



**Epidemiological report of SARS-CoV-2 on the Dutch Caribbean CAS- and BES-islands:
Week 18 (April 27th - May 3rd, 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

Between April 27th and May 3rd, 2021, 235 new COVID-19 cases have been reported on the CAS- and BES-islands: 124 on Aruba, 6 on Bonaire, 84 on Curaçao, 20 on Dutch St Maarten, and 1 on Saba. Surveillance of the circulation of variants shows the proportion of VOC B.1.1.7 has decreased on Aruba (78.5% in week 15), Bonaire (100% in week 15), Curaçao (100% in week 15), and Dutch St Maarten (93.0% week 15). The number of patients hospitalized due to/with COVID-19 is slowly reducing on the leeward islands. Curaçao has reported 4 COVID-19-related deaths since last week, Aruba 2, and Bonaire 1. Since the start of the epidemic, 111 persons have passed from COVID-19 in Curaçao, 100 in Aruba, 27 in Sint Maarten, and 16 in Bonaire.

In the past week, Aruba accounts a majority of the new SARS-COV-2 infections reported in the CAS-BES region. The incidence rate has decreased to 98 cases per 100,000 persons, and the positivity rate lowered slightly to 14.8% in week 18 (19.5 week 17). There are currently 15 patients admitted on the general ward and 9 patients admitted to the ICU. Three patients from Curaçao are currently admitted to the ICU on Aruba. The first B.1.617 case was detected in Aruba in samples from week 15. Neither the case or close contacts have a travel history, though further sequencing is required to establish whether local transmission of this variant is occurring on the island. In addition to a large amount of VOC B.1.1.7 (UK) cases, 12 cases of the VOC P.1 (Brazil), 4 cases of the VOC B.1.351 (South Africa), 29 cases of the VOI B.1.427/429 (California), and 31 cases of the VOI B.1.526 (New York) have been detected thusfar on Aruba. As of May 2nd, 31,640 persons have received their first dose of the vaccine and 22,547 persons have been fully vaccinated on the island (54.8% adult population).

The incidence rate on Bonaire has remained stable with 28 cases per 100.000 residents. The positivity rate on Bonaire has decreased from 6,2% (week 17) to 5,4% (week 18). No new clusters have been reported on the island. Four patients are currently admitted to the general hospital ward. Surveillance on circulation of variants on Bonaire shows the proportion of VOC B.1.1.7 (UK) has increased to 100% by week 15. As of May 2nd, 12,398 persons have had their first dose of the vaccine administered and 5,283 persons are fully vaccinated (71.1% adult population).

The number of new SARS-CoV-2 cases on Curaçao has been relatively low since two weeks, reporting an incidence rate of 48 cases per 100,000 persons last week. There are currently 28 patients admitted to the general hospital ward and 24 patients to the ICU. Surveillance on circulation of variants on Curaçao shows the proportion of VOC B.1.1.7 (UK) has increased to 100% by week 15. As of May 2nd, 46,167 persons have received their first dose of the vaccine and a total of 27,180 persons have been fully vaccinated (59.5% adult population).

The island of Sint Maarten reports a relatively low incidence rate of 36 cases per 100.000 residents. There are currently 3 hospitalized patients, a minor increase as compared to two weeks ago, when only 1 patient was hospitalized with/due to COVID-19-related complaints. On Dutch St Maarten, 2 cases of the B.1.617 (India), 1 case of the VOC B.1.351 (South Africa), 3 cases of the VOI B.1.526 (New York), and 2 cases of the A.2.5 lineage, often seen in Surinam, have been detected. As of May 2nd, 6,358 persons have had their first dose of the vaccine administered and a total of 7,620 persons have been fully vaccinated on the Dutch side of the island (25.0% adult population).

In the past week, the island of Saba has reported their first case of COVID-19 since January 18th, 2021. The individual in question traveled to the island from Nepal and tested positive at the end of the quarantine period,

where they remain in isolation. As of May 2nd, 42 persons have had the first dose of their vaccine administered and a total of 1,354 persons have been fully vaccinated on the island (42.6% adult population).

St Eustatius has not reported any active COVID-19 cases since January 28th. As of May 3rd, 158 persons have had the first dose of their vaccine administered and a total of 868 persons have been fully vaccinated (91.5% 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 3 May 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	Date: from-until	Number of performed tests	Number of laboratory confirmed tests with positive test result	Positivity rate %
Aruba ¹	19-04-2021 - 25-04-2021	4566	214	4.7
	26-04-2021 - 02-05-2021	4369	132	3
Bonaire	19-04-2021 - 25-04-2021	113	7	6.2
	26-04-2021 - 02-05-2021	93	5	5.4
Curaçao ²	19-04-2021 - 25-04-2021	3854	237	6.1
	26-04-2021 - 02-05-2021	4047	91	2.2
Saba ³	19-04-2021 - 25-04-2021	-	0	-
	26-04-2021 - 02-05-2021	-	1	-
Sint Eustatius	19-04-2021 - 25-04-2021	75	0	0
	26-04-2021 - 02-05-2021	176	0	0
Sint Maarten ⁴	19-04-2021 - 25-04-2021	-	-	-
	26-04-2021 - 02-05-2021	-	-	-

