

Latest numbers on COVID-19 in the UK – 24 July 2020

We have combined data from the government's daily figures¹ and the government's report on NHS Test and Trace² and each nation's official death registries.

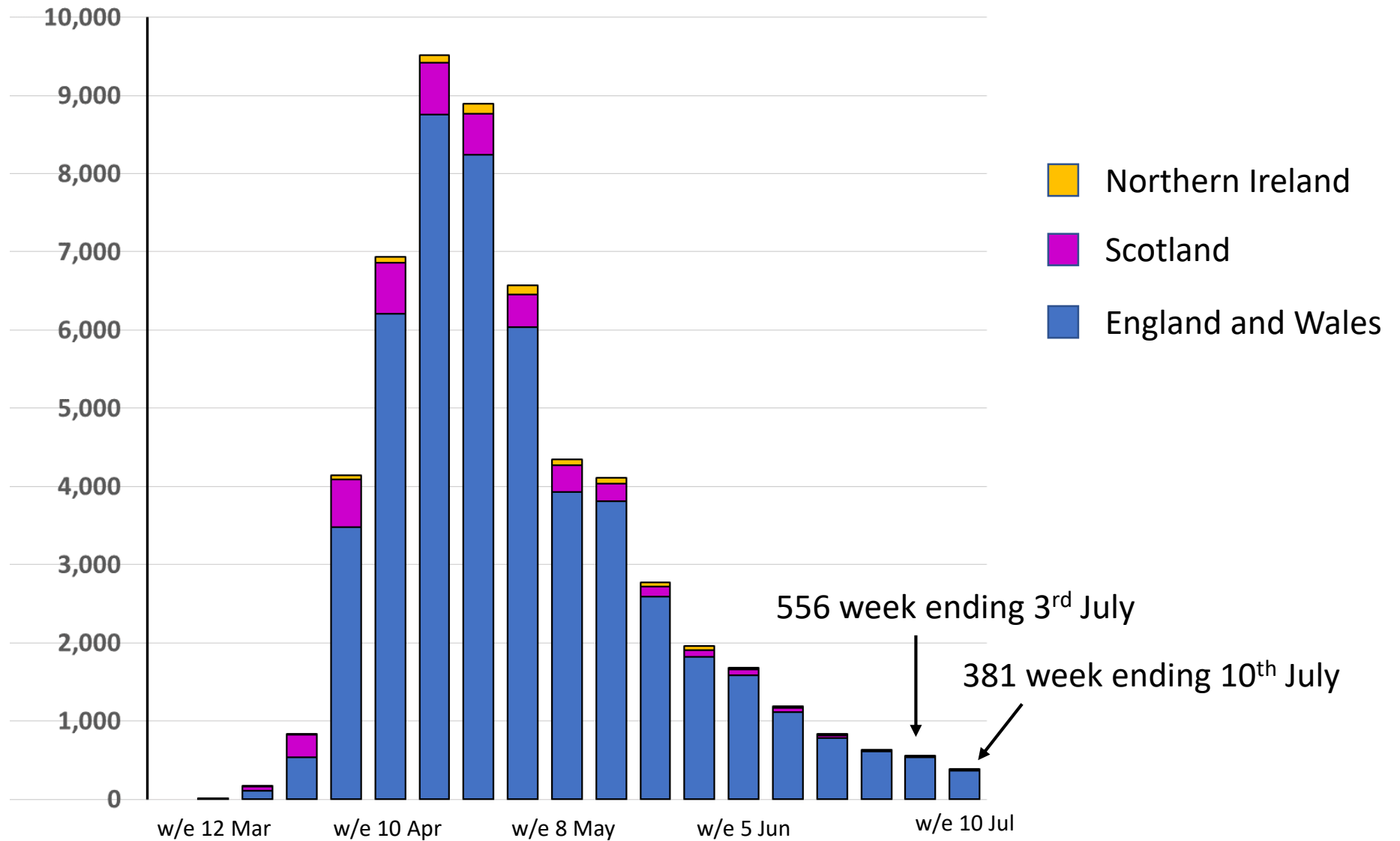
1. Number of new deaths from COVID-19 in the UK.
2. Number and location of new infections in the UK.
3. NHS Test and Trace.
4. The global challenge of coming out of lockdown.

1. <https://coronavirus-staging.data.gov.uk/>

2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/nhs-test-and-trace-statistics-england-weekly-reports>

