



Epidemiological report of SARS-CoV-2 on the Dutch Caribbean CAS- and BES-islands:

Week 35 (August 26th - September 1st, 2021)

Produced by the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment of the Netherlands - RIVM
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For general information on surveillance of COVID-19 on the CAS-BES-islands, see the next page.

Summary

In the week of August 26 through September 1, 2021, 893 people on the CAS- and BES-islands tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, a 25% decrease compared to the week before (August 19-25th, 2021).

On Aruba, the number of new SARS-CoV-2 infections is following a decreasing trend. Last week, 344 people per 100,000 inhabitants received a positive SARS-CoV-2 test result, a sharp decrease from the week before (487/100,000 on August 25th). The situation in the hospital remains worrisome. There are currently 64 hospital admissions, of which 14 in the ICU on Aruba and 16 in the ICU in Colombia. Only 18% of the current admissions have been (partly) vaccinated. Healthcare personnel has been sent to the island by the Dutch Ministry of Health (VWS), including 27 nurses and 8 doctors. In addition, healthcare staff from the smaller medical center IMSAN have stepped in. ICU capacity has also been expanded. The island has been reporting a rising number of COVID-related deaths for several weeks. Last week, 14 people on the island died from or with COVID-19. Of the 39 recent COVID-related deaths, 33 were unvaccinated. The fatalities among unvaccinated cases appeared to be younger (46-95 years) than those (partly) vaccinated (75-94 years). To ease the pressure on the critical situation within the hospital, stricter public health measures will apply as of September 2nd. The maximum number of guests allowed in restaurants, cafes, and at events is further limited. The alcohol ban and the restriction on gatherings will remain in force for the time being in public spaces, as will the mask obligation in indoor areas. There is now a limited curfew, valid for areas such as beaches and parking lots, between 7:00 PM and 5:00 AM. Education has restarted in most schools.

The number of SARS-CoV-2 infections on Bonaire is stable and low. Last week, 56 people per 100,000 inhabitants received a positive SARS-CoV-2 test result, a slight decrease compared to 60/100,000 a week earlier on August 25th). About a quarter of these cases concern imported infections. Local transmission mainly occurs within households of unvaccinated people. Test positivity has fallen slightly in the past week, from 6.6% to 5.5%. There are no hospital admissions. The clubs on the island will remain closed for the time being. Cultural activities have also been canceled for the time being. In addition, a maximum of 100 guests applies at events and the restaurants and cafes are obliged to close at midnight. These measures will be in effect until at least October 1st, 2021. The island is currently preparing to allow events with pre-entry testing policies. The island has also reopened to cruise tourism. The number of new as well as active SARS-CoV-2 infections in Curaçao continues to decrease, but the conditions in the hospital remains concerning. Last week, 153 people per 100,000 inhabitants received a positive SARS-CoV-2 test result, a decrease from a week earlier (204/100,000 on August 25th). The average age of the new infections is under 40 years old. Also, more women than men seem to be getting infected. Currently, 34 people have been hospitalized, of which 16 are in the ICU. Of the 117 people admitted for COVID-19 between July 22nd and August 30th, 2021, only 4 were fully vaccinated. Two of the vaccinated persons had underlying conditions. Last week 3 people died on the island from or with COVID-19. No deaths have been reported among vaccinated persons to date. The island has temporarily lifted the travel bubble between the CAS-BES islands.

On Sint Maarten, the increase in the number of new infections seems to have reached a plateau. Last week, 315 people per 100,000 inhabitants received a positive SARS-CoV-2 test result, a decrease from a week earlier (380/100,000 on August 25th). There are currently 16 COVID-related hospital admissions, of which 5 in the ICU and 1 in the pregnancy/gynecology ward. Only 2 of the patients admitted are fully vaccinated and 1 of the 5 ICU admissions is intubated. In addition, 2 patients have been transferred to Colombia and 1 to the US. In one week, 7 people died from or with COVID-19, a doubling of the number from a week earlier. One death concerns a patient who had been transferred to Colombia. The public health measures have not yet been

tightened. The incidence on the French side of the island is stable, but remains high (566/100,000 at week 33, 597/100,000 at week 32). In week 33, 26 new COVID-19 patients were admitted.

On August 30th, 1 new SARS-CoV-2 infection was reported on Saba. It concerns a fully vaccinated traveler from a very high-risk country who tested positive during the quarantine period. No new SARS-CoV-2 infections were reported on St. Eustatius last week. As of August 23rd, there are also no more active infections on the island.

Information on surveillance of COVID-19 on the CAS- and BES-islands

The Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands entails the countries Curaçao, Aruba, and Dutch St Maarten (CAS-islands), as well as the overseas municipalities Bonaire, St Eustatius, and Saba (BES-islands). Surveillance data of SARS-CoV-2 cases is collected on each island in collaboration with local medical professionals, laboratories, and public health departments. These surveillance data are shared by the CAS- and BES-islands through daily updates and stored in the SARS-CoV-2 IHR Daily Overview Dutch Caribbean; an overview of the spread of SARS-CoV-2 on the CAS- and BES-islands.

This report has been generated using surveillance data registered at the RIVM between March 22nd 2020 and 1 September 2021. Sometimes surveillance data is reported to the RIVM one or multiple days later than documented on the islands. The data presented in this report are based on the date of registration at the RIVM. Because islands retrospectively correct surveillance data, the crude estimates in this report may differ slightly from the data shared by each island. The data reported here may lag behind in case more recent data has not yet been reported to the RIVM by respective islands.

Everyone with symptoms of COVID-19 can get tested. However, it is plausible that not all individuals with a SARS-CoV-2 infection are tested. The actual numbers of cases can therefore be higher than the numbers reported here. The CAS- and BES-islands also register when individuals with a positive SARS-CoV-2 test result have recovered. These data are used to report the current number of active cases in Table 3. The number of active cases refers to the number of individuals who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 and who have not yet recovered at the time of producing this report.

Information on monitoring of COVID-19 vaccination on the CAS and BES islands

The COVID-19 vaccination campaign on the CAS-BES islands started in February 2021. Each island has their own vaccination campaign. The actual implementation of these vaccination campaigns depends on, among other things, the approval, operation, delivery and distribution of the vaccines, and on people's willingness to vaccinate. In this document we report the estimated total number of vaccinated persons and the vaccination coverage on the CAS-BES islands. The current report is based on data on vaccinations administered up to and including 1 September 2021 using monitoring data received from the Dutch Ministry of Health (VWS).

Disclaimer

Though this weekly report has been produced with the utmost care, it could possibly contain errors. Feedback on this overview is welcome.