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 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	10679	499	100	124	2
Bonaire	1534	36	16	6	1
Curaçao	12213	394	111	84	6
Saba	7	1	0	1	0
Sint Eustatius	20	0	0	0	0
Sint Maarten	2240	141	27	20	0
Totaal	26693	1071	254	235	9

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 April 27th and May 3rd, 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	144	15	9
Bonaire	11	3	1
Curaçao	318	28	24
Saba	1	0	0
Sint Eustatius	0	0	0
Sint Maarten	24	3	0
Totaal	498	49	34

¹ These have been reported to the RIVM between April 27th and May 3rd, 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.

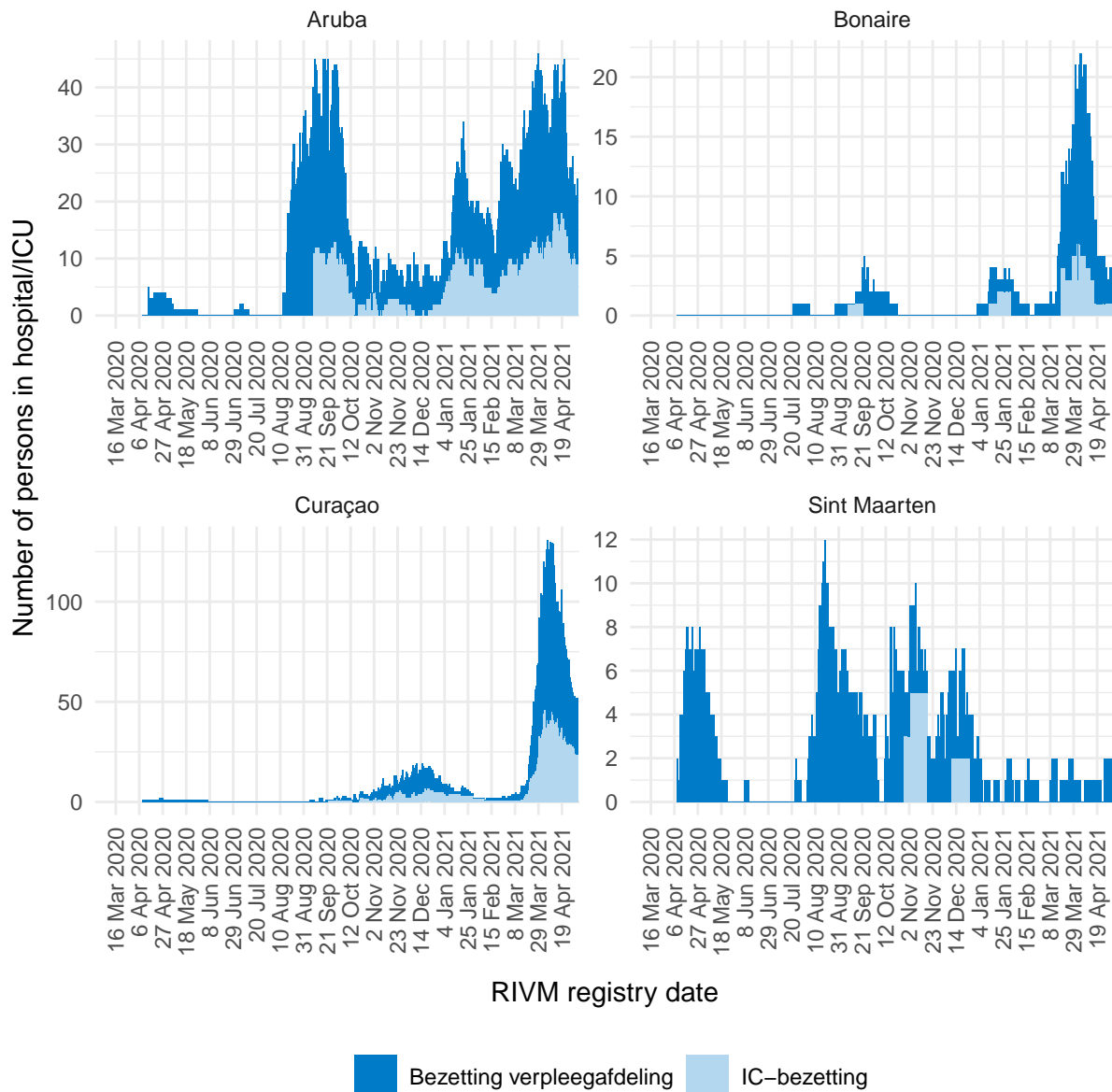


Figure 1: Progression of COVID-related hospital occupation over time ^{1,2,3,4,5}

¹ This figure presents the number of reported persons who have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 during or before admission on the general hospital ward and/or ICU.

