



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

Week 10 (March 2nd - March 8th, 2021)

Produced by the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment of the Netherlands - RIVM
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Summary

Between March 1st and March 8th, 2021, 434 new COVID-19 cases have been reported on the CAS- and BES-islands: 219 on Aruba, 119 on Bonaire, 82 on Curaçao, 14 on Dutch St Maarten, 0 on St Eustatius, and 0 on Saba. Since the start of the epidemic, 77 persons have passed due to COVID-19 in Aruba, 27 in Dutch St Maarten, 22 in Curaçao, and 5 in Bonaire. For general information on surveillance of COVID-19 on the CAS-BES-islands, see next page.

Summary Curaçao

Curaçao reported 82 new cases since last week. On March 8th, there were 114 active cases on the island, of which three patients have been admitted to the general hospital ward, and one patient to the ICU. The incidence rate was 44 cases per 100,000 persons in week 9, almost double the incidence rate of 25/100,000 persons in week 8. Surveillance on circulation of variants on Curaçao shows 26 cases of the VOC B.1.1.7 (UK) variant on the island and 2 cases of the B.1.1.222 (Mexico) variant out of 81 sequenced samples (proportions 32.1% and 7.4% respectively). Due to the increased transmission of COVID-19 on the island and the circulation of variants, measures have become stricter. On Wednesday February 24th, 2021 Curaçao started their vaccination campaign. By March 8th, 3,400 persons had received their first vaccination.

Summary Aruba

On Aruba the number of new cases has stabilized, however, hospital admissions remain high. The incidence rate remained similar to week 8, with 172 cases per 100,000 persons in week 9. Currently there are 23 hospitalized patients, of which 9 are admitted to the ICU. The number of active cases has increased to 192, of which 21 are tourists. Surveillance on circulation of variants on Aruba shows 50 cases of the VOC B.1.1.7 (UK) variant on the island, six cases of the B.1.1.222 (Mexican) variant, four cases of the B.1.429/B.1.427 (California) variant, and one case of the VOC Brazilian P.1 variant out of 317 sequenced samples (proportions 15.8%, 1.9%, 1.3%, and 0.3% respectively). By March 8th, 10,519 persons have received their first vaccination.

Summary Dutch St Maarten

The number of new cases in Dutch St Maarten continues to remain low. On March 8th, 19 active cases were registered on the island. The incidence rate lowered further to 23 cases per 100,000 persons in week 9, as compared to 43/100,000 persons in week 8. Currently there is one hospitalized patient. Surveillance of variants on Dutch St Maarten shows one case of the B.1.429 (California) variant, one case of the Brazilian P.2 variant, and two cases of the B.1.526 (New York) variant with E484K mutation out of 30 sequenced samples (proportions 3.3%, 3.3%, and 6.7% respectively). Dutch St Maarten and the BES-islands have started their vaccination campaign on February 22nd. By March 8th, 2,042 persons received their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine in Dutch St Maarten.

Summary BES-islands

Bonaire reported 119 new cases since last week. The number of active cases has risen to 113. Surveillance shows a shift in new cases towards the age group 20-29 year olds. The rising number of new cases is linked to several clusters. The incidence rate rose to 469 cases per 100,000 persons in week 9, as compared to 62/100,000 persons in week 8. Surveillance of variants on Bonaire shows eight cases of the B.1.1.7 (UK) variant out of 15 sequenced samples (proportion of 53.3%). Due to the increased transmission of COVID-19 on the island and the circulation of variants, measures have become stricter. By March 8th, 1,146 persons received their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine on Bonaire.

Both St Eustatius and Saba have not reported active COVID-19 cases since January 28th. On St Eustatius, 692 persons have received their first dose of the Moderna vaccine. On Saba the number of vaccinated persons is higher; 1,330 persons have received their first dose of the Moderna vaccine (88.6% vaccination coverage of adult population).

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 8 March 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.

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	Week	Number of performed tests	Number of laboratory confirmed tests with positive test result	Positivity rate %
Aruba ¹	22-02-2021	4496	217	4.8
	01-03-2021	4013	219	5.5
Bonaire	22-02-2021	115	13	11.3
	01-03-2021	343	99	28.9
Curaçao ²	22-02-2021	1877	43	2.3
	01-03-2021	2152	77	3.6
Saba ³	22-02-2021	-	0	-
	01-03-2021	-	0	-
Sint Eustatius	22-02-2021	53	0	0
	01-03-2021	50	0	0
Sint Maarten ⁴	22-02-2021	2285	24	1.1
	01-03-2021	1891	13	0.7

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 Dutch St Maarten has been estimated using public data of the weekly number of tests analyzed. Therefore, estimates presented here may differ from positivity rates reported by Dutch St Maarten.