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1 Overview of reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on the CAS- and BES-islands

Table 1: Number of laboratory confirmed cases with a positive test result for SARS-CoV-2 over the past 2 weeks, as reported to the RIVM by the CAS- and BES-islands

Island	Date: from-until	Number of performed tests	Number of laboratory confirmed tests with positive test result	Positivity rate %
Aruba ¹	16-08-2021 - 22-08-2021	7025	653	9.3
	23-08-2021 - 29-08-2021	5312	462	8.7
Bonaire	16-08-2021 - 22-08-2021	258	17	6.6
	23-08-2021 - 29-08-2021	236	13	5.5
Curaçao ²	16-08-2021 - 22-08-2021	14224	404	2.8
	23-08-2021 - 29-08-2021	12485	274	2.2
Saba ³	16-08-2021 - 22-08-2021	-	1	-
	23-08-2021 - 29-08-2021	-	0	-
Sint Eustatius	16-08-2021 - 22-08-2021	315	1	0.3
	23-08-2021 - 29-08-2021	111	0	0
Sint Maarten ⁴	16-08-2021 - 22-08-2021	-	-	-
	23-08-2021 - 29-08-2021	-	-	-

¹ This estimate concerns a crude positivity rate for Aruba. The Directie Volksgezondheid Aruba reports a corrected positivity rate through: <https://www.facebook.com/desparuba>.

² The Public Health Department on Curaçao estimates a corrected positivity rate. Therefore, estimates presented here may differ from positivity rates reported by Curaçao.

³ A '-' value indicates insufficient data was reported to the RIVM to report in this table.

⁴ The positivity rate for St Maarten has been estimated using data of the PCR tests analyzed only. Therefore, estimates presented here may differ from positivity rates reported by Dutch St Maarten (SLS), as those include data of rapid antigen tests as well.

Table 2: Number of laboratory confirmed cases with a positive SARS-CoV-2 test result, number of hospital admissions¹ and number of deceased cases, cumulative and for the previous week, on the CAS- and BES-islands, as reported to RIVM

Island	Cumulative			Previous week ²	
	Number of cases	Hospital admissions	Deceased	Number of cases	Deceased
Aruba	14662	666	146	431	14
Bonaire	1759	66	17	13	0
Curaçao	15338	629	145	252	3
Saba	11	1	0	1	0
Sint Eustatius	24	0	0	0	0
Sint Maarten	3746	178	53	196	7
Total	35540	1540	361	893	24

¹ The number of hospital admissions cannot be displayed for the previous week due to a delay in reporting these data. The current number of persons hospitalized due to or with COVID-19 is reported in Table 3.

² These have been reported to the RIVM between August 25th and September 1st, 2021.

Table 3: Current number of active SARS-CoV-2 cases and status of COVID-19 hospital occupancy on the CAS- and BES-islands, as reported to RIVM^{1,2}

Island	Number of active cases	Number of COVID-19 patients on general ward	Number of COVID-19 patients in the ICU	Oversees occupancy in Colombia	Oversees occupancy in the USA	Number of COVID-19 patients on OBGYN ward
Aruba	628	34	14	16	0	0
Bonaire	13	0	0	0	0	0
Curaçao	388	18	16	0	0	0
Saba	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sint Eustatius	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sint Maarten	265	11	5	1	1	1
Total	1296	63	35	17	1	1

¹ Number of active SARS-CoV-2 infections is defined as the number of persons with a SARS-CoV-2 infection of which the recovery has not been registered by the local public health department at the time of registration by the RIVM. These numbers can also be delayed if the contact tracing capacity at the public health department is limited.

Table 4: SARS-CoV-2 incidence rate per 100,000 residents on the CAS- and BES-islands¹, as reported to RIVM

Island	Incidence per 100,000 residents	
	Previous week ²	Previous two weeks ³
Aruba	275	753
Bonaire	43	112
Curaçao	124	326
Saba	52	52
Sint Eustatius	0	0
Sint Maarten	266	610

¹ The calculated incidence rates include the estimated number of undocumented migrants on each island, see Table 5.

² The incidence rate per 100,000 persons, for the previous week, has been calculated from 26 August 2021 until 1 September 2021.

³ The incidence rate per 100,000 residents, for the previous two weeks, has been calculated from 19 August 2021 until 1 September 2021.

Table 5: Number of residents and acreage of the CAS- and BES-islands¹

Island	Capital city	Residents	Acreage	Political status
Aruba	Oranjestad	125.282	180 km ²	Country within the Kingdom of The Netherlands
Bonaire	Kralendijk	23.173	288 km ²	Dutch municipality
Curaçao	Willemstad	164.223	444 km ²	Country within the Kingdom of The Netherlands
Saba	The Bottom	1.918	13 km ²	Dutch municipality
Sint Maarten	Philipsburg	62.323	34 km ²	Country within the Kingdom of The Netherlands
Sint Eustatius	Oranjestad	3.142	21 km ²	Dutch municipality

¹ These numbers refer to the 2021 population sizes. Each island counts a substantial population of undocumented migrants. The reported incidence rates include the estimated population of undocumented migrants. On Aruba, Curaçao, and Dutch St Maarten the population size is estimated to be between 8,000 and 20,000 migrants in 2021. On Bonaire the population size is estimated around 1,400 migrants. These data are relevant to include as these populations are difficult to reach for local public health services and often have less access to curative care.