² The light blue data represent the ICU-occupation over time, per island. The dark blue 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.

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	85.7	220.1
Bonaire	19.0	47.4
Curaçao	38.6	160.7
Saba	52.2	52.2
Sint Eustatius	0.0	0.0
Sint Maarten	35.6	51.7

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 27 april 2021 until 3 mei 2021.

³ The incidence rate per 100,000 residents, for the previous two weeks, has been calculated from 20 april 2021 until 3 mei 2021.

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

Island	Capital city	Residents	Acreage	Political status
Aruba	Oranjestad	112.190	180 km ²	Country within the Kingdom of The Netherlands
Bonaire	Kralendijk	20.104	288 km ²	Dutch municipality
Curaçao	Willemstad	158.665	444 km ²	Country within the Kingdom of The Netherlands
Saba	The Bottom	1.915	13 km ²	Dutch municipality
Sint Maarten	Philipsburg	41.109	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 15,000 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

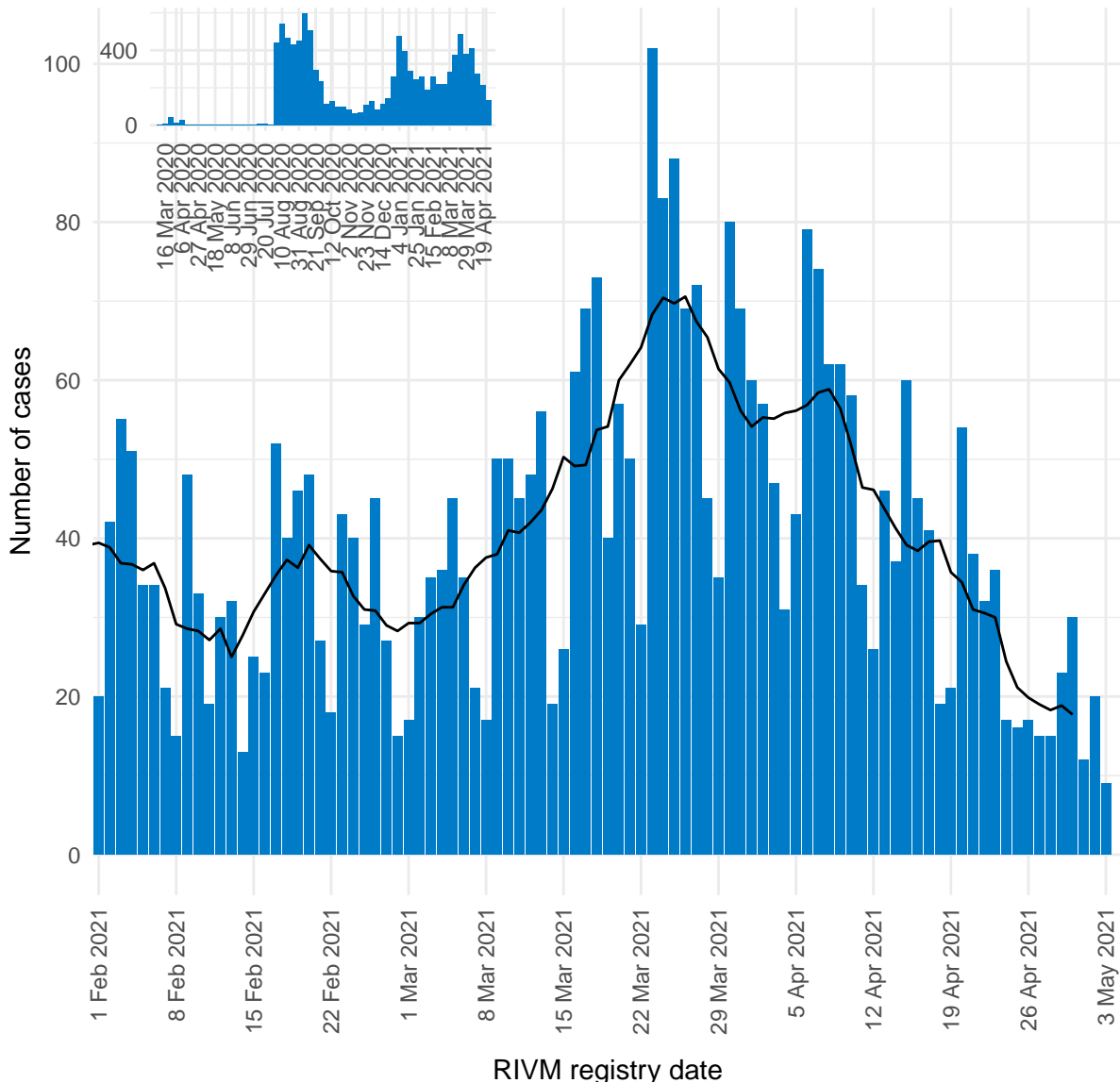


Figure 2: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Aruba, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

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.

