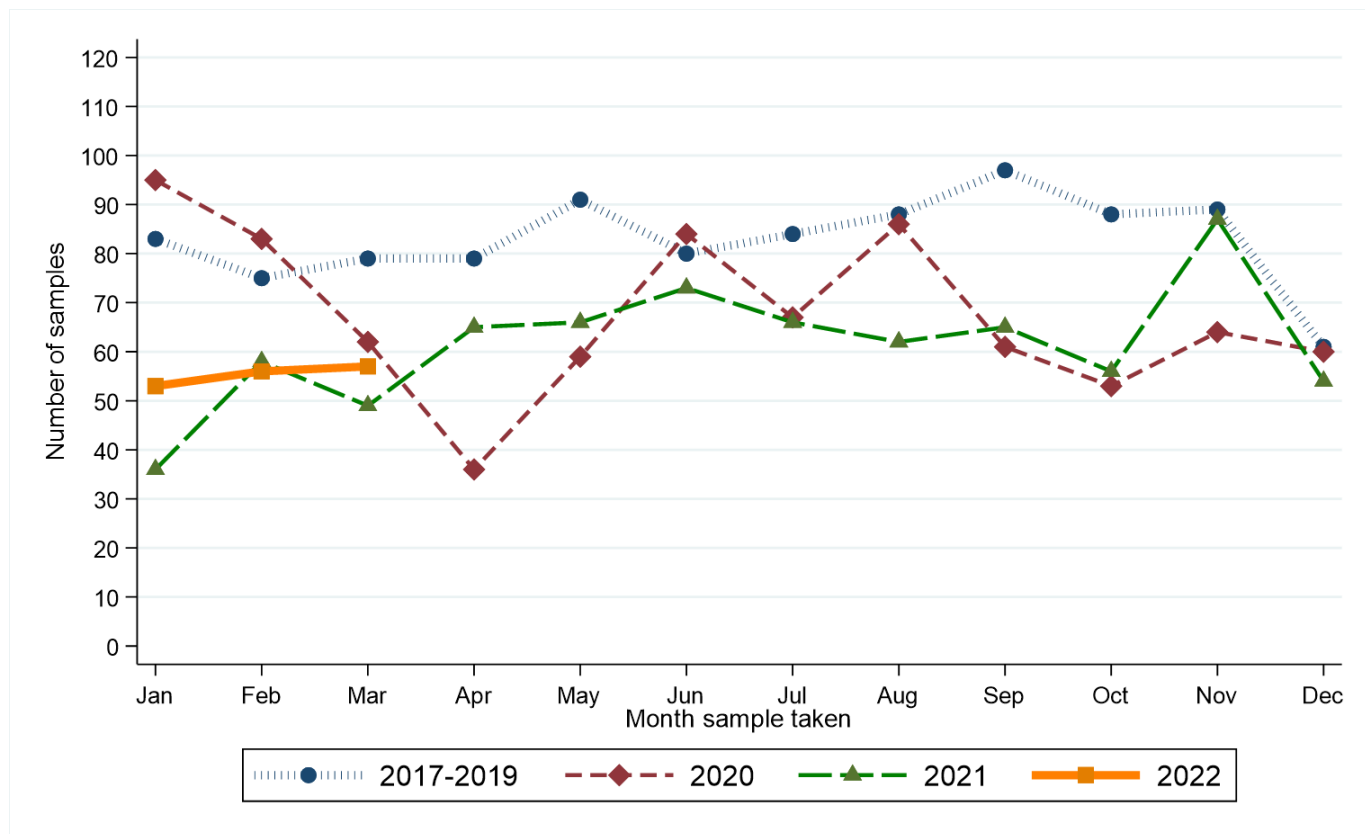
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# LUNG CANCER

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

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

**-25.7%**



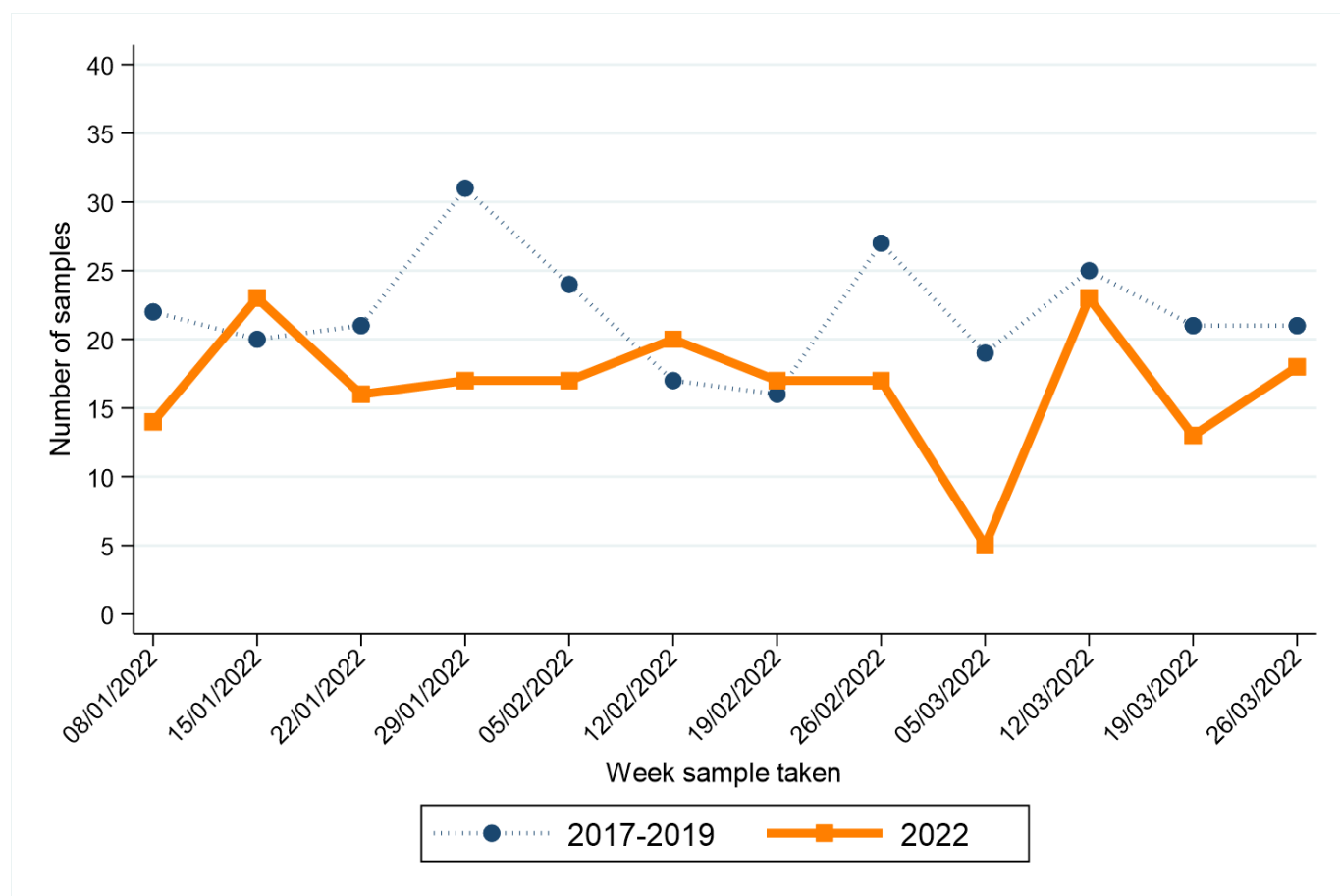
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	83	95	36	53
Feb	75	83	58	56
Mar	79	62	49	57
Apr	79	36	65	.
May	91	59	66	.
Jun	80	84	73	.
Jul	84	67	66	.
Aug	88	86	62	.
Sep	97	61	65	.
Oct	88	53	56	.
Nov	89	64	87	.
Dec	61	60	54	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-24.2%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
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
05/03/2022	19	5
12/03/2022	25	23
19/03/2022	21	13
26/03/2022	21	18

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

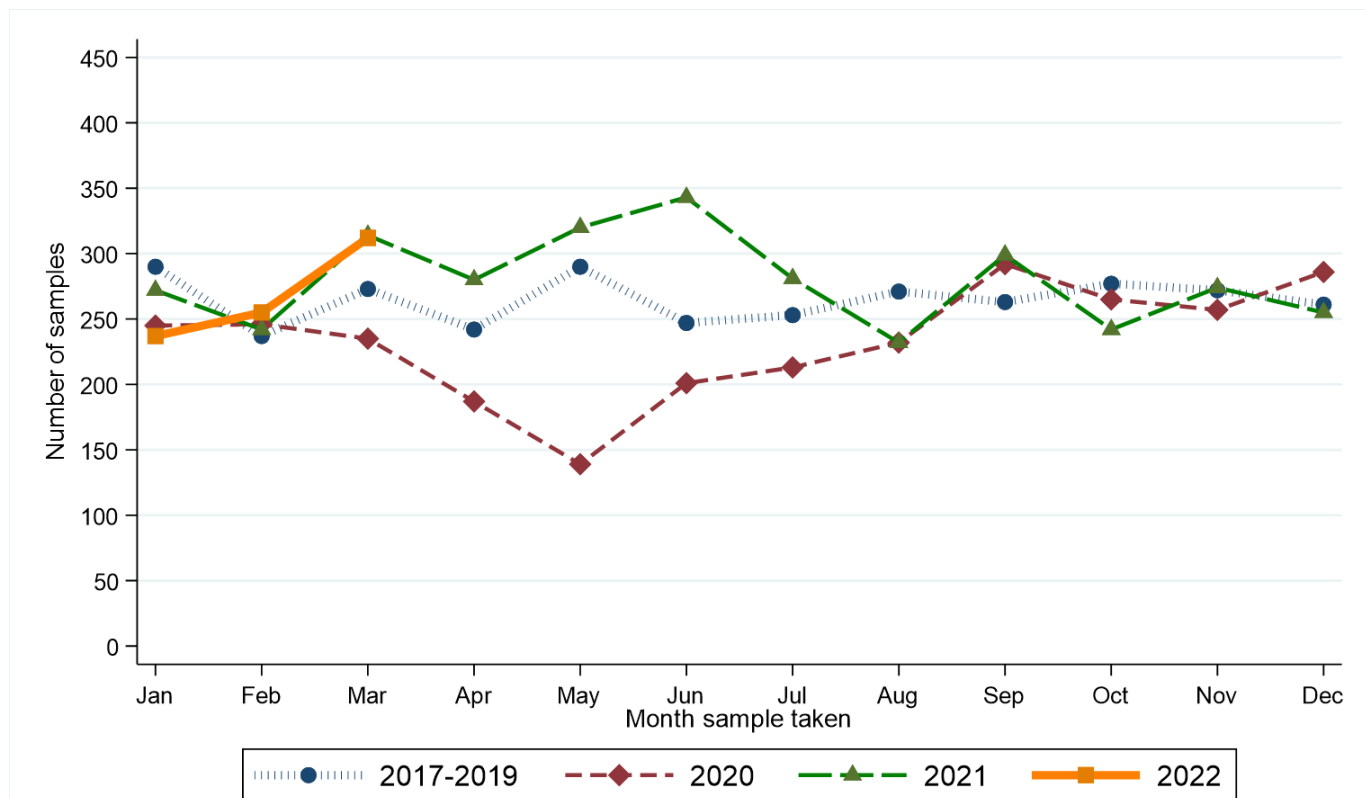
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# FEMALE BREAST CANCER

