Weekly Summary of Vermont COVID-19 Data

Reflecting cases identified between
March 5, 2020 – January 13, 2021

Date published: January 15, 2021. This summary will be updated every Friday.

VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Common Terms and Data Sources

This document contains information about people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in Vermont. You will find data presented in a few different ways throughout this document:

- **Count:** the number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 (overall or in a particular group)
- **Rate:** the number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in a particular group, divided by the total number of people in that group. Using rates allows for more direct comparisons between groups.
- **Growth rate:** a measure of the percent change in COVID-19 cases over time; this tells us how quickly or slowly the disease is spreading in Vermont
- **Week:** for the purposes of this document, "this week" is defined as January 6 through January 13.

For geographic information, please see the COVID-19 Data Dashboard or Town Map. For more information on data sources, please see our Data Notes document. For information on cases in schools, see COVID-19 Cases in Vermont K-12 Learning Communities While Infectious.

Please Note:

- On October 1, the denominators used to calculate rates by race and ethnicity were switched over from 2018 American Community Survey estimates to 2019 Vermont Department of Health estimates based on Census data. This change was made to be more consistent with how the Health Department typically calculates rates. The relatively large change in rates for some racial groups in the October 2, 2020 Weekly Summary is due to this change in methodology.

- As of December 4, 2020 the Weekly Summary includes both probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19.

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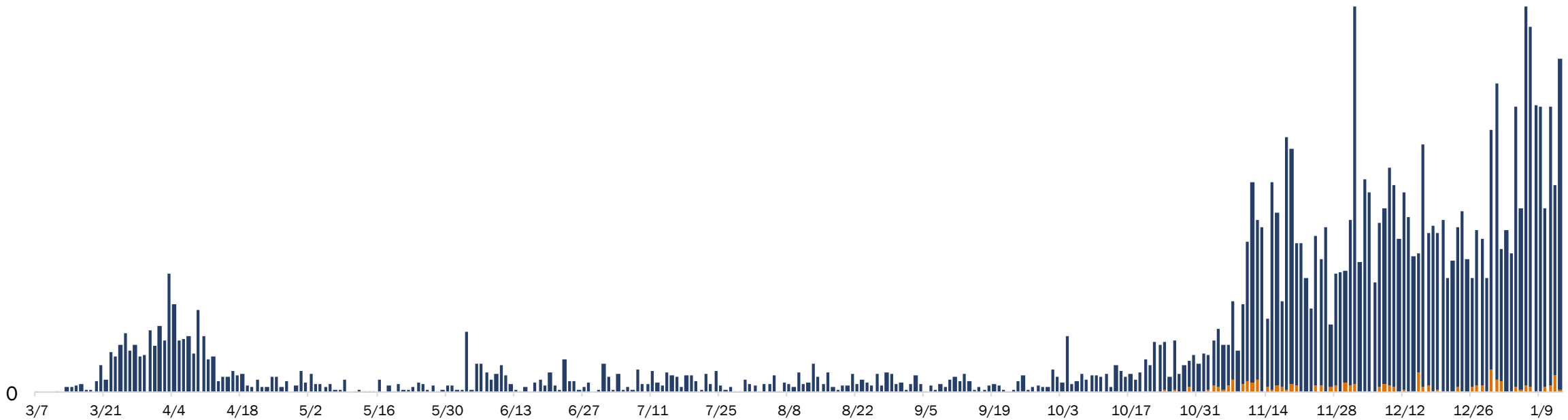
COVID-19 in Vermont

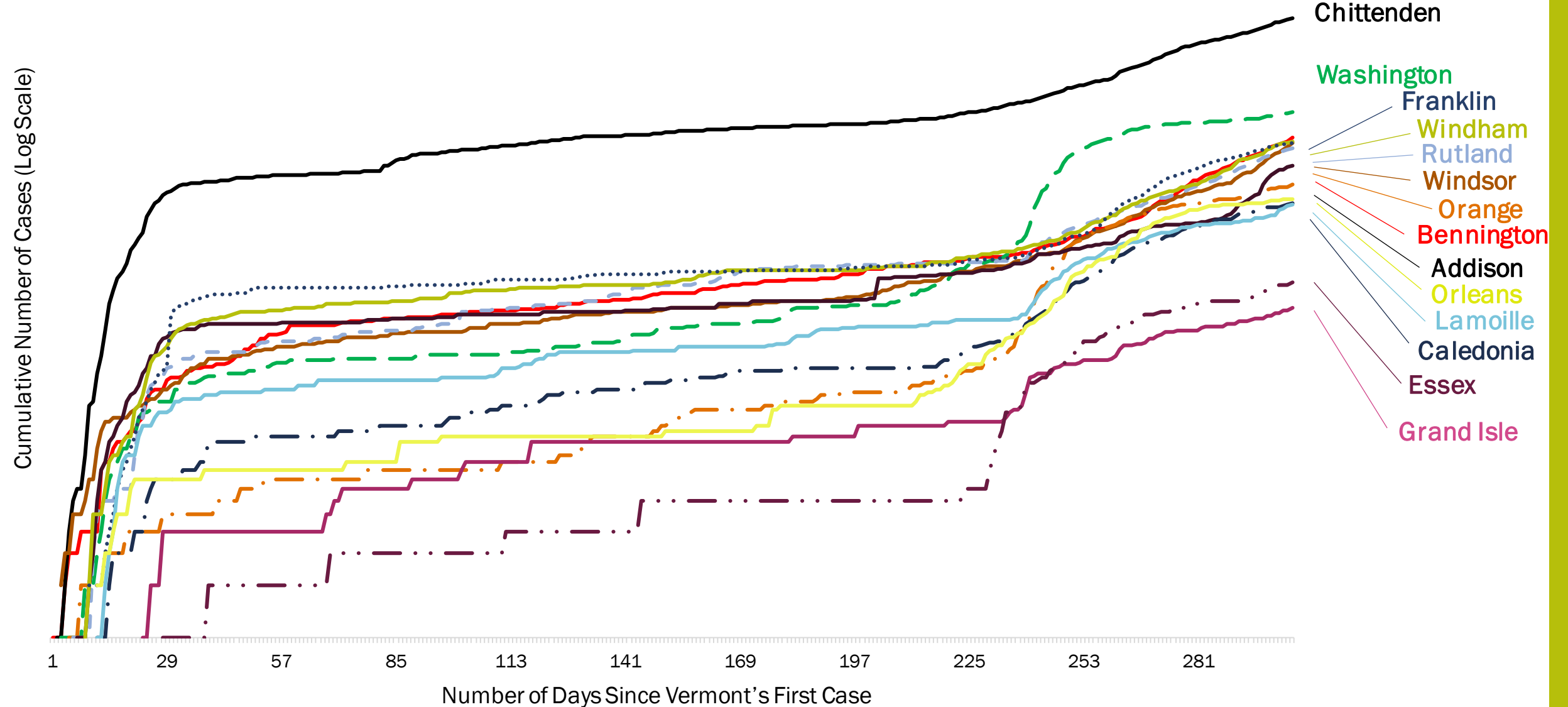An overview of our number of cases and laboratory testing to date.

Total Number of Confirmed and Probable Cases in Vermont: 9,573

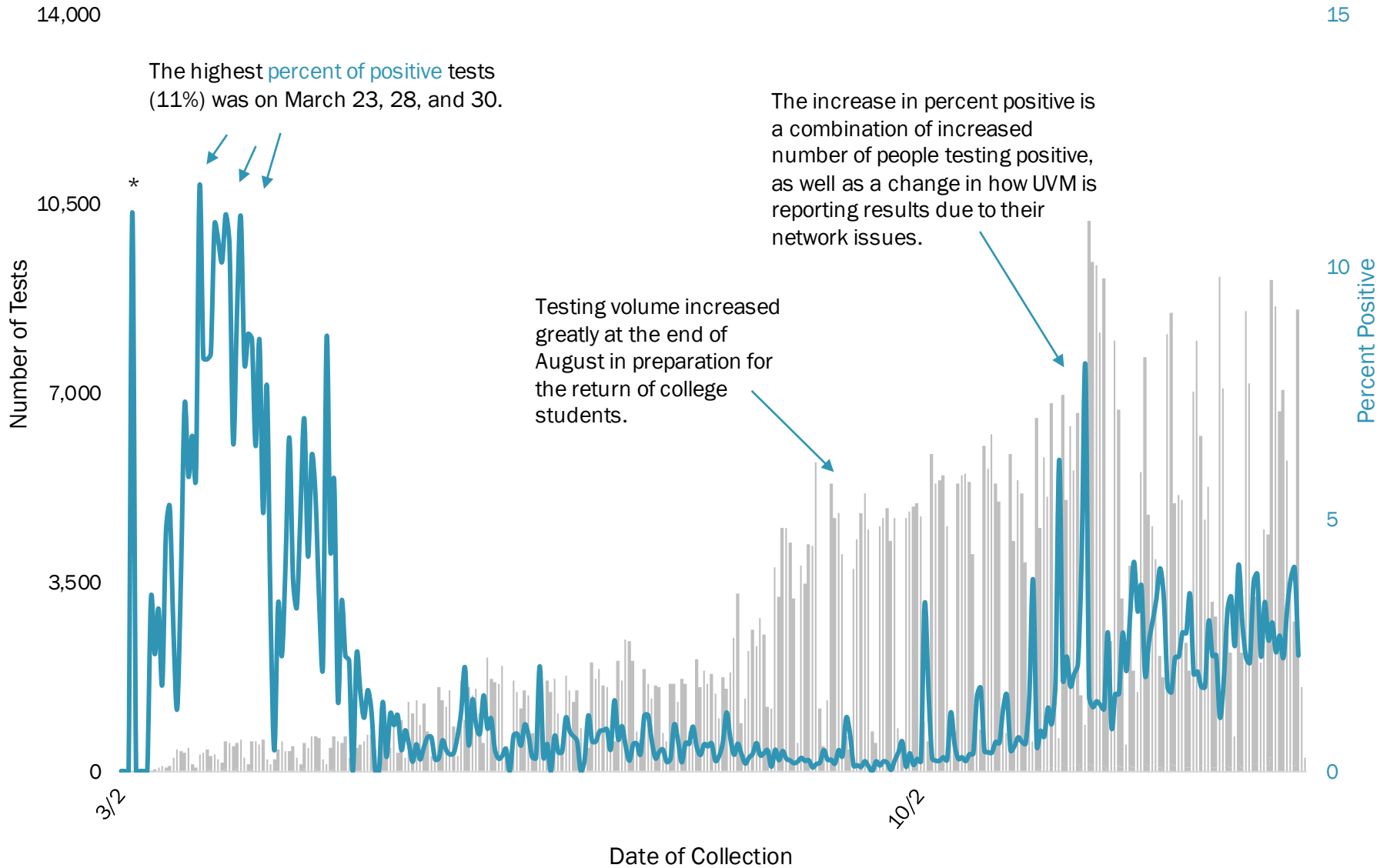COVID-19 in Vermont

Most counties continue to see new cases.

Growth over time by county (n=9,568)

Cumulative Number of Cases (Log Scale)

Number of Days Since Vermont's First Case

Chittenden
Washington
Franklin
Windham
Rutland
Windsor
Orange
Bennington
Addison
Orleans
Lamoille
Caledonia
Essex
Grand Isle

Cumulative cases are presented using a log scale to help compare the large number of cases in Chittenden County (n=3,373, roughly 35% of all cases) to other counties. Using a log scale also helps visualize percent change. For the number of cases by county, see the Data Dashboard.
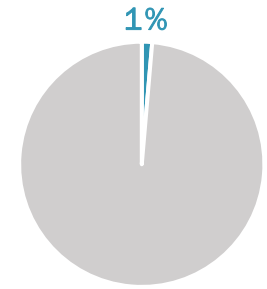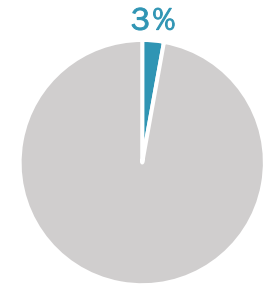
COVID-19 in Vermont

Percent of positive COVID-19 tests may indicate how prevalent the disease is in the population.

Percent Positive to Date

1%

The highest percent of positive tests (11%) was on March 23, 28, and 30.

The increase in percent positive is a combination of increased number of people testing positive, as well as a change in how UVM is reporting results due to their network issues.

Testing volume increased greatly at the end of August in preparation for the return of college students.

14,000

10,500

7,000

3,500

0

Number of Tests

15

10

5

0

Percent Positive

3/2

10/2

Date of Collection

Percent Positive This Week
(January 6 – January 13)

3%

13,702 People Tested this Week	35,973 Tests this Week
282,517 People Tested to Date	779,141 Tests to Date

Vermont Department of Health

*Not a stable estimate due to small numbers. There were 8 total tests and 1 was positive.

The **number of people tested** reflects the number of individual people who have had confirmatory testing for COVID-19 in Vermont. Each person is only counted once. The **number of tests** reflects the number of specimens that have had confirmatory tests for COVID-19 in Vermont. This number may include multiple specimens for one person, the same person tested multiple times, etc. **Percent positive** is the number of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 specimens divided by the total number of specimens (updated 11/6/20). None of these numbers include serology or antigen testing.

COVID-19 in Vermont

The distribution of people tested for COVID-19 in Vermont varies by age group.