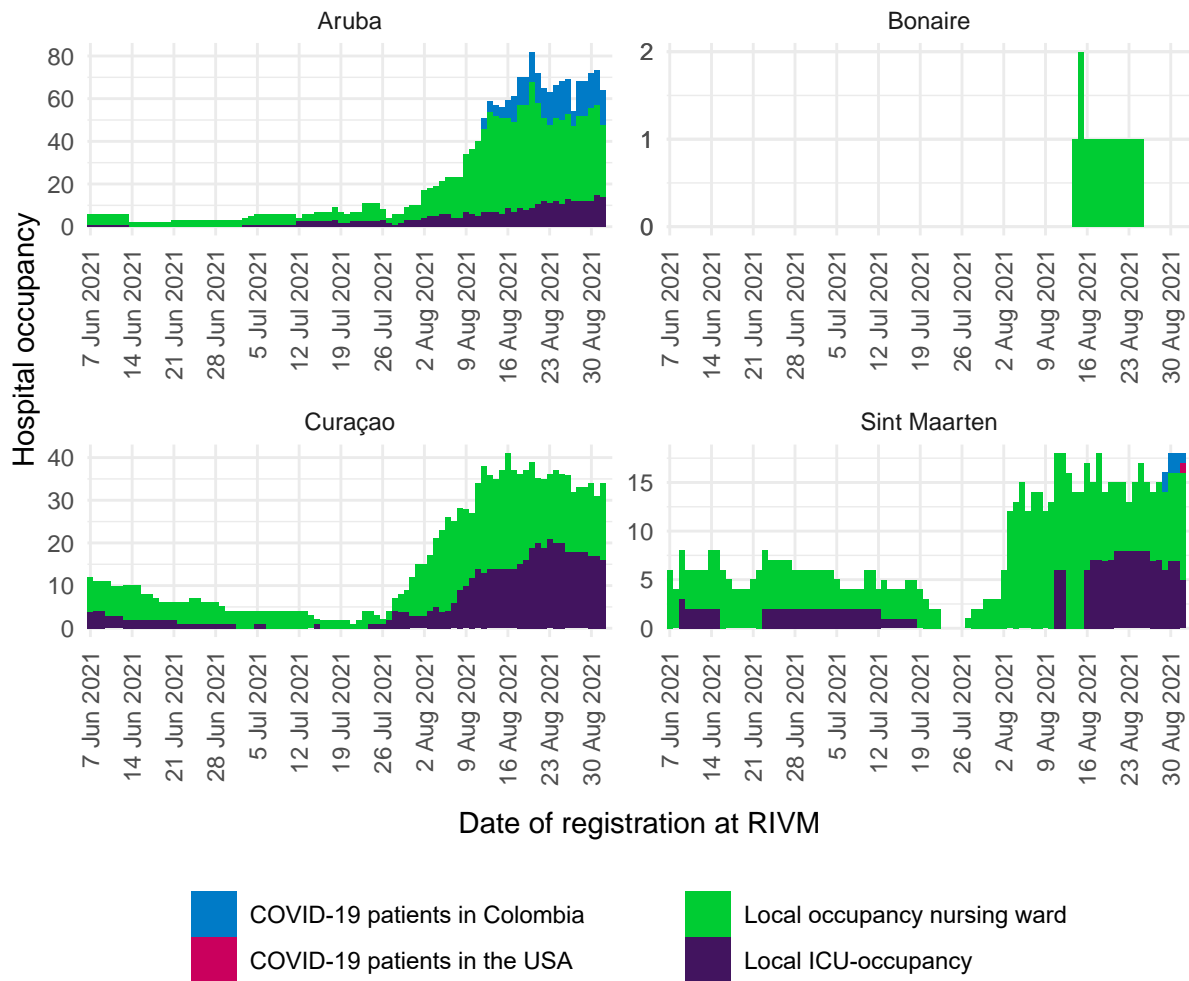


Figure 1: Progression of COVID-related hospital occupation over time ^{1,2,3,4,5}

¹ This figure presents the number of reported persons who have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 during or before admission to the hospital.

² The purple data represent the ICU-occupation over time, per island. The green data represent the occupation of the general hospital ward over time, per island.

³ Due to the low number of hospitalised patients on Saba en St Eustatius, these islands have not been included in this graph.

⁴ Based on the most recent data registered for Bonaire, the admission status is unknown for 234 persons who have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 since January 1st, 2021. These cases have not been included in this graph.

⁵ The reported data has been presented by the date of reporting to the RIVM. These numbers can lag behind when the most recent data has not yet been reported to the RIVM.

2 SARS-CoV-2 progression over time

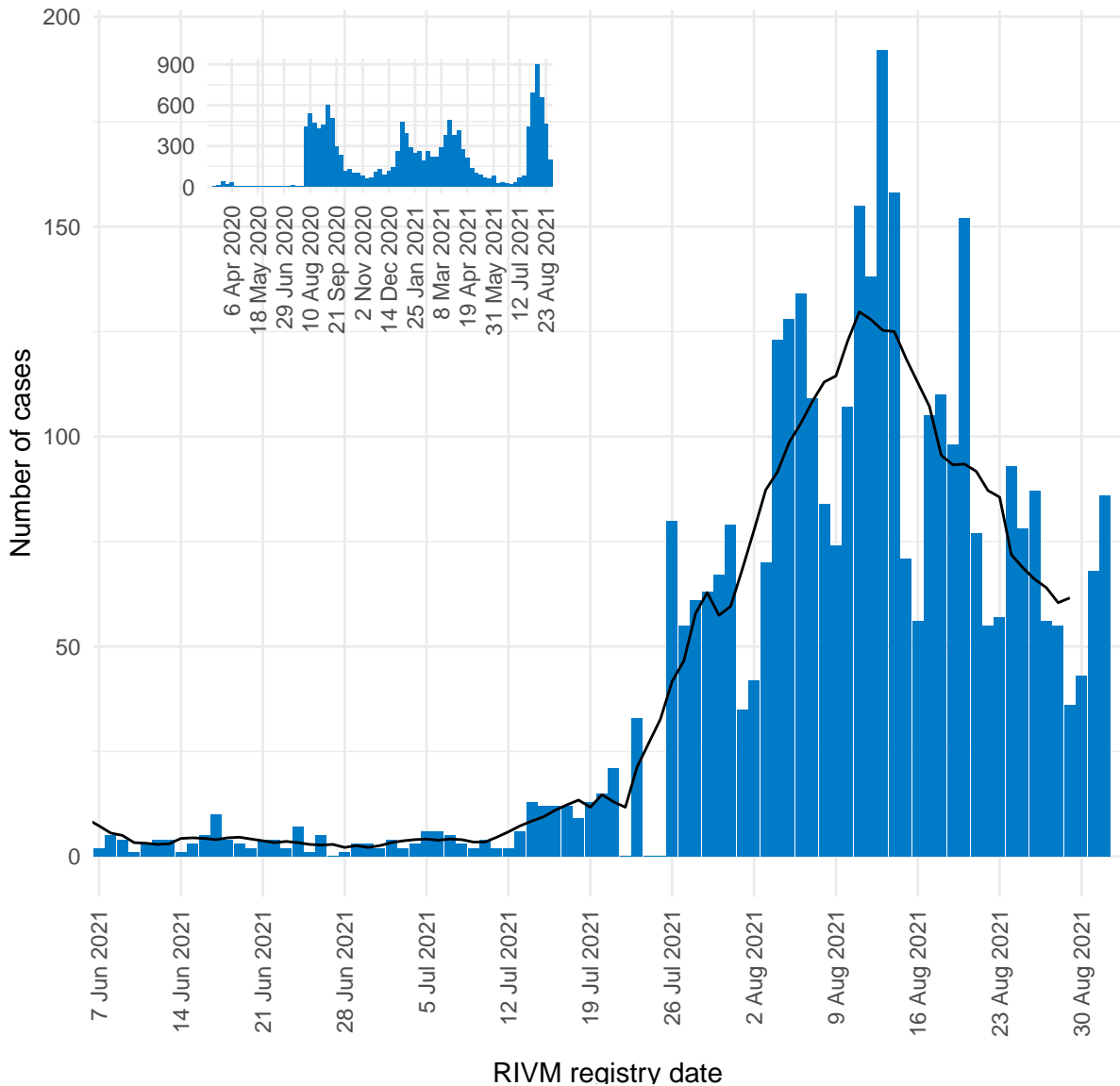


Figure 2: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Aruba, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

¹ This figure displays the daily number of new SARS-CoV-2 by date of reporting to the RIVM. The black line represents the 7-day moving average of new infections. The vertical axes of figures 1-6 differ due to dissimilarities in the quantity of cases between the islands.

² The reported data has been presented by the date of reporting to the RIVM. These numbers can lag behind when the most recent data has not yet been reported to the RIVM.