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 patients	Number of cases	Deceased patients
Aruba	8127	291	77	219	3
Bonaire	538	15	5	119	1
Curaçao	4813	140	22	82	0
Saba	6	1	0	0	0
Sint Eustatius	20	0	0	0	0
Sint Maarten	2074	126	27	14	0
Total	15578	573	131	434	4

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 hospitalized COVID-19 patients is reported in Table 3.

² These have been reported to the RIVM between March 1st and March 8th, 2021.

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

Island	Number of active cases	Number of hospitalized patients on general hospital ward	Number of patients hospitalized in the ICU
Aruba	192	14	9
Bonaire	113	2	0
Curaçao	114	3	1
Saba	0	0	0
Sint Eustatius	0	0	0
Sint Maarten	19	1	0
Total	438	20	10

¹ These have been reported to the RIVM between March 1st and March 8th, 2021.

² The number of active cases is defined as the number of COVID-19 infected persons who have not been confirmed to have recovered from COVID-19 infection at the time of reporting these data to RIVM. These data may lag behind when islands have limited public health capacity to confirm recovery among infected cases.

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	149.1	309.1
Bonaire	520.5	616.4
Curaçao	41.8	63.6
Saba	0.0	0.0
Sint Eustatius	0.0	0.0
Sint Maarten	20.3	42.2

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 2 March 2021 until 8 March 2021.

³ The incidence rate per 100,000 residents, for the previous two weeks, has been calculated from 23 February 2021 until 8 March 2021.

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

Island	Capital city	Residents	Acreage	Political status
Aruba	Oranjestad	106.800	180 km ²	Country within the Kingdom of The Netherlands
Bonaire	Kralendijk	20.900	288 km ²	Dutch municipality
Curaçao	Willemstad	164.100	444 km ²	Country within the Kingdom of The Netherlands
Saba	The Bottom	1.915	13 km ²	Dutch municipality
Sint Maarten	Philipsburg	44.000	34 km ²	Country within the Kingdom of The Netherlands
Sint Eustatius	Oranjestad	3.138	21 km ²	Dutch municipality

¹ 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 around 20,000 migrants. On Bonaire the population size is estimated around 1,000 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.