Age in Years: 0-9: 5%, 10-19: 12%, 20-29: 18%, 30-39: 14%, 40-49: 12%, 50-59: 14%, 60-69: 13%, 70-79: 8%, 80+: 4%
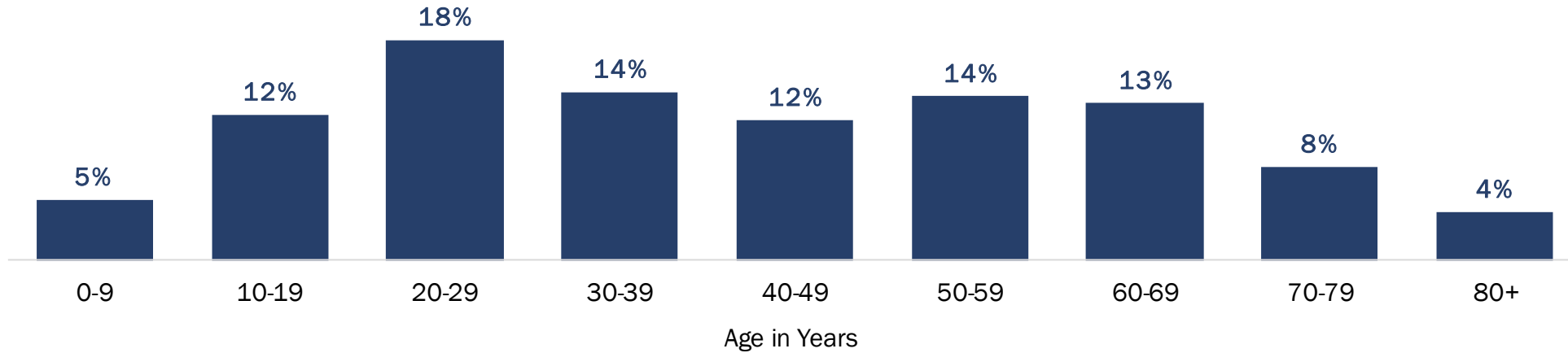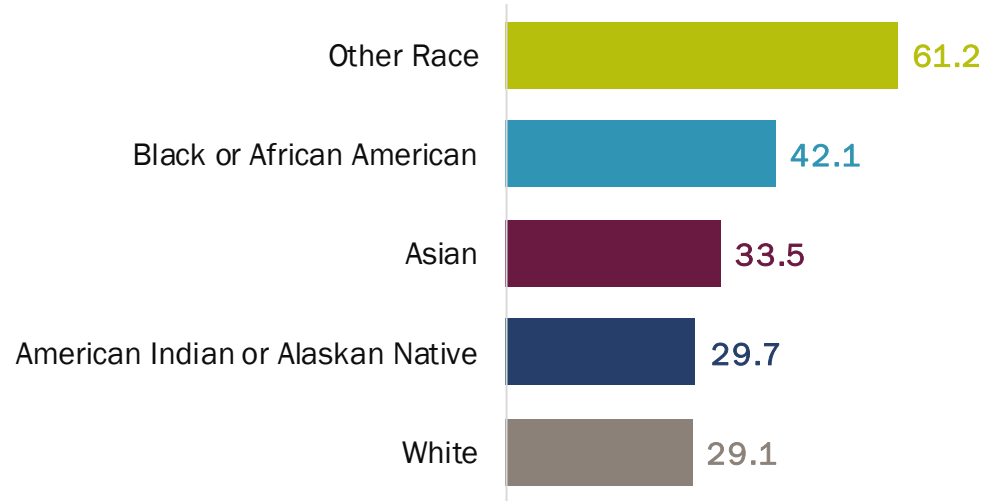
More females are tested than males for COVID-19.

56% of people tested for COVID-19 are female.

44% of people tested for COVID-19 are male.

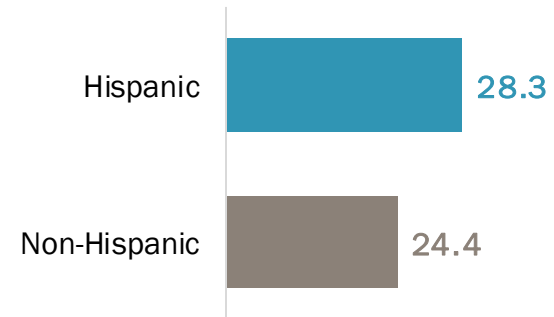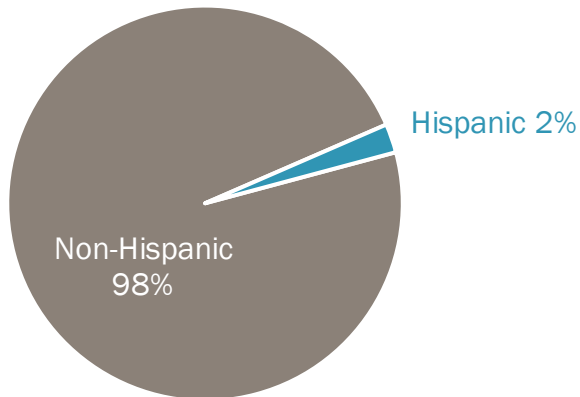COVID-19 in Vermont

White Vermonters represent the majority of people tested in Vermont for COVID-19. Vermonters with other race have the highest rate of testing.
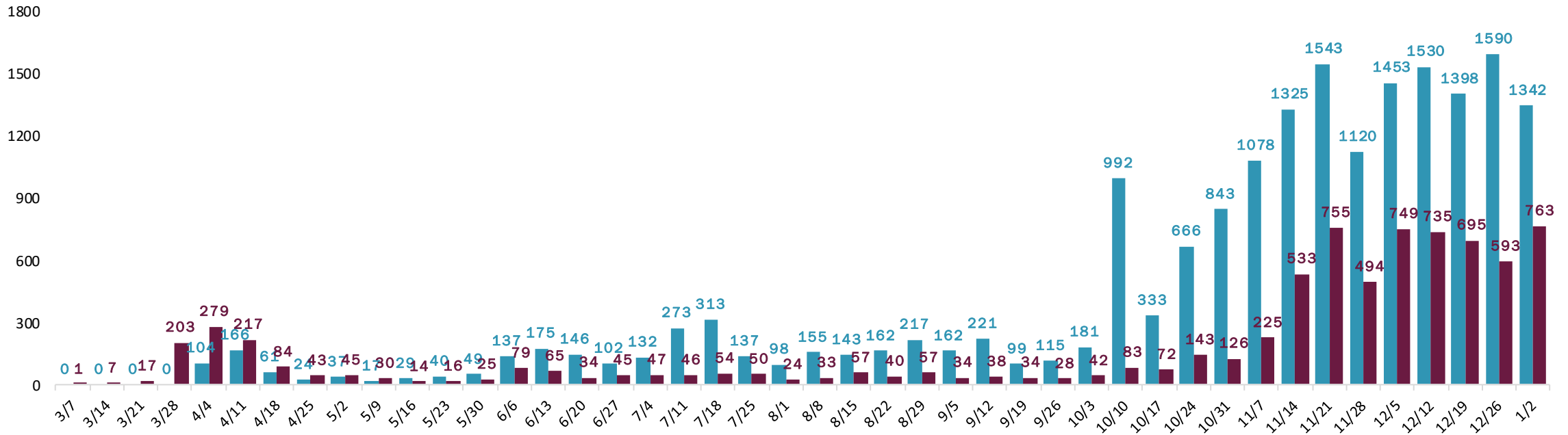
Rates per 100 Vermonters
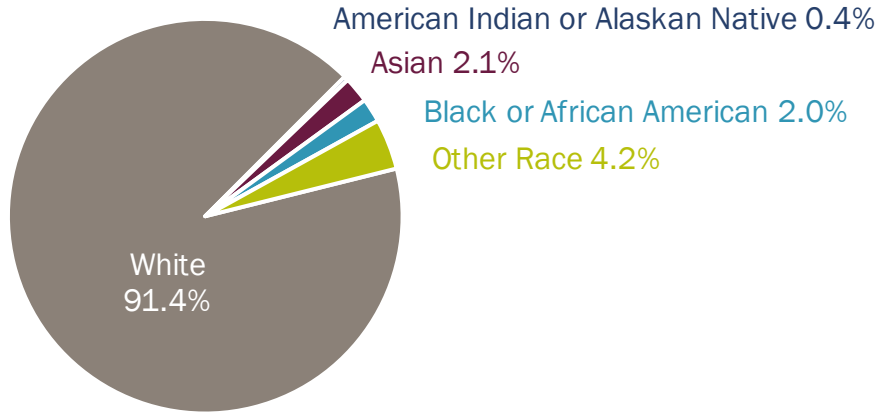
Non-Hispanic Vermonters represent the majority of people tested in Vermont for COVID-19. Hispanic Vermonters have the higher rate of testing.

Rates per 100 Vermonters

Other Race includes people who identify as two or more races, or a race other than white, Asian, African American or Black, and American Indian or Alaskan Native.

COVID-19 in Vermont

Contact tracers speak with both cases and their close contacts each week.

195
Number of full-time equivalent contact tracing staff trained

995
Cases interviewed last week

January 3 – January 9

1,342
Contacts named last week

January 3 – January 9

2.8
Average number of contacts per case*

*Since April 1

The number of confirmed cases may not match the number of cases interviewed. There is not always clean overlap between the week in which a case is confirmed and in which that case is interviewed (i.e., a case confirmed on Saturday afternoon may not be interviewed until Sunday morning). Some cases (long term care facility residents, for example) are not managed by the contact tracing team and are not "eligible" for interview.

COVID-19 in Vermont

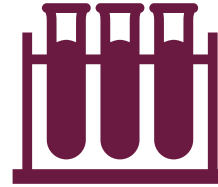# In the last two weeks (from December 27 to January 9):

84%
Of cases were interviewed within 24 hours

80%
Of cases provided their close contacts

68%
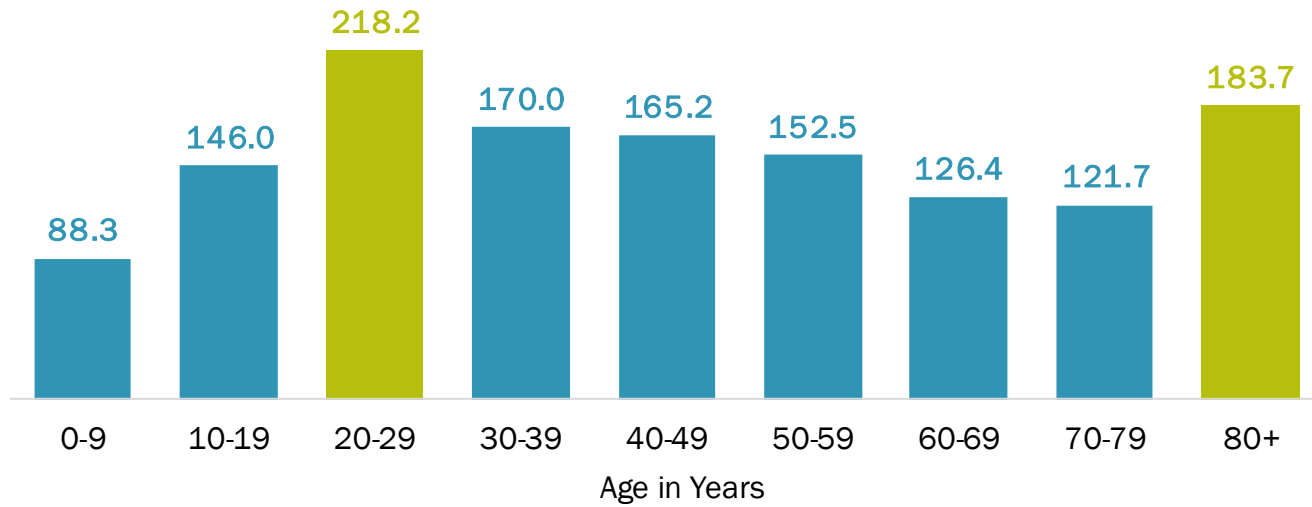Of contacts were tested within 14 days of exposure

13%
Of contacts became a case

COVID-19 in Vermont
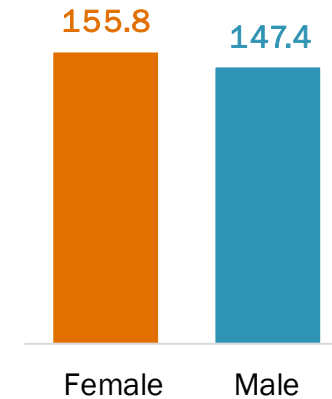
Case Demographics

Who has been impacted by COVID-19 in Vermont?