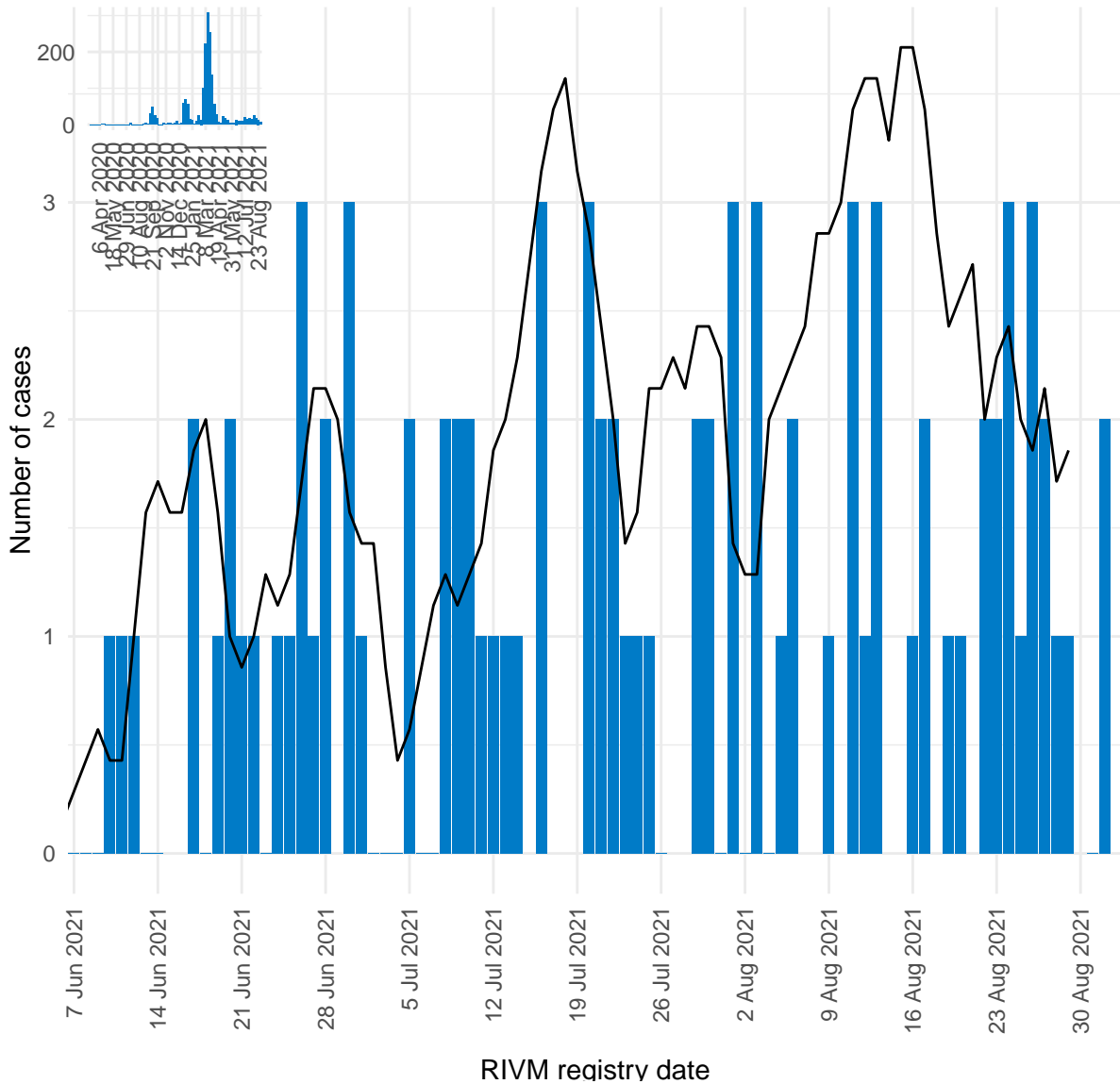


Figure 3: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Bonaire, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

¹ This figure displays the daily number of new SARS-CoV-2 by date of reporting to the RIVM. The black line represents the 7-day moving average of new infections. The vertical axes of figures 1-6 differ due to dissimilarities in the quantity of cases between the islands.

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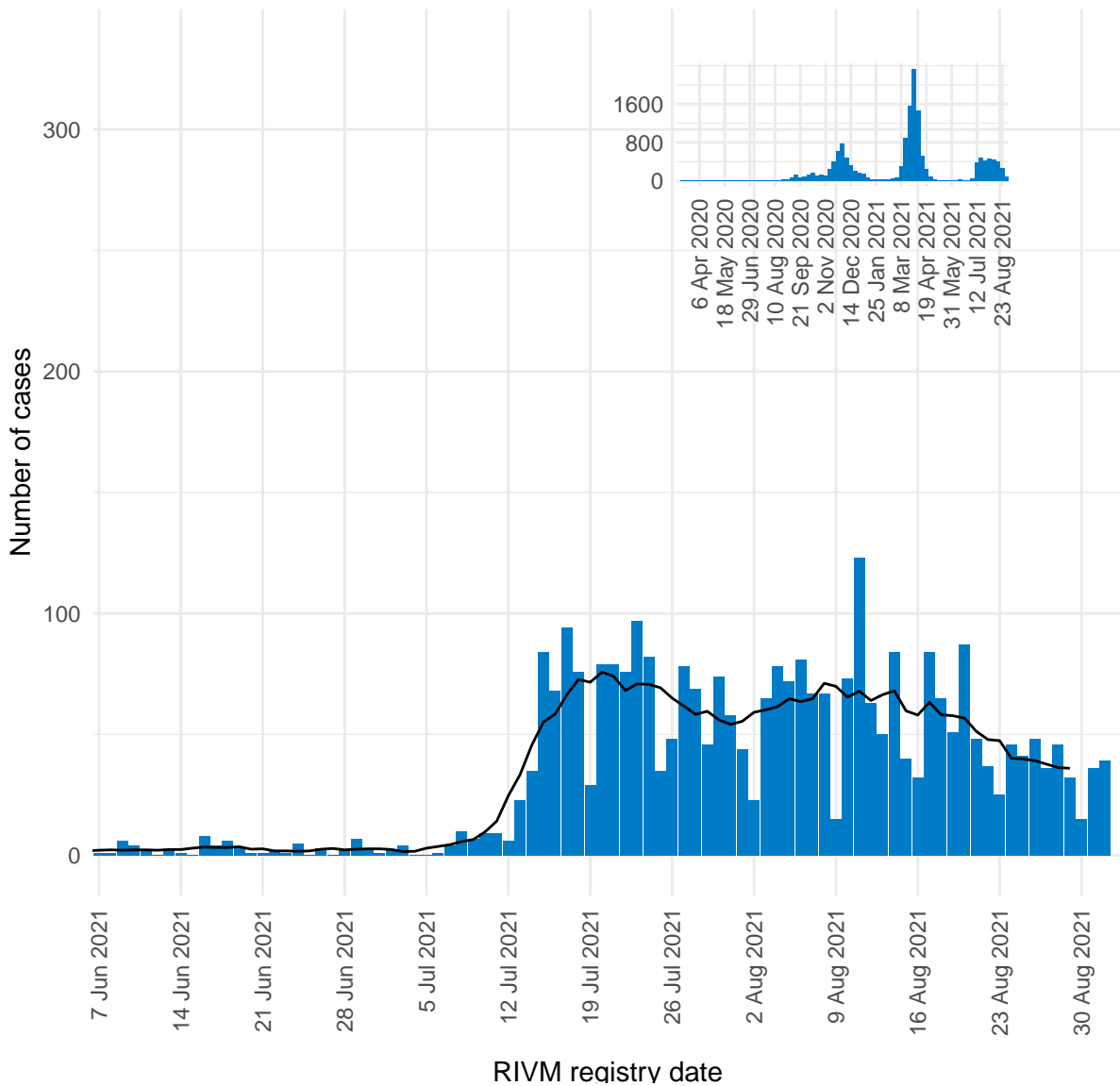


Figure 4: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Curaçao, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

¹ This figure displays the daily number of new SARS-CoV-2 by date of reporting to the RIVM. The black line represents the 7-day moving average of new infections. The vertical axes of figures 1-6 differ due to dissimilarities in the quantity of cases between the islands.