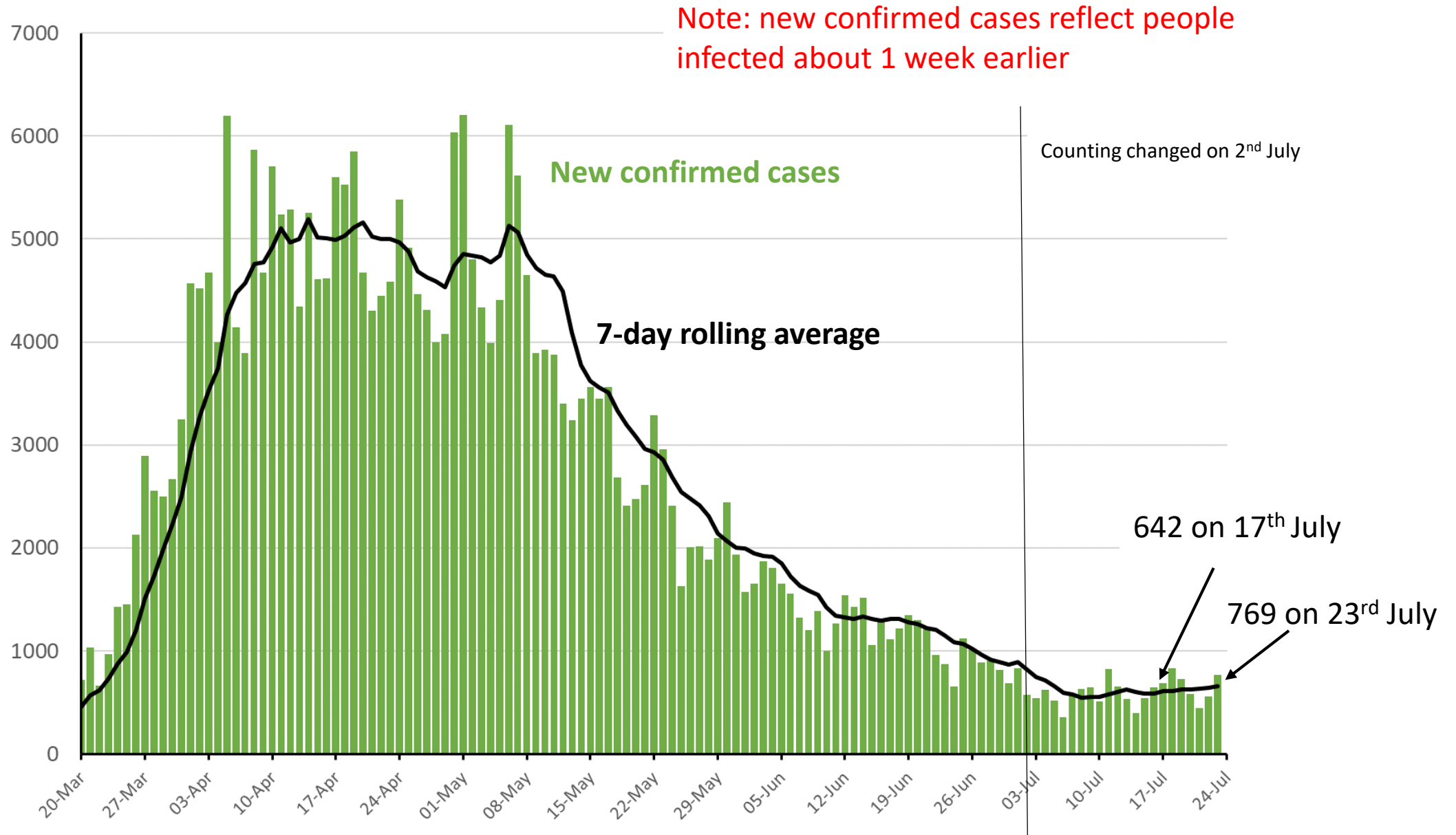
Number of new UK deaths from COVID-19 per week

These are registered deaths where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate

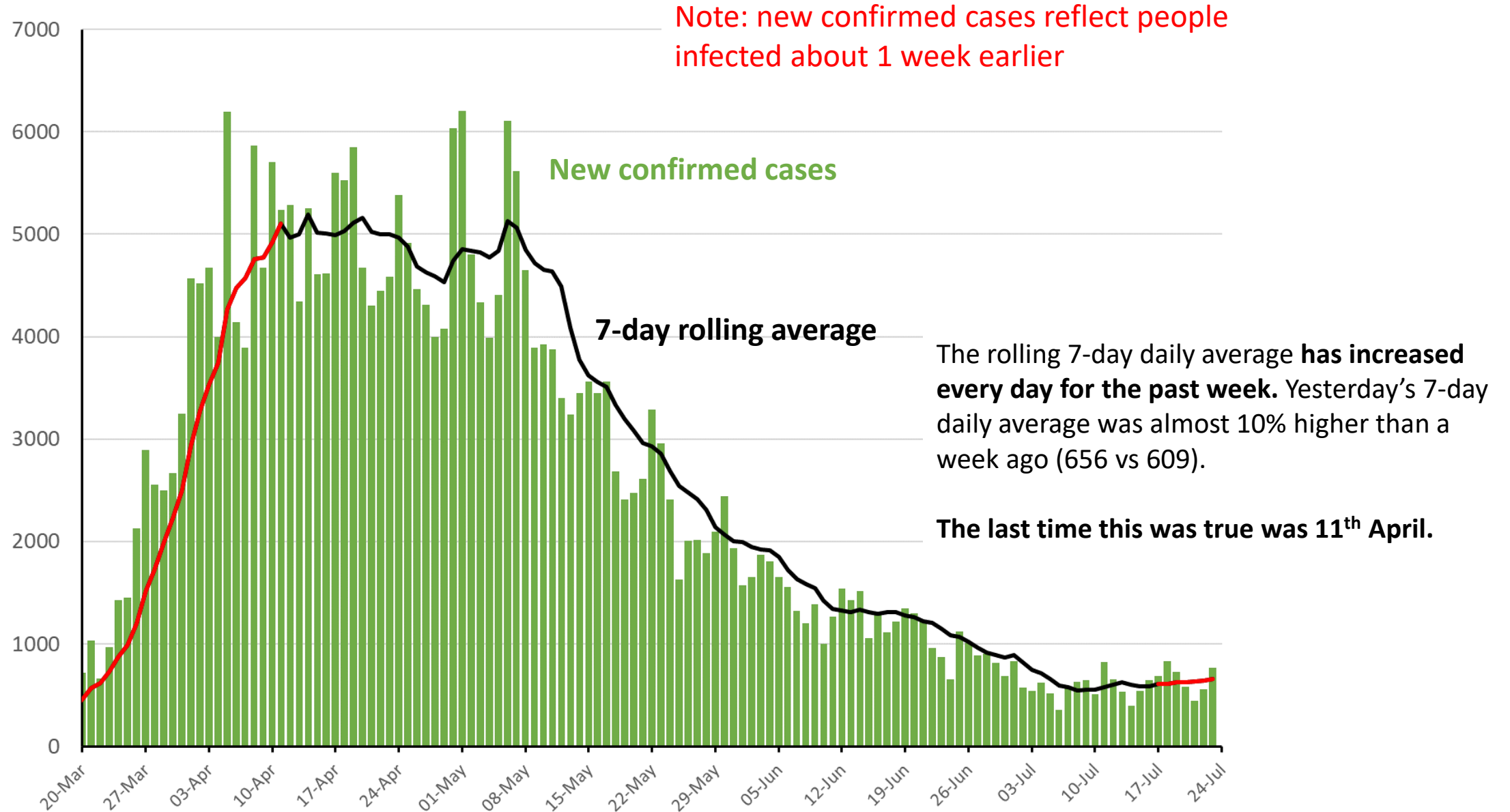


Data from :
England and Wales: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsregisteredweeklyinenglandandwalesprovisional/latest
Scotland: www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/general-publications/weekly-and-monthly-data-on-births-and-deaths/deaths-involving-coronavirus-covid-19-in-scotland
Northern Ireland: www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/weekly-deaths

Number of new UK confirmed COVID-19 cases (people who have had a positive test)

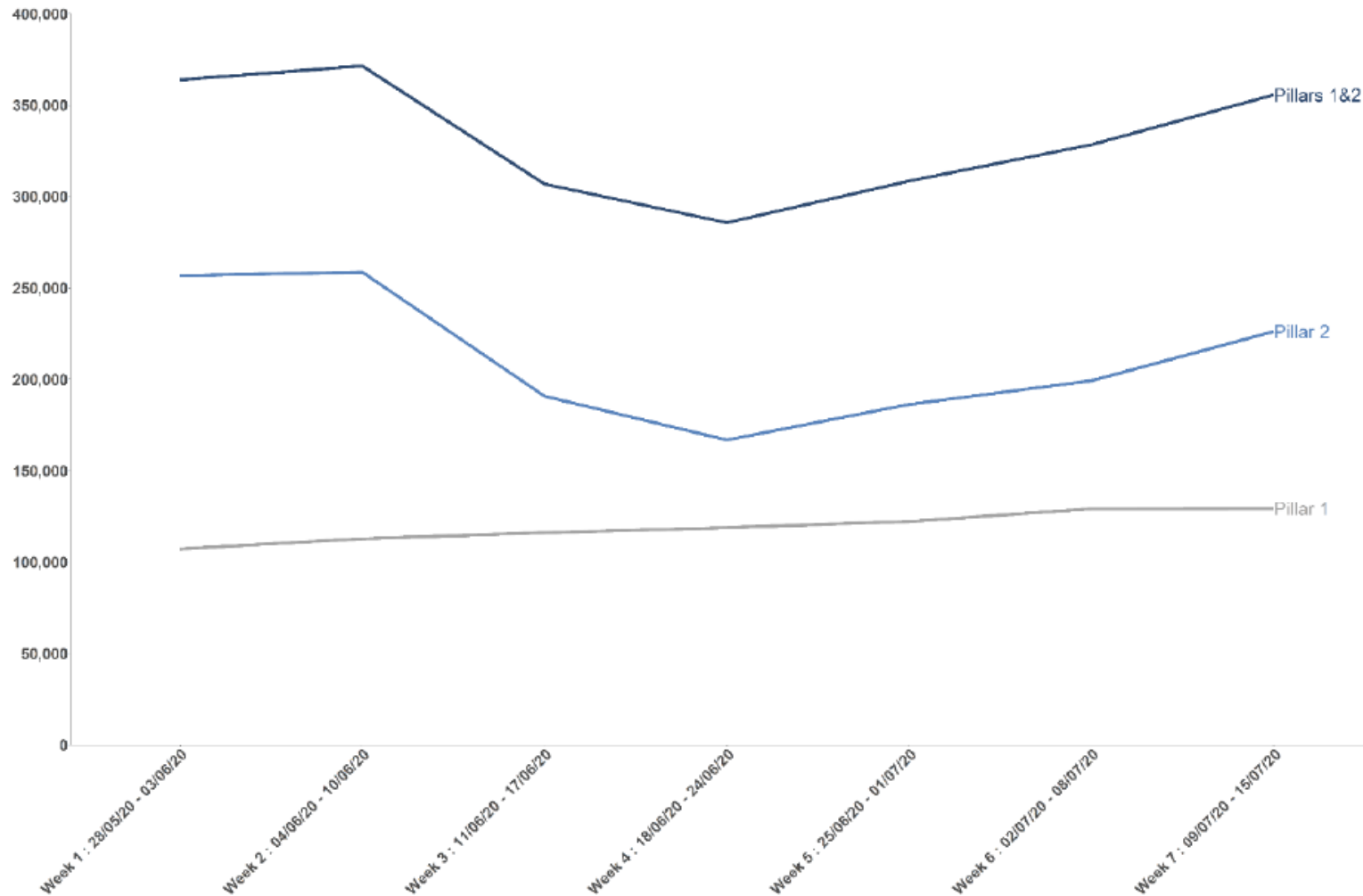


Number of new UK confirmed COVID-19 cases (people who have had a positive test)



Testing has increased

Figure 2: Number of people newly tested for Covid-19 by Pillar, England **Data covering 28 May – 15 July**