Rates of COVID-19 are highest among Vermonters 20-29 and 80 years and older.
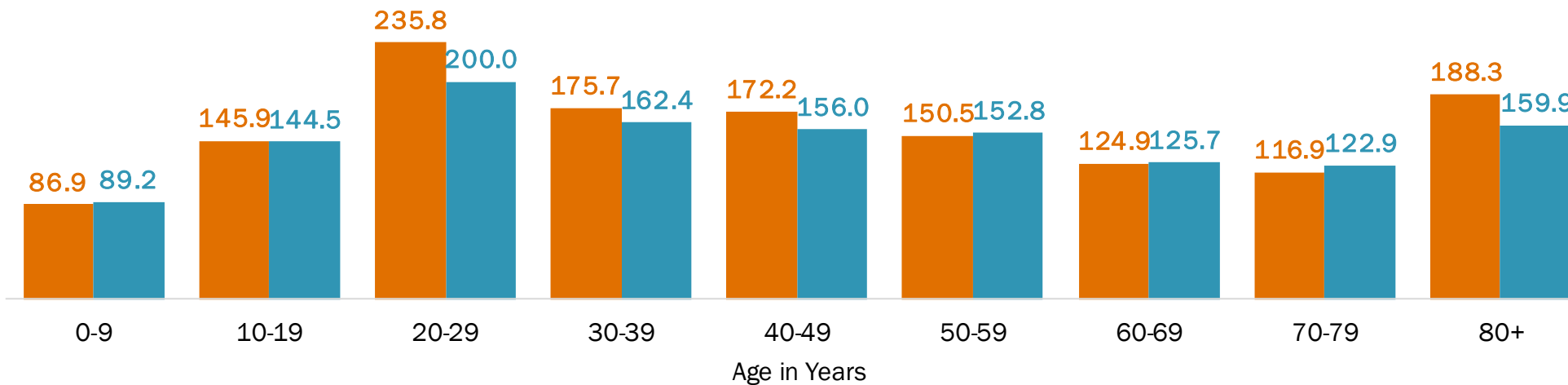
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

Age in Years	Rate
0-9	88.3
10-19	146.0
20-29	218.2
30-39	170.0
40-49	165.2
50-59	152.5
60-69	126.4
70-79	121.7
80+	183.7

Females and males have similar rates of COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

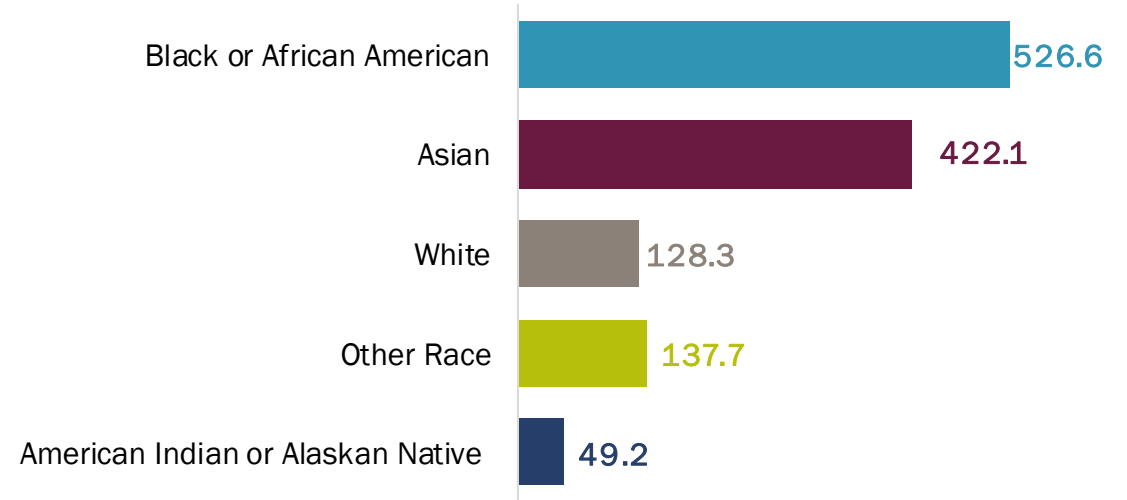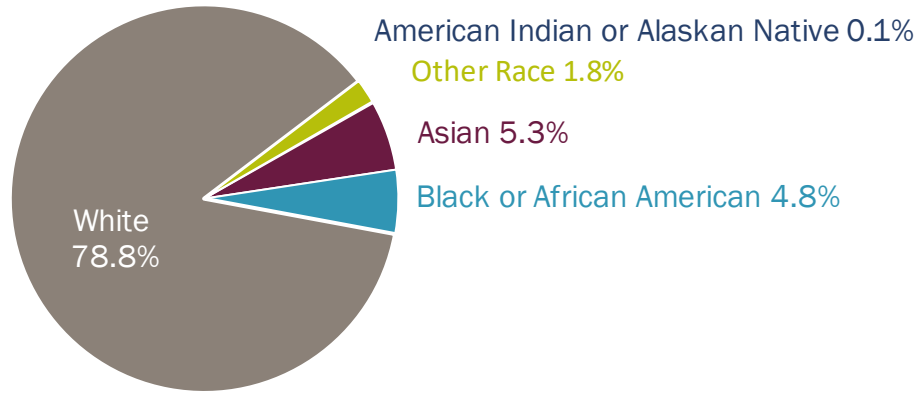|	Rate
Female	155.8
Male	147.4

There are differences in age and sex of Vermonters with COVID-19.

Rates of COVID-19 by Age Group for Females and Males per 10,000 Vermonters

Age in Years	Female	Male
0-9	86.9	89.2
10-19	145.9	144.5
20-29	235.8	200.0
30-39	175.7	162.4
40-49	172.2	156.0
50-59	150.5	152.8
60-69	124.9	125.7
70-79	116.9	122.9
80+	188.3	159.9

Case Demographics

White Vermonters represent the majority of COVID-19 cases. African American Vermonters have the highest rate.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

American Indian or Alaskan Native 0.1%
Other Race 1.8%
Asian 5.3%
Black or African American 4.8%
White 78.8%

Black or African American — 526.6
Asian — 422.1
White — 128.3
Other Race — 137.7
American Indian or Alaskan Native — 49.2

Non-Hispanic Vermonters represent the majority of COVID-19 cases. Hispanic Vermonters have the higher rate.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters
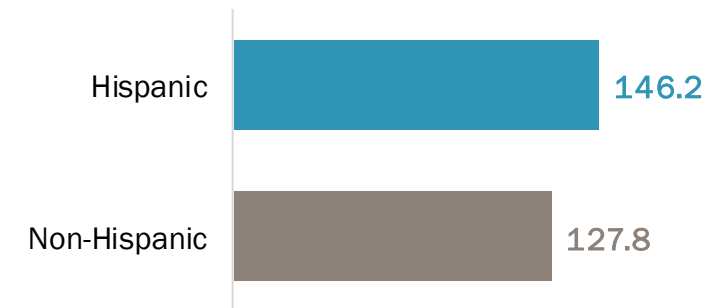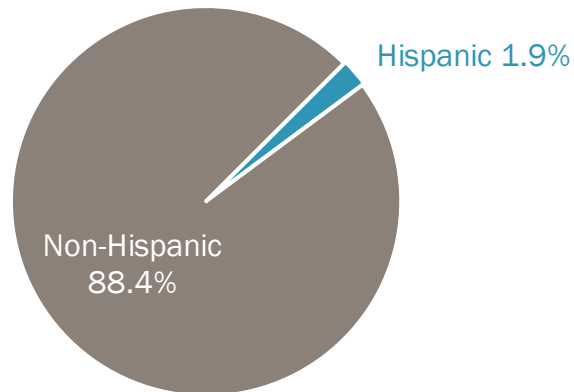
Hispanic 1.9%
Non-Hispanic 88.4%

Hispanic — 146.2
Non-Hispanic — 127.8

Other Race includes people who identify as two or more races, or a race other than white, Asian, African American or Black, and American Indian or Alaskan Native.
Race is unknown in 9% of cases (n = 770) and ethnicity is unknown in 16% of cases (n = 1,383).
* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

Case Demographics

Approximately 40% of people* with COVID-19 have a pre-existing condition.

*of the 7,750 people that the Health Department has pre-existing condition data for.

Condition	Count	Percentage
Other Chronic Condition**	860	11%
Chronic Lung Disease (includes asthma and COPD)	775	10%
Current/Former Smoker	757	10%
Diabetes	421	5%
Heart Disease	372	5%
Neurologic Condition/Intellectual Disability	170	2%
Immunocompromised Condition	106	1%
Chronic Kidney Disease	73	1%
Pregnant	51	1%
Chronic Liver Disease	25	0.3%

29% of people with a pre-existing condition have two or more conditions.

**Not mutually exclusive, includes things like arthritis, thyroid conditions, multiple free text entries.

The Health Department has information about pre-existing conditions in 81% (7,750) of 9,573 total COVID-19 cases.

Case Demographics

Prevalence of select conditions in COVID-19 adult patients and Vermont adults.
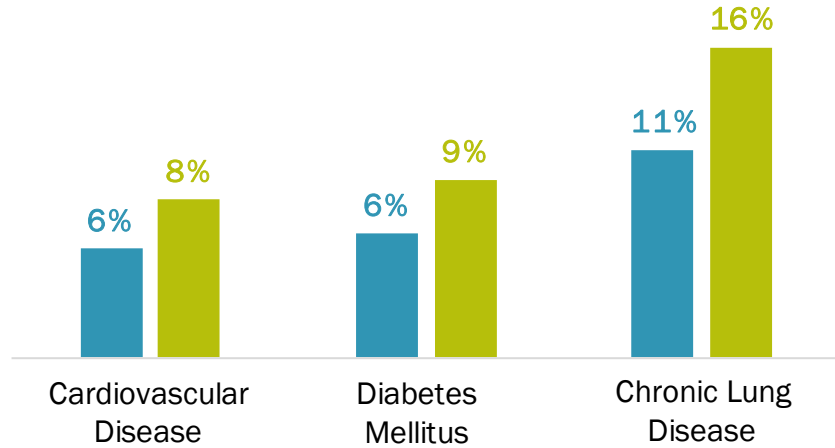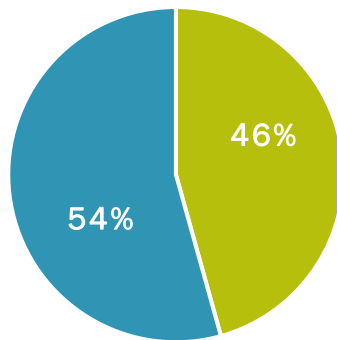

Data Source: Cardiovascular disease and diabetes, BRFSS 2018 annual report. Chronic lung disease, 3-4-50 Community profile (2016-2017 BRFSS).
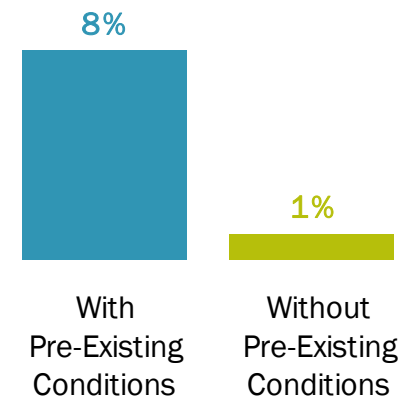
COVID-19 patients with pre-existing conditions tend to be older than those without pre-existing conditions.
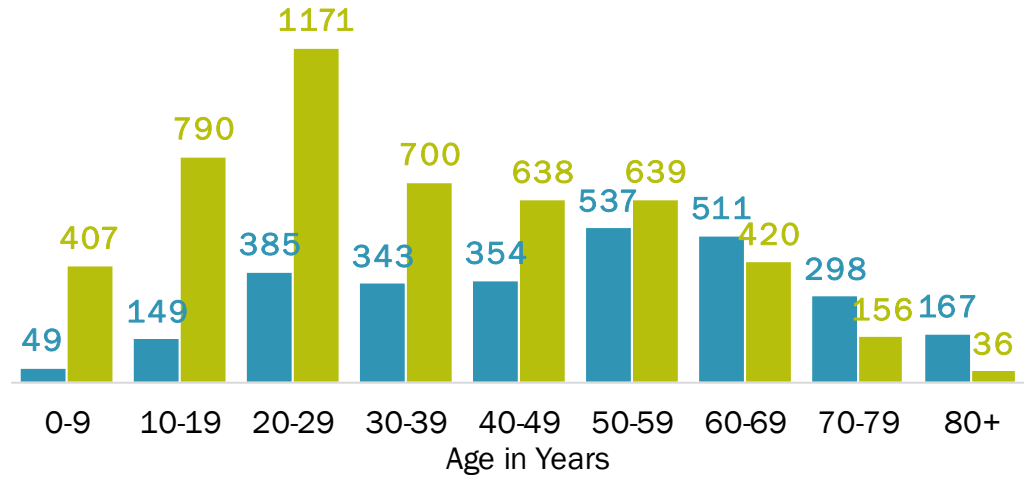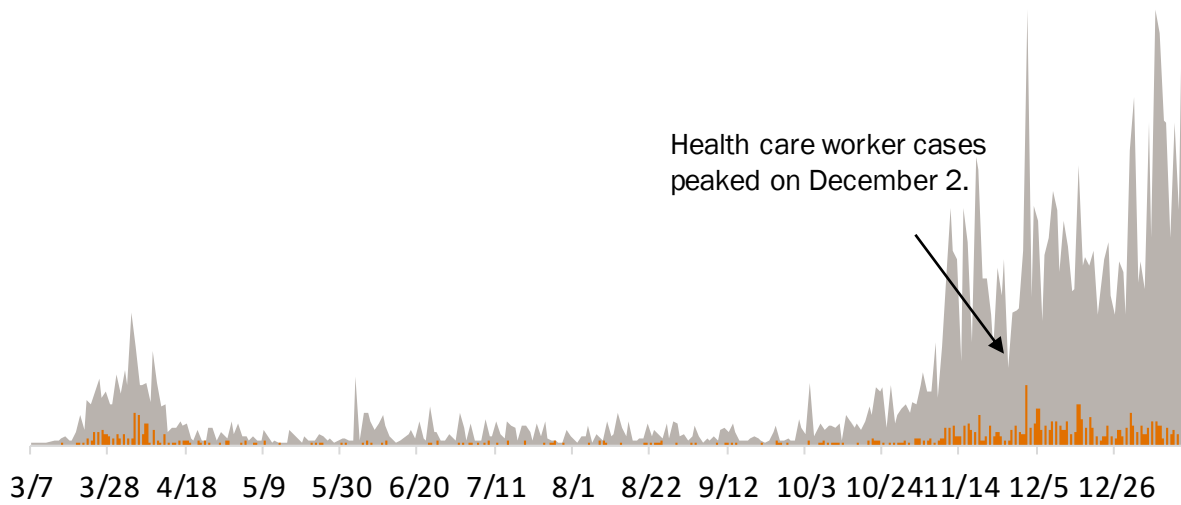

The likelihood of having a pre-existing condition is greater among female compared to male COVID-19 patients.

