



**National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment**
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

**Epidemiological report of SARS-CoV-2 on the Dutch Caribbean CAS- and BES-islands:
Week 23 (June 1st - June 7th, 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 June 1st and June 7th, 2021, 144 new COVID-19 cases have been reported on the CAS- and BES-islands: 79 on Aruba, 4 on Bonaire, 7 on Curaçao, and 65 on Dutch St Maarten. Curaçao and Dutch Sint Maarten have both reported 1 COVID-19-related death since last week. Since the start of the pandemic, 123 persons have passed from COVID-19 in Curaçao, 107 in Aruba, 29 in Sint Maarten, and 17 in Bonaire.

In the past week, Aruba reported 59 new SARS-CoV-2 infections per 100,000 persons. Currently 6 patients are admitted to the general COVID-ward and there is 1 patient admitted to the COVID-ICU. The proportion of VOC B.1.1.7 (Alpha) variant has decreased (46% week 19), and the proportion of VOC P.1 (Gamma) and B.1.621 variant (frequently found in Colombia) has subsequently increased. The proportion P.1 has increased to 34% in week 21. As of June 9th, precautionary measures will be relaxed for the hospitality and sport sectors. As of June 7th 2021, 10,179 persons have had their first dose of the vaccine administered and 52,504 persons are fully vaccinated (63% of adult population was at least vaccinated once).

Bonaire reports an incidence rate of 13 cases per 100,000 residents, a minor decrease compared to a week earlier (18/100,000 on June 1st, 2021). The positivity rate on Bonaire has remained stable at 2%. There are currently no COVID-related hospital admissions. Surveillance on circulation of variants on Bonaire shows the proportion of VOC B.1.1.7 (Alpha) was 100% by week 20, although the amount of samples being sent in has been lower due to the decreasing incidence. As of June 1st, 2021, Bonaire has relaxed measures and has begun receiving tourists from the U.S.A. for the first time since the start of the pandemic. Vaccination coverage among these passengers was between 60-67%. As of June 7th 2021, 2,897 persons have received their first dose of vaccine and 11,333 persons have been fully vaccinated (75% adult population received at least one vaccination).

The number of new SARS-CoV-2 cases on Curaçao has been low, reporting an incidence rate of 5 cases per 100,000 residents in the past week. Currently 8 patients are admitted to the general COVID-ward and 4 patients to the COVID-ICU. Surveillance on circulation of variants on Curaçao has detected that the proportion of VOC B.1.1.7 (Alpha) has decreased (63% in week 20). Furthermore, the VOC P.1 (Gamma) variant and B.1.621 variant (frequently found in Colombia) have increased to 25% and 13% respectively. As of June 8th, 2021, the mandatory curfew will be lifted and the government has announced that testevents will be organised for the sport- and recreation sectors. As of June 7th, 2021, 14,286 persons have received their first dose of vaccine, and a total of 71,635 persons have been fully vaccinated (64% adult population).

The incidence rate on Dutch Sint Maarten has increased to 95 cases per 100.000 residents compared to a week earlier (75/100.000 on June 1st, 2021). Currently 6 patients are admitted to the local hospital. The island is currently using a hospitainer, which was initially intended for COVID-IC, as an isolation facility for COVID-19 patients. On Dutch St Maarten, the proportion of VOC B.1.1.7 (Alpha) remains high (95% in week 21). Furthermore, the VOI B.1.617.1 (Kappa) variant and B.1.526 (Iota) variant have been detected in past weeks. On the French side of the island, the virus is actively circulating as well. The incidence (347/100,000 in week 21) on the French side has increased compared to a week earlier, many hospital admissions and 2 new COVID-related deaths have been reported there in the past week. As of June 7th, 2021, 5,405 persons have received their first vaccine, and a total of 13,651 persons have been fully vaccinated on the Dutch side of the island (37% adult population received at least one vaccination).

On Saba, no active SARS-CoV-2 cases have been reported as of May 11th, 2021. Saba has reported an asymptomatic case that has tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 during a visit to the Dominican Republic, despite being fully vaccinated two months prior. The case in question received their first dose of the Moderna vaccine in February, and second dose in March. As of June 7th, 2021, 49 persons have received their first vaccine, and a total of 1,380 persons have been fully vaccinated on the island (91% adult population received at least one vaccination).

St Eustatius has not reported any active COVID-19 cases since January 28th. As of June 7th, 2021, 151 persons have received their first vaccine, and a total of 1,022 persons have been fully vaccinated on the island (49% adult population received at least one vaccination).