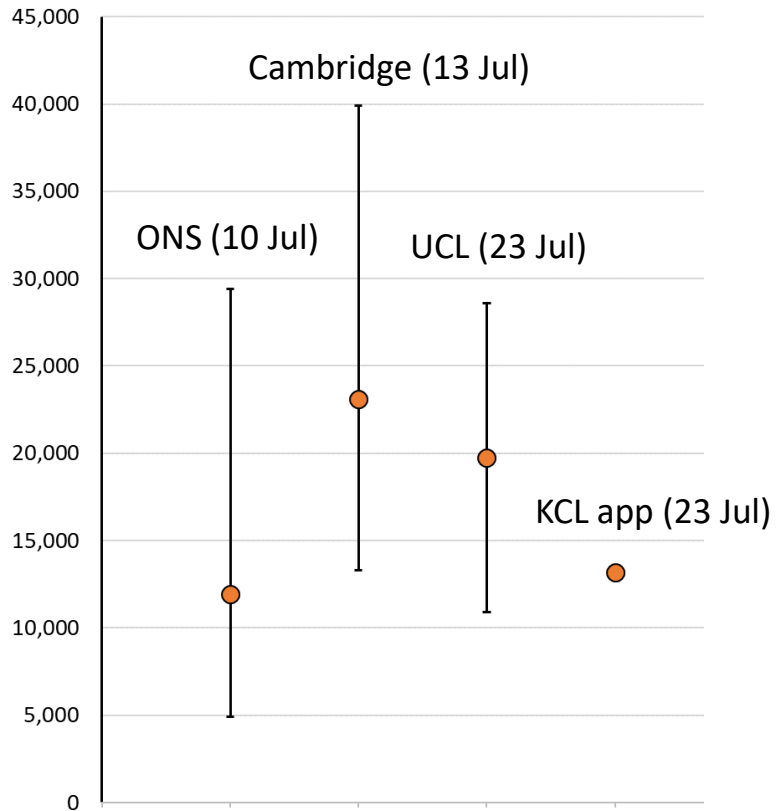
Tests done for everyone else and processed by commercial partners “Pillar 2” – these rely on people with symptoms letting the NHS know and getting a test.

Tests done in hospital and processed by PHE/NHS labs “Pillar 1”

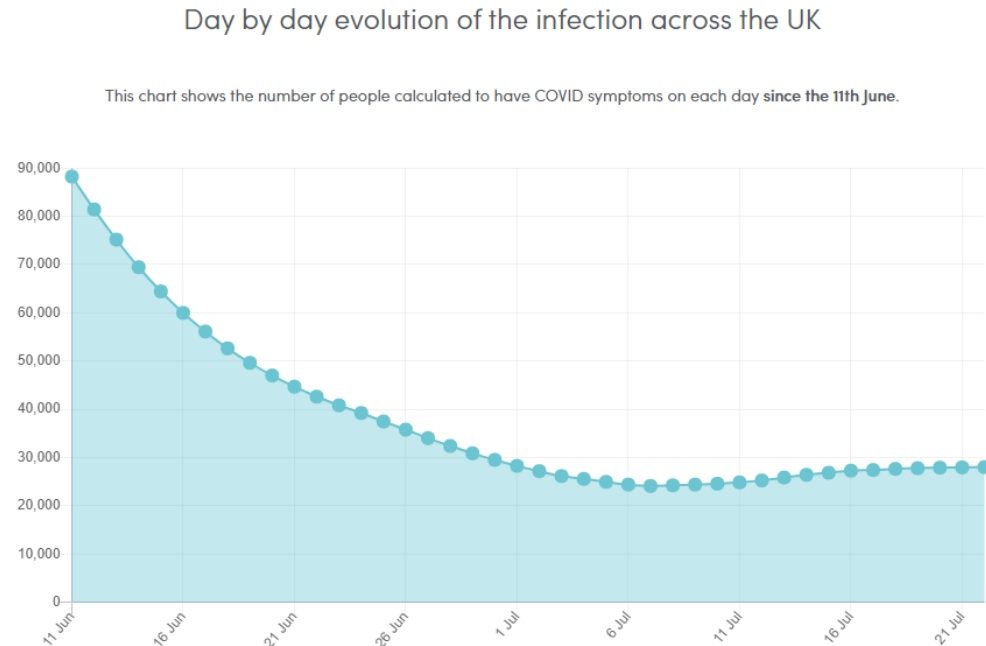
Positivity rate has been the same over the two weeks 2 – 15 July at about 1.1%

How many new infections a week?

Best estimates are somewhere between **15,000 and 25,000 new infections a week (2,000 – 3,500 a day)**.



KCL symptom tracker also has a slight increase since 6th July



<https://covid.joinzoe.com/data#levels-over-time>

ONS (latest estimate 10 July)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurvey/pilot/previousReleases>

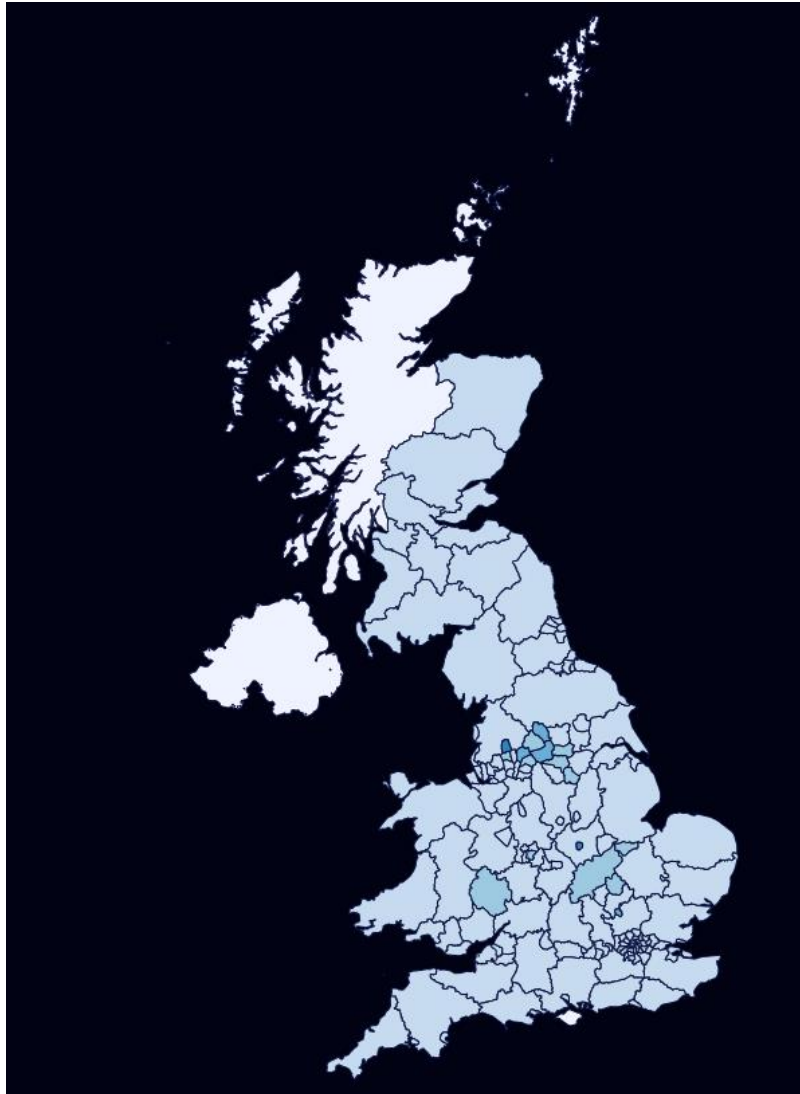
Cambridge (latest estimate 13th July) <https://www.mrc-bsu.cam.ac.uk/tackling-covid-19/nowcasting-and-forecasting-of-covid-19/>