² The reported data has been presented by the date of reporting to the RIVM. These numbers can lag behind when the most recent data has not yet been reported to the RIVM.

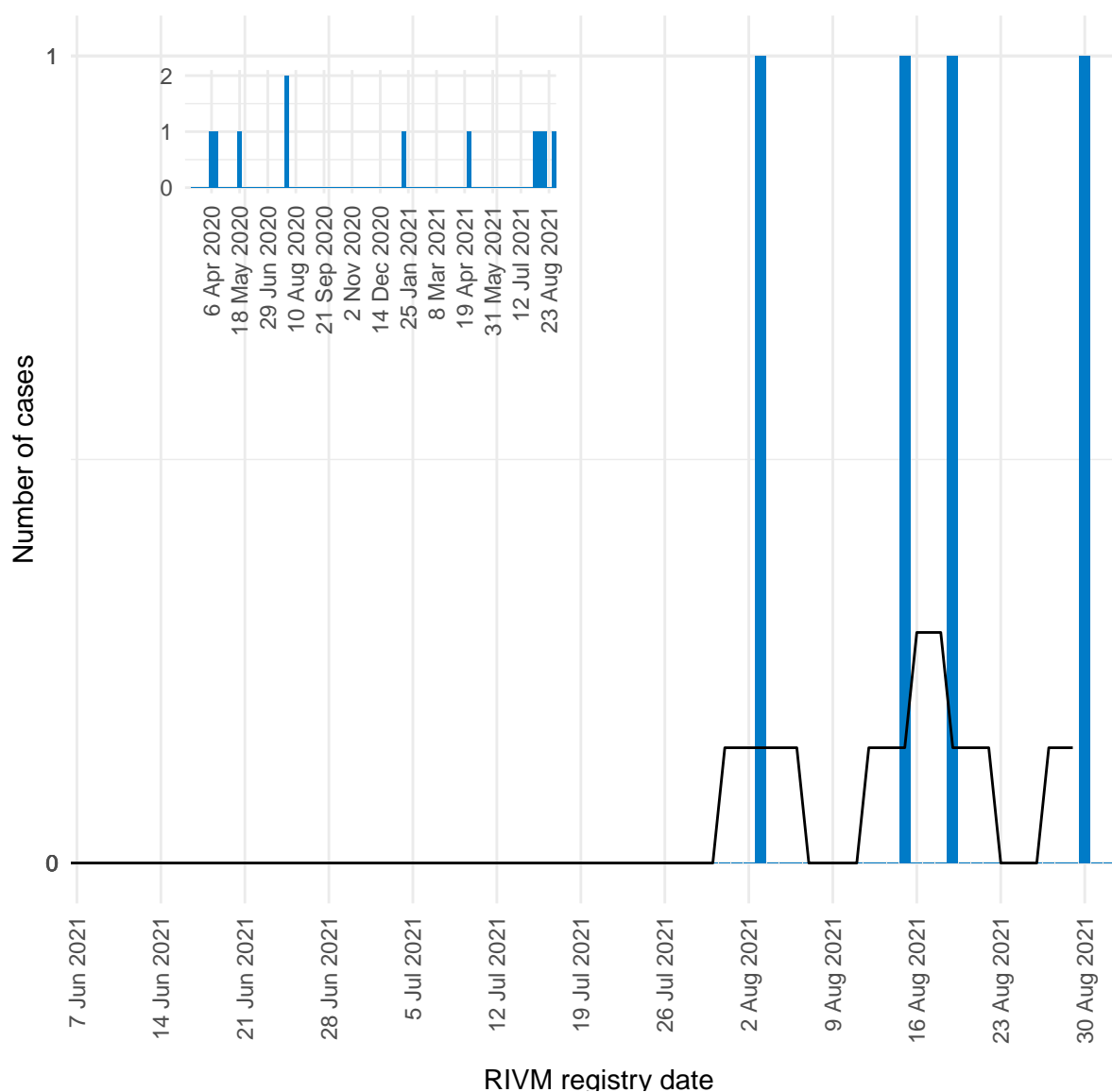


Figure 5: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Saba, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

¹ This figure displays the daily number of new SARS-CoV-2 by date of reporting to the RIVM. The black line represents the 7-day moving average of new infections. The vertical axes of figures 1-6 differ due to dissimilarities in the quantity of cases between the islands.

² The reported data has been presented by the date of reporting to the RIVM. These numbers can lag behind when the most recent data has not yet been reported to the RIVM.