2 SARS-CoV-2 progression over time

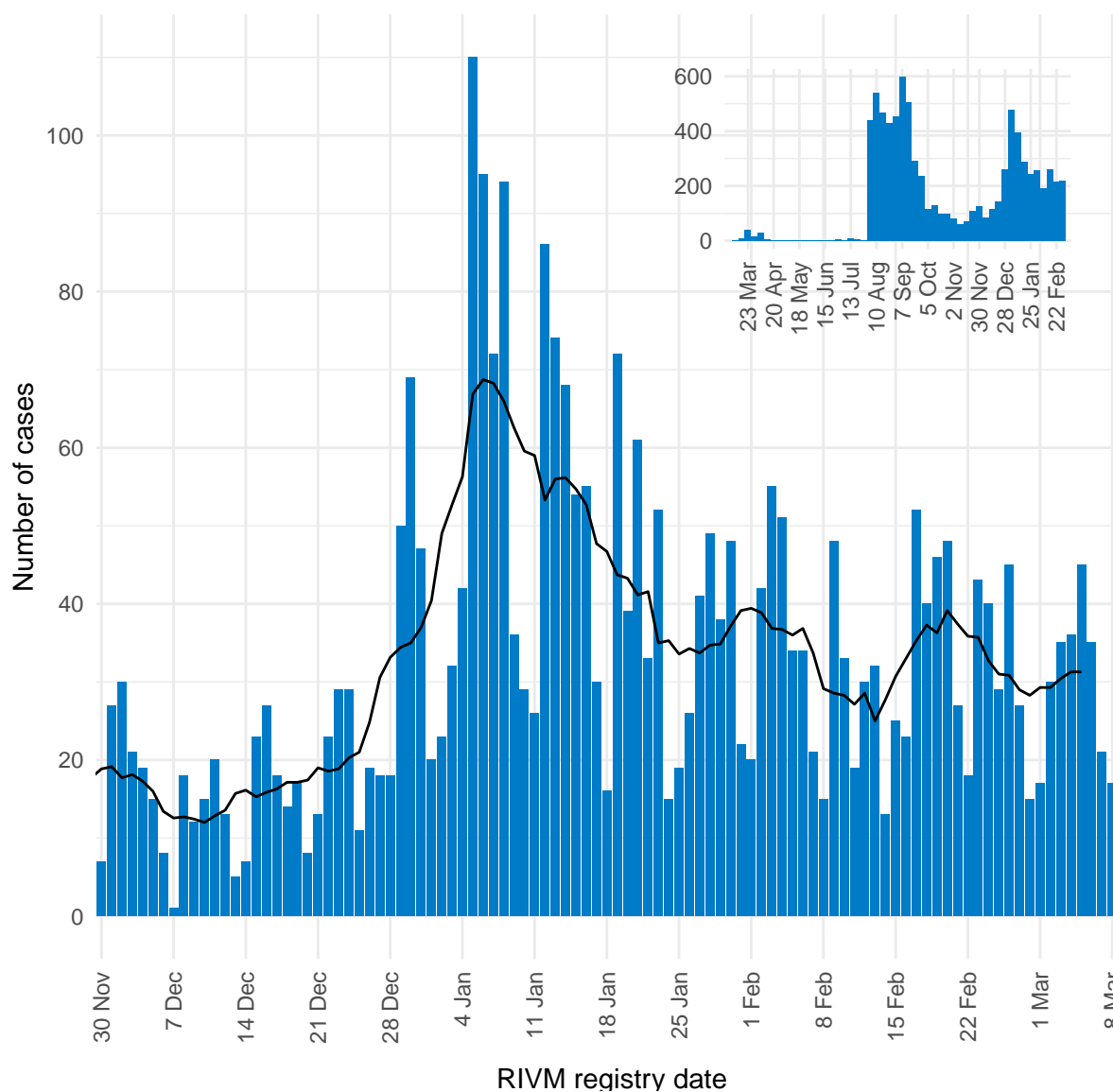


Figure 1: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Aruba, presented by RIVM registry date¹.

¹ The vertical axes of figures 1-6 differ due to dissimilarities in the quantity of cases between the islands. 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.