UCL (latest estimate 23 July) <https://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm/covid-19/dashboard/local/>

KCL app (latest estimate 23 July): <https://covid.joinzoe.com/>

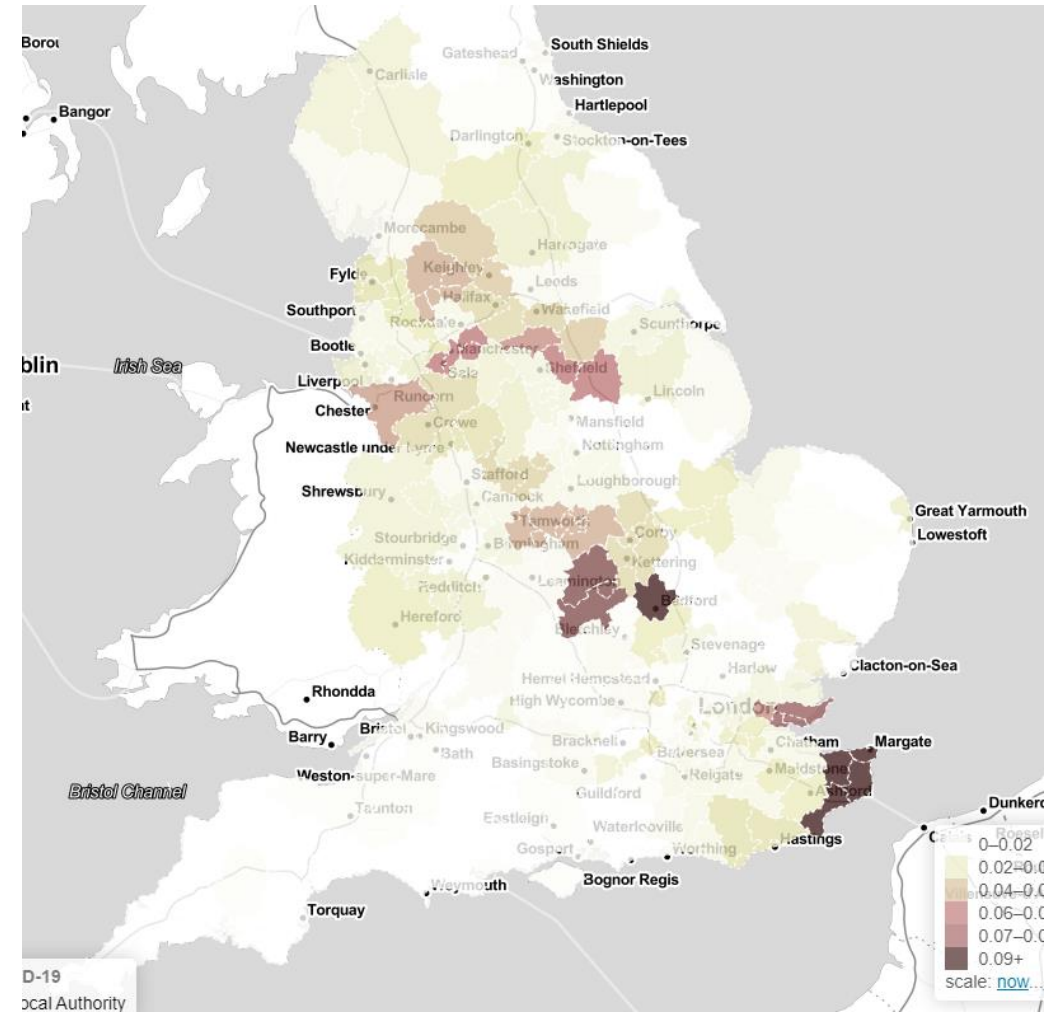
Where are the cases?