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

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

**-2.4%**



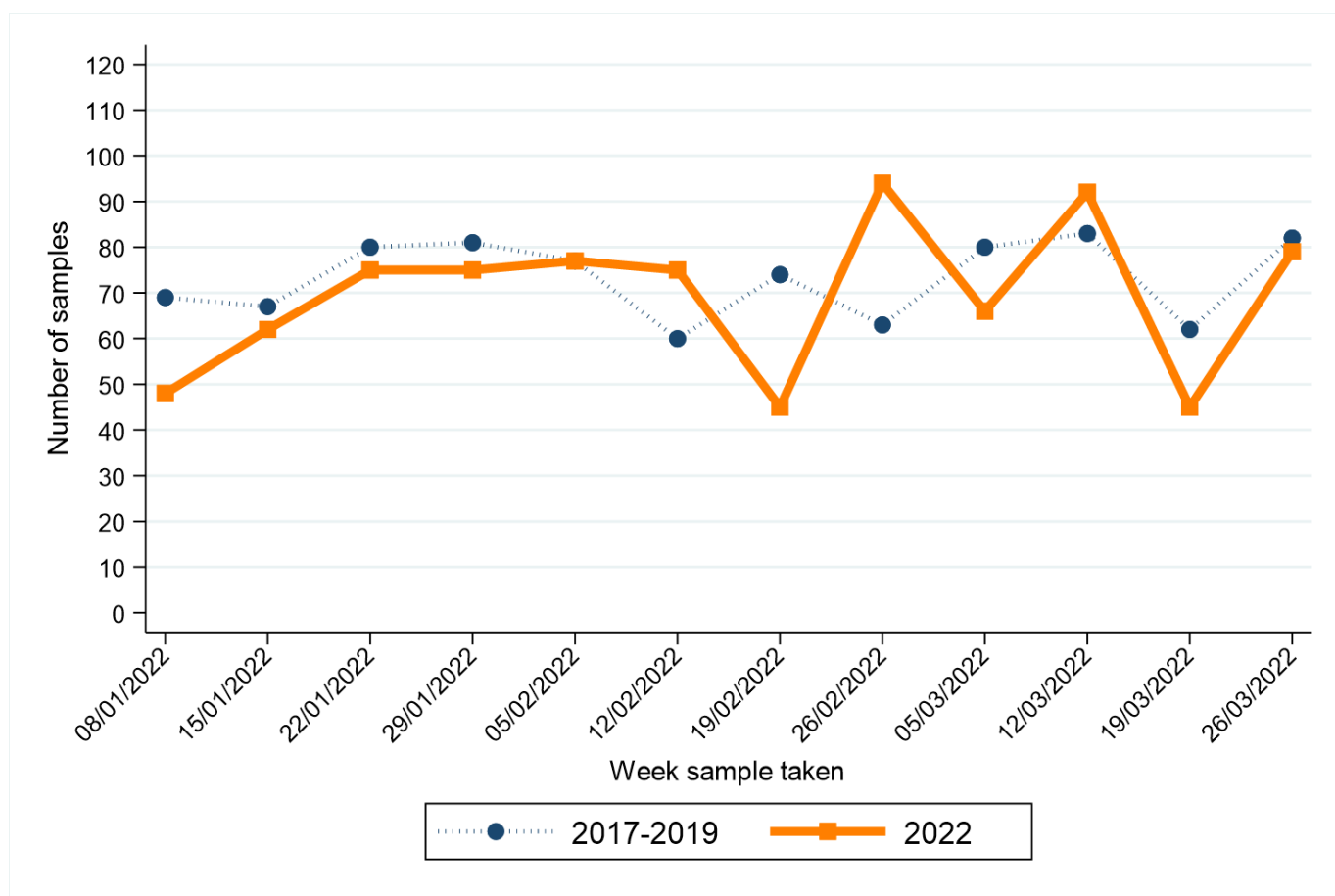
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	290	245	272	237
Feb	237	246	242	255
Mar	273	235	314	312
Apr	242	187	280	.
May	290	139	320	.
Jun	247	201	343	.
Jul	253	213	281	.
Aug	271	232	232	.
Sep	263	292	299	.
Oct	277	265	242	.
Nov	272	257	274	.
Dec	261	286	255	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-5.1%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
08/01/2022	69	48
15/01/2022	67	62
22/01/2022	80	75
29/01/2022	81	75
05/02/2022	77	77
12/02/2022	60	75
19/02/2022	74	45
26/02/2022	63	94
05/03/2022	80	66
12/03/2022	83	92
19/03/2022	62	45
26/03/2022	82	79

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

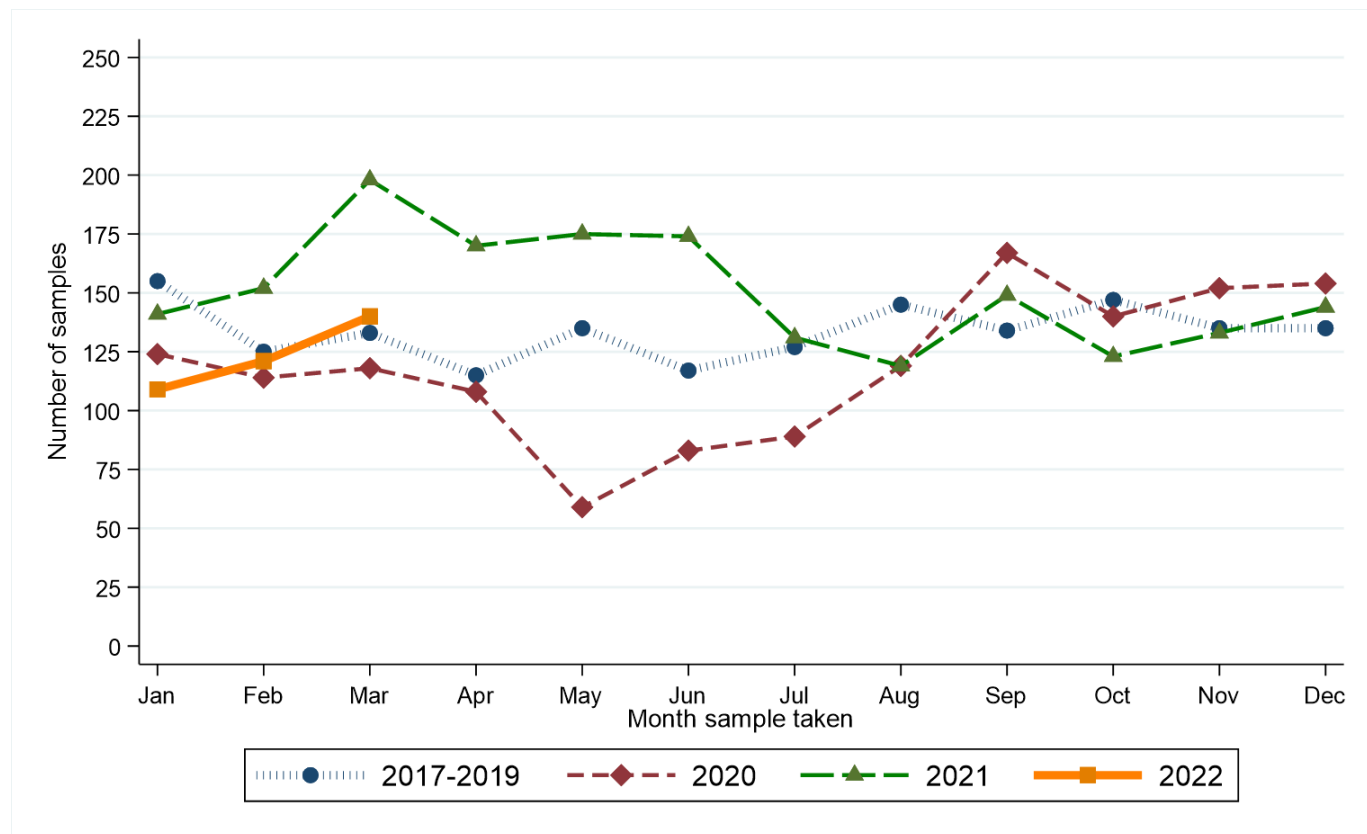
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# FEMALE BREAST CANCER (SCREENING AGE)

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

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

**+0.9%**



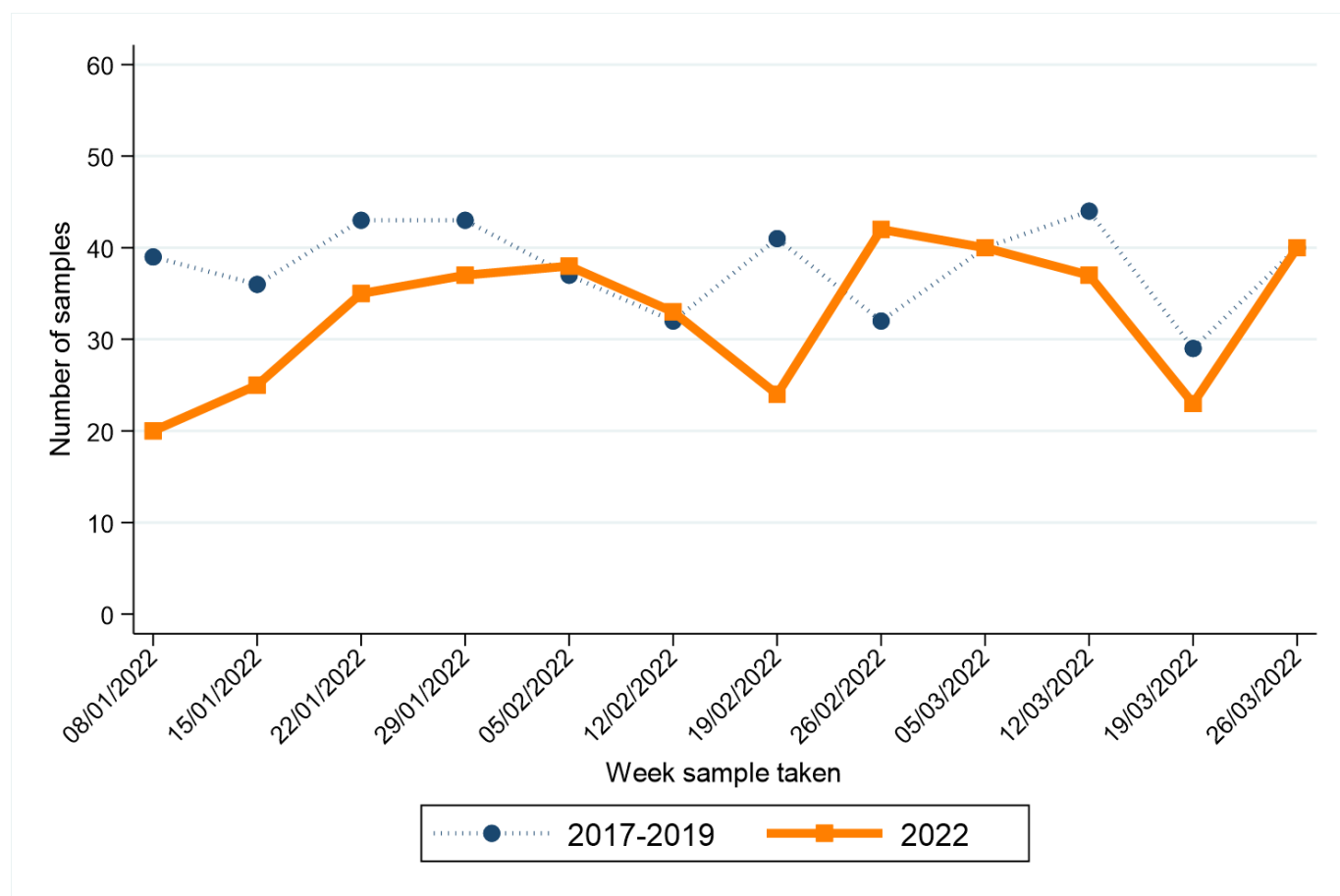
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	155	124	141	109
Feb	125	114	152	121
Mar	133	118	198	140
Apr	115	108	170	.
May	135	59	175	.
Jun	117	83	174	.
Jul	127	89	131	.
Aug	145	119	119	.
Sep	134	167	149	.
Oct	147	140	123	.
Nov	135	152	133	.
Dec	135	154	144	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-13.6%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
08/01/2022	39	20
15/01/2022	36	25
22/01/2022	43	35
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
05/03/2022	40	40
12/03/2022	44	37
19/03/2022	29	23
26/03/2022	40	40