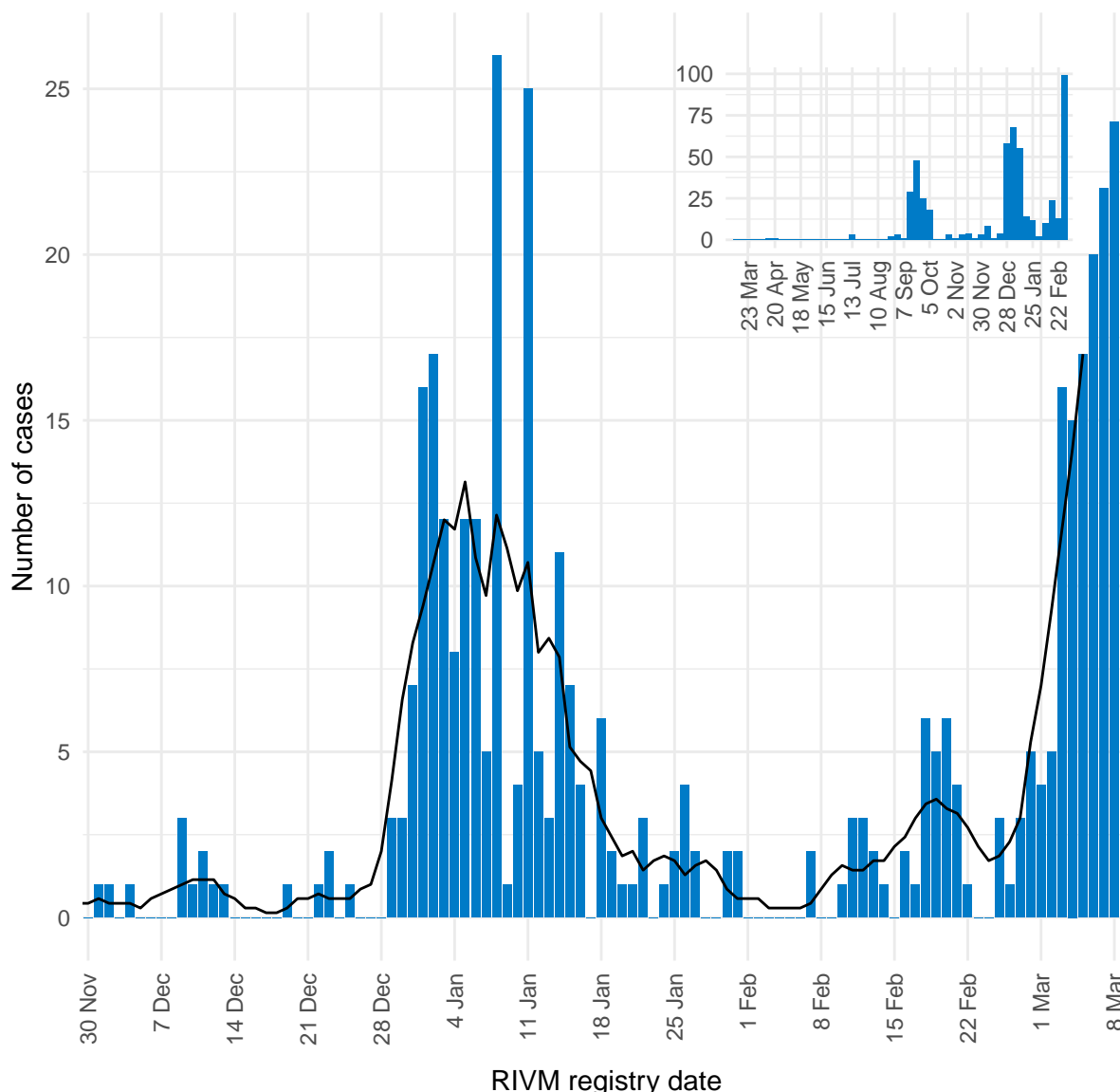


Figure 2: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Bonaire, presented by RIVM registry date¹.

¹ The vertical axes of figures 1-6 differ due to dissimilarities in the quantity of cases between the islands. 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.