All of UK



Data from <https://coronavirus-staging.data.gov.uk/>

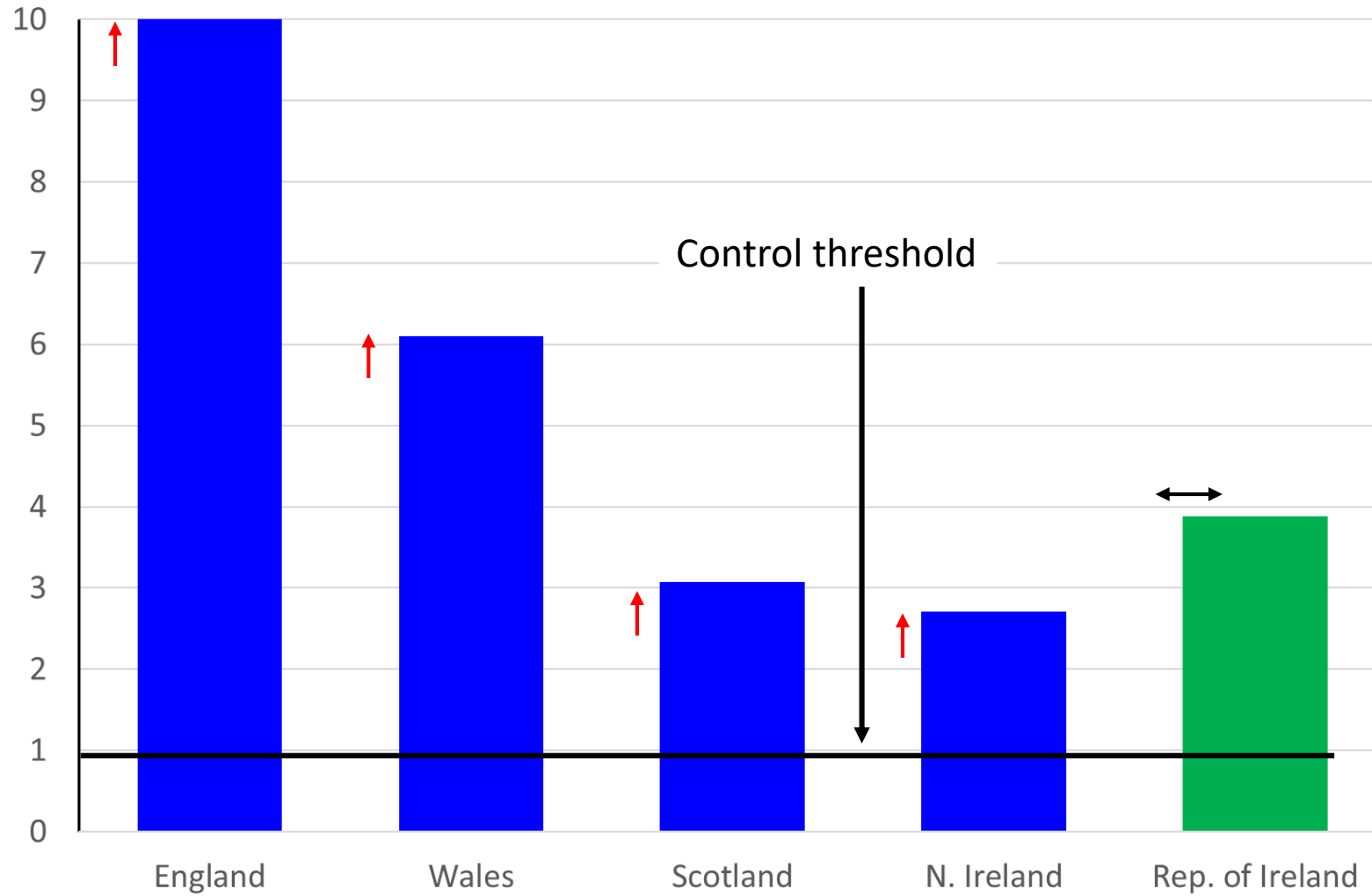
England



Data from <https://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm/covid-19/dashboard/local/>

Towards zero COVID?

New daily confirmed cases per million people (average over last week)



Test and Trace metrics over the last 7 weeks (28 May – 15 July)



Very very slight improvement over last three weeks.

Over two thirds of contacts are **within** household – Royal Statistical Society* estimates that only 30% of external contacts are being reached.

Needs to get better, faster, especially **case finding** and **support for isolation**.

*www.sciencemediacentre.org/expert-reaction-to-latest-statistics-from-nhs-test-and-trace-in-england/

