

Weekly Summary of Vermont COVID-19 Data

Reflecting cases identified between
March 5 – October 7, 2020



Date published: October 9, 2020. This summary will be updated every Friday.



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 September 30 through October 7.

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.

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.

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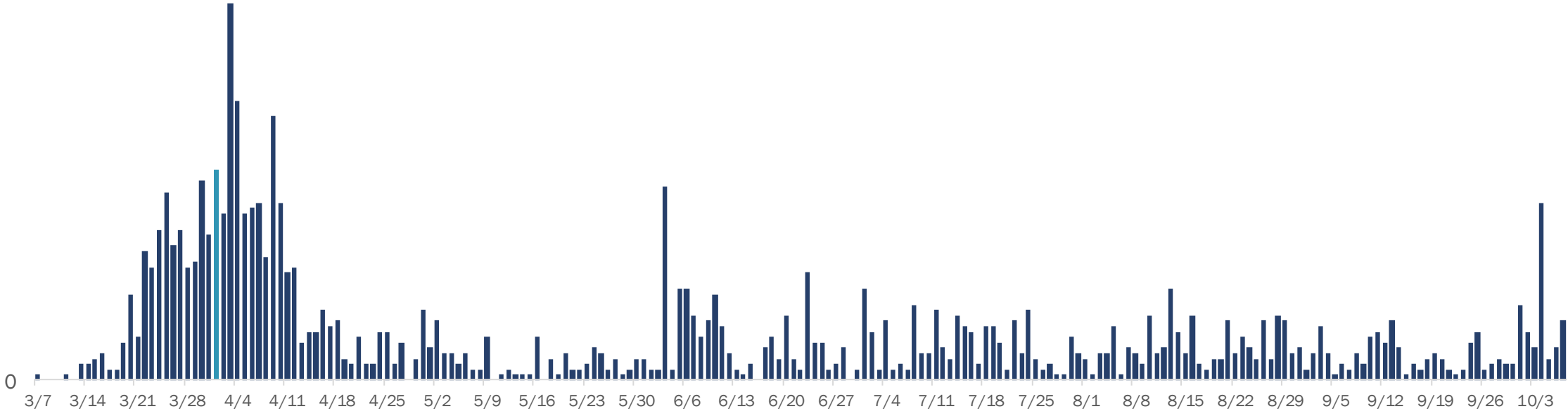
[Weekly Spotlight](#)