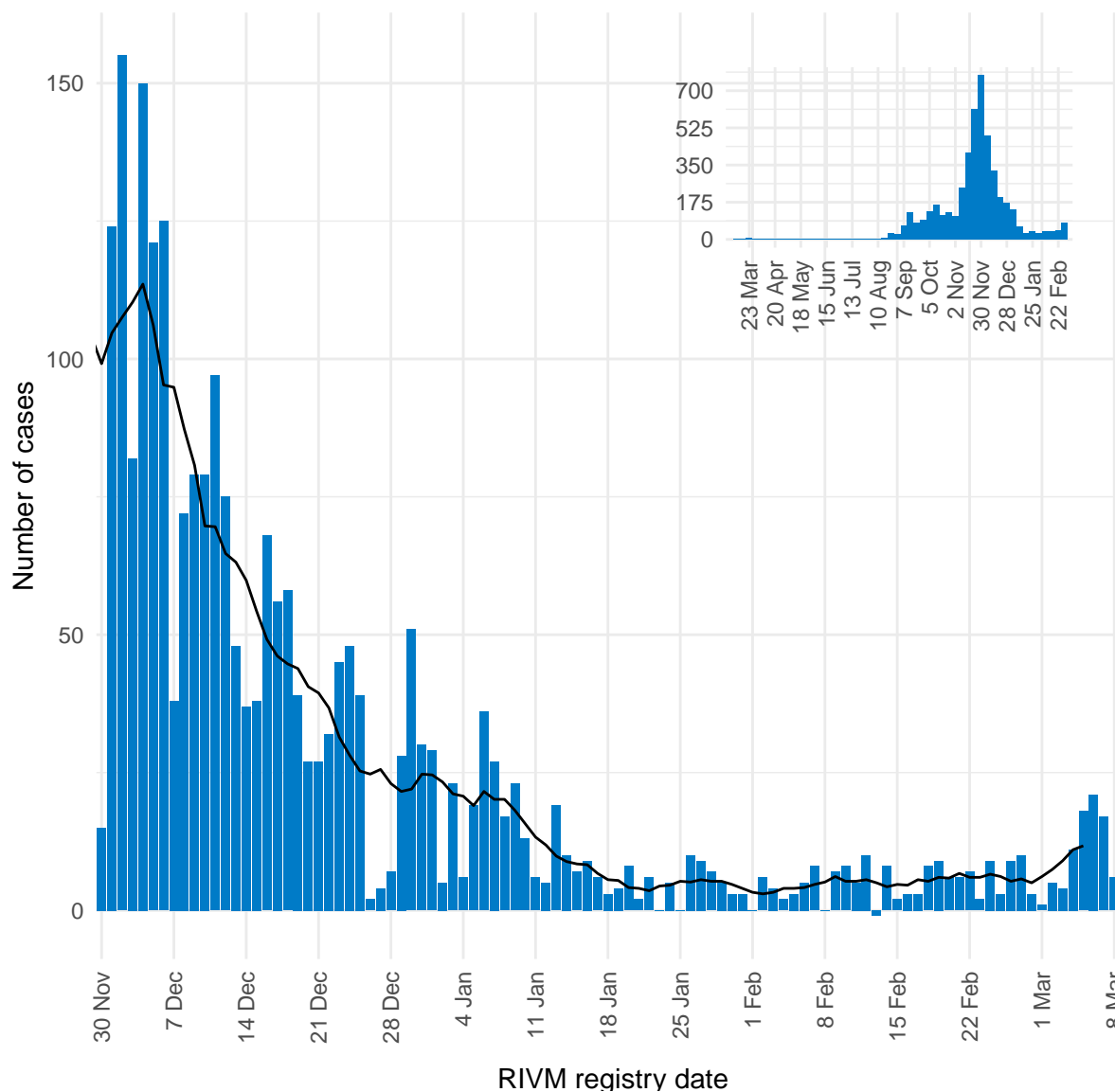


Figure 3: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Curaçao, presented by RIVM registry date¹.

¹ The vertical axes of figures 1-6 differ due to dissimilarities in the quantity of cases between the islands. 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.