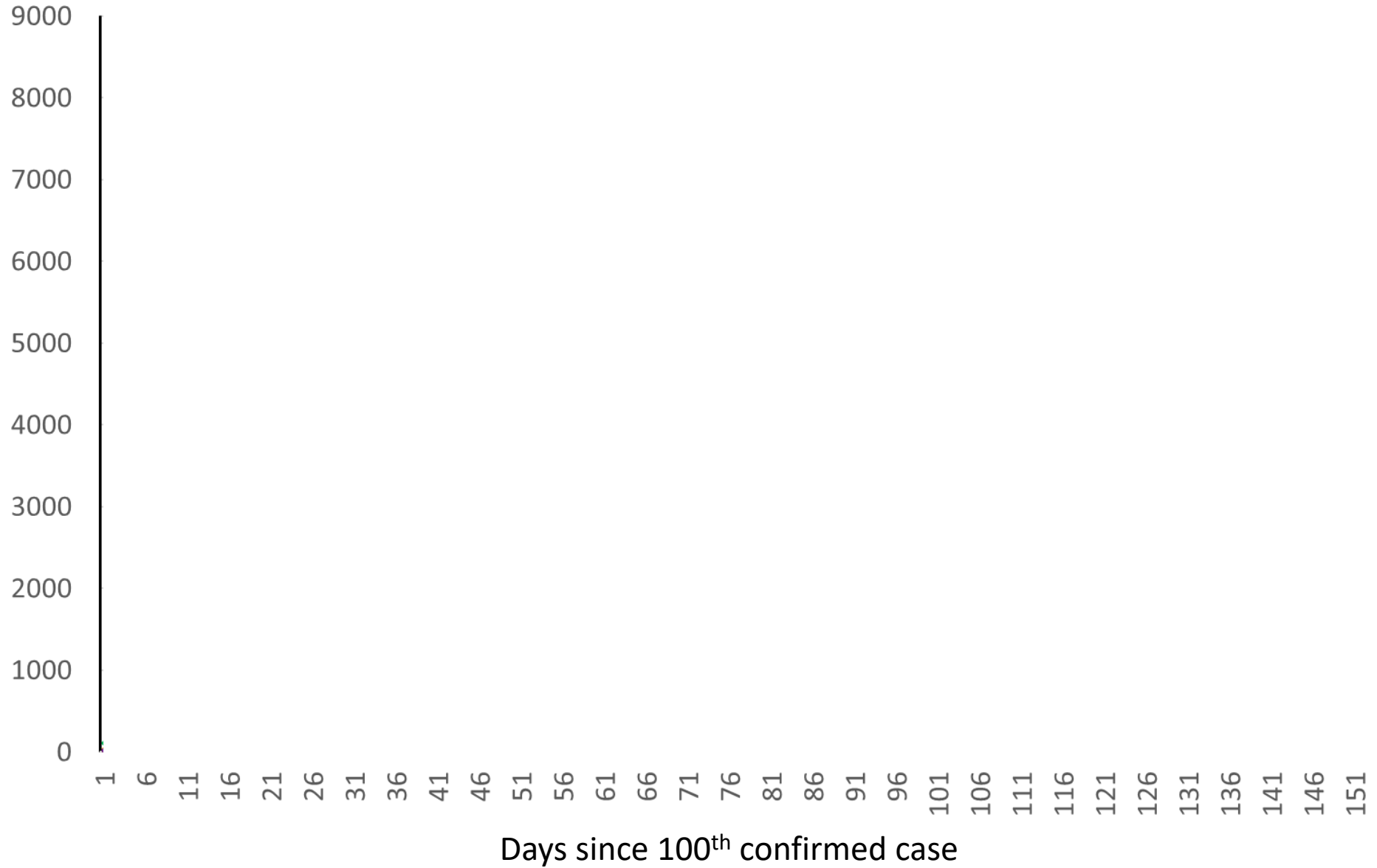
Also, worrying reports that contact tracing is much less effective in hot spot or deprived areas

Health policy
Test and trace failing to contact thousands in England's worst-hit areas
 Exclusive: proportion of close contacts being reached is below 80% in high infection areas

Coronavirus outbreak
Test and trace failures risk exponential case growth in England, official warns
 Blackburn with Darwen's public health director says only half those at risk in north-west being contacted

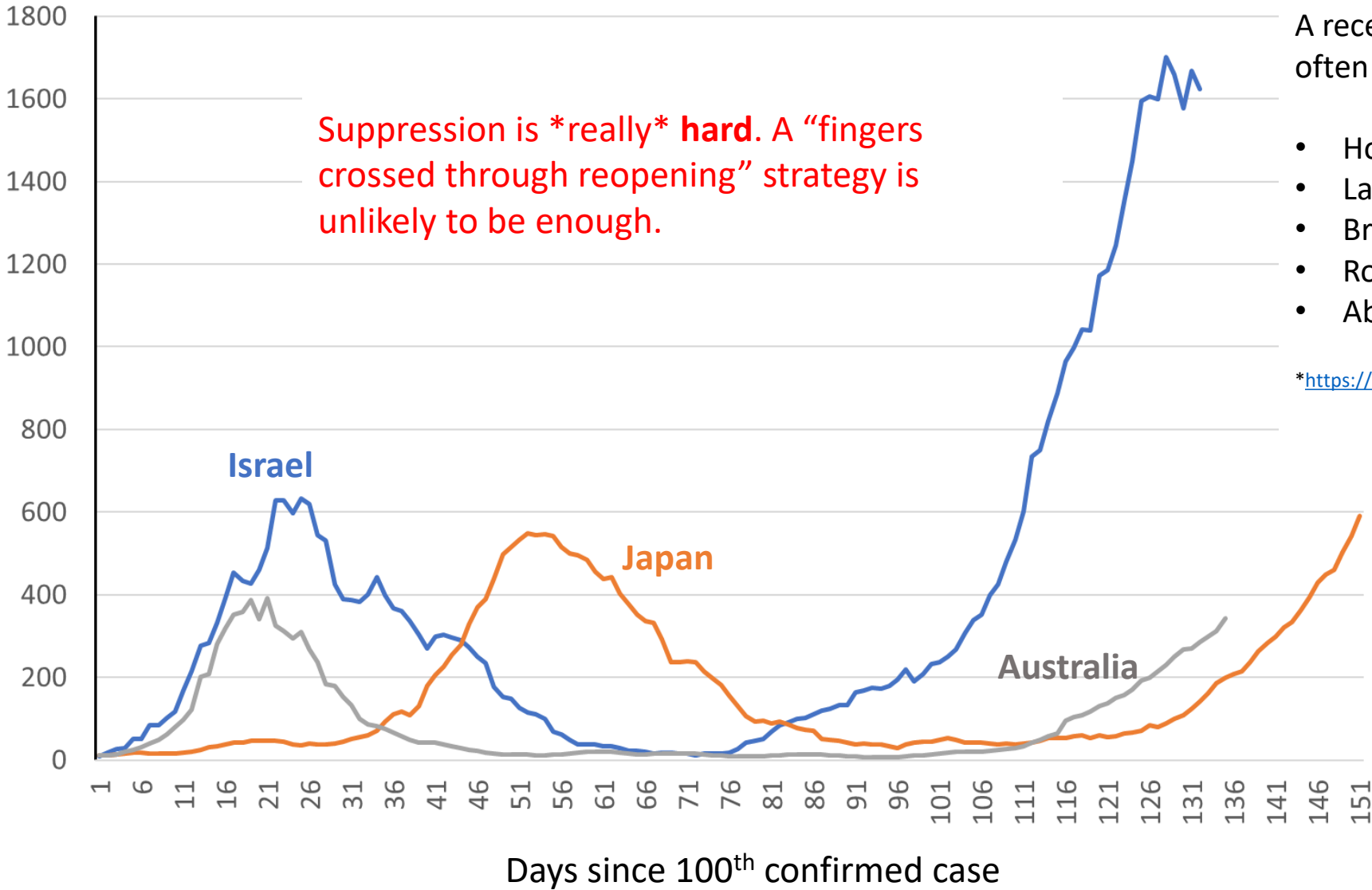
Comparison to other countries

Average daily cases



Comparison to other countries

Average daily cases



Suppression is **really** **hard**. A “fingers crossed through reopening” strategy is unlikely to be enough.