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 7th June 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	24-05-2021 - 30-05-2021	3402	61	1.8
	31-05-2021 - 06-06-2021	3302	79	2.4
Bonaire	24-05-2021 - 30-05-2021	156	3	1.9
	31-05-2021 - 06-06-2021	162	4	2.5
Curaçao ²	24-05-2021 - 30-05-2021	5494	1	0
	31-05-2021 - 06-06-2021	6198	7	0.1
Saba ³	24-05-2021 - 30-05-2021	-	0	-
	31-05-2021 - 06-06-2021	-	0	-
Sint Eustatius	24-05-2021 - 30-05-2021	67	0	0
	31-05-2021 - 06-06-2021	106	0	0
Sint Maarten ⁴	24-05-2021 - 30-05-2021	-	-	-
	31-05-2021 - 06-06-2021	-	-	-

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 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 patients	Number of cases	Deceased patients
Aruba	11059	582	107	74	0
Bonaire	1590	66	17	3	0
Curaçao	12280	552	123	8	1
Saba	7	1	0	0	0
Sint Eustatius	20	0	0	0	0
Sint Maarten	2484	125	29	59	1
Totaal	27440	1326	276	144	2

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 June 1st and June 7th, 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	53	5	1
Bonaire	2	0	0
Curaçao	20	8	4
Saba	0	0	0
Sint Eustatius	0	0	0
Sint Maarten	77	6	0
Totaal	152	19	5

¹ These have been reported to the RIVM between June 1st and June 7th, 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.

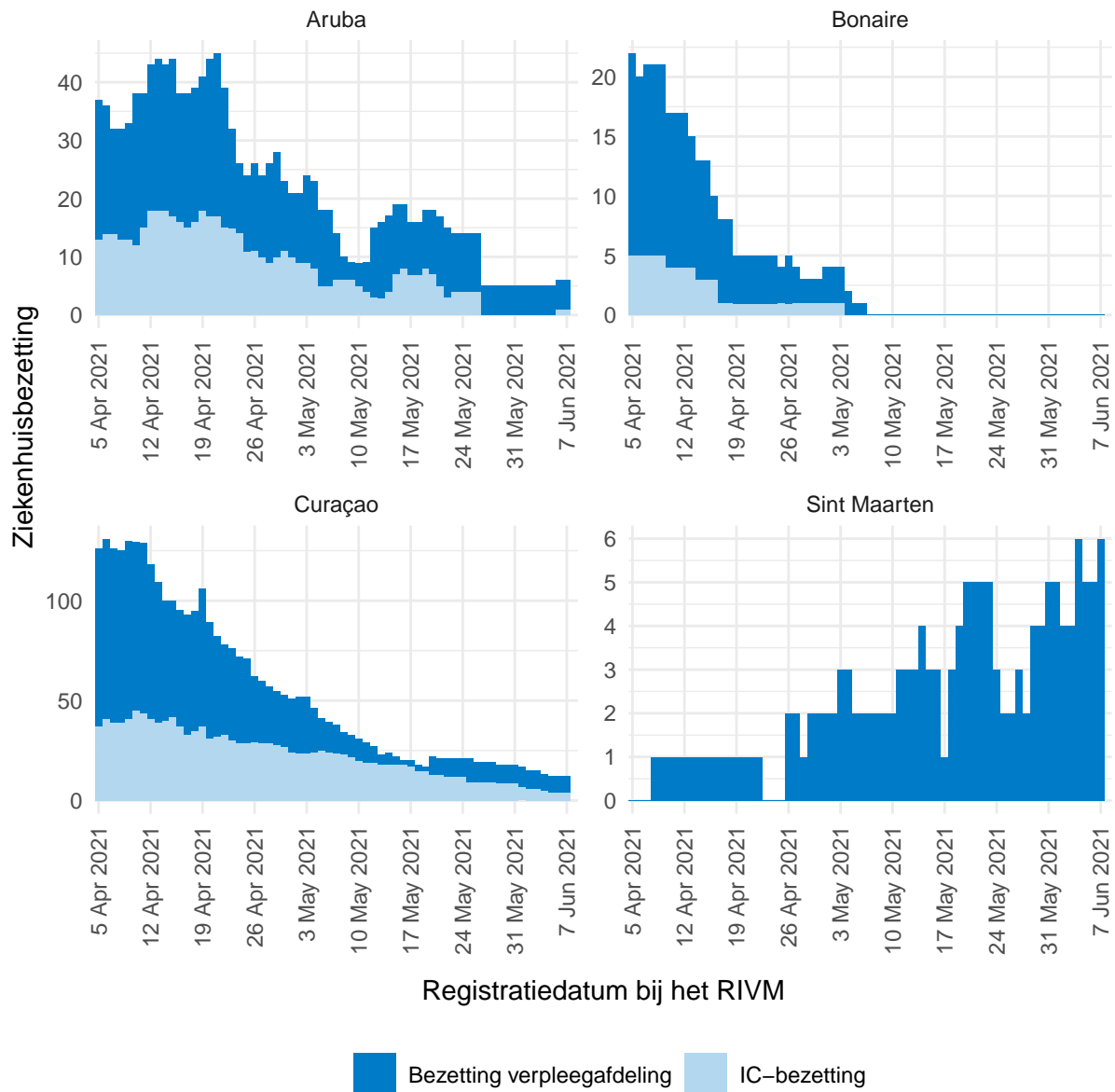


Figure 1: Progression of COVID-related hospital occupation over time ^{1,2,3,4,5}

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	52.7	98.2
Bonaire	8.8	26.4
Curaçao	4.3	5.5
Saba	0.0	0.0
Sint Eustatius	0.0	0.0
Sint Maarten	81.8	157.2

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 1 juni 2021 until 7 juni 2021.