COVID-19 in Vermont

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

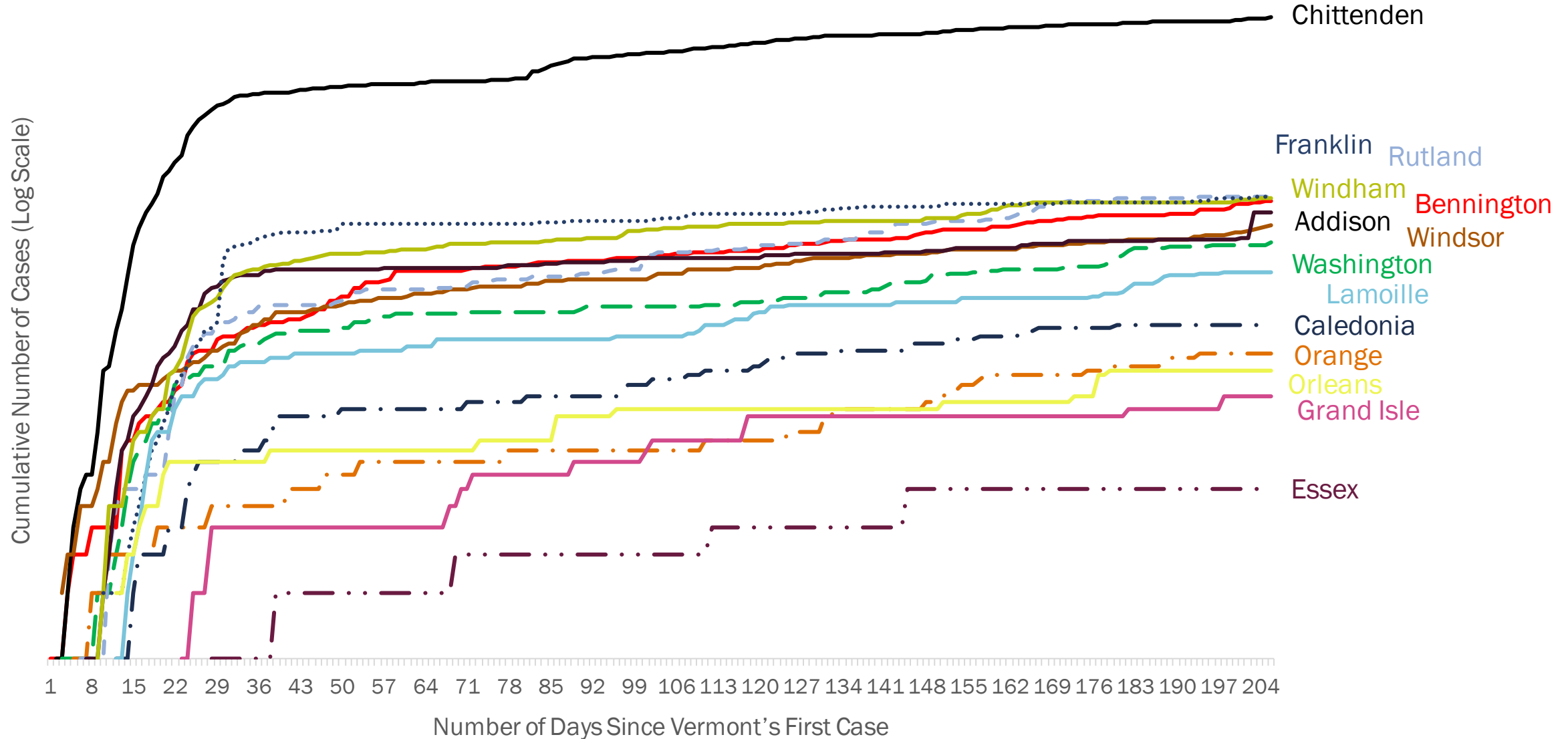
Total Number of Cases in Vermont: 1,838

80 The daily number of COVID-19 cases in Vermont peaked on April 3.

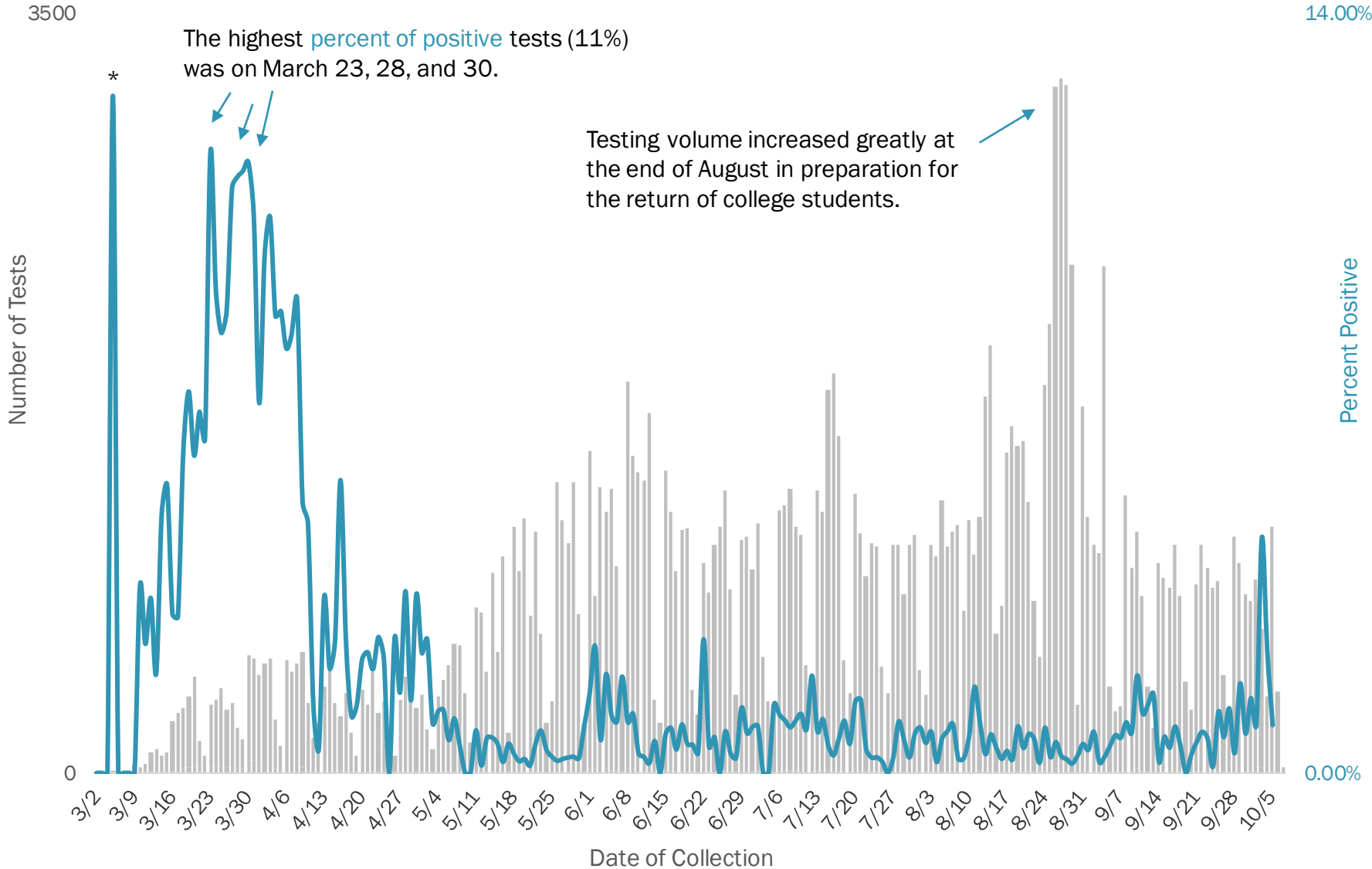


Most counties have reached a plateau in the number of new cases.

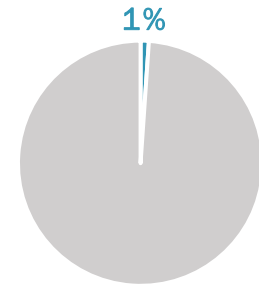
Growth over time by county (n=1,830)



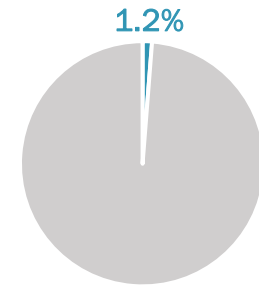
Percent of positive COVID-19 tests may indicate how prevalent the disease is in the population.



Percent Positive to Date



Percent Positive This Week (September 30 - October 7)



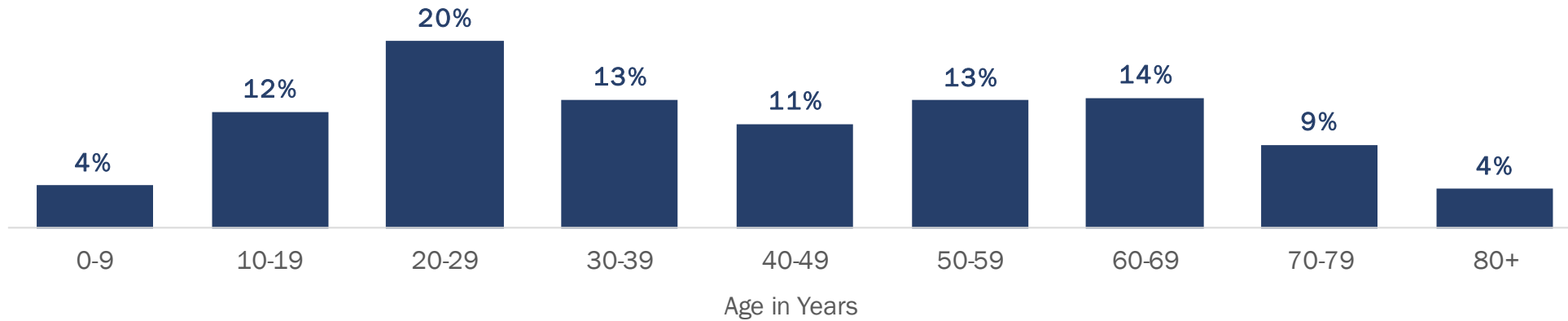
6,933 People Tested this Week	30,236 Tests this Week
169,402 People Tested to Date	312,987 Tests to Date

Vermont Department of Health

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 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 people with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 divided by the total number of people tested. None of these numbers include serology or antigen testing.