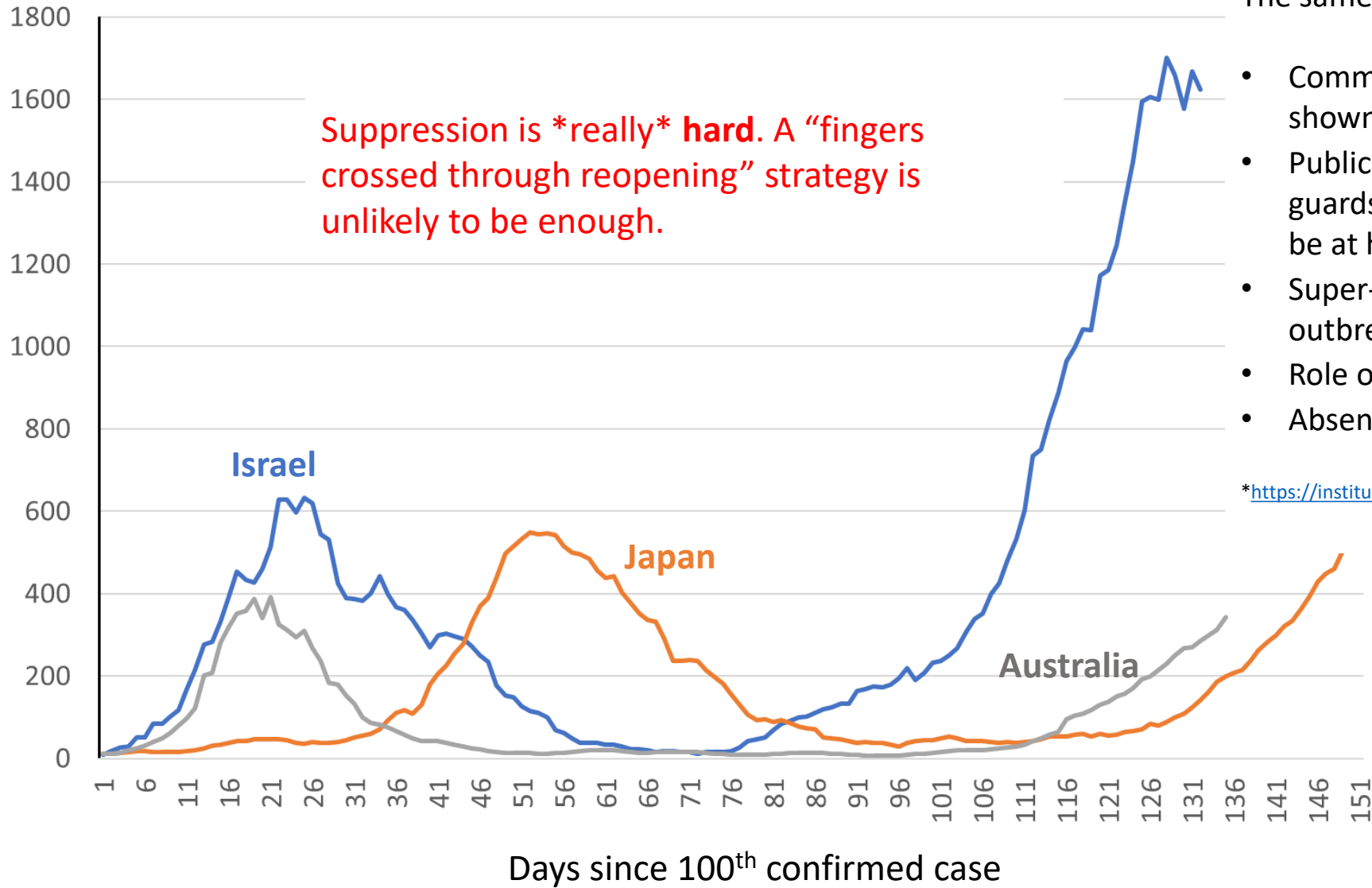
A recent report* says that new outbreaks are often linked to:

- Hot-spot environments like bars & clubs
- Large social gatherings
- Breaking of social distancing guidelines
- Role of young people in spreading
- Absence of masks

*<https://institute.global/policy/learning-live-alongside-covid-19>

Comparison to other countries

Average daily cases



The same report* highlights these challenges:

- Commuting on public transport has been shown to have increased risk
- Public facing roles (bus drivers, security guards, shop assistants) have been shown to be at higher risk
- Super-spreading settings often drive outbreaks (e.g. bars, factories)
- Role of young people in spreading
- Absence of masks

*<https://institute.global/policy/learning-live-alongside-covid-19>

Summary

Deaths are continuing to decline, but new confirmed cases are going up consistently for first time since early April. **Might** be due to more testing but hard to tell with current data.

Certainly this is a time for caution and not more opening – like gyms and workspaces. And much better public messaging is needed (e.g. around face coverings and social distancing).

Adopting a towards zero COVID strategy is safer and ultimately better for the economy since it minimises chances of renewed lockdowns.

NHS Test and Trace needs to improve - quickly.