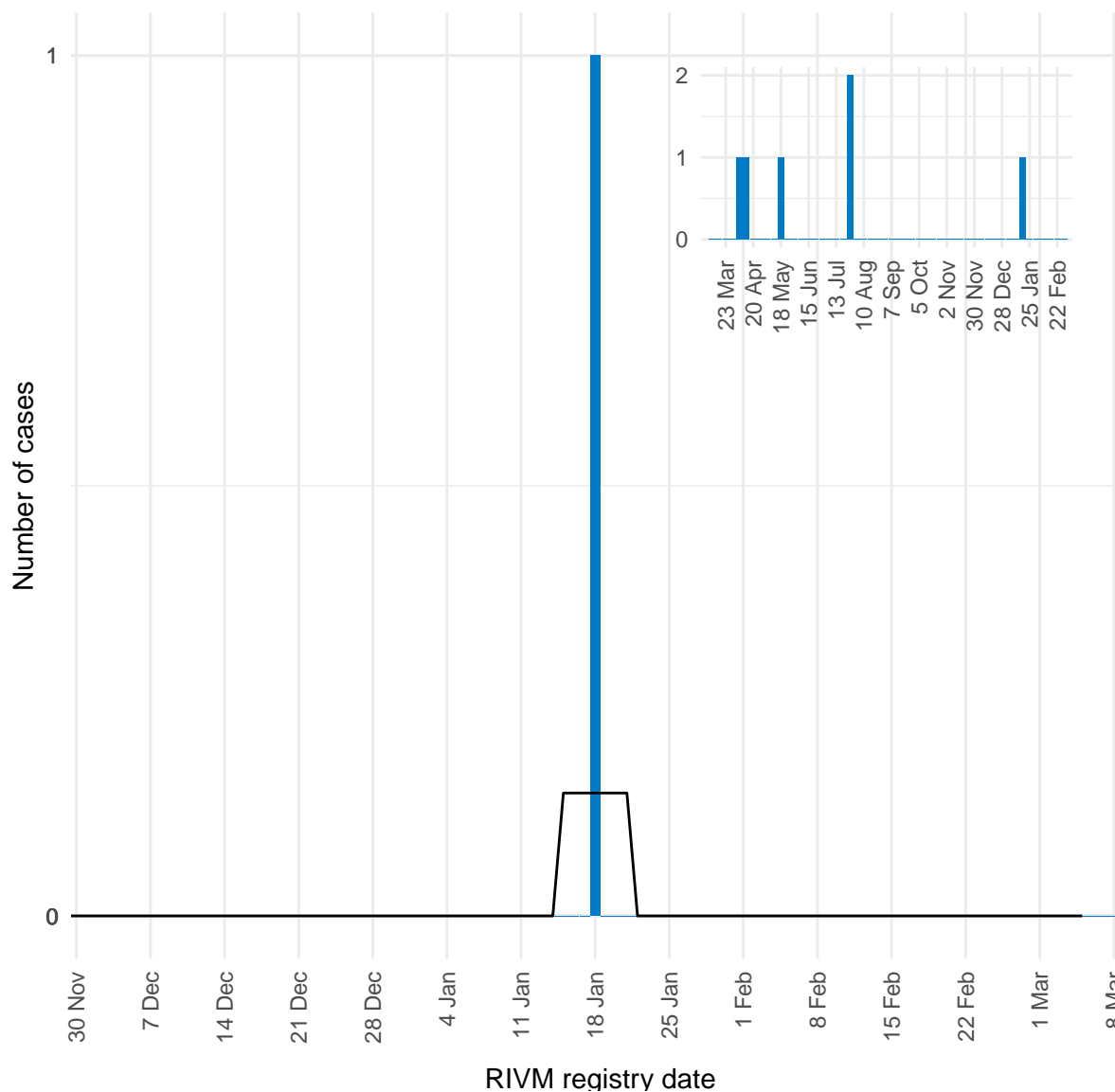


Figure 4: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Saba, presented by RIVM registry date¹.

¹ The vertical axes of figures 1-6 differ due to dissimilarities in the quantity of cases between the islands. 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.