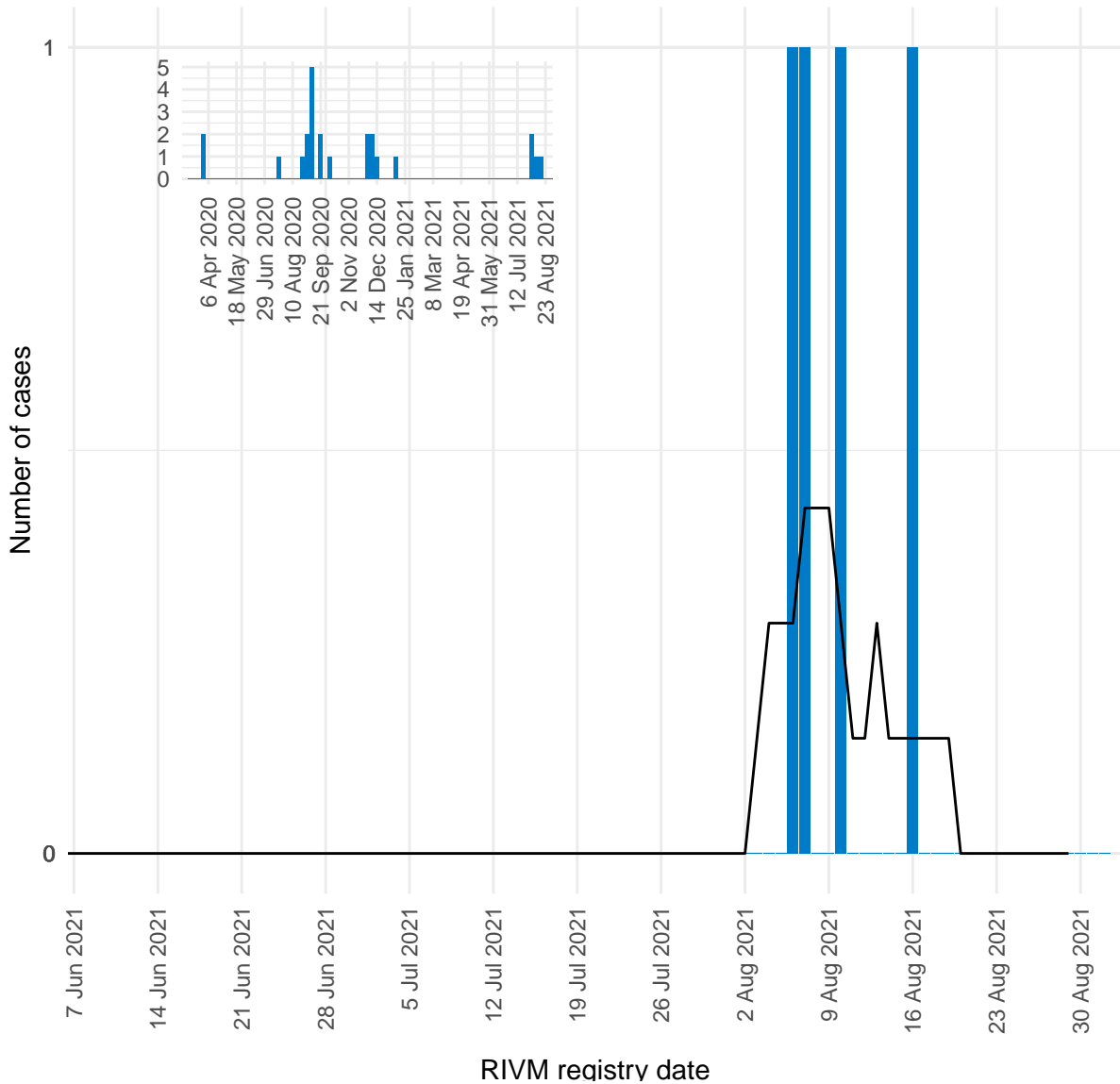


Figure 6: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on St Eustatius, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

¹ This figure displays the daily number of new SARS-CoV-2 by date of reporting to the RIVM. The black line represents the 7-day moving average of new infections. The vertical axes of figures 1-6 differ due to dissimilarities in the quantity of cases between the islands.

² The reported data has been presented by the date of reporting to the RIVM. These numbers can lag behind when the most recent data has not yet been reported to the RIVM.

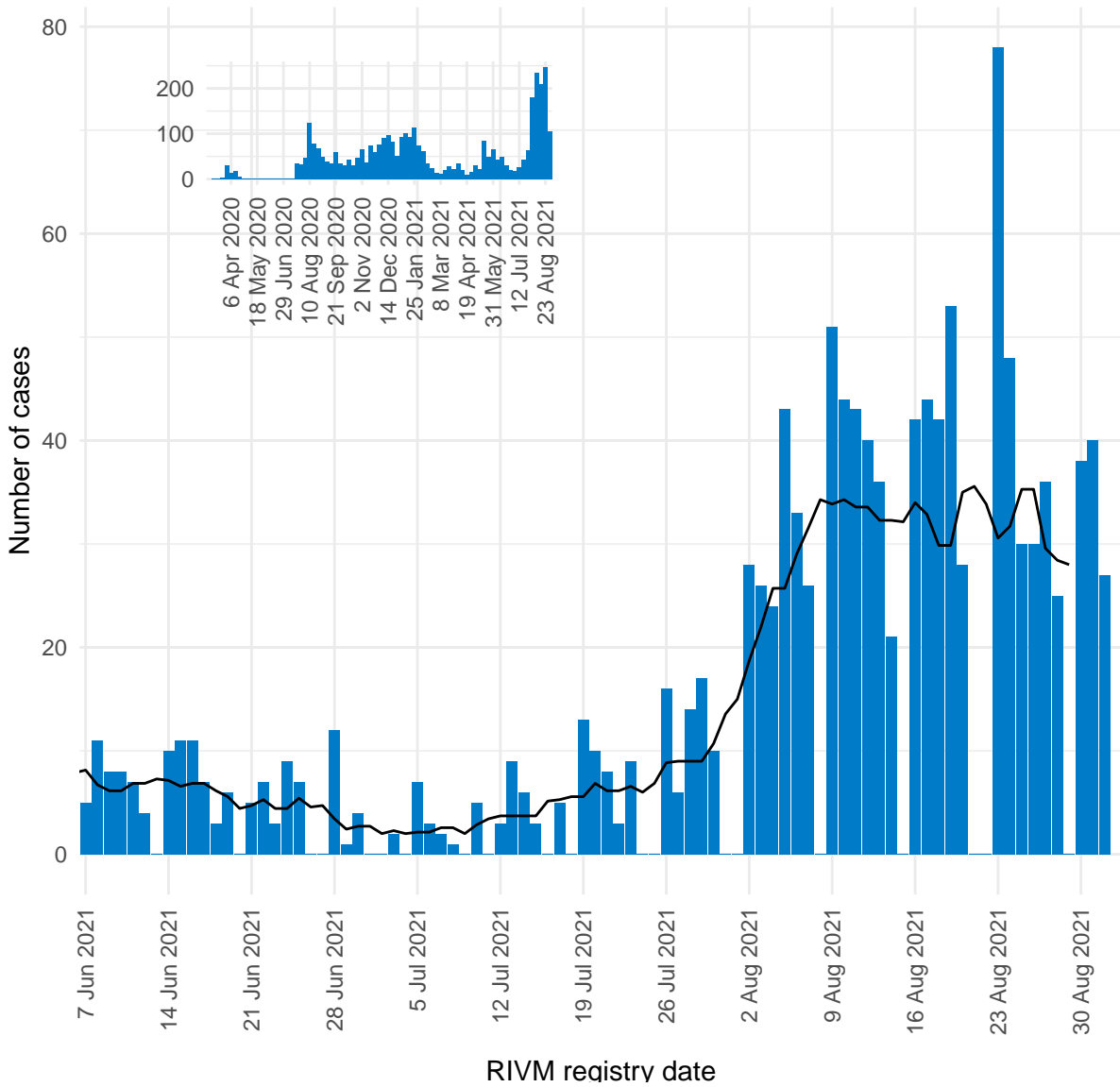


Figure 7: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Dutch St Maarten, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

¹ This figure displays the daily number of new SARS-CoV-2 by date of reporting to the RIVM. The black line represents the 7-day moving average of new infections. The vertical axes of figures 1-6 differ due to dissimilarities in the quantity of cases between the islands.

² The reported data has been presented by the date of reporting to the RIVM. These numbers can lag behind when the most recent data has not yet been reported to the RIVM.