³ The incidence rate per 100,000 residents, for the previous two weeks, has been calculated from 25 mei 2021 until 7 juni 2021.

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

Island	Capital city	Residents	Acreage	Political status
Aruba	Oranjestad	112.182	180 km ²	Country within the Kingdom of The Netherlands
Bonaire	Kralendijk	21.745	288 km ²	Dutch municipality
Curaçao	Willemstad	155.223	444 km ²	Country within the Kingdom of The Netherlands
Saba	The Bottom	1.918	13 km ²	Dutch municipality
Sint Maarten	Philipsburg	47.323	34 km ²	Country within the Kingdom of The Netherlands
Sint Eustatius	Oranjestad	3.142	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

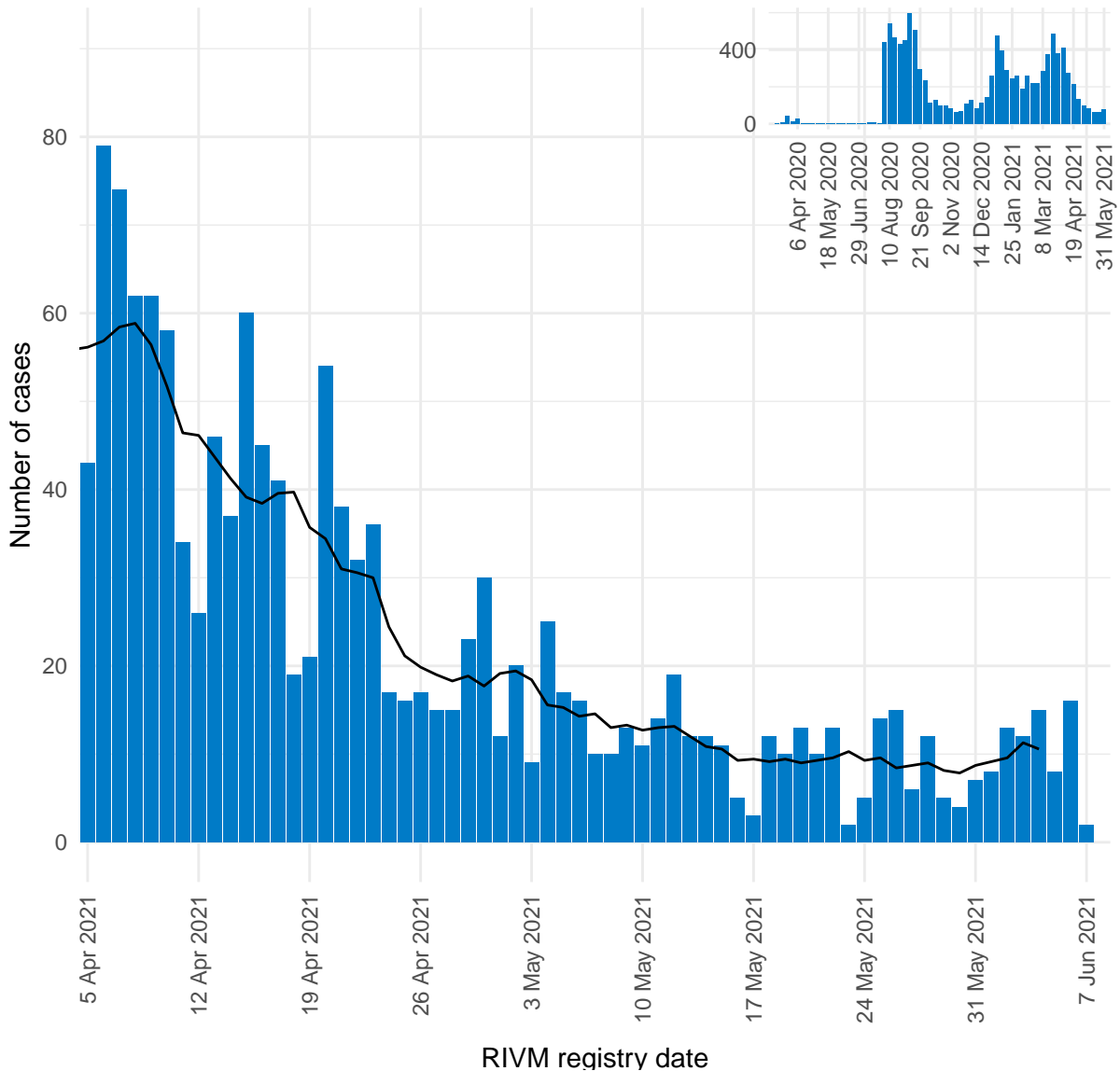


Figure 2: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Aruba, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

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.