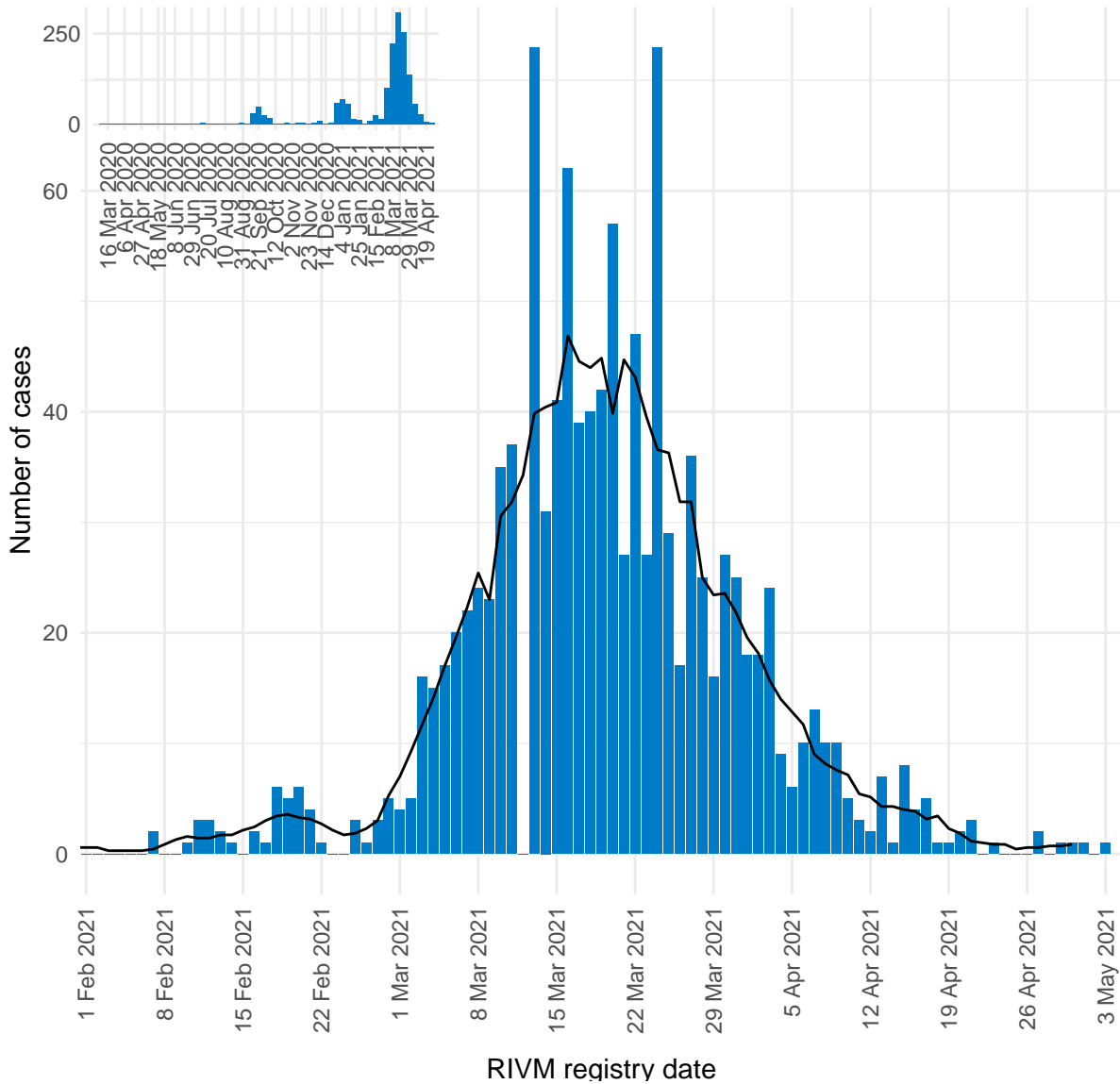


Figure 3: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Bonaire, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