3 SARS-CoV-2 three week average incidence rate, progression over time

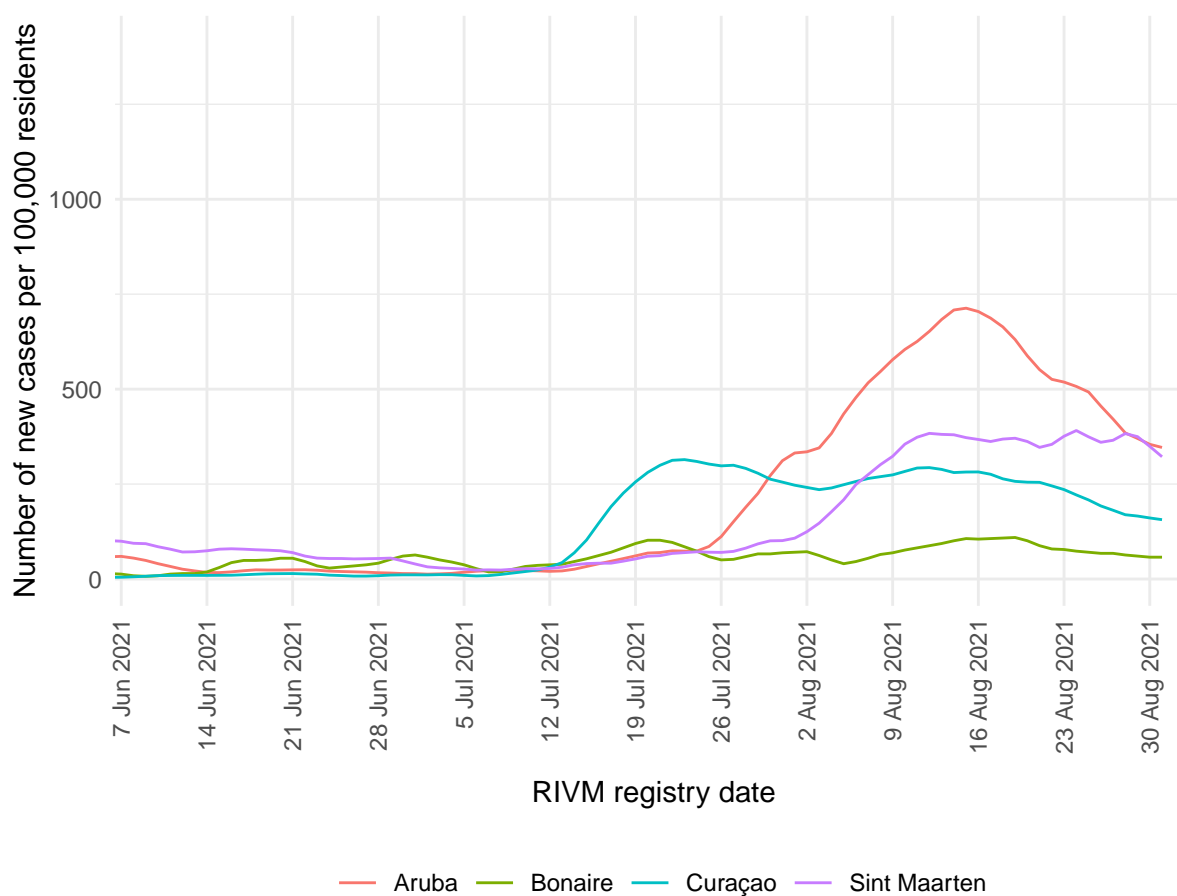


Figure 8: Three week average number of reported cases per 100,000 residents by RIVM registry date, on Curaçao, Aruba, Dutch St Maarten, and Bonaire^{1,2}.

¹ This figure displays the 3-week average incidence rate per island per 100,000 residents, including the population of undocumented migrants on each island. Each line on the vertical axis indicates a weekly average of the incidence rate (defined as the number of new cases per 100,000 persons per week, over the total population) over a period of three weeks. For example: the reported value on January 4th 2021, is the weekly average of the incidence rate between December 28th, 2020 and January 11th, 2021.

² Due to the small number of reported cases on Saba and St Eustatius, these islands have not been included in this figure.

4 Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered on the CAS-BES islands

Table 6: Number of first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered until August 30th, 2021¹.

	Aruba	Bonaire	Curaçao	Saba	Sint Eustatius	Sint Maarten ²
Number of persons who have received their first dosis (aged 12+ years)	76089	16111	95944	1548	1450	25491
Number of persons who have received their first and second dosis (aged 12+ years)	68512	13961	86313	1455	1320	22955
Number of fully vaccinated persons (aged 12+ years) ³	69055	13961	87308	1455	1320	22955
Number of high risk persons (aged 18-59 years) who have received their first dosis ^{4,5}	4019	-	9083	-	-	4504
Number of fully vaccinated high risk persons (aged 18-59 years) ⁵	3796	-	8385	-	-	2866

¹ The vaccination coverage data presented here is reported by the islands to the Dutch Ministry of Health (VWS) on a weekly basis. These data may lag behind from the vaccination coverage data presented by the island officials.

² These data refer to the numbers of vaccinated persons on the Dutch side of St Maarten. Vaccination coverage on

the French side of St Martin is reported by Santé Publique France on a weekly basis.
³ The number of fully vaccinated persons is defined as the number of completed vaccinations. This also includes persons who only require one dose of vaccine to be considered as fully vaccinated, due to having a history of SARS-CoV-2 infection. Both Aruba and Curaçao are reporting these data separately from the number of persons who have received two doses of vaccine. Dutch St Maarten and the BES-islands are currently not reporting these data. The number of completed vaccinations on those islands may therefore be an underestimation.

⁴ For the BES islands, no information was collected about high- and low-risk groups, because all residents within this age group could register for a vaccination at the same time.

⁵ Vaccination data for persons aged 60+ cannot be displayed here because these data are not reported to RIVM.