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

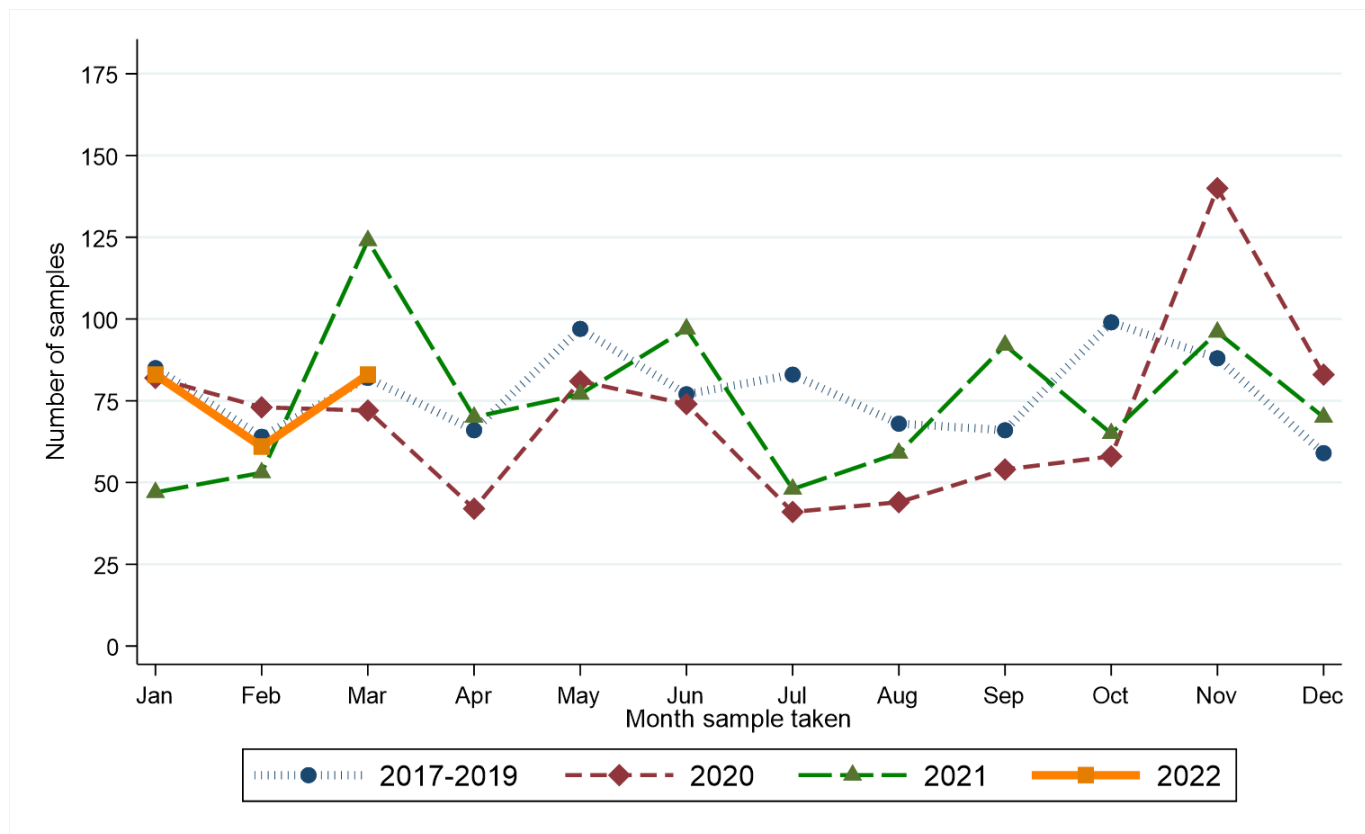
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# PROSTATE CANCER

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

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

**-7.0%**



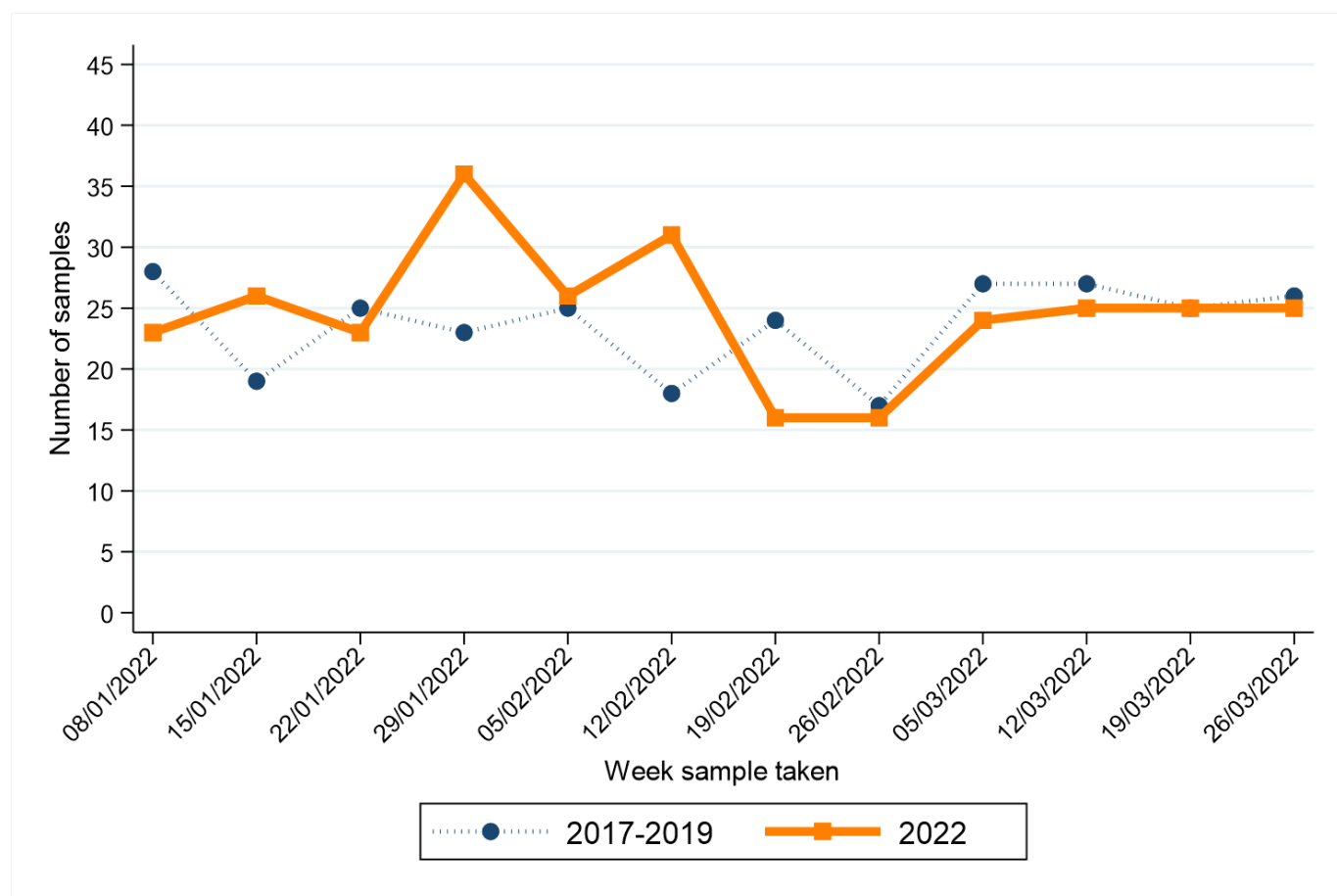
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	85	82	47	83
Feb	64	73	53	61
Mar	82	72	124	83
Apr	66	42	70	.
May	97	81	77	.
Jun	77	74	97	.
Jul	83	41	48	.
Aug	68	44	59	.
Sep	66	54	92	.
Oct	99	58	65	.
Nov	88	140	96	.
Dec	59	83	70	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**+4.2%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
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
05/03/2022	27	24
12/03/2022	27	25
19/03/2022	25	25
26/03/2022	26	25

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

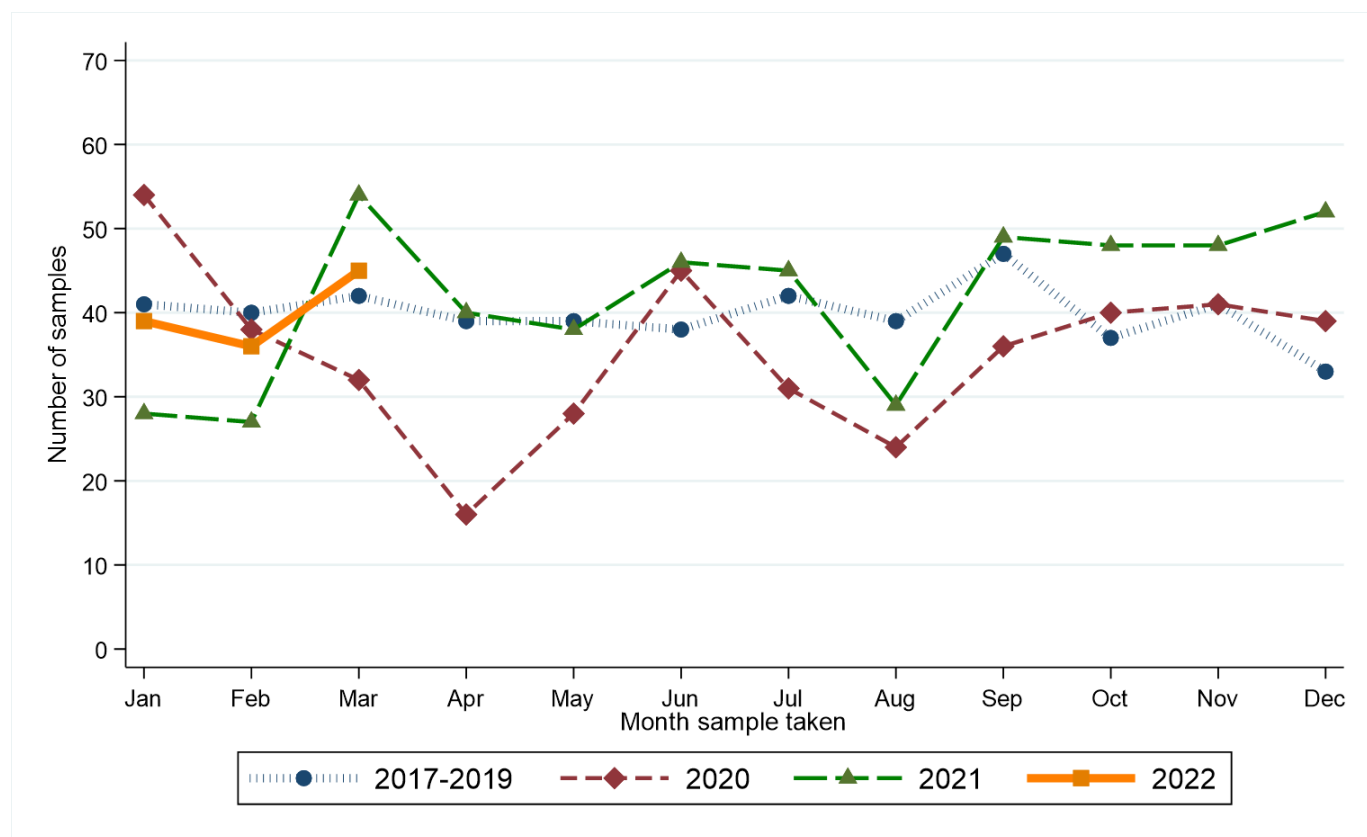
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL CANCER