A higher percentage of COVID-19 patients with pre-existing conditions have been hospitalized than those without pre-existing conditions.
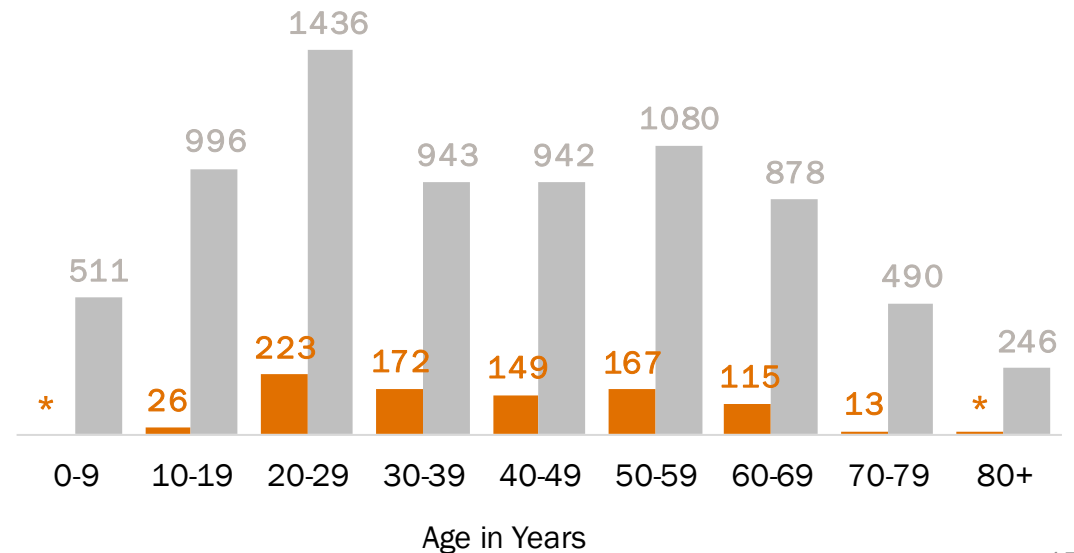
Case Demographics

Number of New Health Care Worker and All Cases by Day

Health care worker cases peaked on December 2.

3/7 3/28 4/18 5/9 5/30 6/20 7/11 8/1 8/22 9/12 10/3 10/24 11/14 12/5 12/26

80% of health care workers with COVID-19 are female.

36% of health care workers with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.

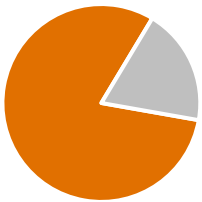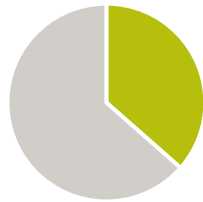The Health Department has information about healthcare worker status in 88% (8,388) of 9,573 total COVID-19 cases.
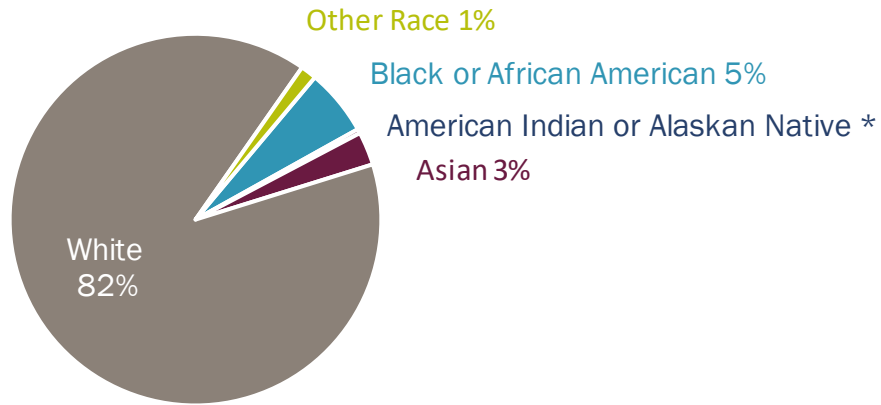
1 in 10 Vermonters with COVID-19 are health care workers.

The age distribution of health care workers and non-health care workers with COVID-19 is similar.

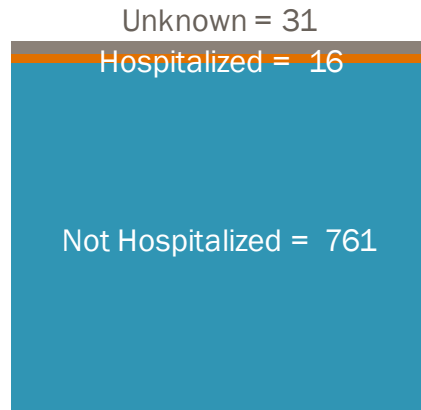| Age	HCW	Non-HCW
0-9	*	511
10-19	26	996
20-29	223	1436
30-39	172	943
40-49	149	942
50-59	167	1080
60-69	115	878
70-79	13	490
80+	*	246

Age in Years

* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

**White Vermonters represent the majority of health care workers with COVID-19.**

Other Race 1%

Black or African American 5%

American Indian or Alaskan Native *

Asian 3%

White 82%

* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

Most health care workers with COVID-19 have symptoms.

Asymptomatic 19%

Unknown 3%

Symptomatic 78%

Most health care workers with COVID-19 are not hospitalized.

Unknown = 31

Hospitalized = 16
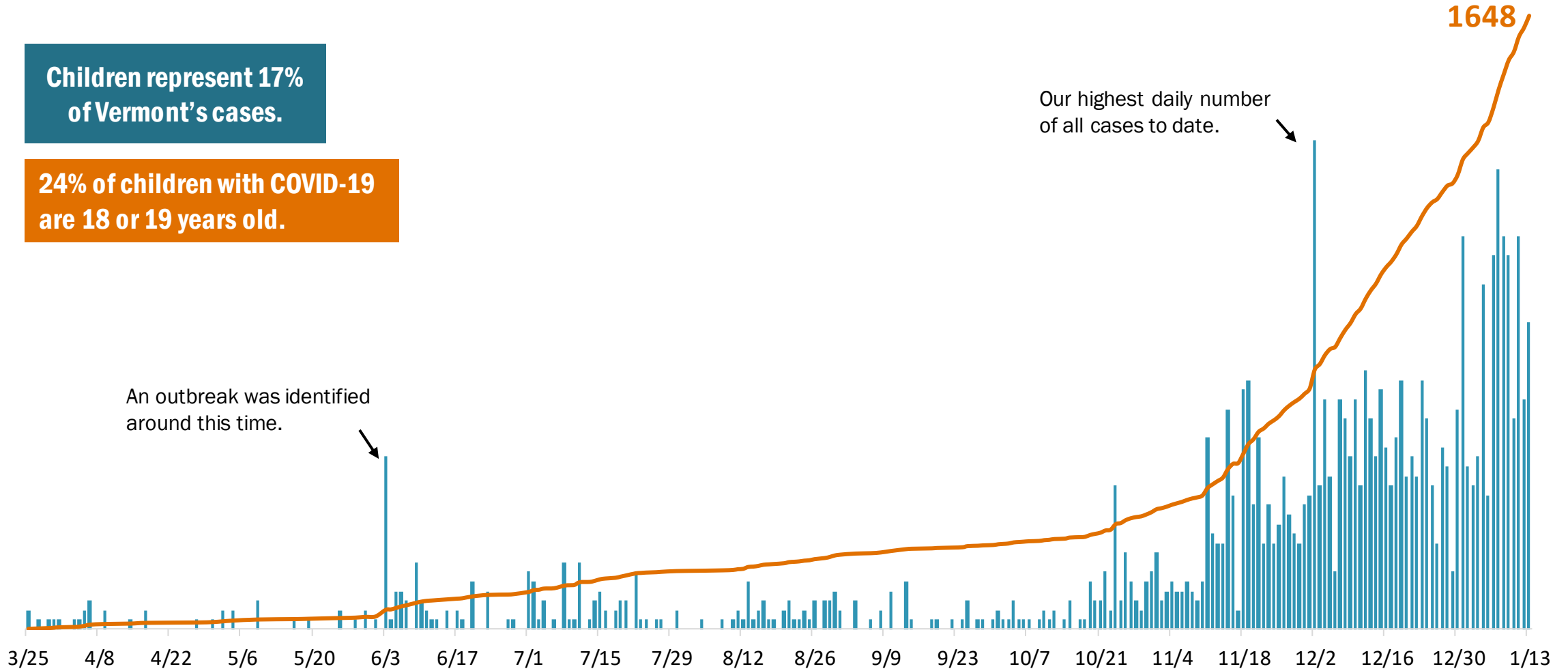
Not Hospitalized = 761

There are no reported deaths among health care workers.
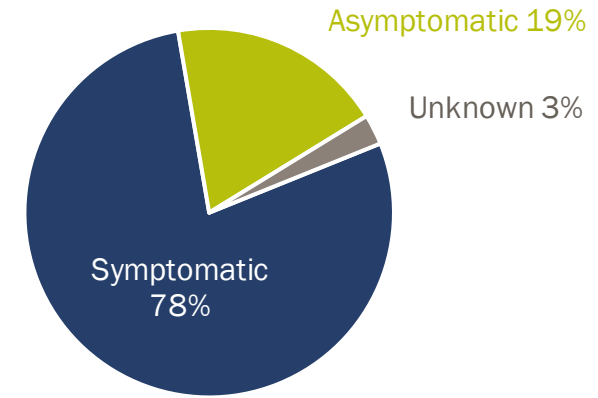
Sign or Symptom among Health Care Workers with COVID-19	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	62%
Fatigue	61%
Headache	58%
Runny Nose	52%
Muscle Pain	51%
Loss of Smell or Taste	44%
Chills	35%
Fever	26%

Case Demographics

# New and Cumulative Cases of Vermont Children (Age 19 and Younger) with COVID-19

1648

Children represent 17% of Vermont's cases.

24% of children with COVID-19 are 18 or 19 years old.

Our highest daily number of all cases to date.

An outbreak was identified around this time.

3/25 4/8 4/22 5/6 5/20 6/3 6/17 7/1 7/15 7/29 8/12 8/26 9/9 9/23 10/7 10/21 11/4 11/18 12/2 12/16 12/30 1/13

Case Demographics

Older children have a higher rate of COVID-19 compared to younger children.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters 0-19 years old

10 to 19 years — 146.0
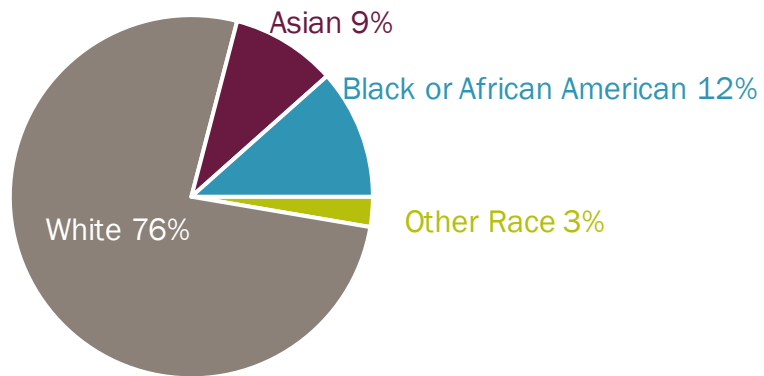
0 to 9 years — 88.3
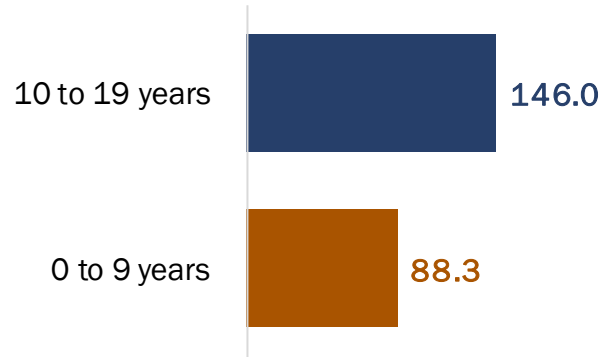
Female and male children have similar rates of COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters 0 to 19 years old

119.8 Female

119.8 Male
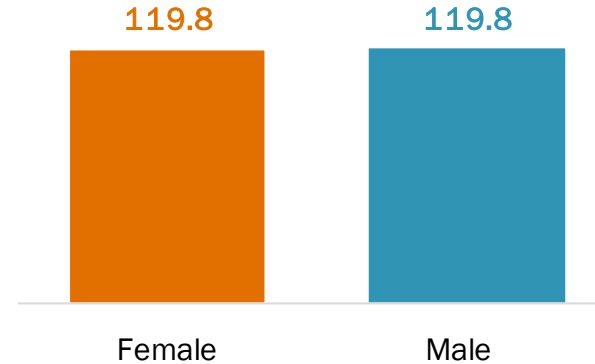
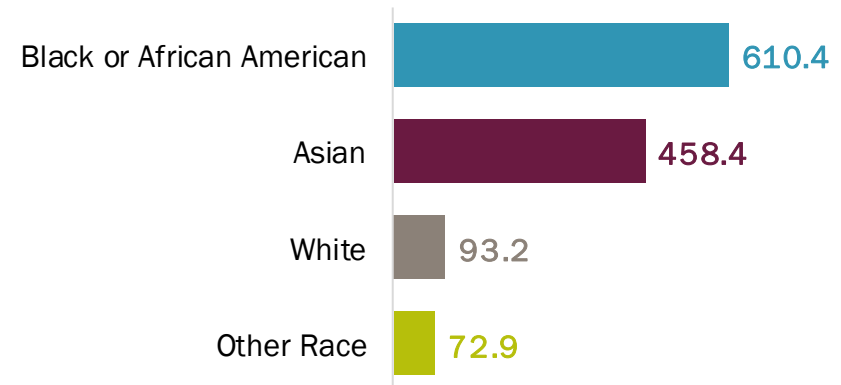**Among children with COVID-19, Black, Indigenous and people of color represent 24% of cases.**

Asian 9%

Black or African American 12%

Other Race 3%

White 76%

Among children with COVID-19, Black or African Americans have the highest rate.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters 0 to 19 years

Black or African American — 610.4

Asian — 458.4

White — 93.2

Other Race — 72.9

Case Demographics

Sign or Symptom	Percent of Children with Symptom
Runny nose	51%
Headache	46%
Cough	41%
Fatigue	38%
Sore Throat	36%
Loss of smell or taste	27%
Muscle pain	25%
Fever	21%

5 days
Average illness duration among children

Among Vermont's children with COVID-19, there are currently no reported cases of multi-system inflammatory syndrome or deaths, and there are fewer than six hospitalizations.