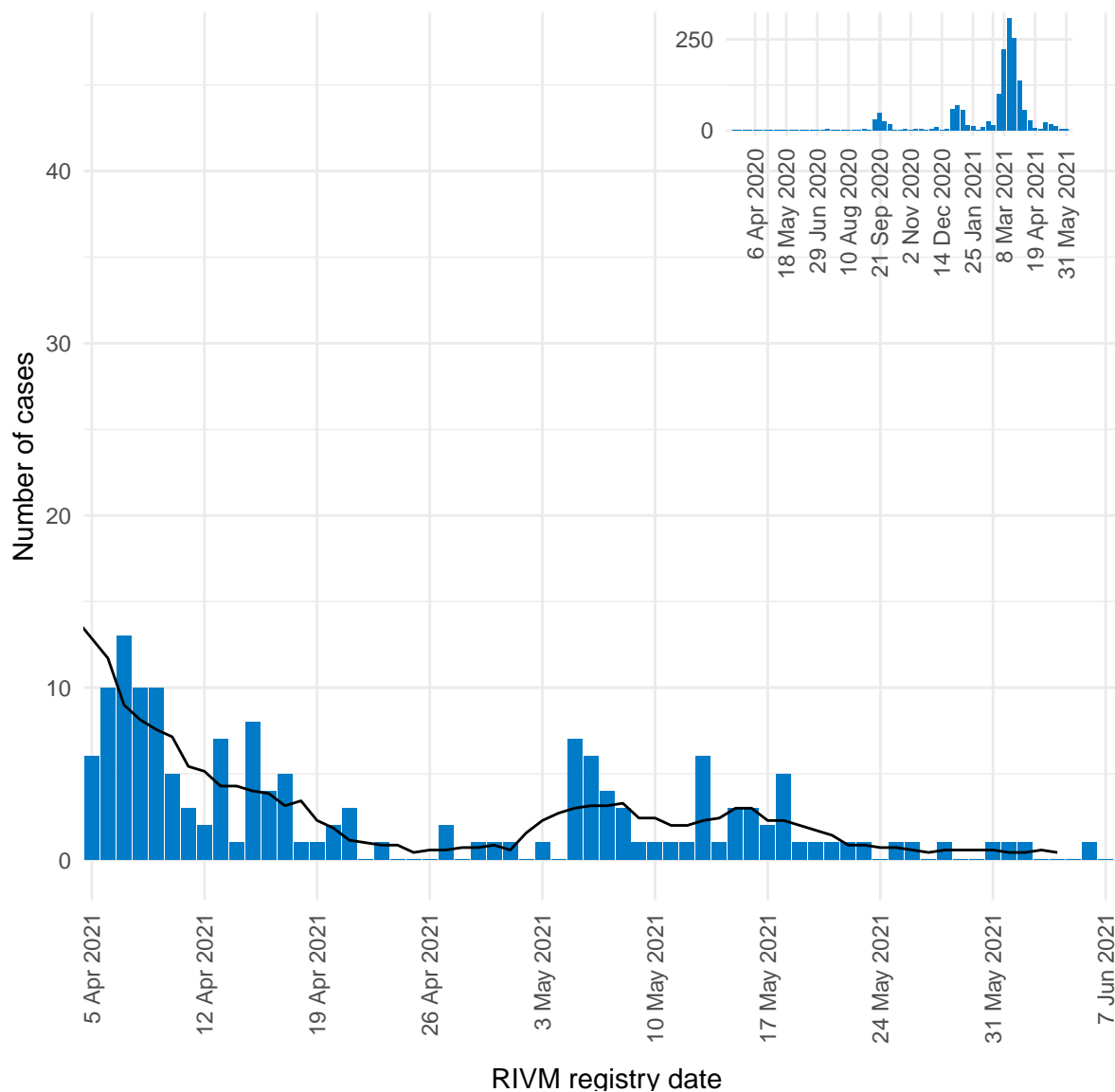


Figure 3: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Bonaire, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