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

The proportion of people tested for COVID-19 in Vermont varies across age groups.



More females are tested than males for COVID-19.



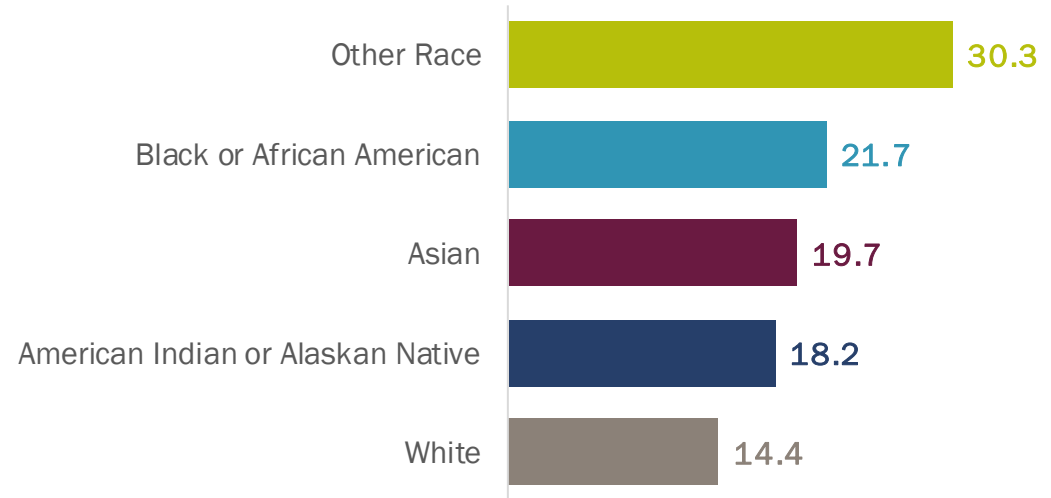
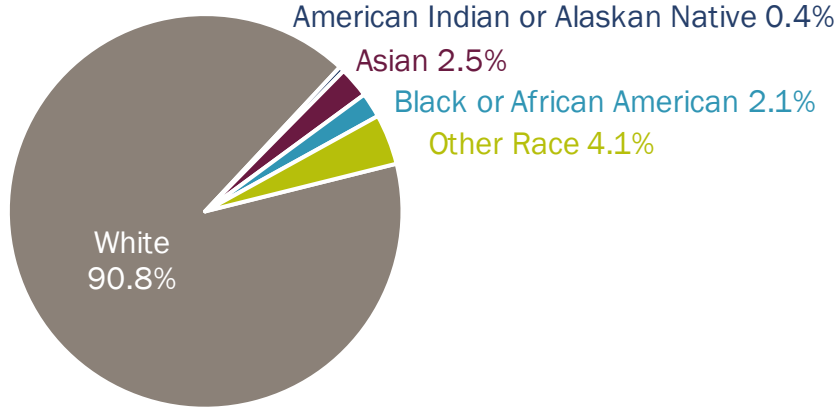
56% of people tested for COVID-19 are female.



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

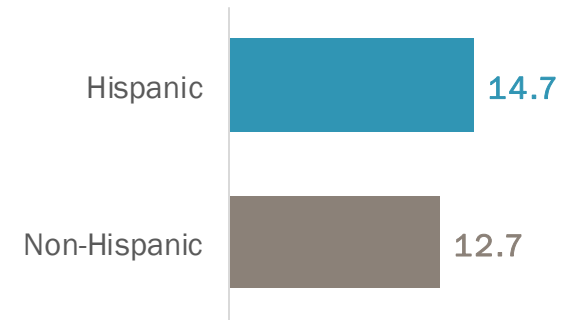
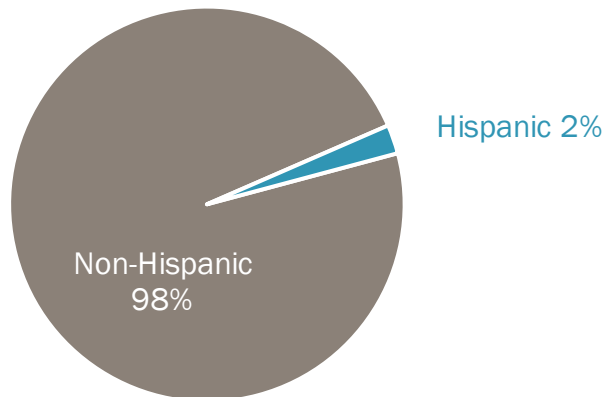
White Vermonters represent the majority of people tested in Vermont for COVID-19. Vermonters with other race have the highest rate of testing.