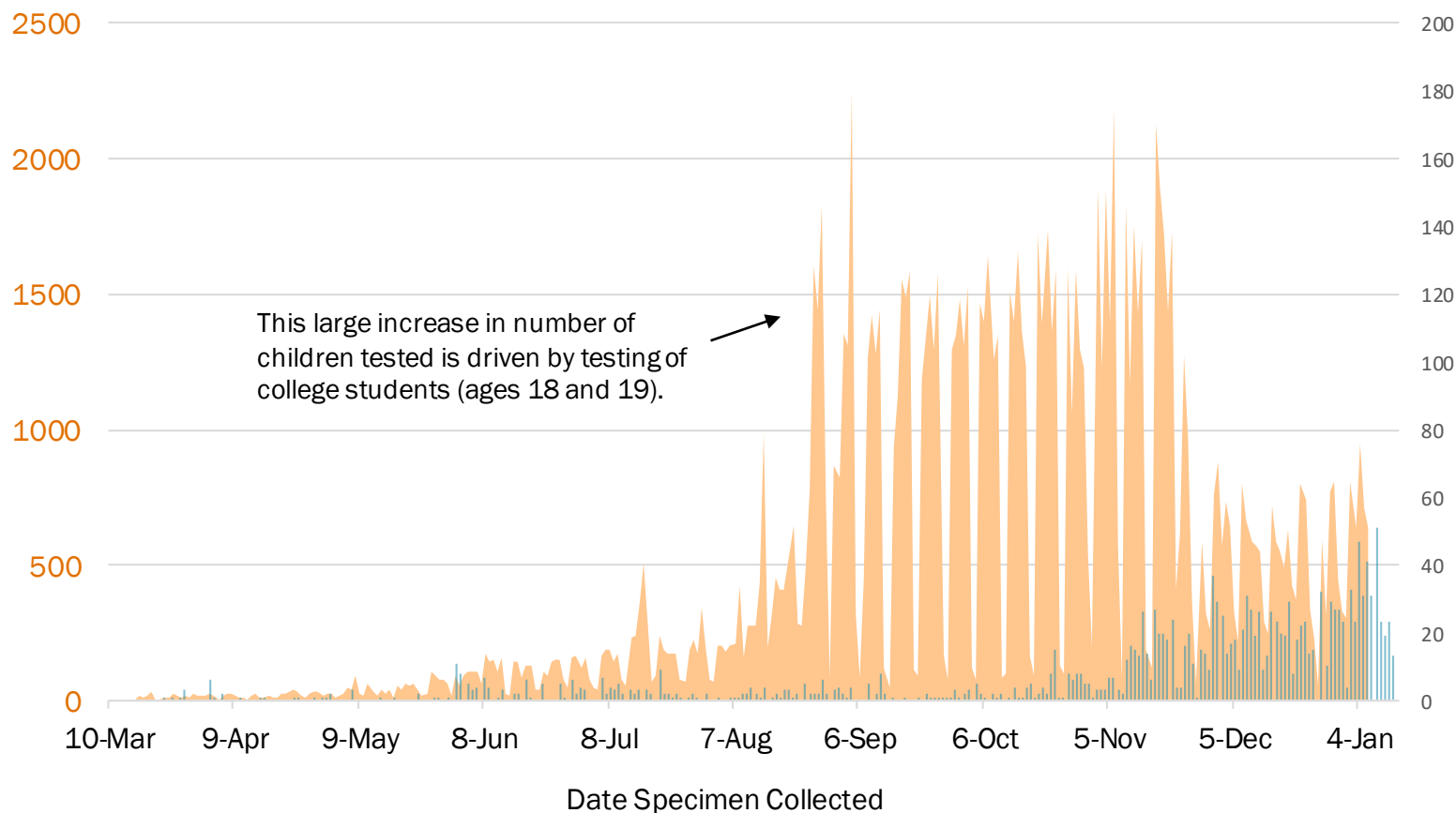**The percent of COVID-19 cases with no symptoms is higher among children. Less than half (31%) of cases among children had no symptoms reported.**

■ Asymptomatic ■ Symptomatic ■ Unknown
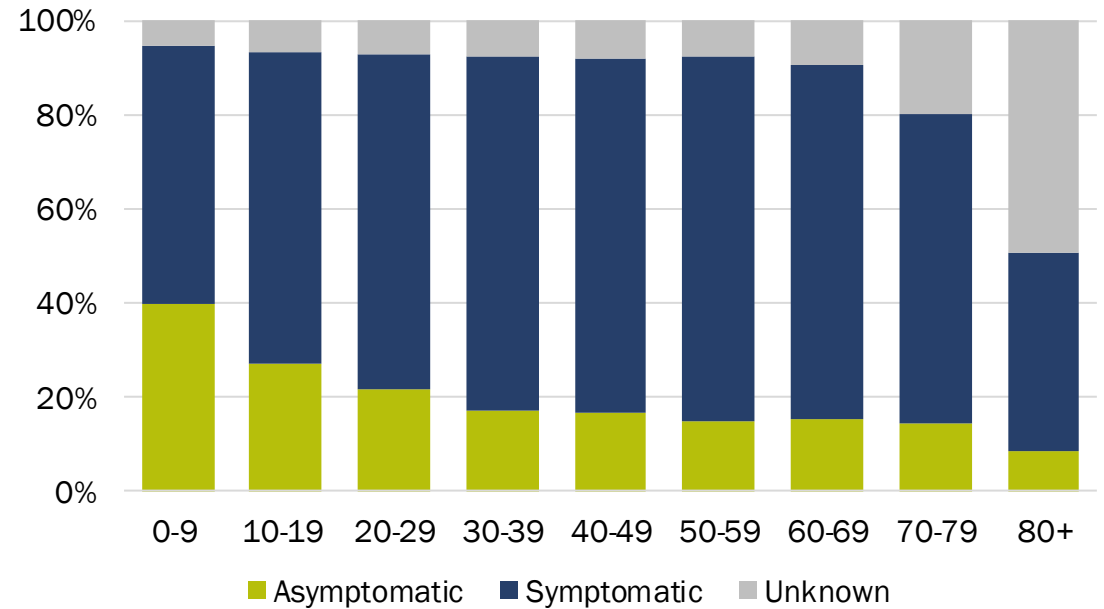
71% of children with COVID-19 had known contact with somebody else who had COVID-19.
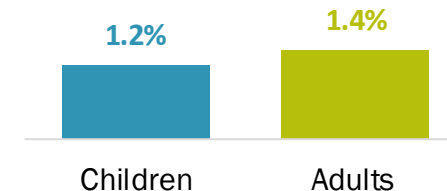
16% of children with COVID-19 were part of an outbreak.

Case Demographics

The number of **tests among children** for COVID-19 and the number of **positive tests** have increased over time.

There have been 145,466 COVID-19 tests completed among children.

Percent of tests positive among children is similar to adults.

This large increase in number of children tested is driven by testing of college students (ages 18 and 19).

Date Specimen Collected

Total tests represents the total number of tests among children (specimen level).

Vermont Department of Health

Children 1.2%
Adults 1.4%

Percent of tests positive among younger children is greater than older children, however many more older children have been tested.
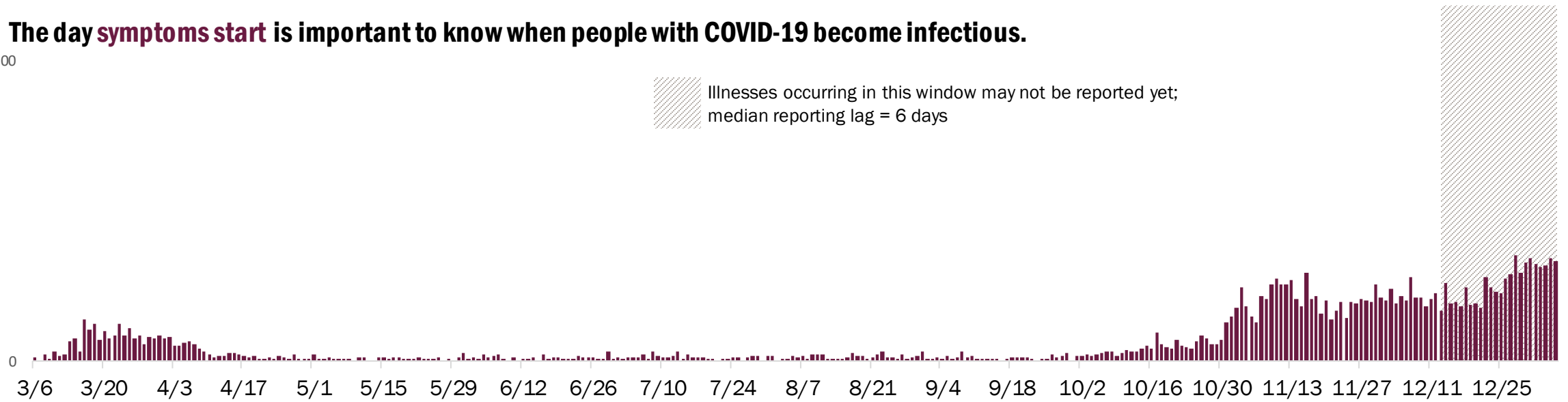
0-9 years 2.8%
10-19 years 0.9%

22
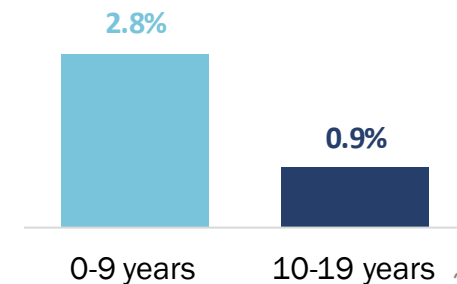
Clinical Course

What symptoms have Vermonters experienced? How many have been hospitalized? How many have died?

The day symptoms start is important to know when people with COVID-19 become infectious.

300

Illnesses occurring in this window may not be reported yet;
median reporting lag = 6 days

0

3/6 3/20 4/3 4/17 5/1 5/15 5/29 6/12 6/26 7/10 7/24 8/7 8/21 9/4 9/18 10/2 10/16 10/30 11/13 11/27 12/11 12/25
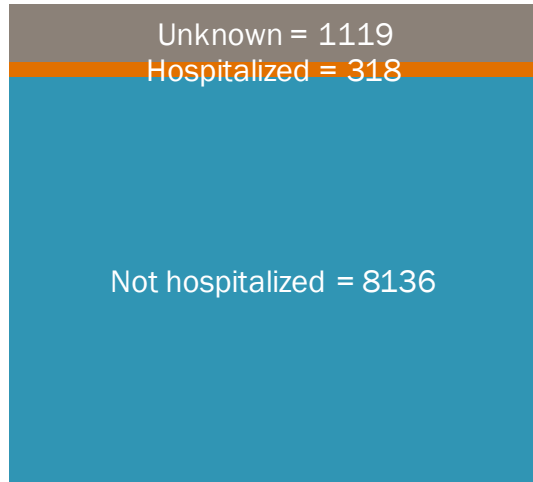
Note: Date of symptom onset is not always known.

9 days
Average illness duration

70%
Cases with symptoms

Sign or Symptom	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	57%
Fatigue	56%
Headache	52%
Runny Nose	49%
Muscle Pain	45%
Loss of Smell/Taste	38%
Felt Feverish	36%
Sore Throat	36%

Most Vermonters with COVID-19 are not hospitalized.

Unknown = 1119
Hospitalized = 318

Not hospitalized = 8136

8%
Of those hospitalized were on a ventilator

27%
Of those hospitalized were in the ICU

7 days
Average hospital stay
(range: 0-43 days)

Vermonters 80 years and older are more likely to be hospitalized for COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

Age	Rate
0-9	0.0
10-19	*
20-29	1.4
30-39	1.1
40-49	3.2
50-59	5.3
60-69	7.7
70-79	14.9
80+	28.6

Age in Years
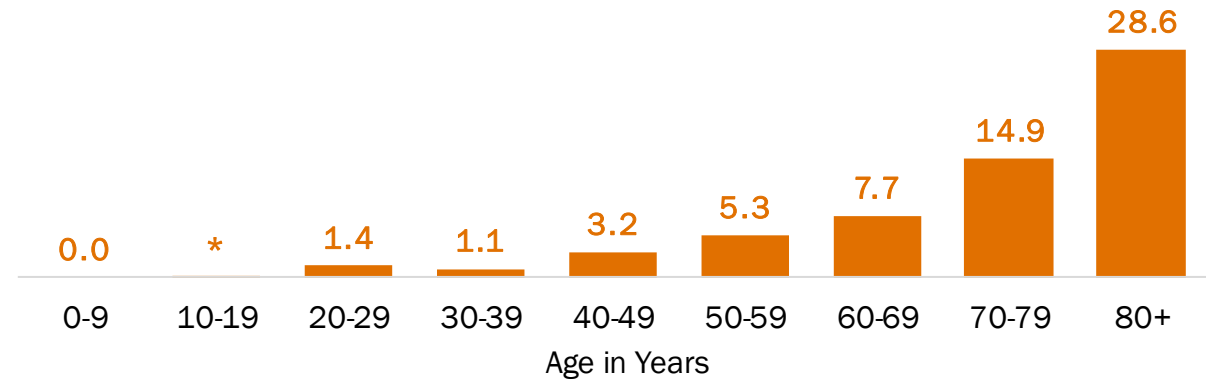
White Vermonters represent a majority of hospitalized COVID-19 cases.