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

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

**-4.2%**



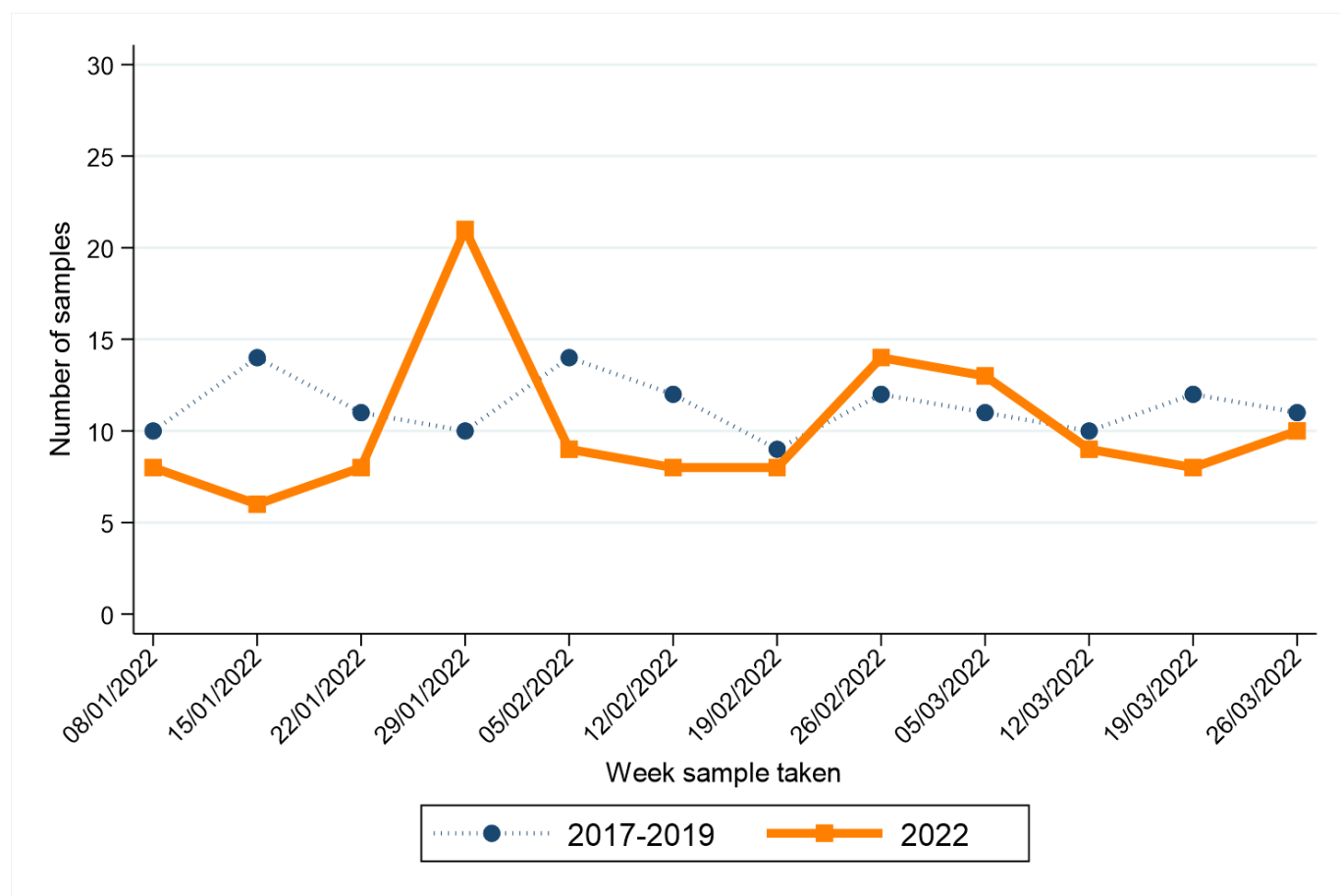
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	41	54	28	39
Feb	40	38	27	36
Mar	42	32	54	45
Apr	39	16	40	.
May	39	28	38	.
Jun	38	45	46	.
Jul	42	31	45	.
Aug	39	24	29	.
Sep	47	36	49	.
Oct	37	40	48	.
Nov	41	41	48	.
Dec	33	39	52	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-10.3%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
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	8
19/02/2022	9	8
26/02/2022	12	14
05/03/2022	11	13
12/03/2022	10	9
19/03/2022	12	8
26/03/2022	11	10

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

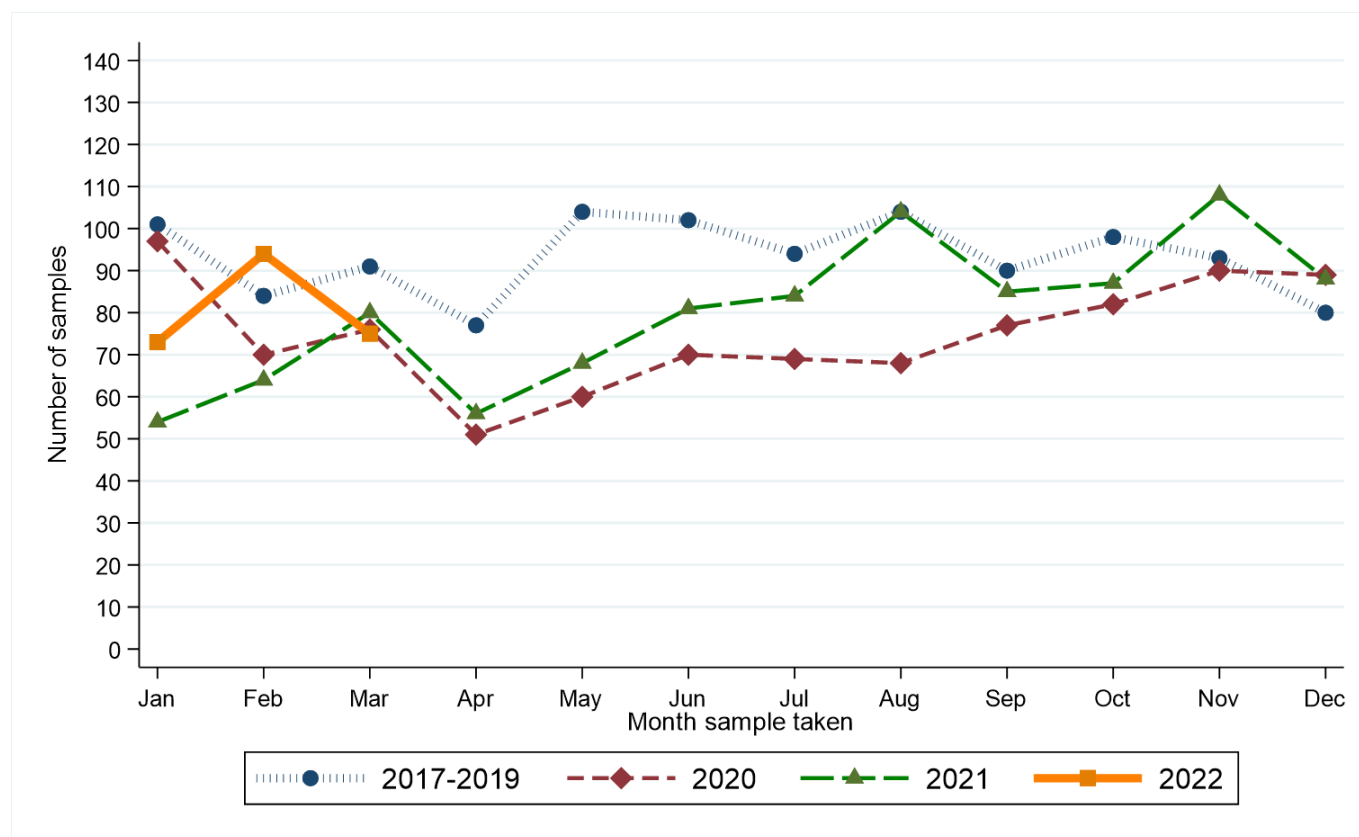
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER

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

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

**-16.9%**



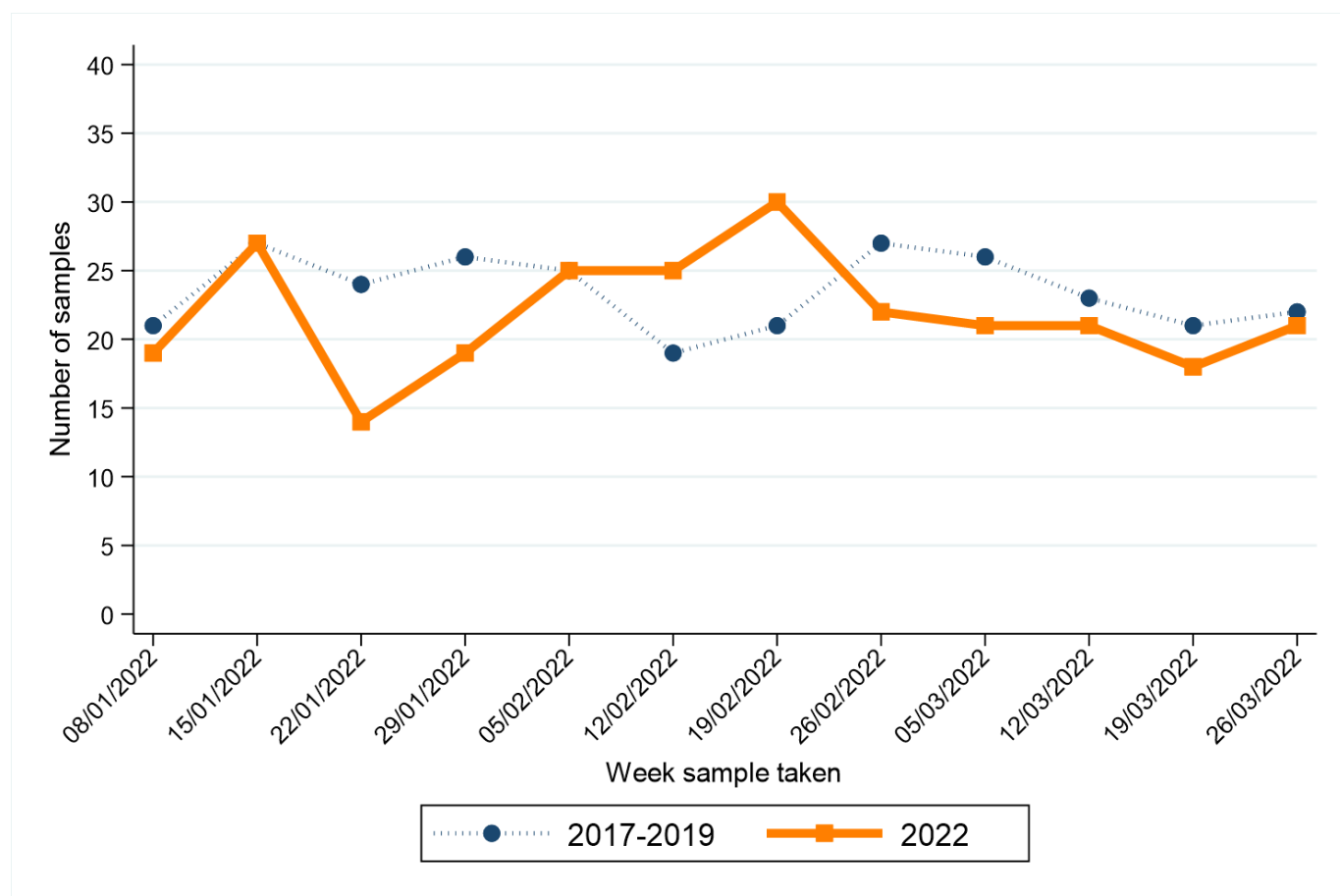
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	101	97	54	73
Feb	84	70	64	94
Mar	91	76	80	75
Apr	77	51	56	.
May	104	60	68	.
Jun	102	70	81	.
Jul	94	69	84	.
Aug	104	68	104	.
Sep	90	77	85	.
Oct	98	82	87	.
Nov	93	90	108	.
Dec	80	89	88	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-7.1%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
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	30
26/02/2022	27	22
05/03/2022	26	21
12/03/2022	23	21
19/03/2022	21	18
26/03/2022	22	21