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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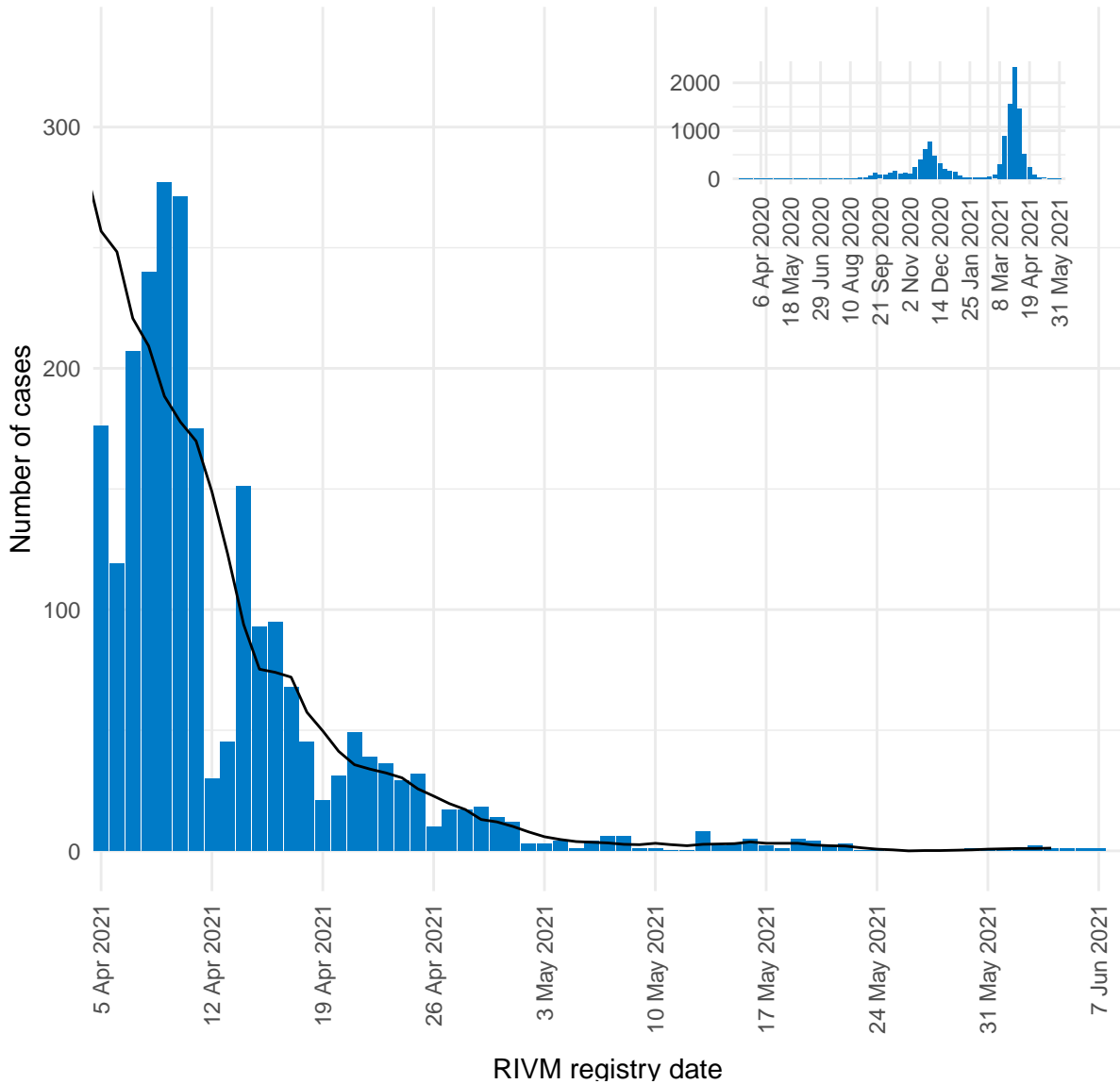


Figure 4: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Curaçao, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