Rates per 100 Vermonters

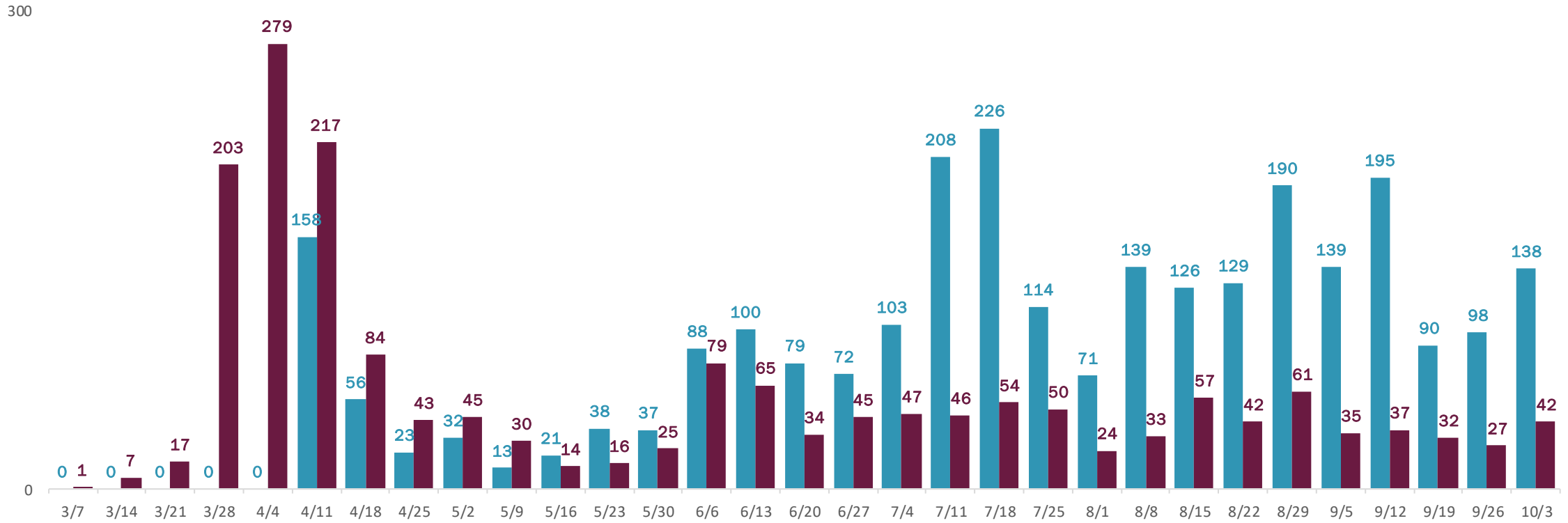


Non-Hispanic Vermonters represent the majority of people tested in Vermont for COVID-19. Hispanic Vermonters have the higher rate of testing.

Rates per 100 Vermonters



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



65

Number of contact tracers trained

37

Cases interviewed last week

September 27 – October 3

138

Contacts named last week

September 27 – October 3

4

Average number of contacts per case*

*Since March 7

In the last two weeks (from September 20 to October 3):



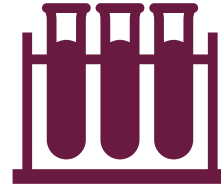
98%

Of cases were interviewed within 24 hours



78%

Of cases provided their close contacts



48%

Of contacts were tested within 14 days of exposure



4%

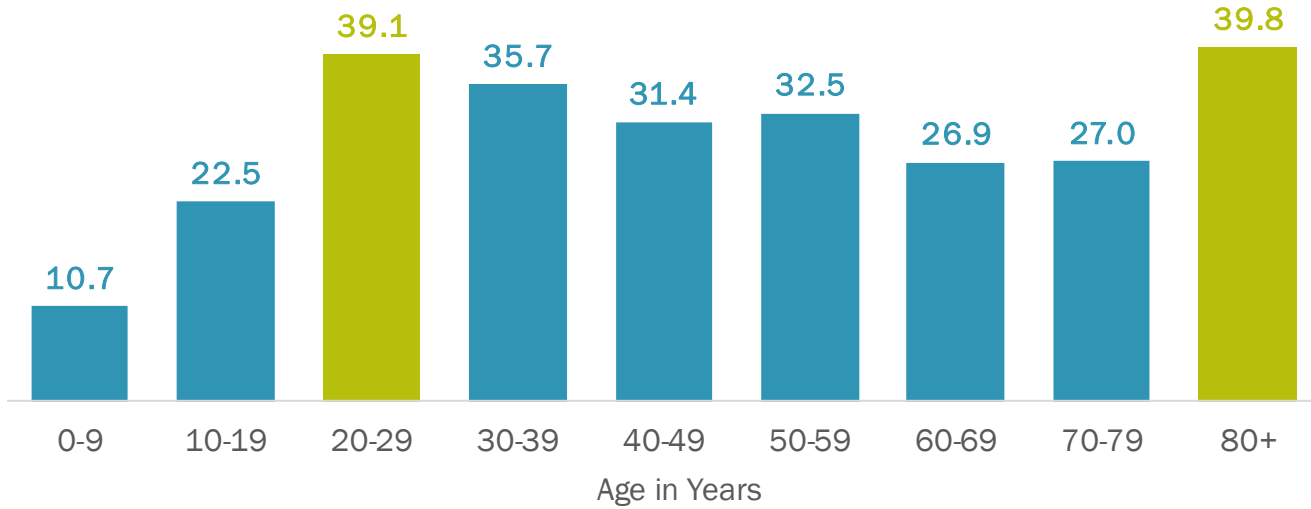
Of contacts became a case

Case Demographics

Who has been impacted by COVID-19 in Vermont?

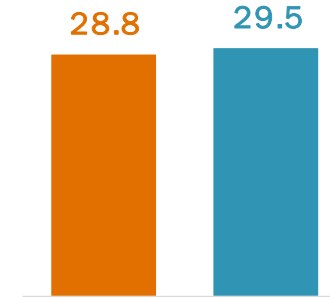
Rates of COVID-19 are highest among Vermonters 20-29 and 80 years and older.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