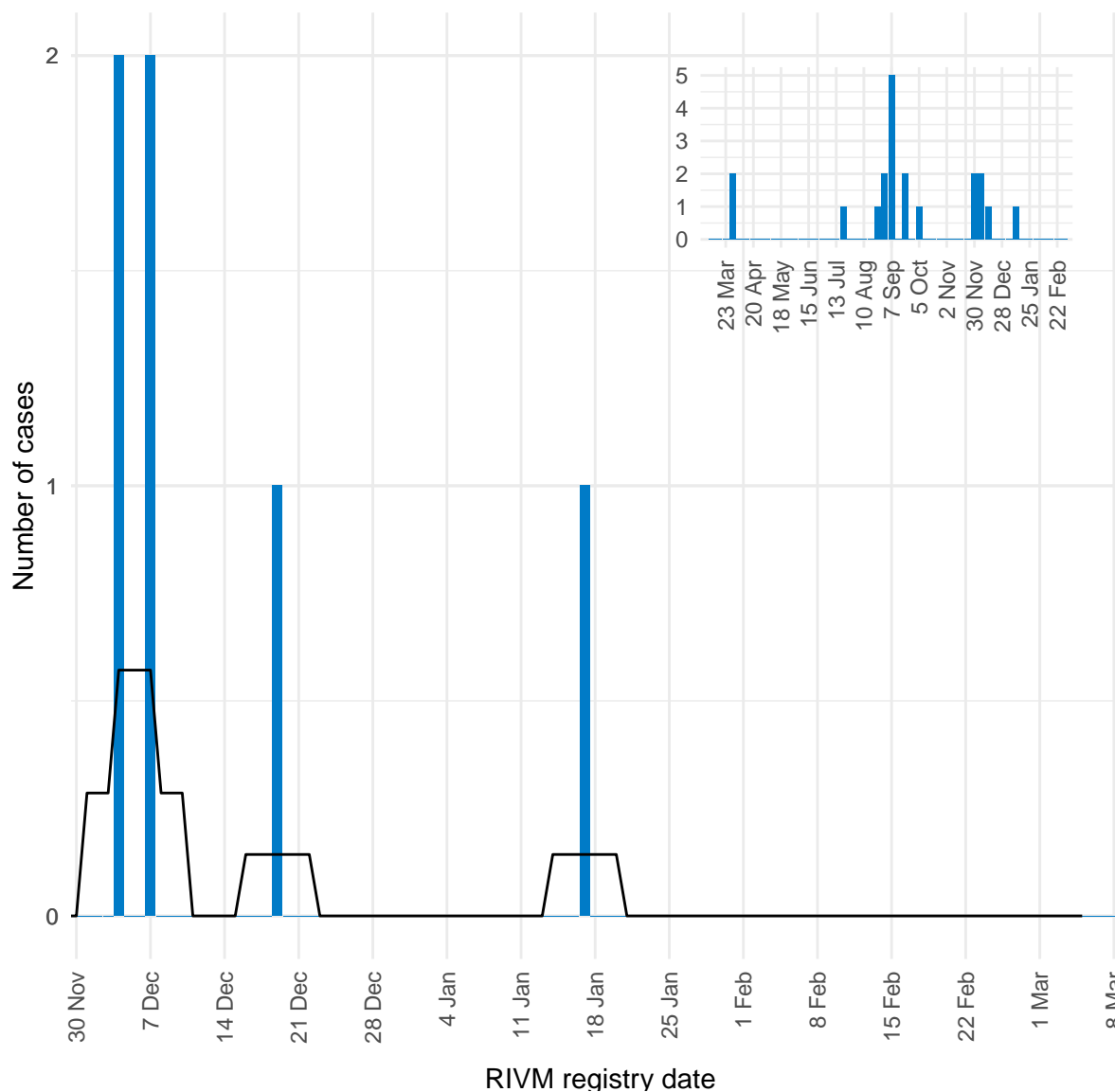


Figure 5: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on St Eustatius, presented by RIVM registry date¹.

¹ The vertical axes of figures 1-6 differ due to dissimilarities in the quantity of cases between the islands. 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.

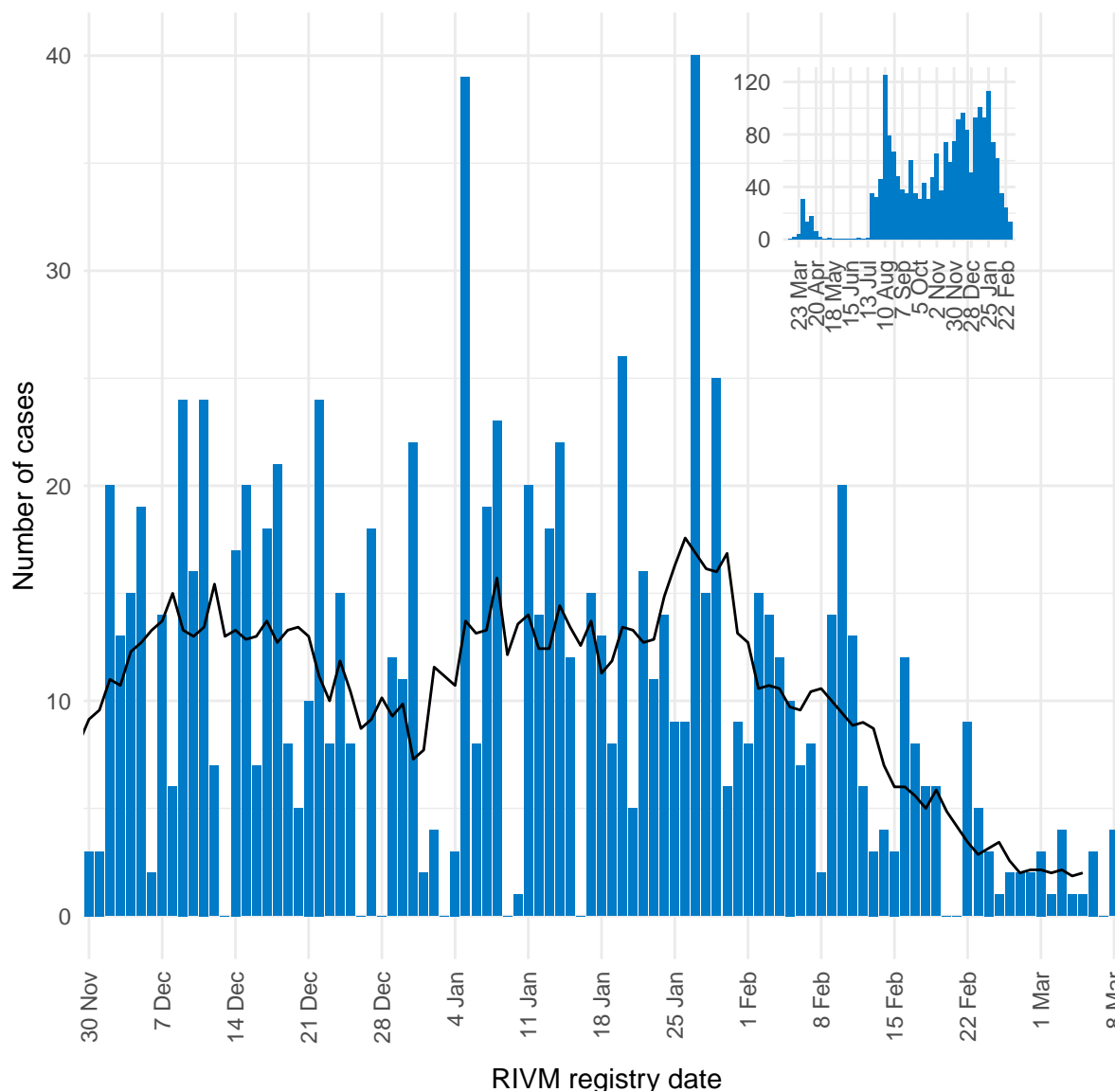


Figure 6: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Dutch St Maarten, presented by RIVM registry date¹.