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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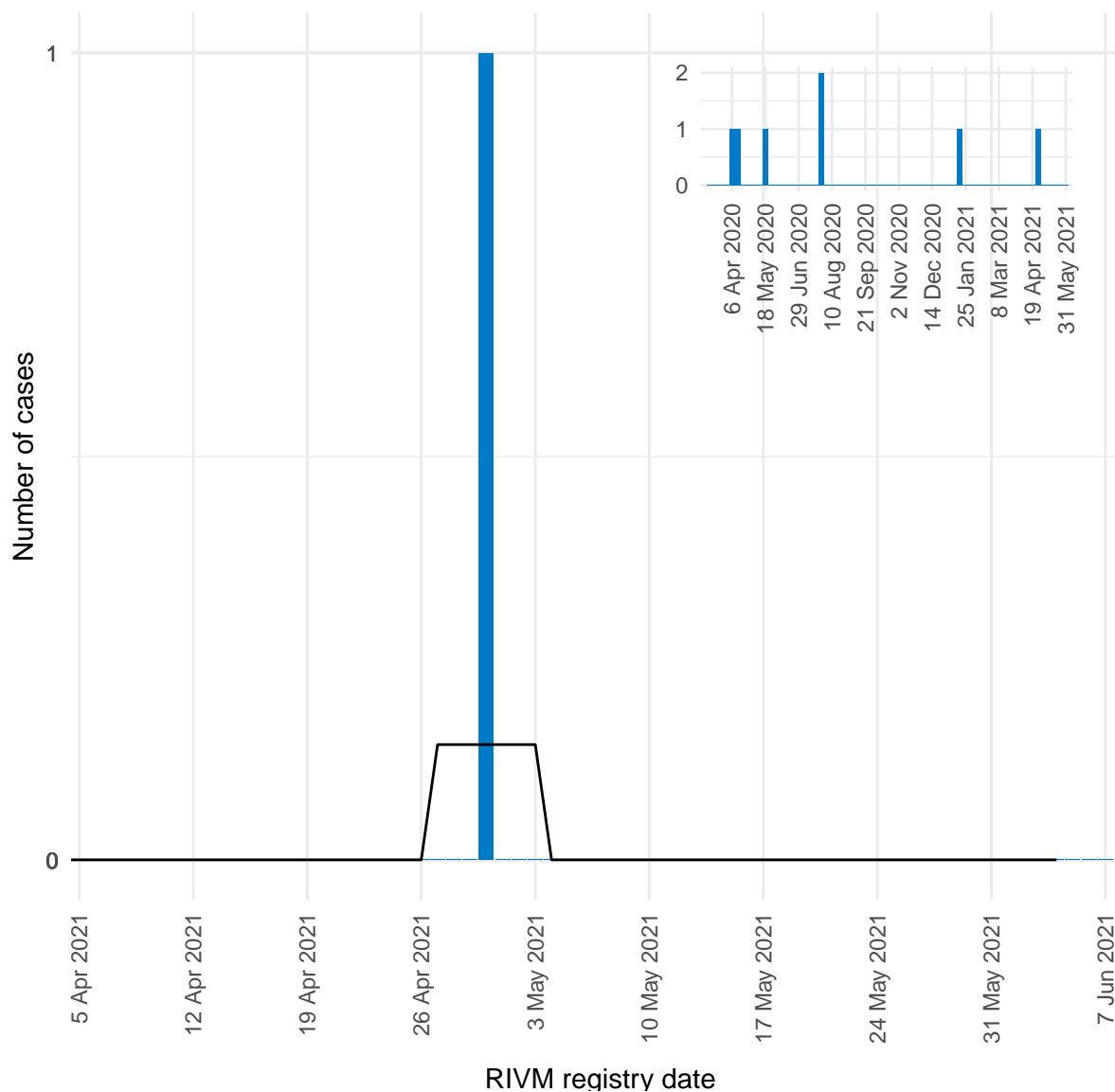


Figure 5: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