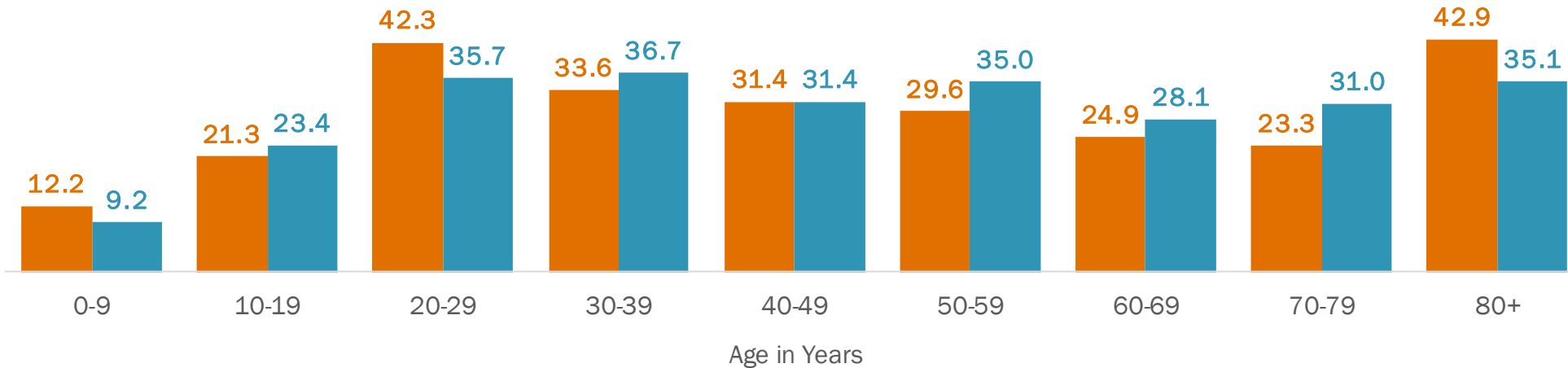
Females and males have similar rates of COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



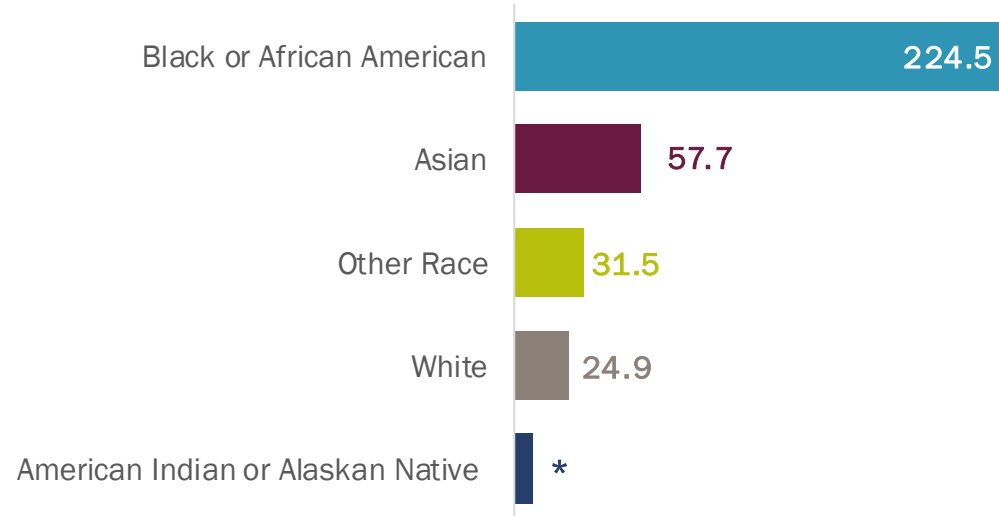
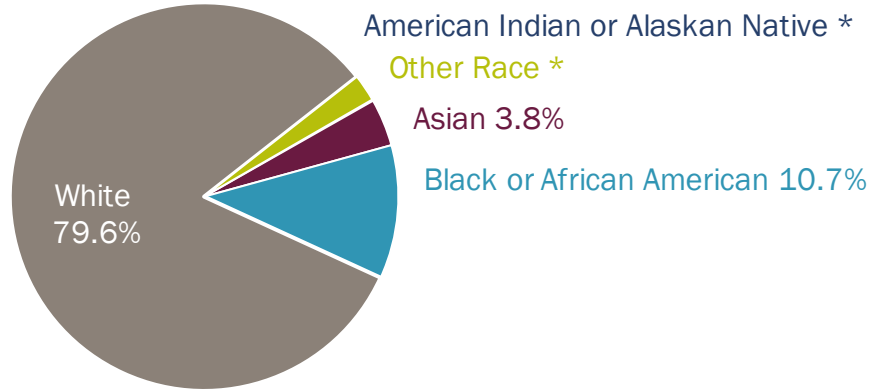
There are differences in age and sex of Vermonters with COVID-19.

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



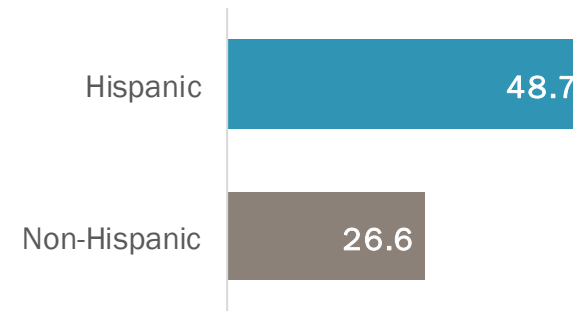
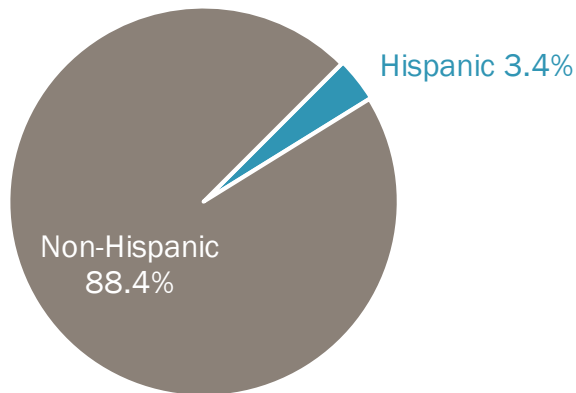
White Vermonters represent the majority of COVID-19 cases. African American Vermonters have the highest rate.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



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

Rate per 10,000 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. Race is unknown in 4% of cases (n = 66) and ethnicity is unknown in 8% of cases (n = 152). * Value suppressed due to small numbers.