Black or African American *
Asian 4%
Other Race *
White 92%
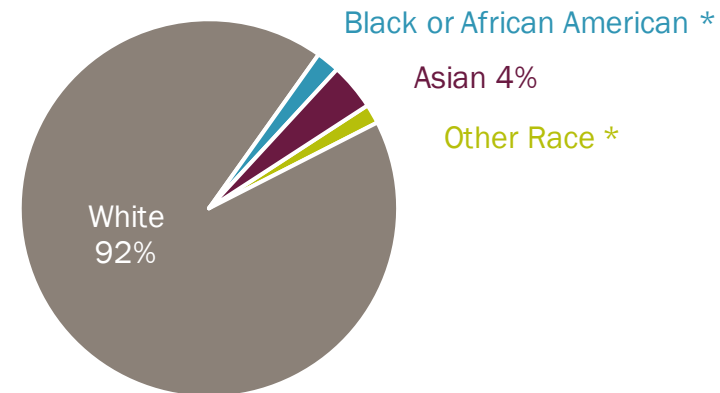
Please note 10 hospitalized persons are missing race information.
*Values suppressed due to small numbers.

Clinical Course

Vermonters 80 years and older have higher rates of COVID-19 death than other age groups.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

Most COVID-19 deaths occurred in a long-term care facility or an inpatient hospital setting.

Long Term Care Facility 59%
Inpatient 25%
Decedent's Home 8%
Out of State Facility 5%
Hospice Facility 1%
Outpatient 1%
Unknown 1%

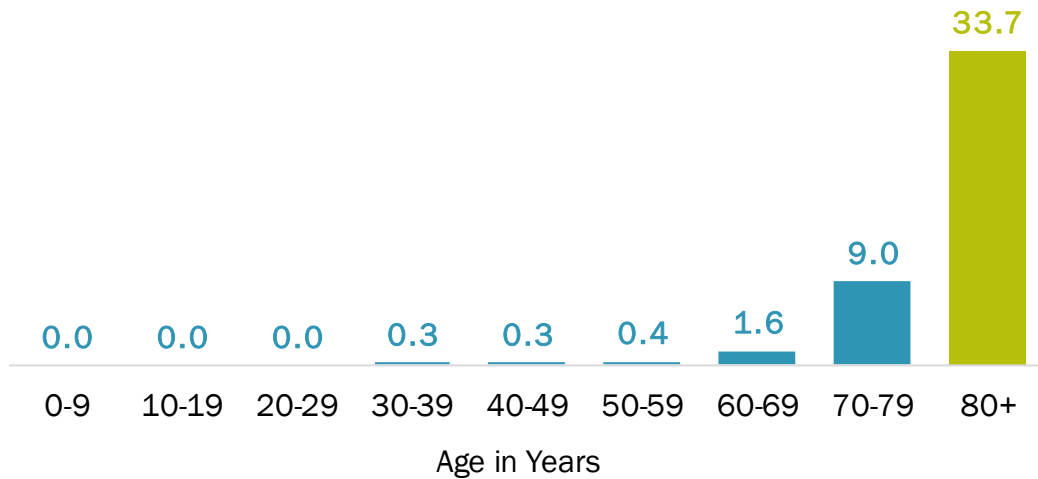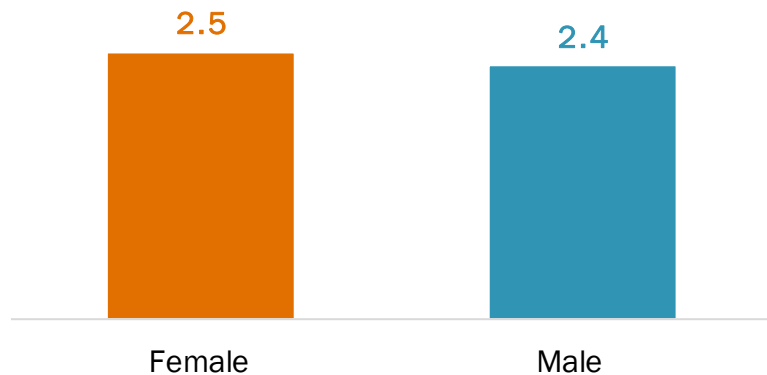**Females** and **males** have similar rates of COVID-19 death.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters
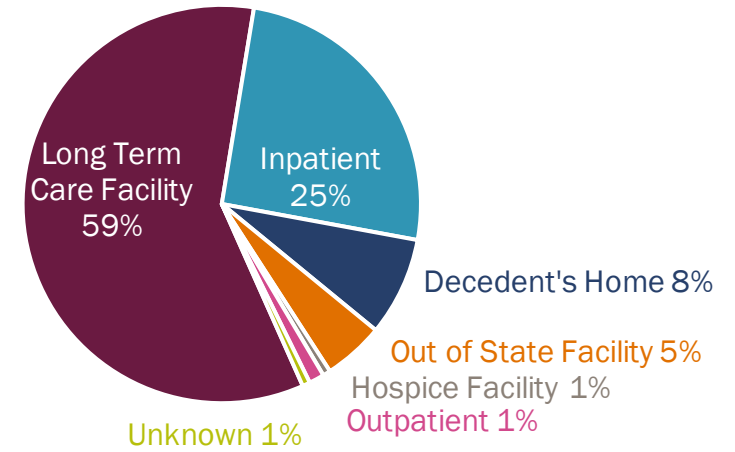
White Vermonters represent a majority of COVID-19 deaths. Death rates by race are similar.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

White 87%
Unknown 6%
American Indian or Alaska Native 1%
Asian 2%
Black or African American 1%
Other Race 1%

Race	Rate
American Indian or Alaskan Native	4.1
White	2.4
Asian	3.3
Other Race	1.6
Black or African American	1.1
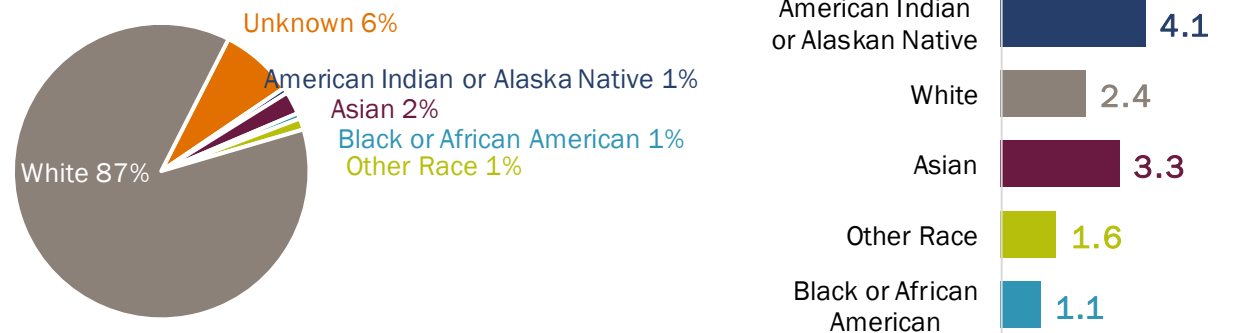
Note: No deaths have identified as Hispanic or Latino.

Clinical Course

Outbreaks

How is COVID-19 impacting group settings?

Outbreaks can occur in many types of places. Here is what outbreak means in these places:

Community Settings

Three or more COVID-19 cases involving more than one family or household where the cases:
- have an illness start date or positive test collection date within 14 days, and
- are linked through contact or location, and
- are not linked to another outbreak, and
- there is no other more likely source of exposure.

Resolved when no new confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases after 28 days (2 incubational periods) have passed since the most recent case's specimen collection date or illness onset date (whichever is later).

Educational Settings

Two or more COVID-19 cases among children/students or teachers/staff with known connections in the educational setting, and the cases:
- have an illness start date or a positive test collection date within 14 days, and
- do not live together or have close contact with each other in another setting, and
- there is no other more likely source of exposure.

Resolved when no new confirmed or positive cases are identified after 28 days (two incubation periods) from the last known facility exposure from a case, or if unknown, the last case's specimen collection or illness onset date (whichever is later).
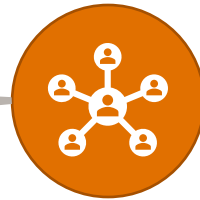
Congregate Care or Living Settings*

Two or more patients/clients/residents or staff members with COVID-19 and known connections to each other in the facility setting.

*Examples include inpatient & outpatient healthcare settings as well as other residential care facilities, correctional facilities and homeless shelters.

Resolved when no new COVID-19 positive tests occur after 28 days from the last positive test or illness start date (whichever is later).

Workplaces

Two or more COVID-19 cases among employees or customers at the same workplace, and the cases:
- had contact with each other in the business, and
- have an illness start or positive test collection date within 14 days, and
- do not live together or have close contact with each other in another setting, and
- there is no other more likely source of exposure.

Resolved when no new confirmed or probable cases are identified after 28 days (two incubation periods) from the last known business exposure from a case, or if unknown, the last case's specimen collection date or illness onset date (whichever is later).

Outbreaks

20% of people testing positive for COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak

Outbreaks
46 Active
95 Resolved*

*See previous page for definitions of resolved outbreaks.

Congregate Care & Living

566 cases among residents

331 cases among facility staff

Schools and Child Care

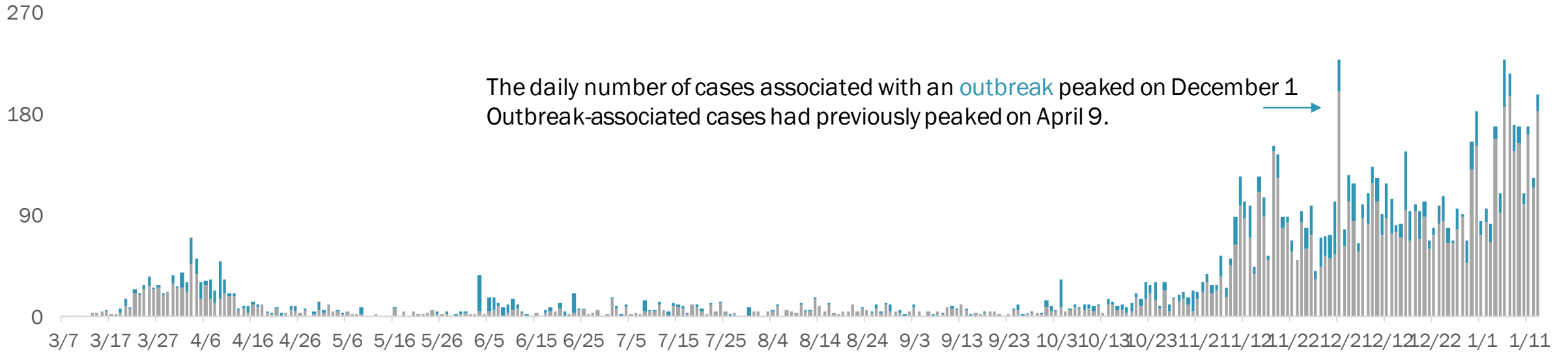**165** cases among children and staff

Workplaces

263 cases among employees

Community

606 cases

# Vermont COVID-19 Cases Associated with an Outbreak Over Time

The daily number of cases associated with an outbreak peaked on December 1
Outbreak-associated cases had previously peaked on April 9.

Vermont COVID-19 Deaths Associated with an Outbreak Over Time
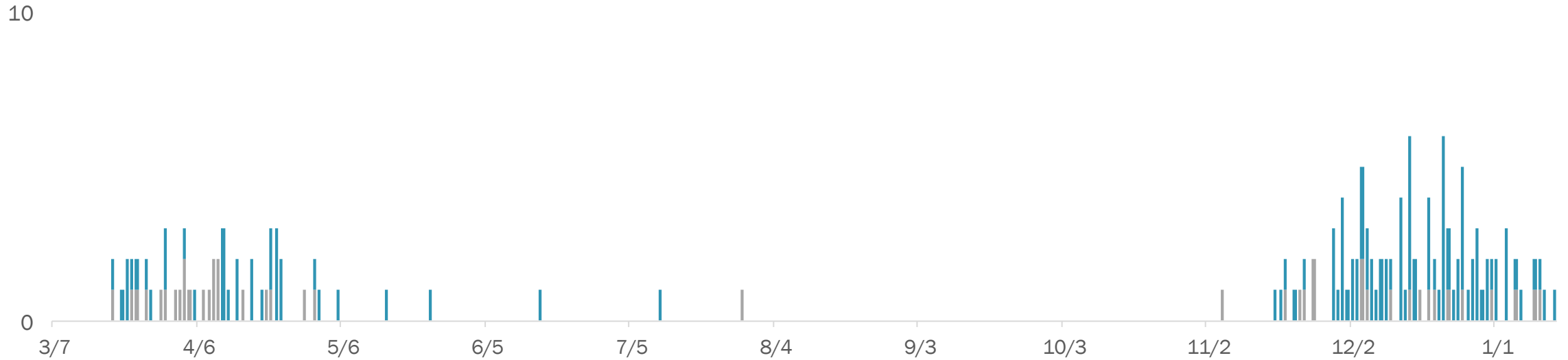
Outbreaks