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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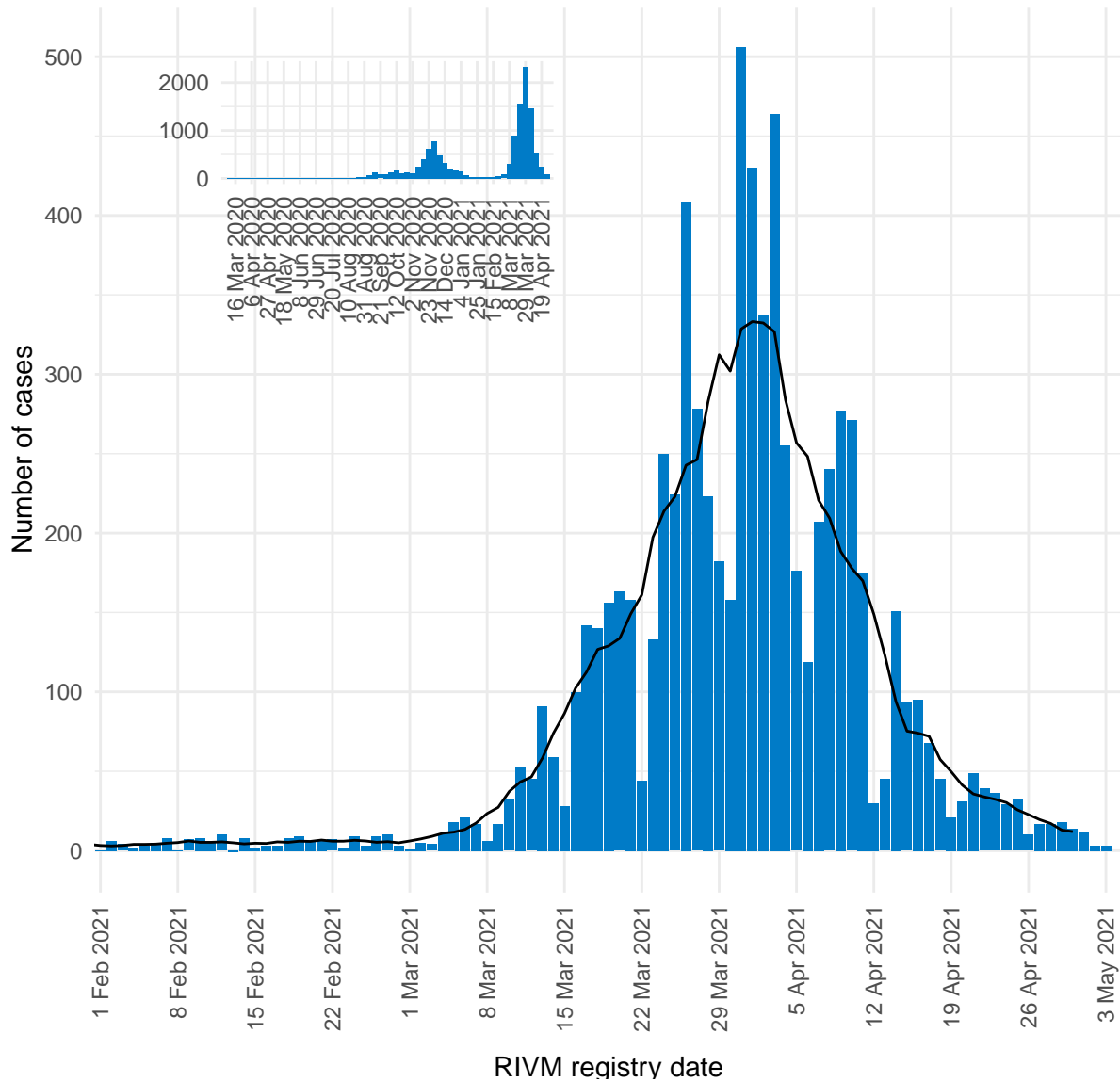


Figure 4: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Curaçao, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

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.