Approximately 52% of people* with COVID-19 have a pre-existing condition.

*of the 1,473 people that the Health Department has pre-existing condition data for.

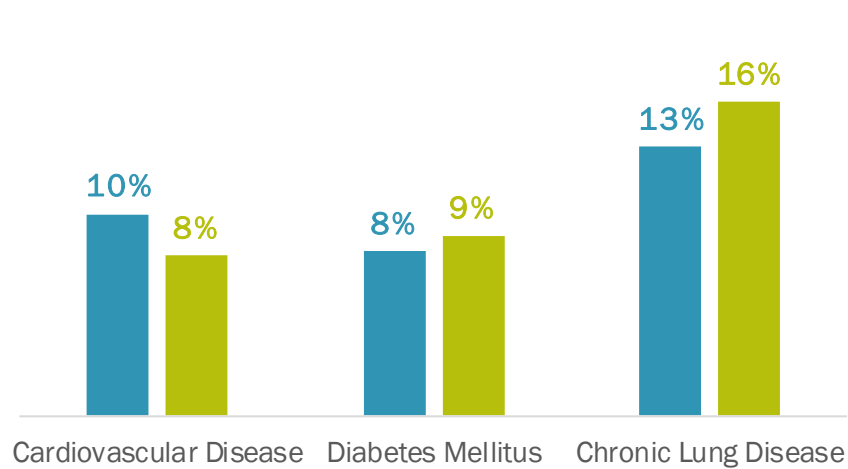
Condition	Count	Percentage
Heart Disease	149	10%
Chronic Lung Disease (includes asthma and COPD)	198	13%
Chronic Liver Disease	11	1%
Chronic Kidney Disease	37	3%
Current/Former Smoker	275	19%
Diabetes	121	8%
Immunocompromised Condition	55	4%
Neurologic Condition/Intellectual Disability	39	3%
Other Chronic Condition**	342	23%
Pregnant	15	1%

43% 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.

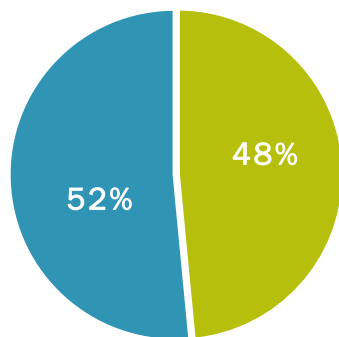
The Health Department has information about pre-existing conditions in 80% (1,473) of 1,838 total COVID-19 cases.

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

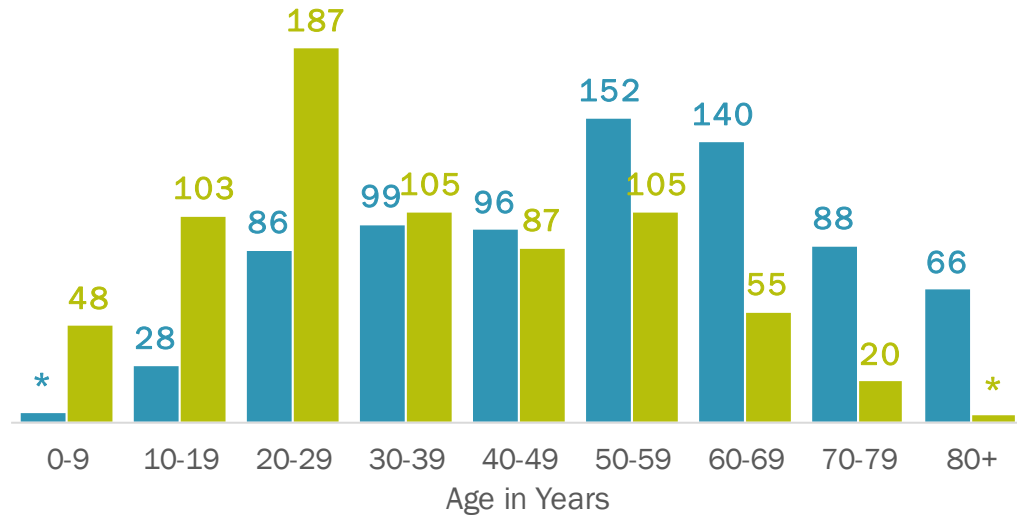


Data Source: Cardiovascular disease and diabetes, BRFSS 2018 annual report. Chronic lung disease, 3-4-50 Community profile (2016-2017 BRFSS).

Likelihood of having a pre-existing condition is approximately equal between female and male COVID-19 patients.

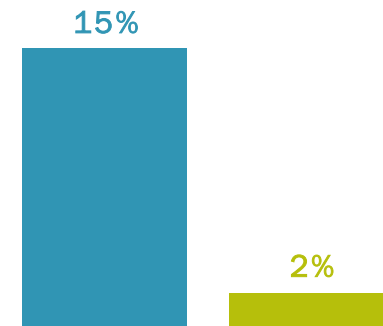


COVID-19 patients with pre-existing conditions tend to be older than those without pre-existing conditions.