While only 20% of all people testing positive for COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak, 72% of COVID-19-related deaths have occurred in outbreak settings.
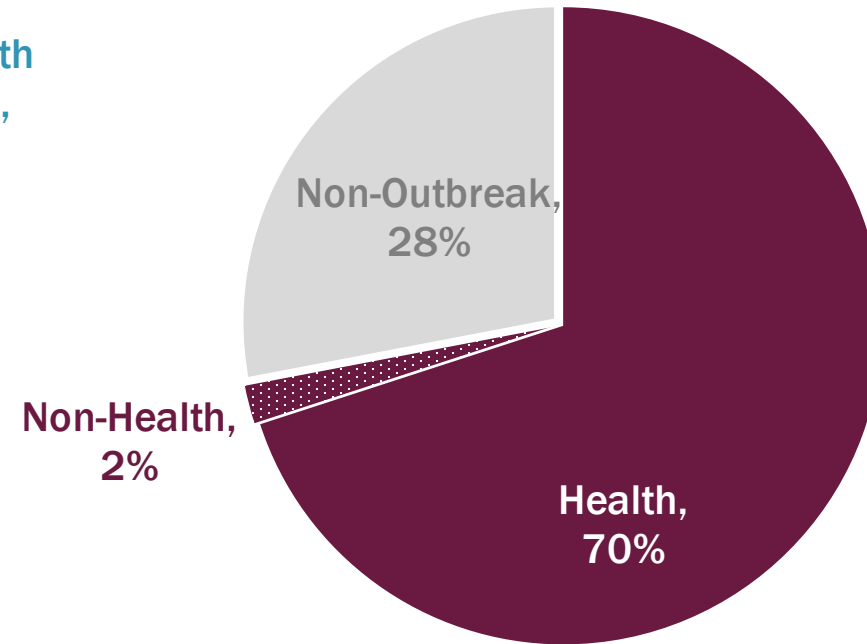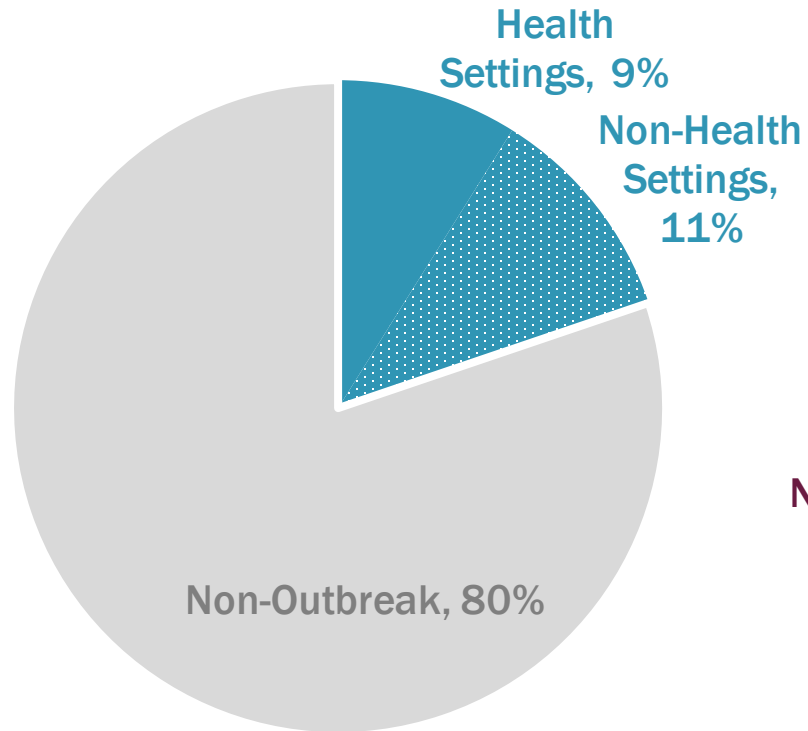
Health Settings, 9%

Non-Health Settings, 11%

Non-Outbreak, 80%

Non-Outbreak, 28%

Non-Health, 2%

Health, 70%

Values in these charts are rounded to the nearest whole number and therefore may not always add to 100% due to error introduced in rounding.

Note: Examples of a health setting include long term care or assisted living facilities, therapeutic treatment centers, and behavioral health institutions. Examples of a non-health setting include correctional facilities, senior housing communities, businesses, and homeless shelters. Vermont has not experienced an outbreak in all health and non-health settings.

Outbreaks

# A similar percentage of **females** and **males** with COVID-19 are associated with outbreaks

21% of females with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.

18% of males with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.
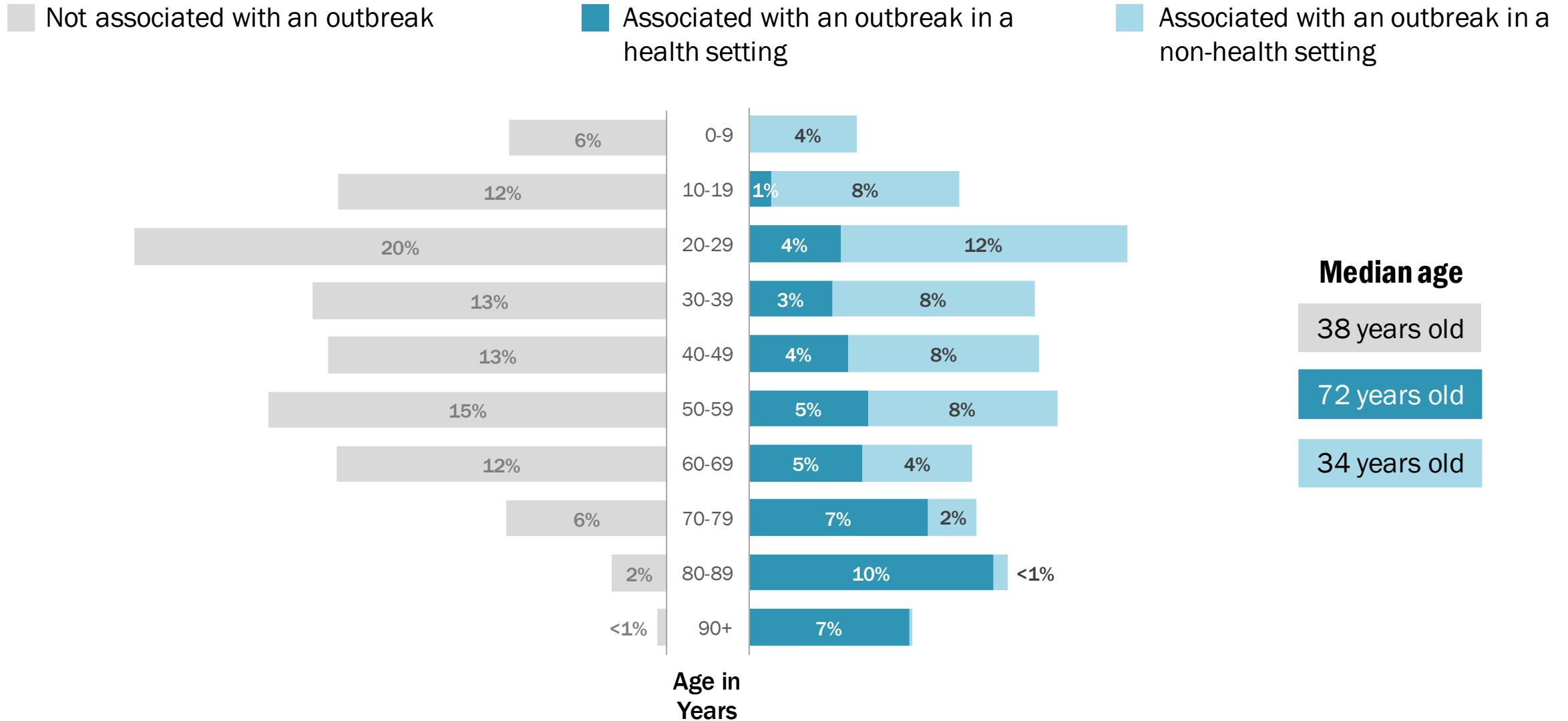
Females with COVID-19 are more likely to be associated with outbreaks in health settings while **males** with COVID-19 are more likely to be associated with non-health settings.
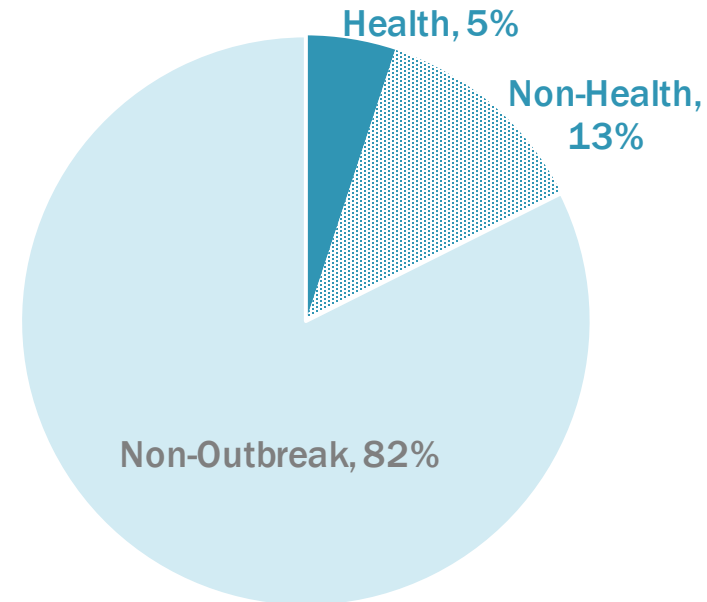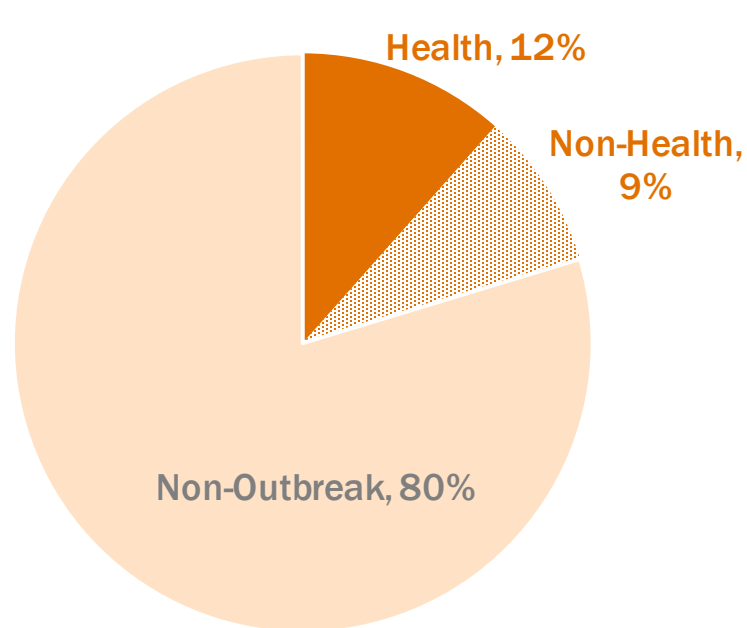
Health, 12%

Non-Health, 9%

Non-Outbreak, 80%

Health, 5%

Non-Health, 13%

Non-Outbreak, 82%

Values in these charts are rounded to the nearest whole number and therefore may not always add to 100%.
Percentages by outbreak type are rounded to the whole number, but combined totals consider the full percentages.

Note: Examples of a health setting include long-term care or assisted living facilities, therapeutic treatment centers, and behavioral health institutions. Examples of a non-health setting include correctional facilities, senior housing communities, businesses, and homeless shelters.

Outbreaks

Percent of People Testing Positive for COVID-19 by Outbreak Status and Age

■ Not associated with an outbreak   ■ Associated with an outbreak in a health setting   ■ Associated with an outbreak in a non-health setting

Not associated with an outbreak	Age in Years	Associated with an outbreak in a health setting	Associated with an outbreak in a non-health setting
6%	0-9		4%
12%	10-19	1%	8%
20%	20-29	4%	12%
13%	30-39	3%	8%
13%	40-49	4%	8%
15%	50-59	5%	8%
12%	60-69	5%	4%
6%	70-79	7%	2%
2%	80-89	10%	<1%
<1%	90+	7%	

Median age

|	
38 years old	
72 years old	
34 years old	

Note: Examples of a health setting include long-term care or assisted living facilities, therapeutic treatment centers, and behavioral health institutions. Examples of a non-health setting include correctional facilities, senior housing communities, businesses, and homeless shelters.

Vermont Department of Health

Outbreaks

Syndromic Surveillance

What we can learn from emergency room and urgent care centers?

The percent of emergent care visits for COVID-19-like illness has remained steady for the past 2 weeks.

Syndromic surveillance from 13 of 14 Vermont hospitals and 2 urgent care centers. Monitoring this data acts as an early indicator of potential spikes of COVID-19 in the community.
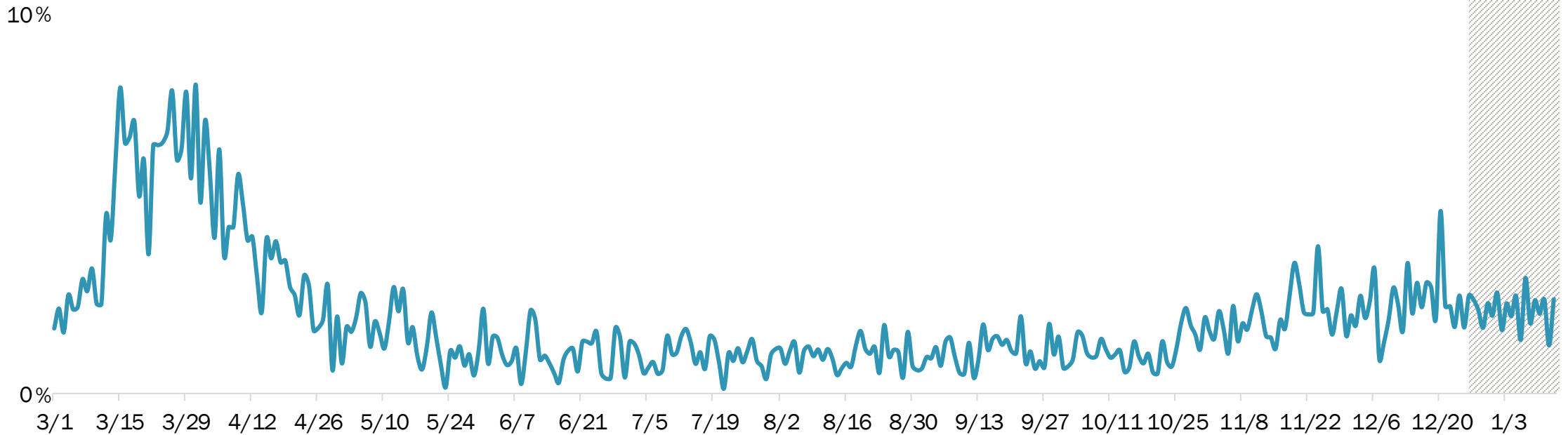
Interpret with caution, there is a chance for over or underestimation given the lag in reporting.