5 Vaccination coverage on the CAS-BES islands

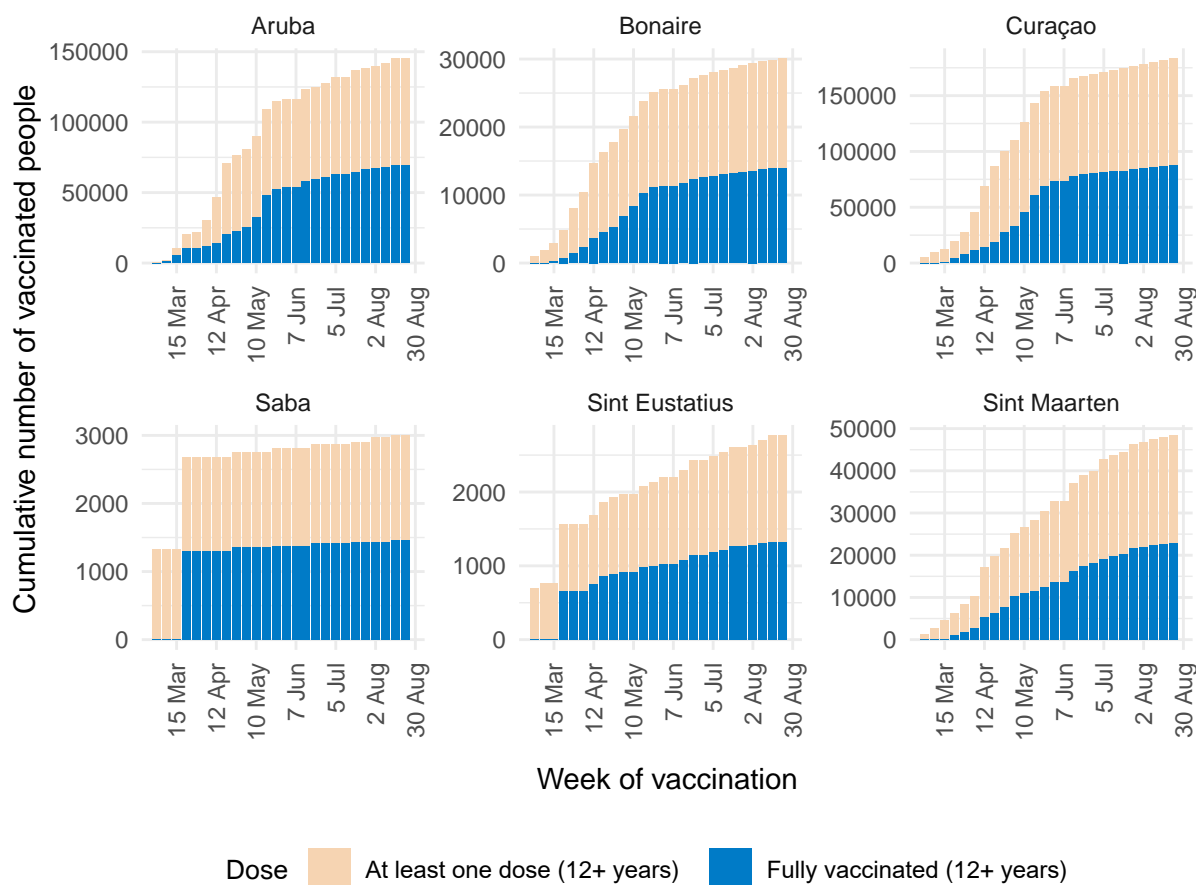


Figure 9: Number of first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered, cumulative by vaccination date, until August 30th, 2021^{1,2,3}.

¹ The vaccination coverage data presented here is reported by the islands to Dutch Ministry of Health (VWS) on a weekly basis. These data may lag behind from the vaccination coverage data presented by island officials.

² These data refer to the numbers of vaccinated persons on the Dutch side of St Maarten. Vaccination coverage on the French side of St Martin is reported by Santé Publique France on a weekly basis.

³ The number of fully vaccinated persons is defined as the number of completed vaccinations. This also includes persons who only require one dose of vaccine to be considered as fully vaccinated, due to having a history of SARS-CoV-2 infection. Both Aruba and Curaçao are reporting these data separately from the number of persons who have received two doses of vaccine. Dutch St Maarten and the BES-islands are currently not reporting these data. The number of completed vaccinations on those islands may therefore be an underestimation.

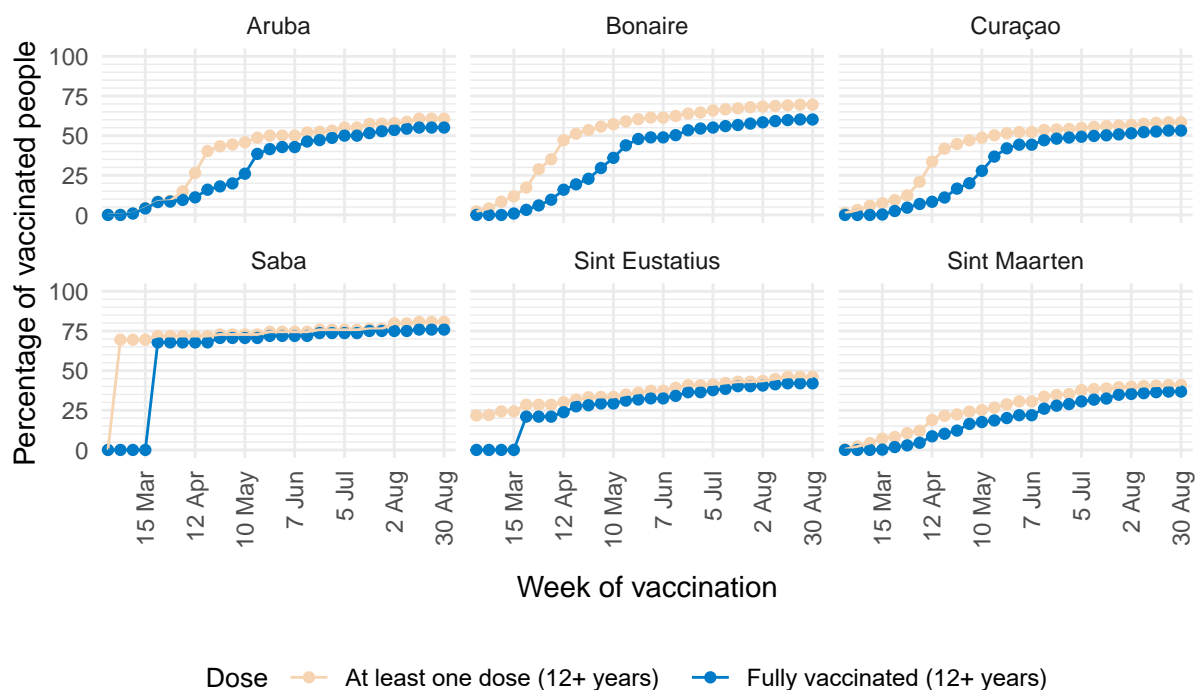


Figure 10: Percentage of residents aged 12 years or older who have received at least one vaccination dose and the percentage of residents aged 12 or older who have been fully vaccinated according to the current vaccination schedule of the vaccines used¹⁻⁴.

¹ The vaccination coverage data presented here is reported by the islands to Dutch Ministry of Health (VWS) on a weekly basis. These data may lag behind from vaccination coverage data presented by island officials.

² These data refer to the numbers of vaccinated persons on the Dutch side of St Maarten. Vaccination coverage on the French side of St Martin is reported by Santé Publique France on a weekly basis.

³ The vaccination coverage is defined as: Persons aged 12+ who have received at least one dose. A one-dose schedule is sufficient for persons who have indicated that they have demonstrably experienced COVID-19 in the past six months. They are included in the 'fully vaccinated' percentages presented in this figure. These numbers are reported separately per week 21 by Curaçao and week 22 by Aruba.

⁴ The number of fully vaccinated persons is defined as the number of completed vaccinations. This also includes persons who only require one dose of vaccine to be considered as fully vaccinated, due to having a history of SARS-CoV-2 infection. Both Aruba and Curaçao are reporting these data separately from the number of persons who have received two doses of vaccine. Dutch St Maarten and the BES-islands are currently not reporting these data. The number of completed vaccinations on those islands may therefore be an underestimation.