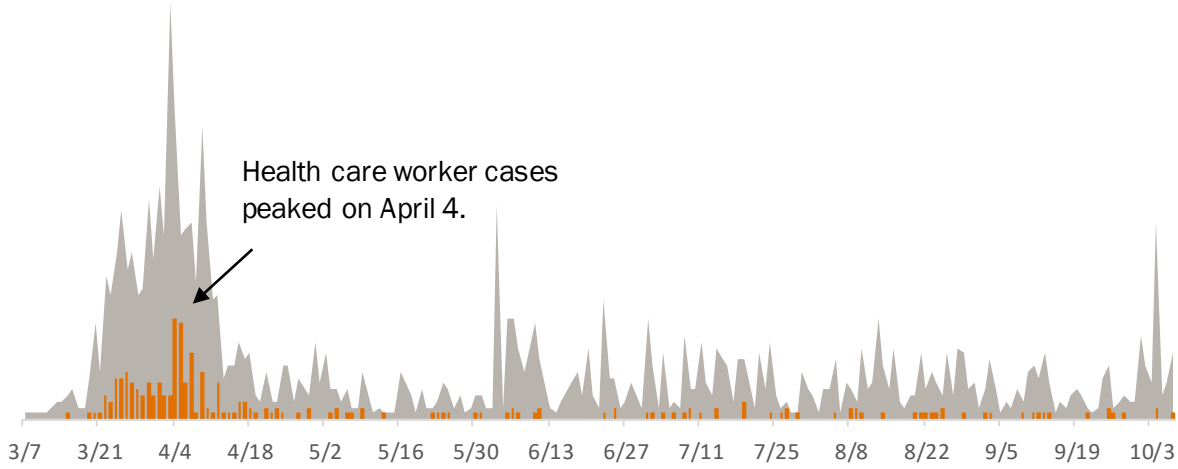


* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

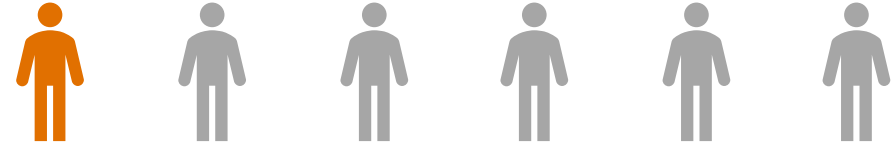
A higher percentage of COVID-19 patients with pre-existing conditions have been hospitalized than those without pre-existing conditions.



Number of **New Health Care Worker** and **All Cases** by Day

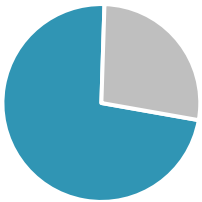


1 in 7 Vermonters with COVID-19 are health care workers.

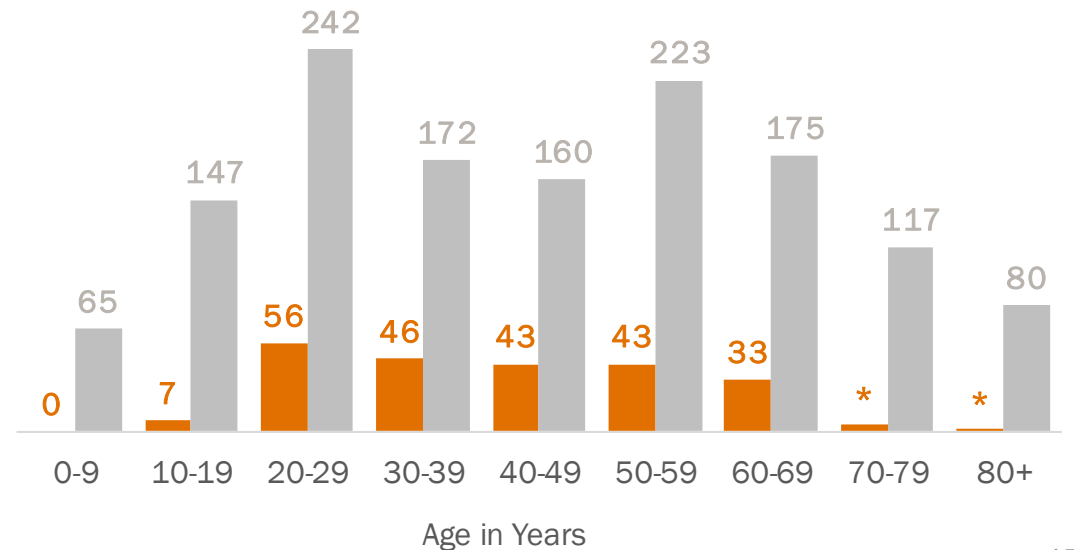
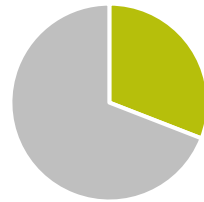


Health care workers with COVID-19 tend to be younger than non-health care workers with COVID-19.

7 in 10 health care workers with COVID-19 are **female**.

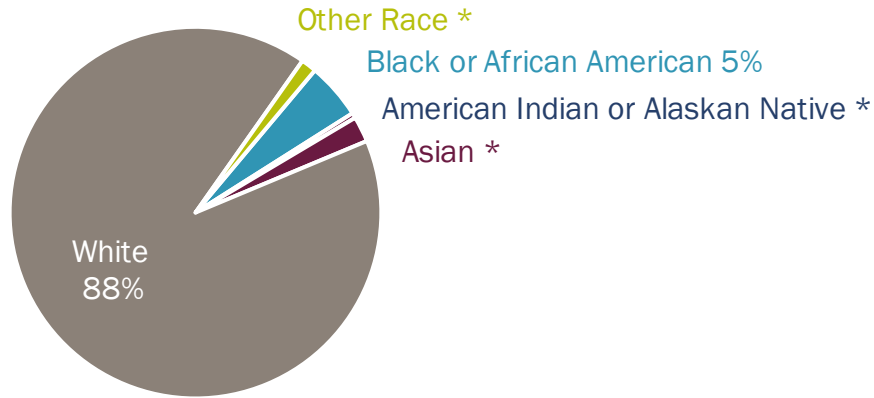


31% of health care workers with COVID-19 are associated with an **outbreak**.



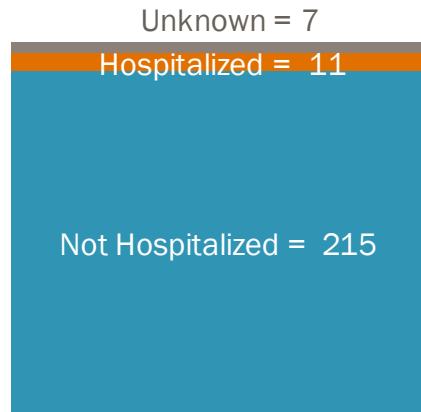
* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

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



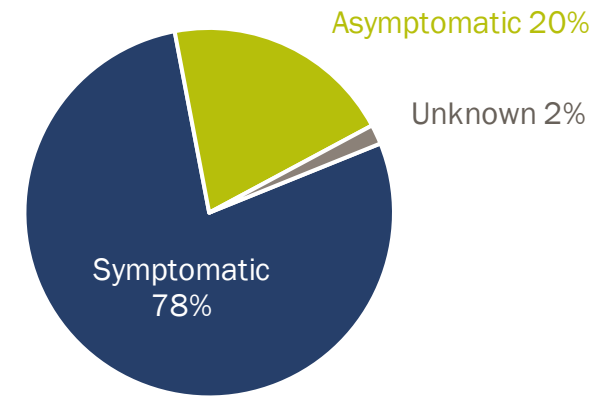
* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

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



There are no reported deaths among health care workers.