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

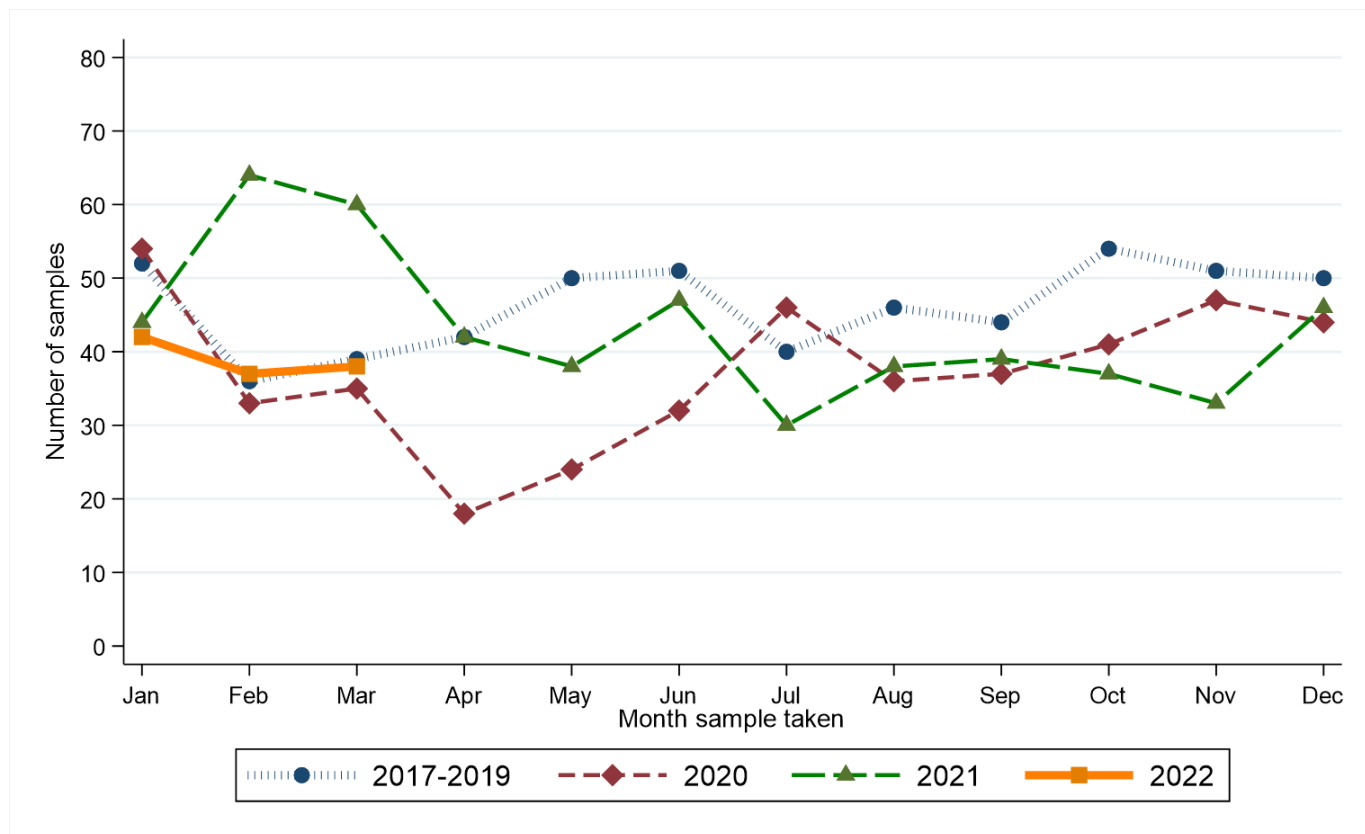
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# HEAD AND NECK CANCER

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

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

**-13.4%**



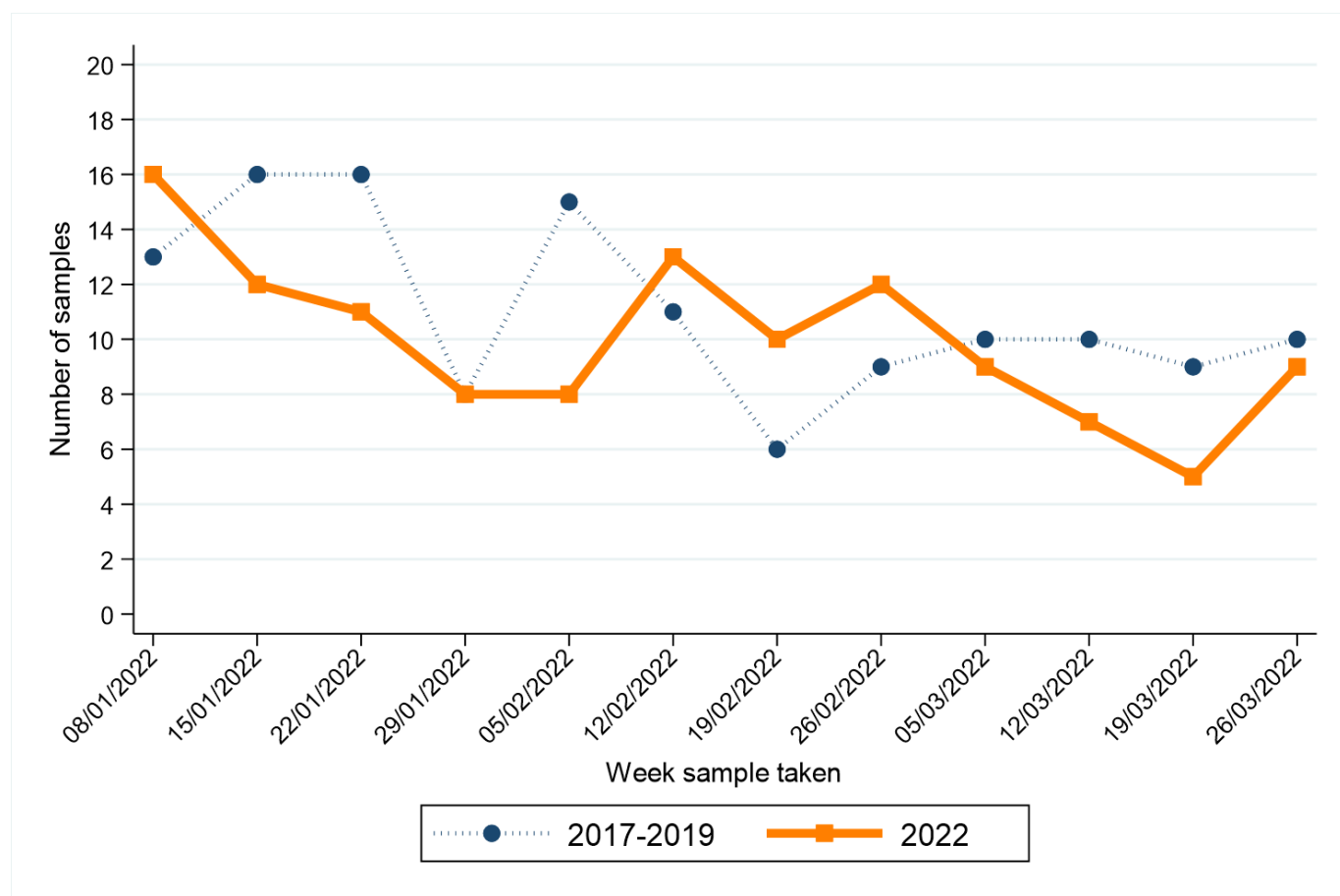
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	52	54	44	42
Feb	36	33	64	37
Mar	39	35	60	38
Apr	42	18	42	.
May	50	24	38	.
Jun	51	32	47	.
Jul	40	46	30	.
Aug	46	36	38	.
Sep	44	37	39	.
Oct	54	41	37	.
Nov	51	47	33	.
Dec	50	44	46	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-9.8%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
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	12
05/03/2022	10	9
12/03/2022	10	7
19/03/2022	9	5
26/03/2022	10	9

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

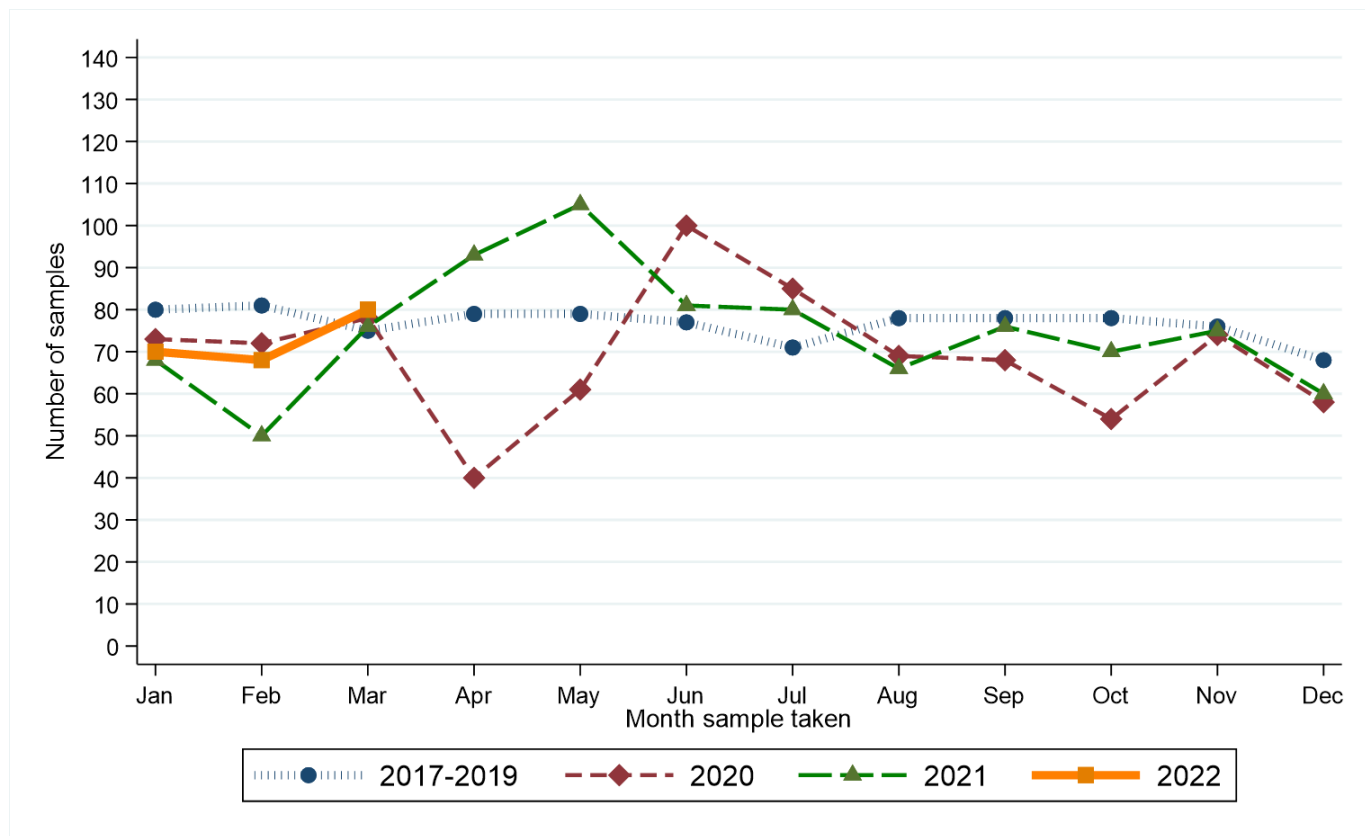
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# URINARY CANCER