Saba, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

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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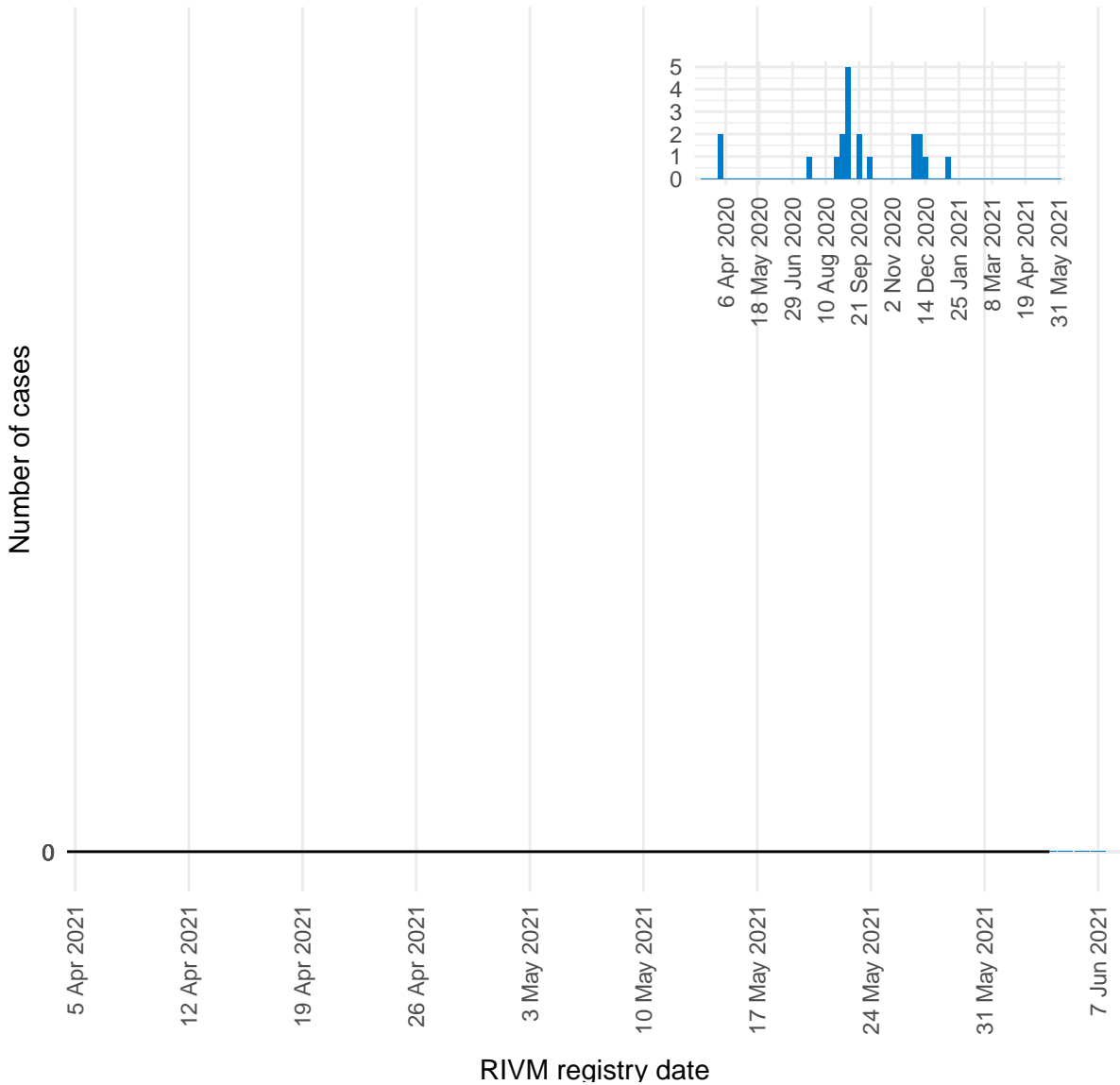