¹ The vertical axes of figures 1-6 differ due to dissimilarities in the quantity of cases between the islands. 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 incidence rate progression over time

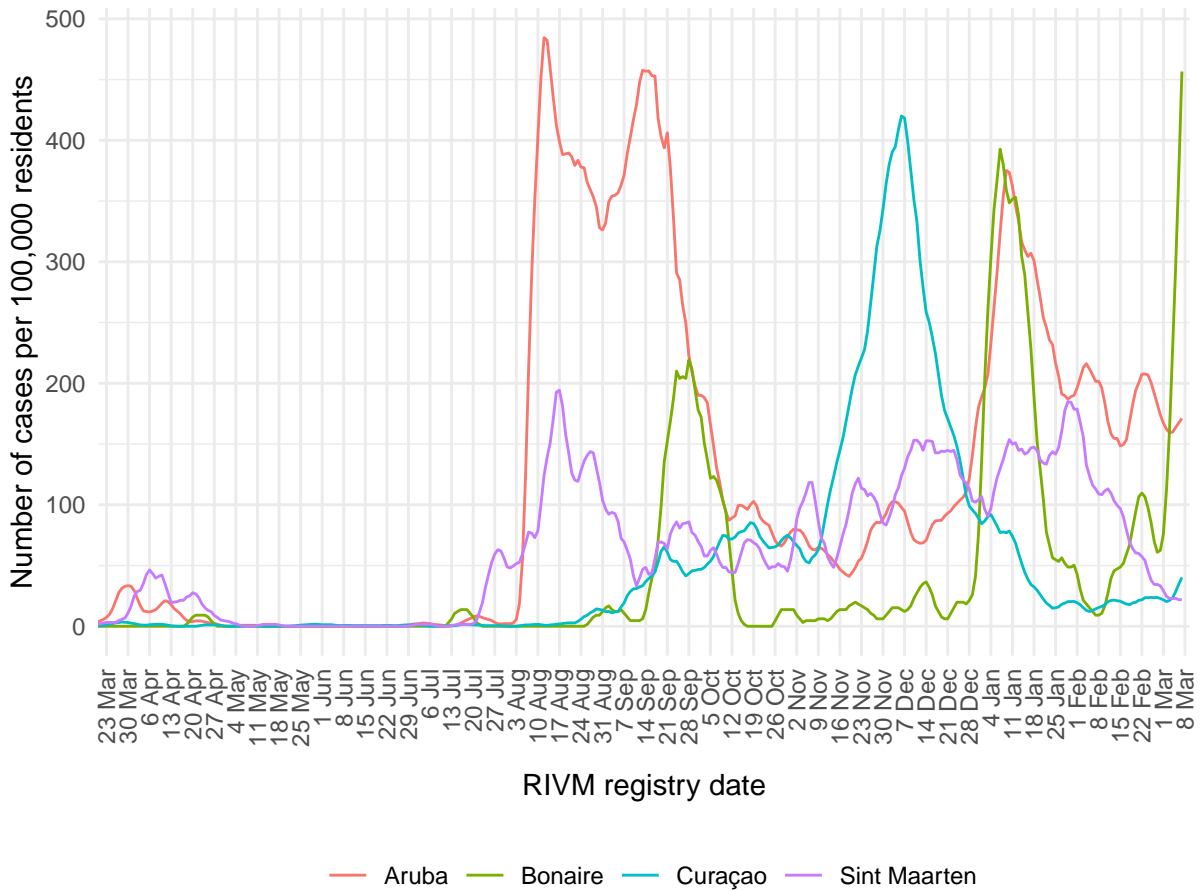


Figure 7: Number of reported cases per 100,000 residents by RIVM registry date, on Curaçao, Aruba, Dutch St Maarten, and Bonaire^{1,2}.

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.