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

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

**-5.7%**



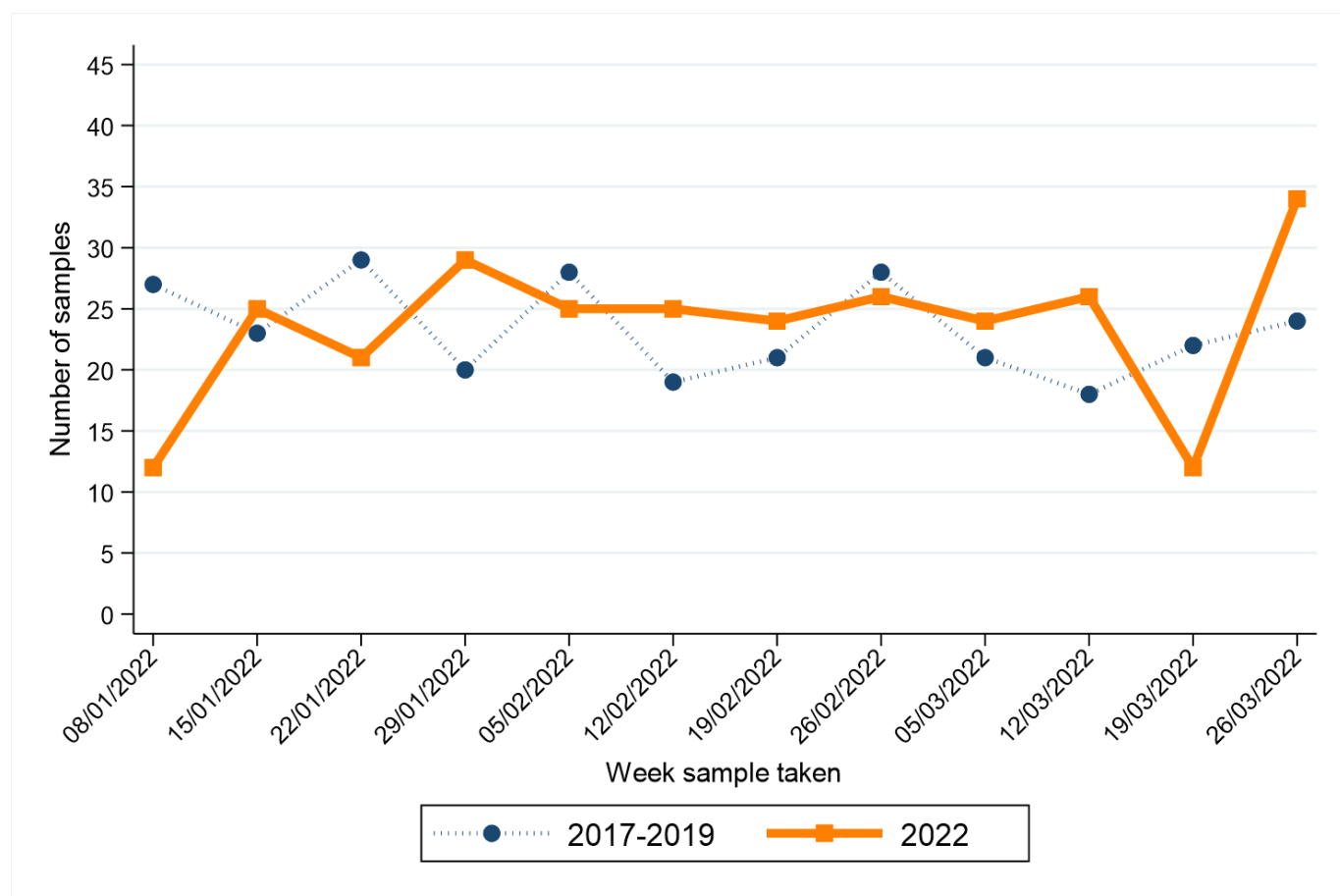
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	80	73	68	70
Feb	81	72	50	68
Mar	75	78	76	80
Apr	79	40	93	.
May	79	61	105	.
Jun	77	100	81	.
Jul	71	85	80	.
Aug	78	69	66	.
Sep	78	68	76	.
Oct	78	54	70	.
Nov	76	74	75	.
Dec	68	58	60	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**+1.1%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
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
05/03/2022	21	24
12/03/2022	18	26
19/03/2022	22	12
26/03/2022	24	34

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

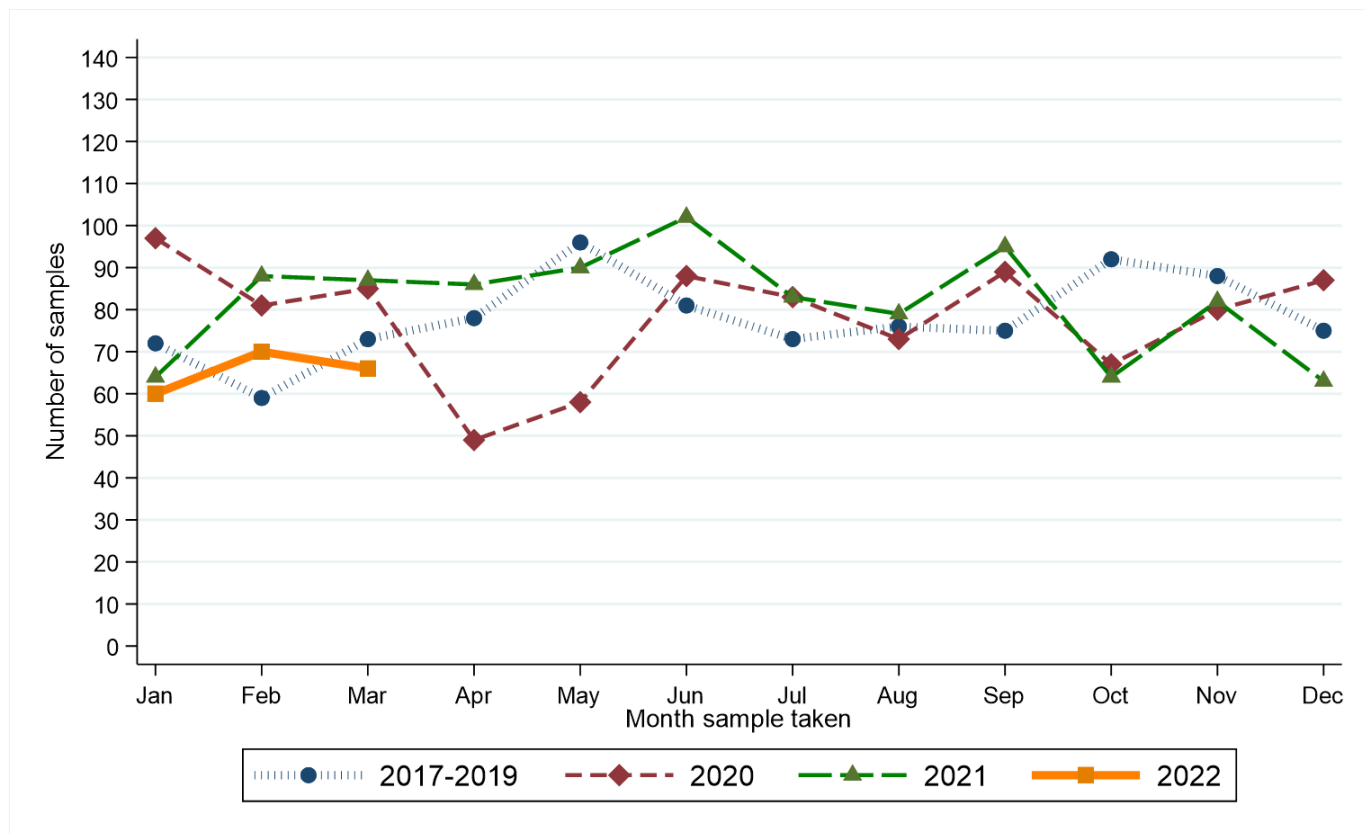
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# HAEMATOLOGICAL CANCER

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

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

**-0.6%**



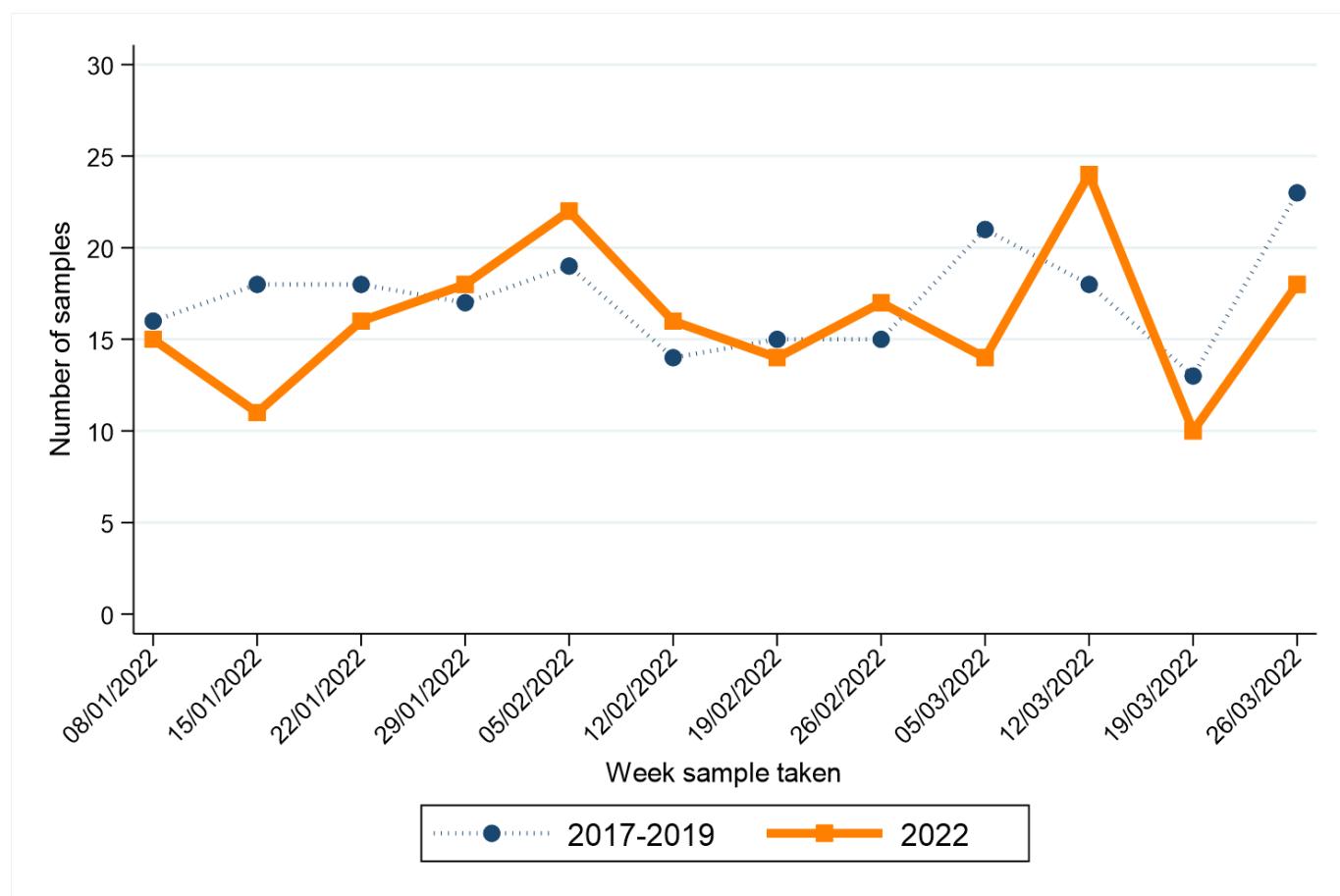
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	72	97	64	60
Feb	59	81	88	70
Mar	73	85	87	66
Apr	78	49	86	.
May	96	58	90	.
Jun	81	88	102	.
Jul	73	83	83	.
Aug	76	73	79	.
Sep	75	89	95	.
Oct	92	67	64	.
Nov	88	80	82	.
Dec	75	87	63	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-5.8%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
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	14
26/02/2022	15	17
05/03/2022	21	14
12/03/2022	18	24
19/03/2022	13	10
26/03/2022	23	18