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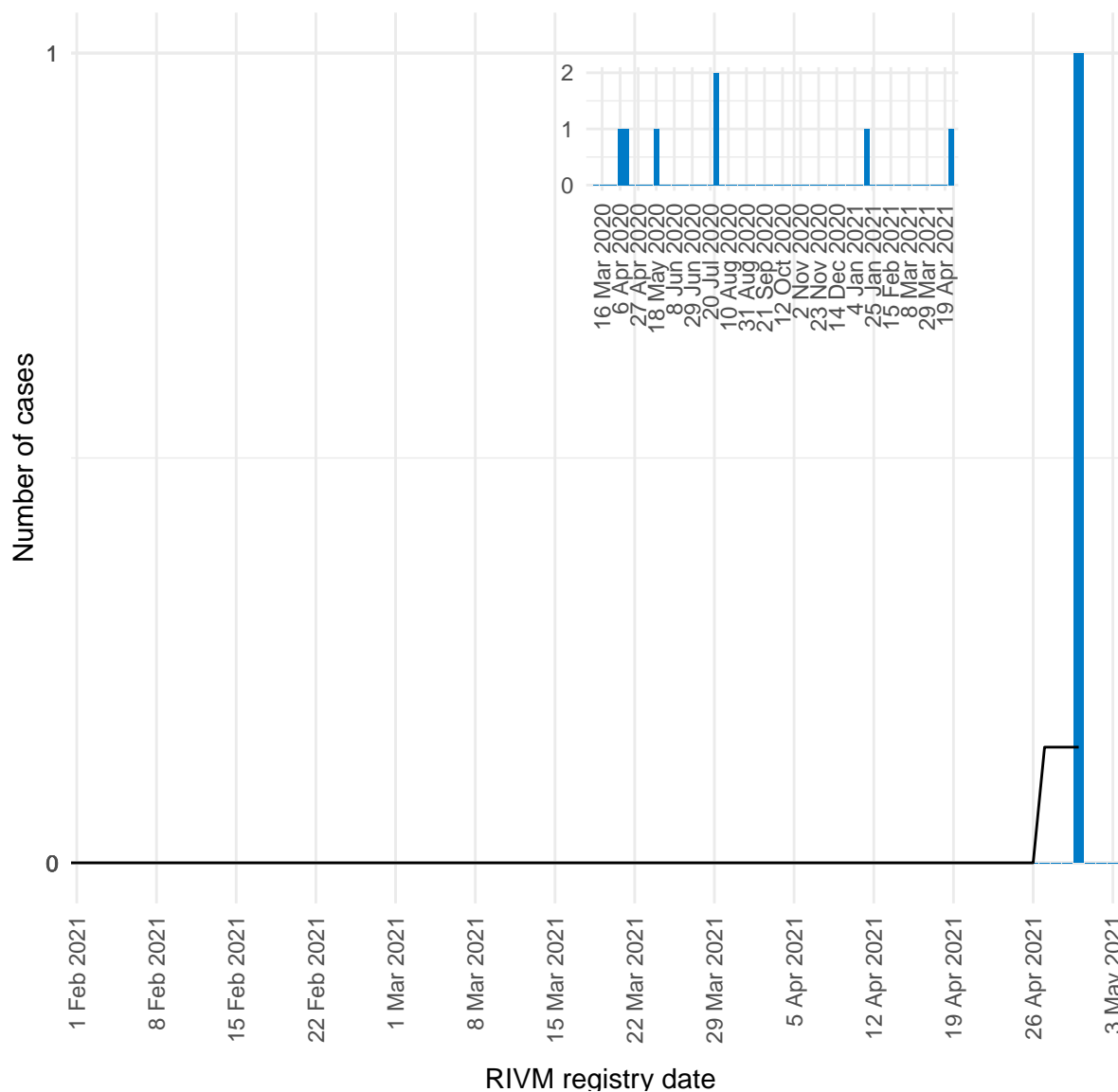


Figure 5: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Saba, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

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.

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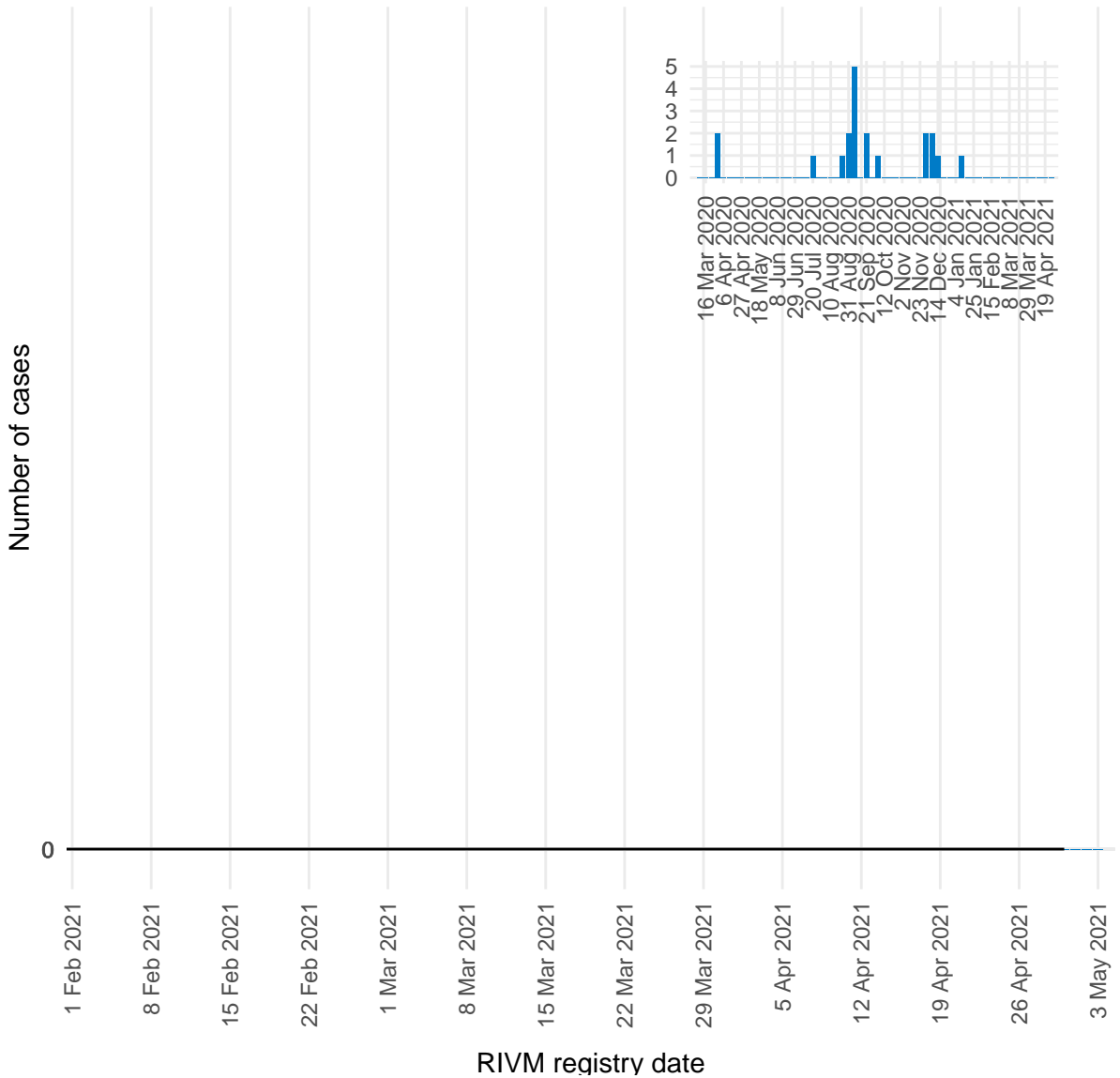