Figure 6: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on St Eustatius, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

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.

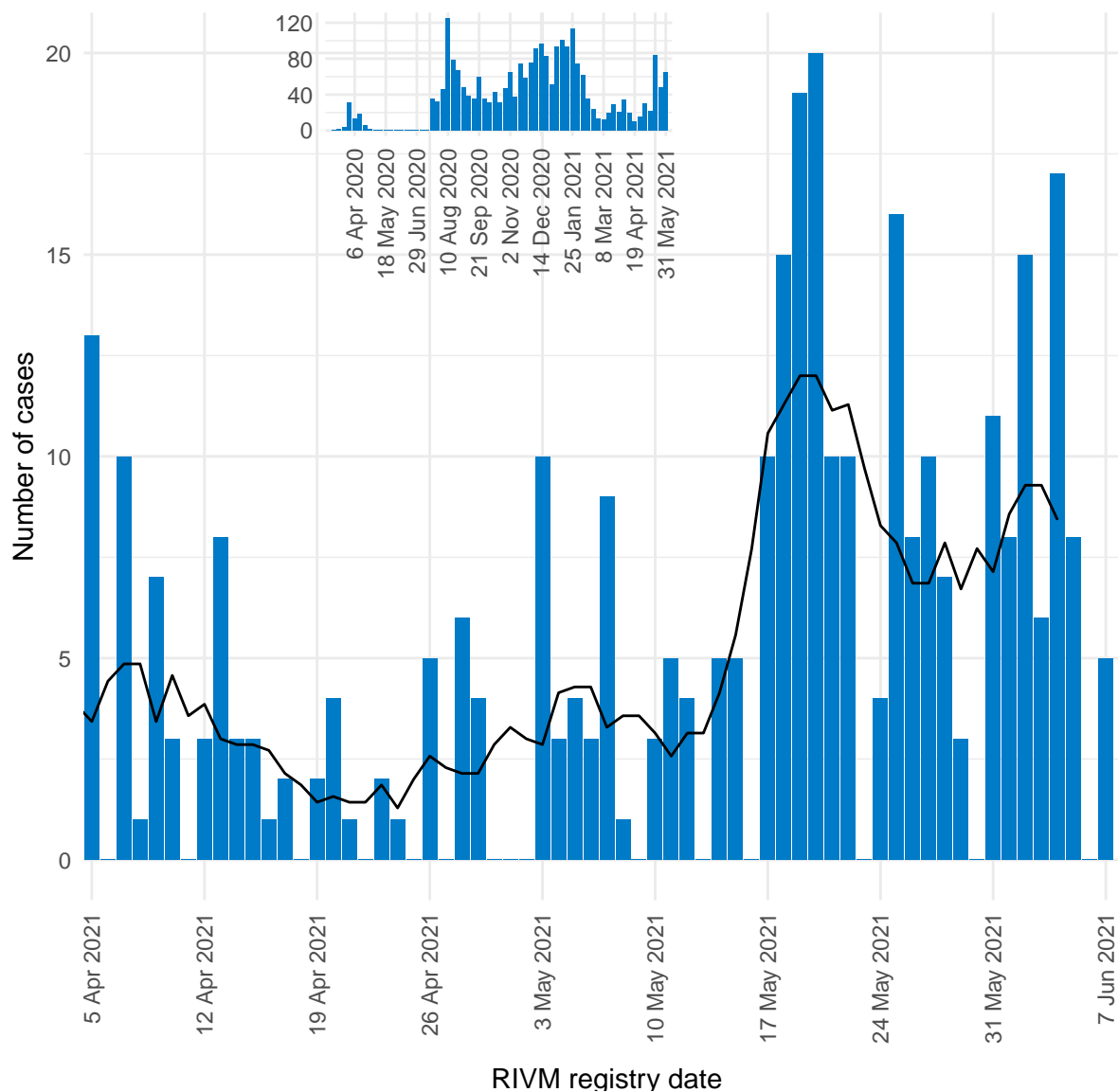


Figure 7: Number of daily reported SARS-CoV-2 cases on Dutch St Maarten, presented by RIVM registry date^{1,2}.

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

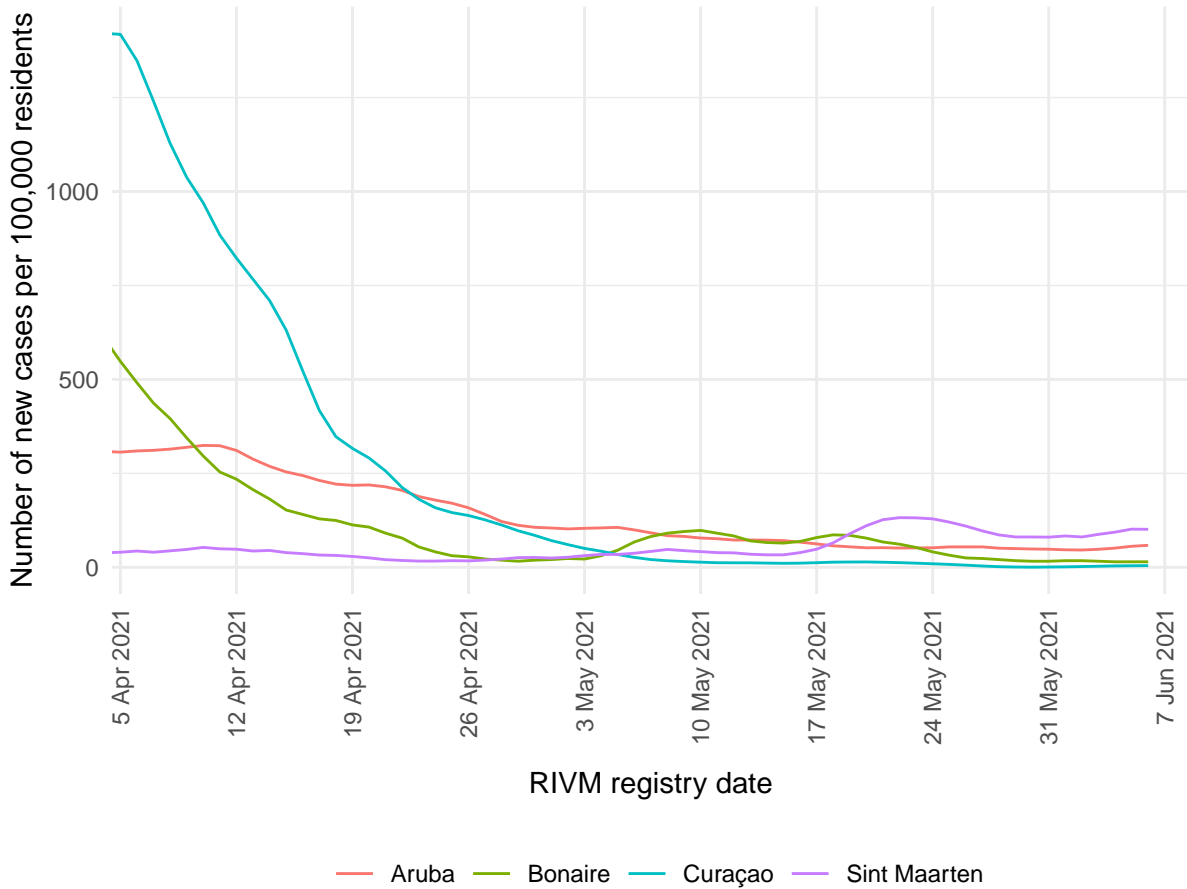


Figure 8: Three week average number of reported cases per 100,000 residents by RIVM registry date, on Curaçao, Aruba, Dutch St Maarten, and Bonaire^{1,2}.

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.