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

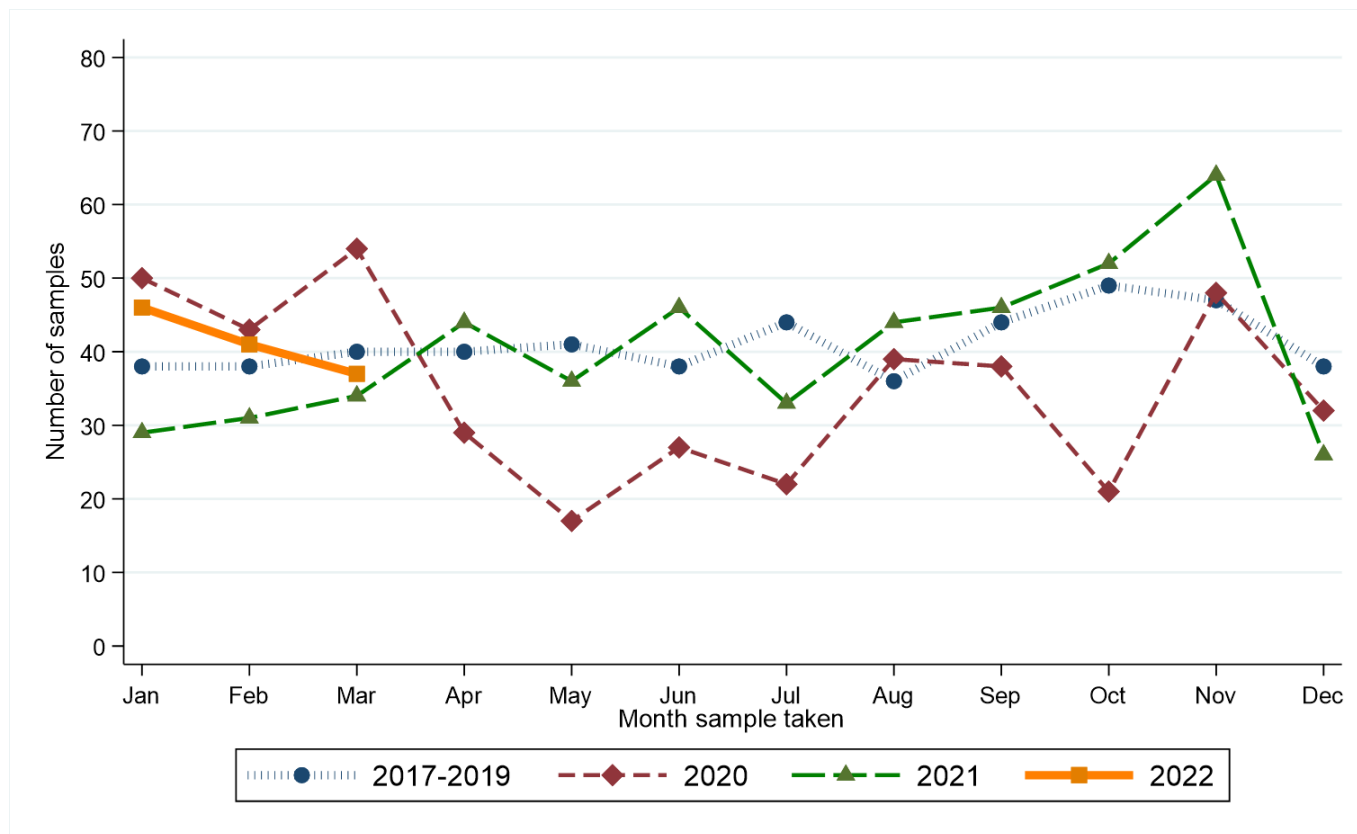
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# MELANOMA

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

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

**-8.8%**



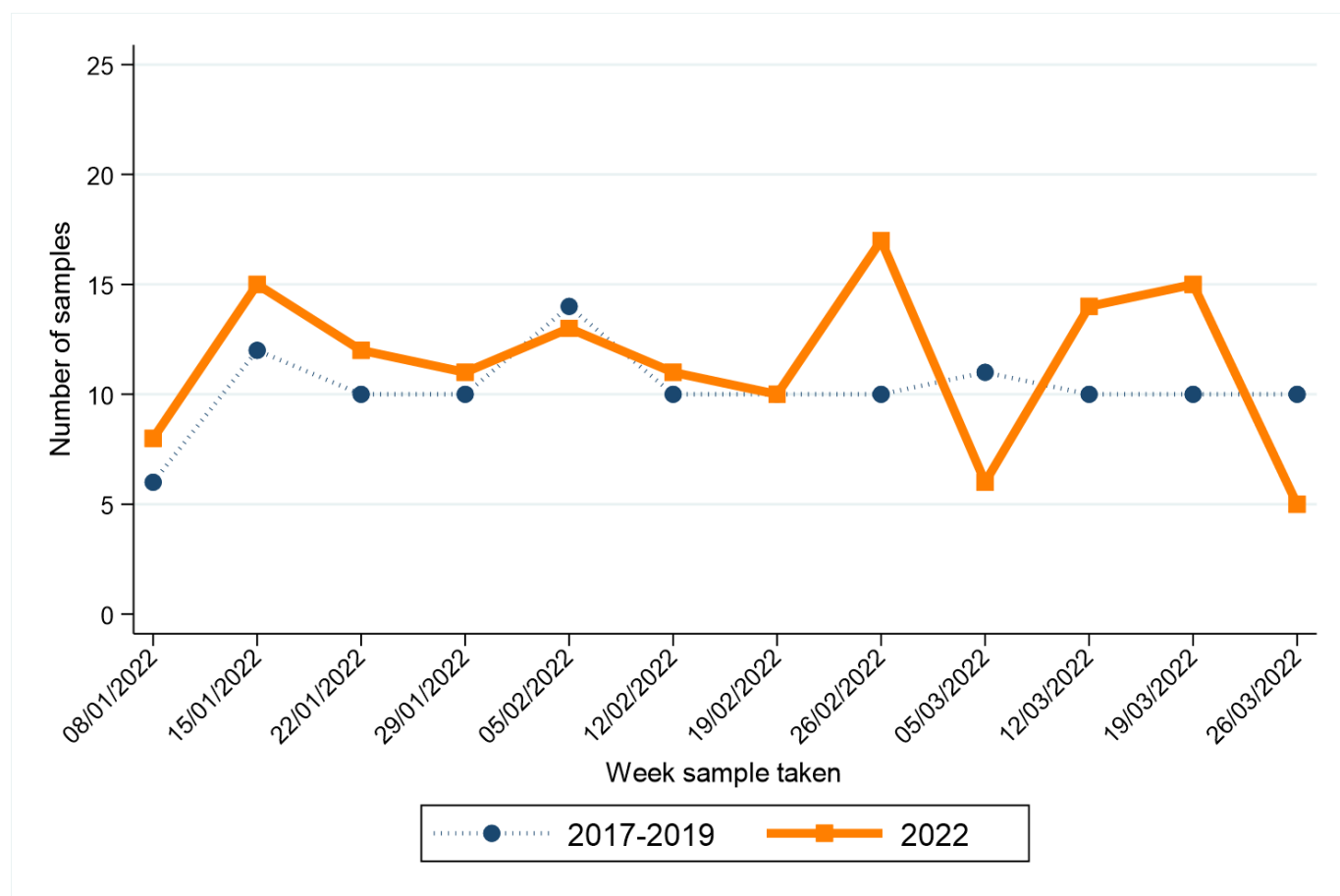
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	38	50	29	46
Feb	38	43	31	41
Mar	40	54	34	37
Apr	40	29	44	.
May	41	17	36	.
Jun	38	27	46	.
Jul	44	22	33	.
Aug	36	39	44	.
Sep	44	38	46	.
Oct	49	21	52	.
Nov	47	48	64	.
Dec	38	32	26	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**+11.4%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
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	10
26/02/2022	10	17
05/03/2022	11	6
12/03/2022	10	14
19/03/2022	10	15
26/03/2022	10	5

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

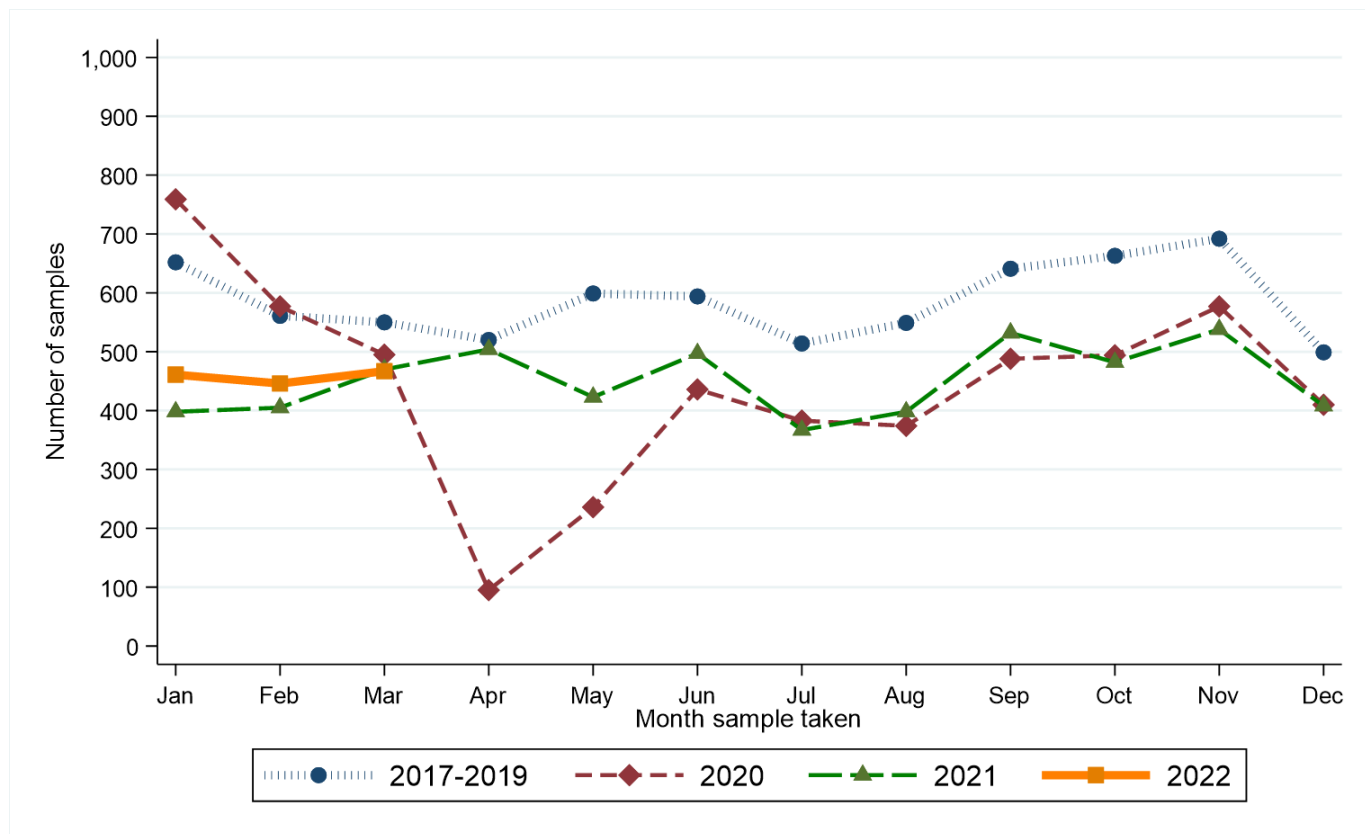
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCER

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

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

**-26.2%**



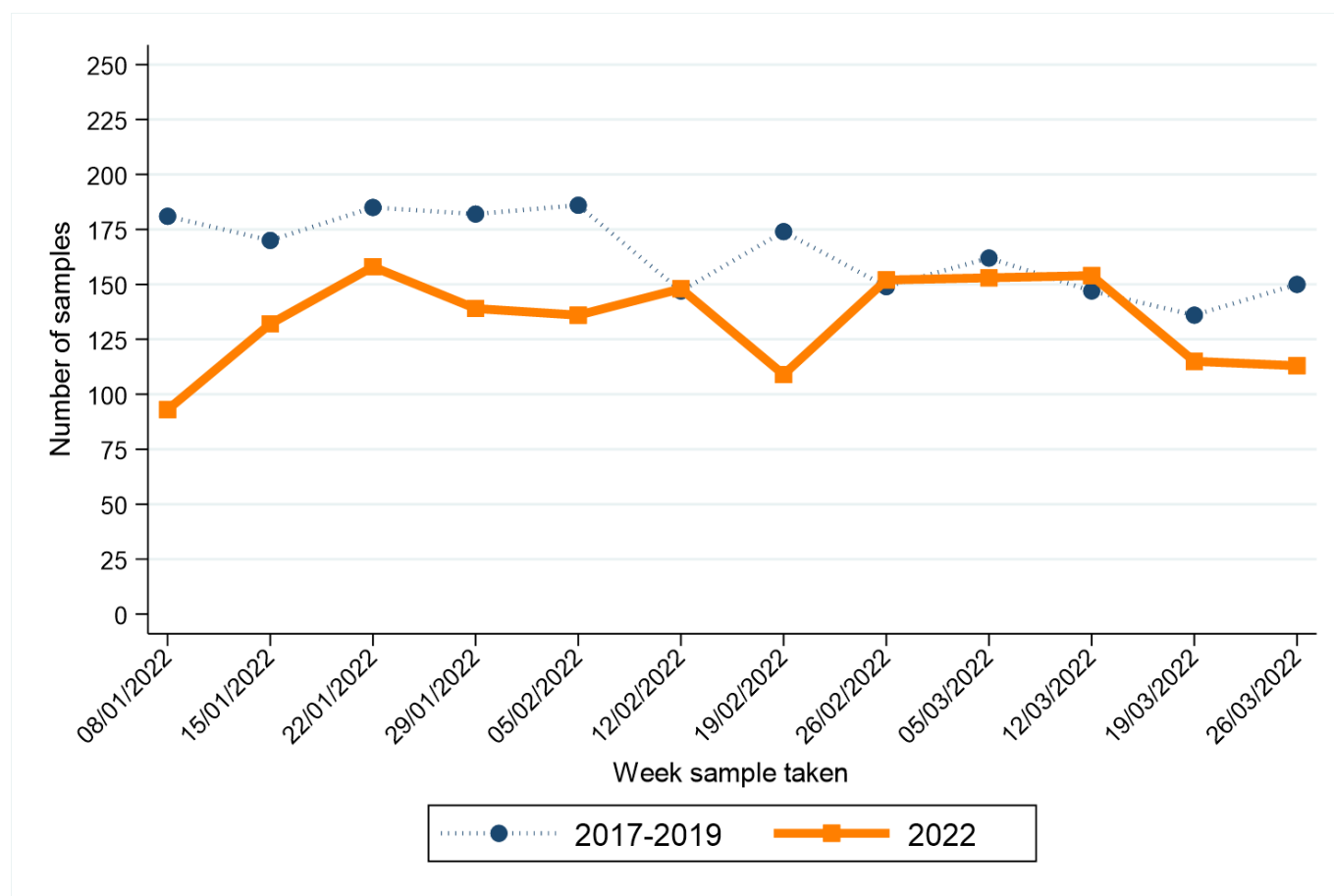
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	652	759	398	461
Feb	561	577	405	446
Mar	550	495	470	467
Apr	520	95	504	.
May	599	236	423	.
Jun	594	436	497	.
Jul	514	383	367	.
Aug	549	374	398	.
Sep	641	488	532	.
Oct	663	494	482	.
Nov	692	577	538	.
Dec	499	410	408	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**-18.6%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
08/01/2022	181	93
15/01/2022	170	132
22/01/2022	185	158
29/01/2022	182	139
05/02/2022	186	136
12/02/2022	147	148
19/02/2022	174	109
26/02/2022	149	152
05/03/2022	162	153
12/03/2022	147	154
19/03/2022	136	115
26/03/2022	150	113

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

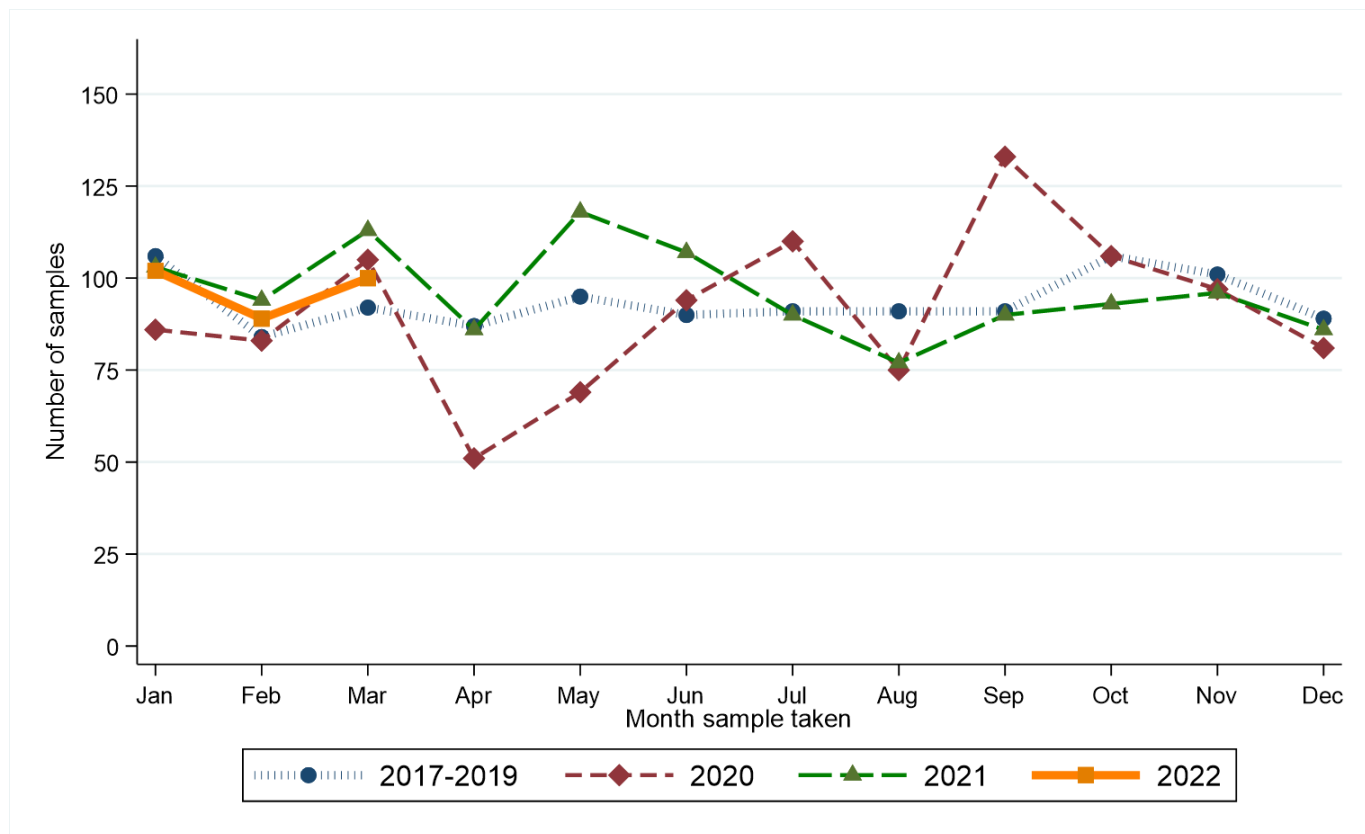
\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 2022. Data for previous years refers to the equivalent Sat-Sun week in those years.

# OTHER CANCER

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

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

**+1.2%**



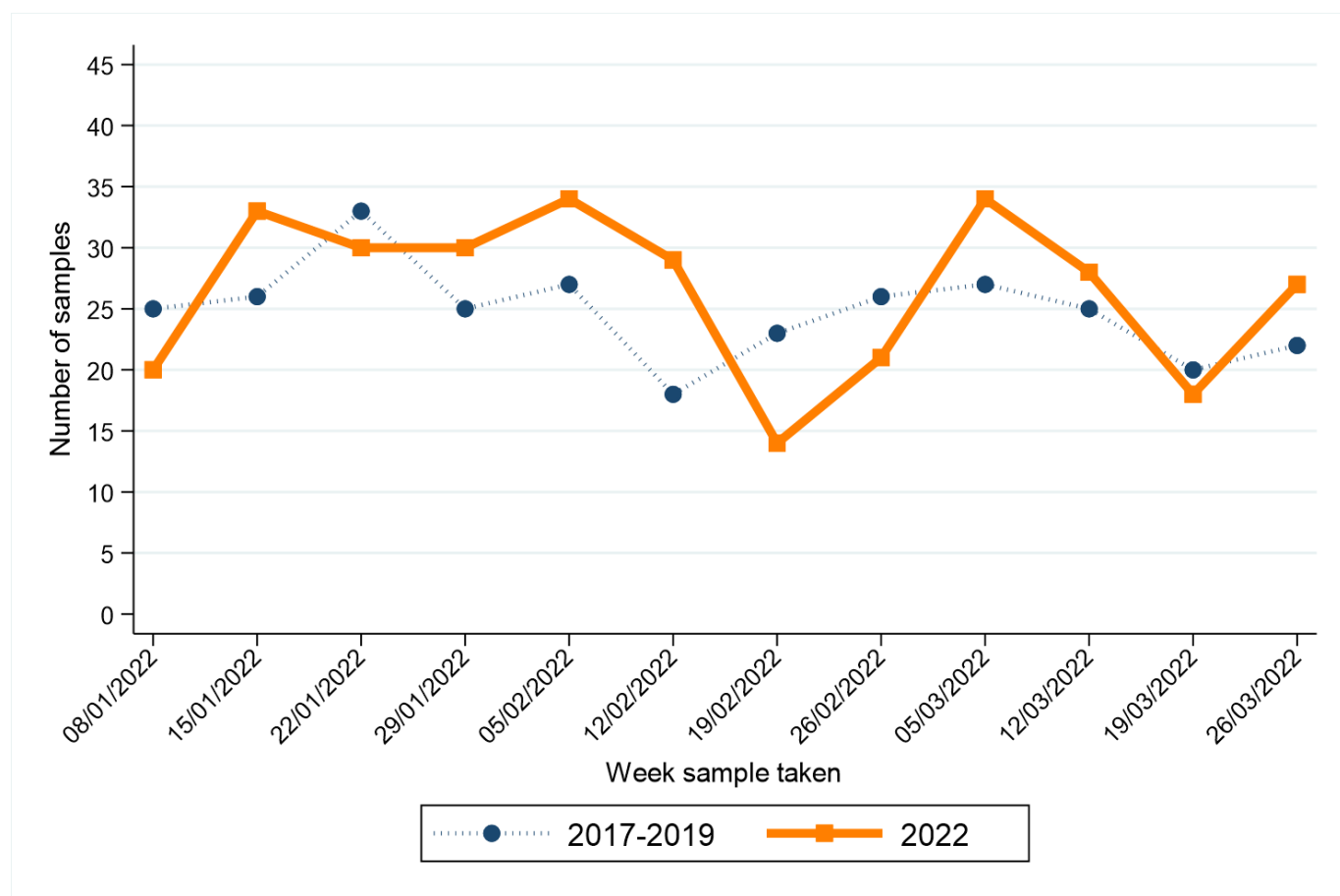
Month sample taken	Year sample taken			
	2017-2019*	2020	2021	2022
Jan	106	86	103	102
Feb	84	83	94	89
Mar	92	105	113	100
Apr	87	51	86	.
May	95	69	118	.
Jun	90	94	107	.
Jul	91	110	90	.
Aug	91	75	77	.
Sep	91	133	90	.
Oct	106	106	93	.
Nov	101	97	96	.
Dec	89	81	86	.

\* 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 26/03/2022 compared to expected number based on 2017-2019 average

**+7.1%**



Week sample taken**	Year sample taken	
	2017-2019*	2022
08/01/2022	25	20
15/01/2022	26	33
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
05/03/2022	27	34
12/03/2022	25	28
19/03/2022	20	18
26/03/2022	22	27

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

\*\* Date shown refers to the end date of the week in 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 March 2022. Due to potential reporting delays, pathology data from the month following March 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.