Figure 6: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on St Eustatius, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

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.

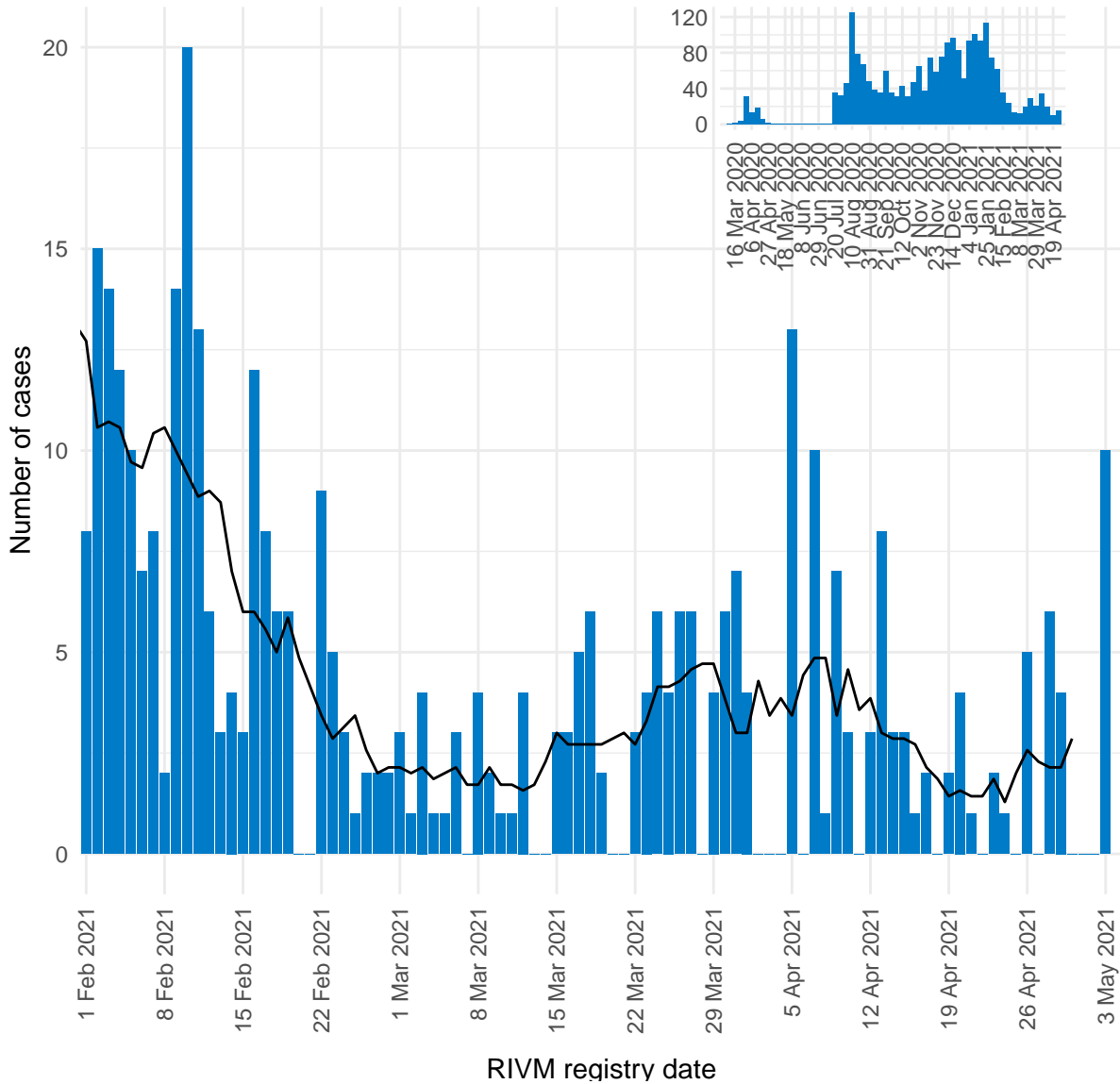


Figure 7: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Dutch St Maarten, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

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

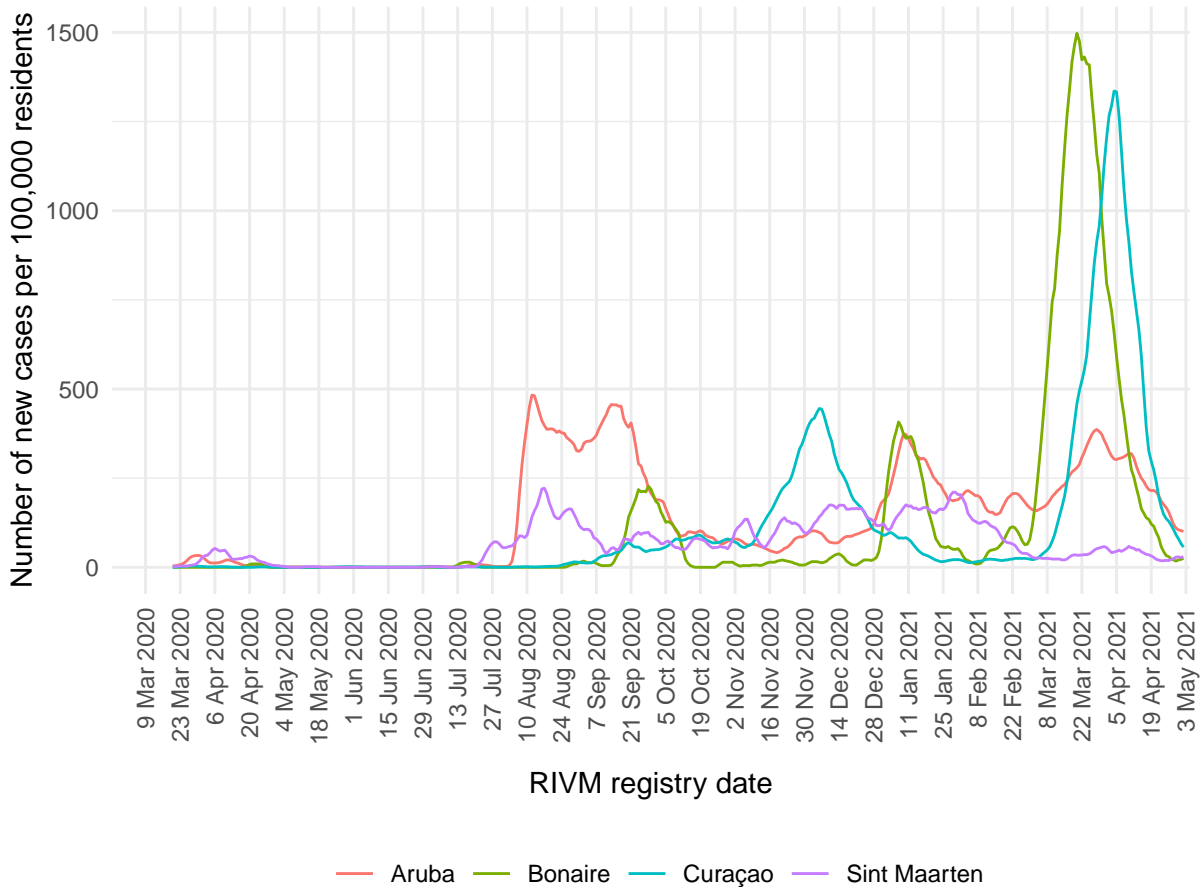


Figure 8: Three week average number of reported cases per 100,000 residents by RIVM registry date, on Curaçao, Aruba, Dutch St Maarten, and Bonaire^{1,2}.

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.