COVID-19-like illness diagnosis is determined using the patient's chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis.

COVID-19-like illness is the presence of a fever with the addition of shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or cough.

COVID-19-like illness excludes patients with an influenza discharge diagnosis.

Syndromic Surveillance

Weekly Spotlight: How are people getting COVID-19?

This spotlight focuses on how people may have become infected with COVID-19 over time.

How are people getting COVID-19?

We categorize how someone with COVID-19 may have gotten it in three main ways: known source of exposure, potential source of exposure, or the source of their exposure is unknown. This spotlight focuses on known and unknown sources of exposure.

Known source

- Associated with an outbreak
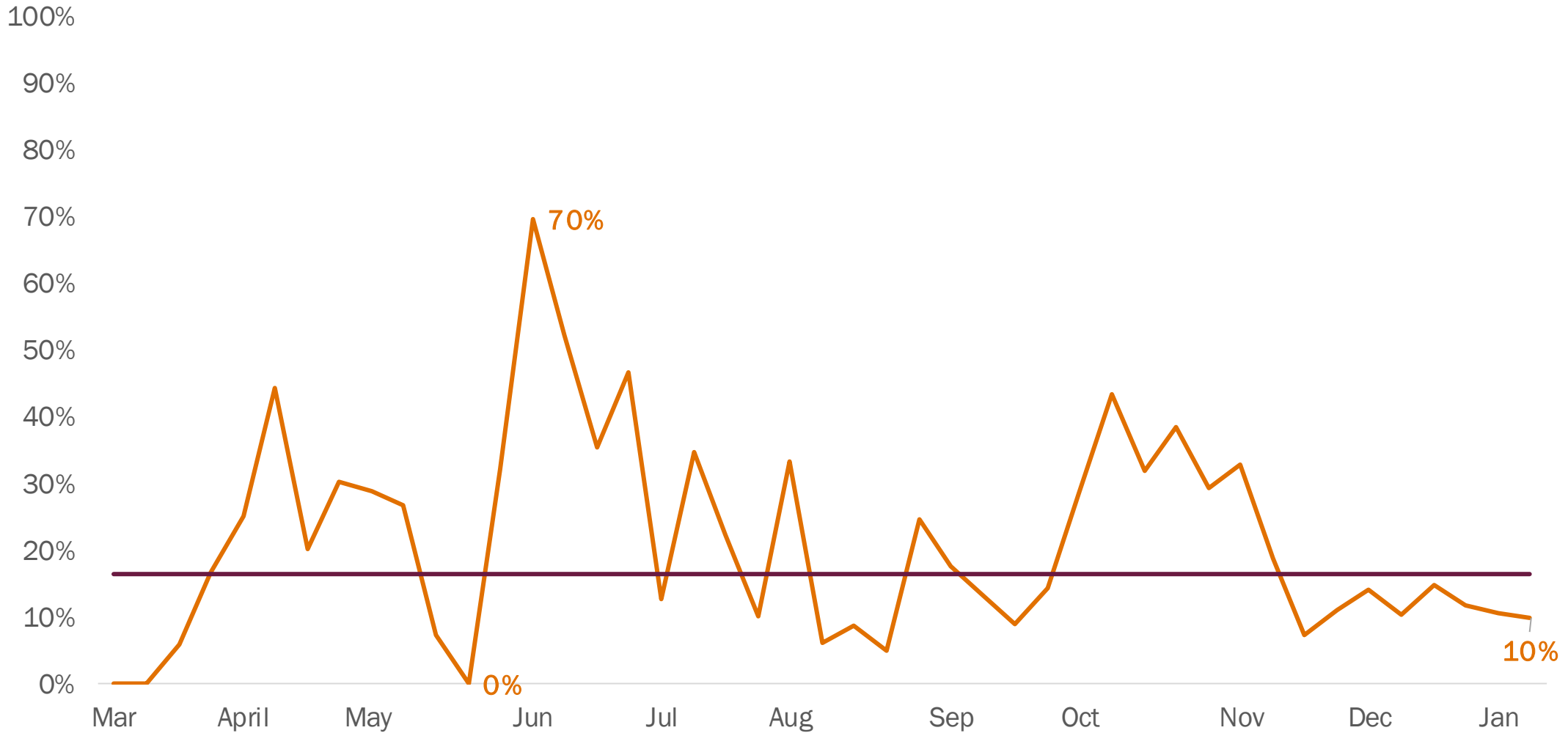
- Contact with a confirmed case

Unknown source

- No source was identified

Source: Vermont Department of Health. 2020

Weekly Spotlight

Since March, an average of 16% of people with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.

**Since mid-November, this percent has been lower than average.**

Since March, an average of 53% of people with COVID-19 had contact with another case.

Since October, this percent has been higher than average nearly every week.

Weekly Spotlight
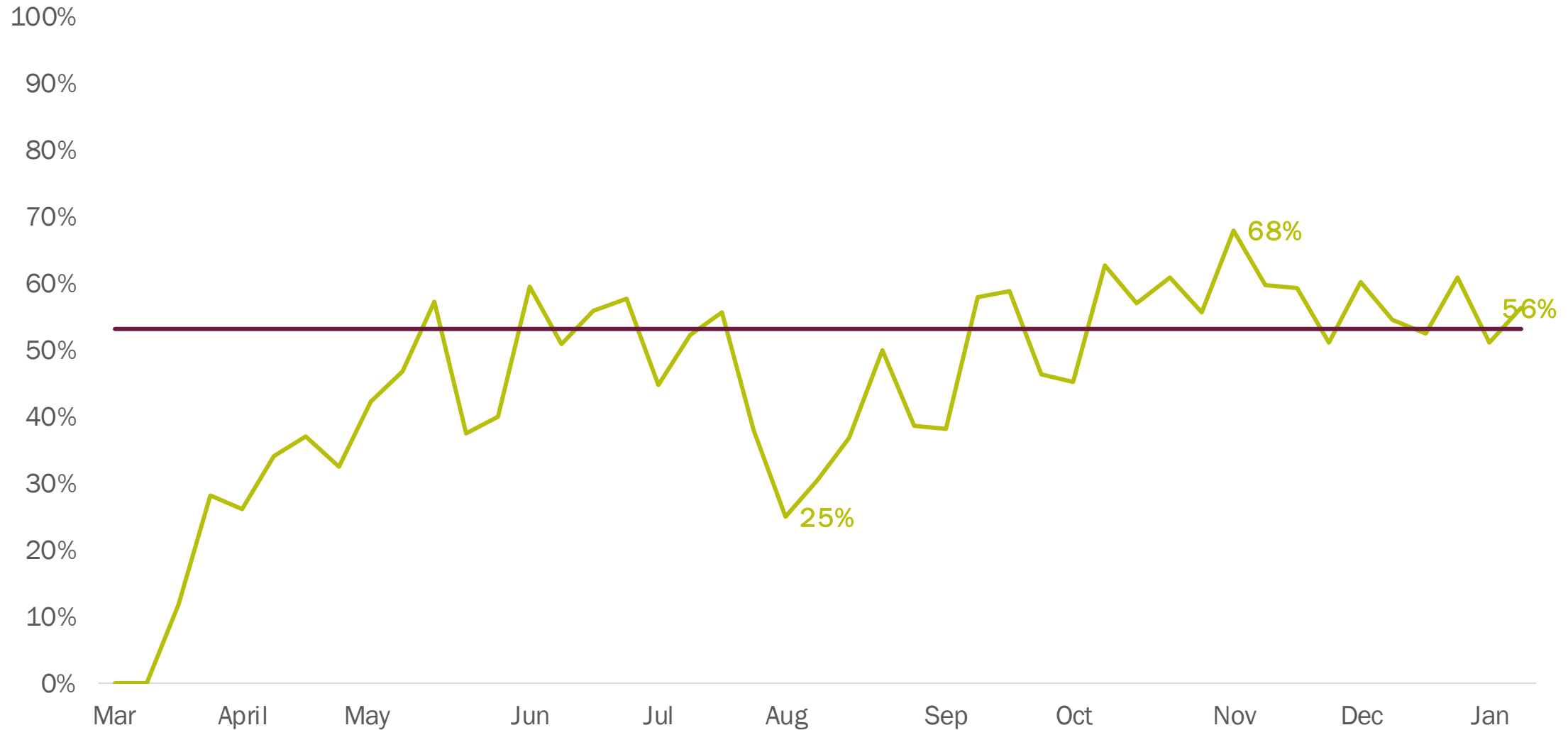
Since March, an average of 32% of people with COVID-19 have an unknown source of exposure.
Since December, this percent has been lower than average.

Weekly Spotlight
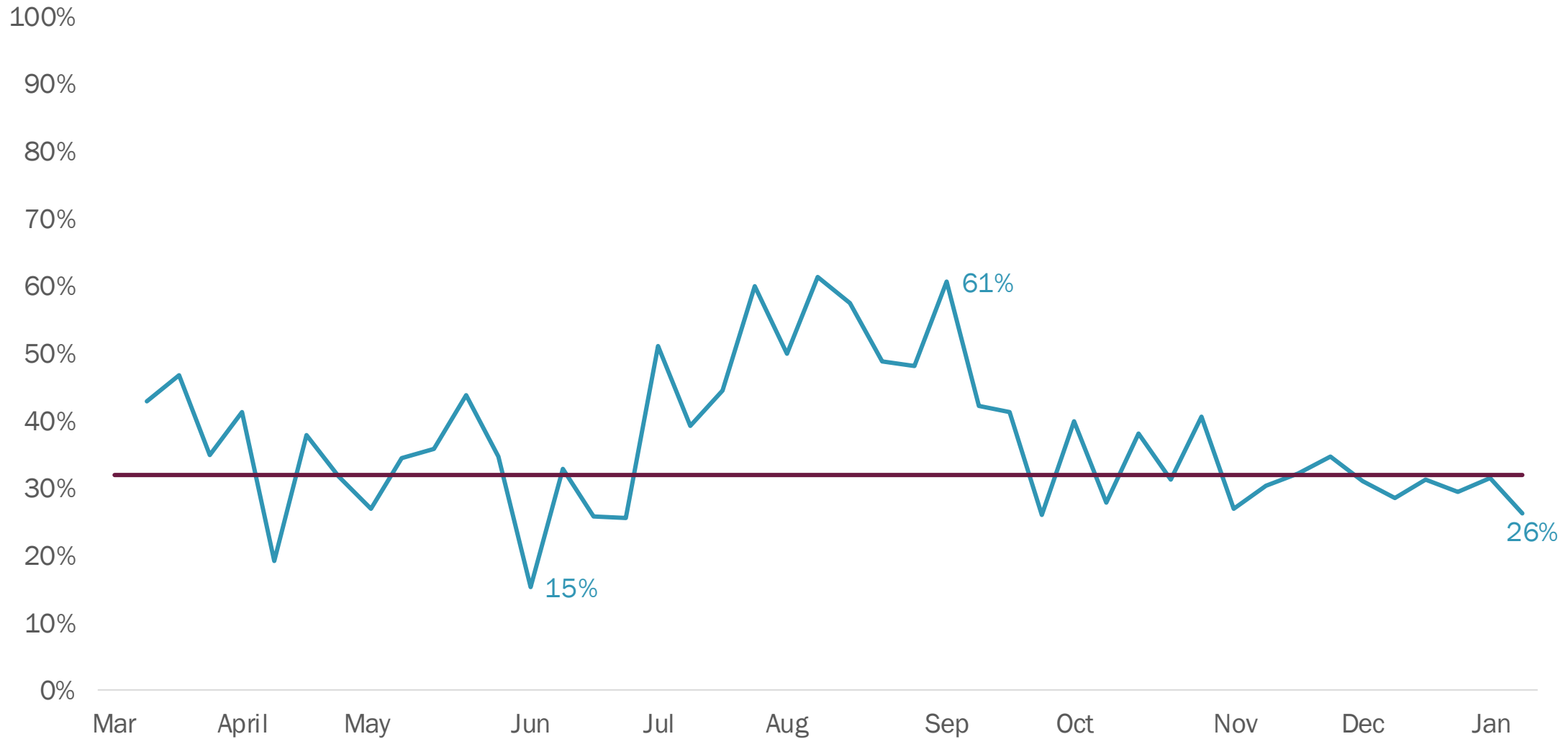
What does this mean?

Recently, the percent of people with COVID-19 who:

- **Are associated with an outbreak** has been lower than average. ⬇

- **Had contact with another case** has been higher than average. ⬆

- **Have an unknown source of exposure** has been lower than average. ⬇

This means we know how more people are getting COVID-19. People are more likely to get COVID-19 through close contact to another case and less likely to be associated with an outbreak. While we are still seeing outbreaks across the state, they are not as impactful as they were in October and early November.

Weekly Spotlight

Learn more about COVID-19 in Vermont:

Web: www.healthvermont.gov/COVID-19

Email: AHS.VDHPublicCommunication@vermont.gov

See more data: Weekly Data Summaries