Most health care workers with COVID-19 have symptoms.

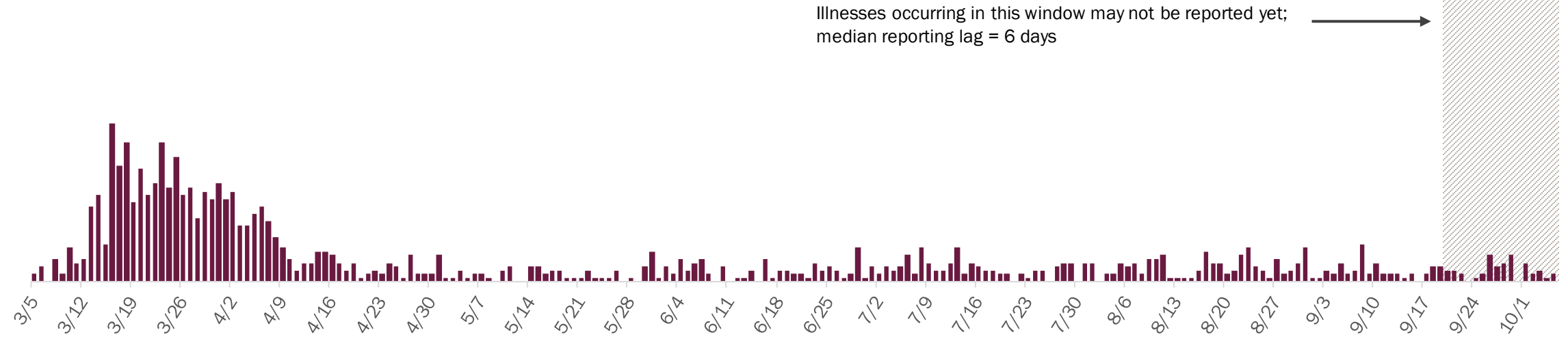


Sign or Symptom among Health Care Workers with COVID-19	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	71%
Fatigue	65%
Headache	62%
Loss of Smell or Taste	52%
Muscle Pain	50%
Runny nose	47%
Chills	43%
Fever	40%

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.



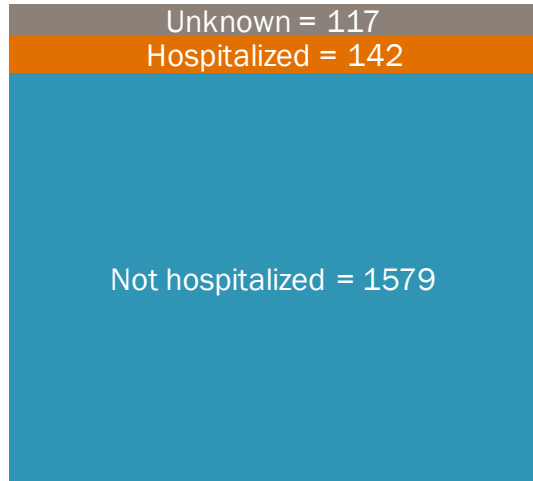
Note: Date of symptom onset is not always known.

12 days
Average illness duration

69%
Cases with symptoms

Sign or Symptom	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	67%
Fatigue	67%
Headache	55%
Muscle Pain	50%
Felt Feverish	48%
Loss of Smell/Test	47%
Fever	45%

Most Vermonters with COVID-19 are not hospitalized.



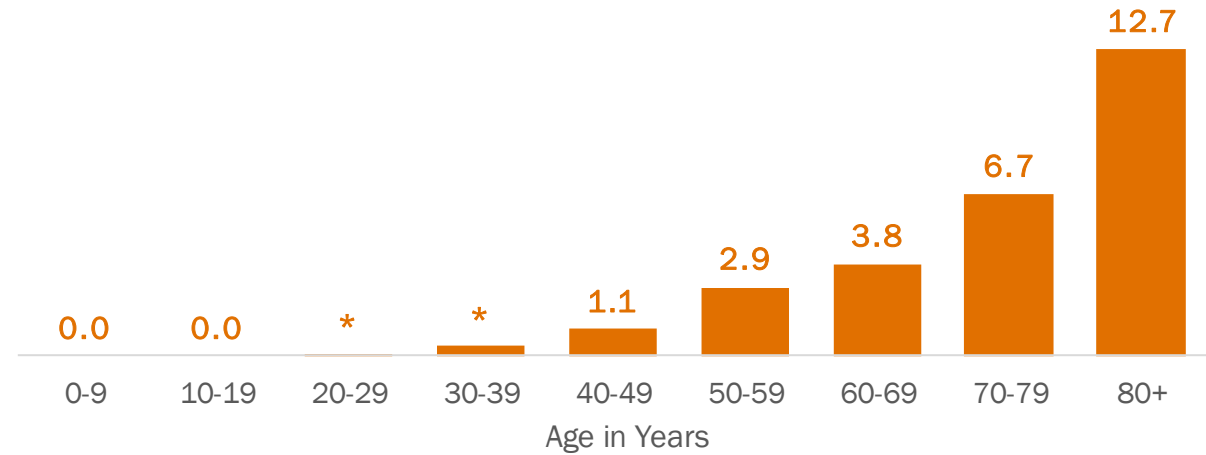
15%
Of those hospitalized
were on a ventilator

35%
Of those hospitalized
were in the ICU

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

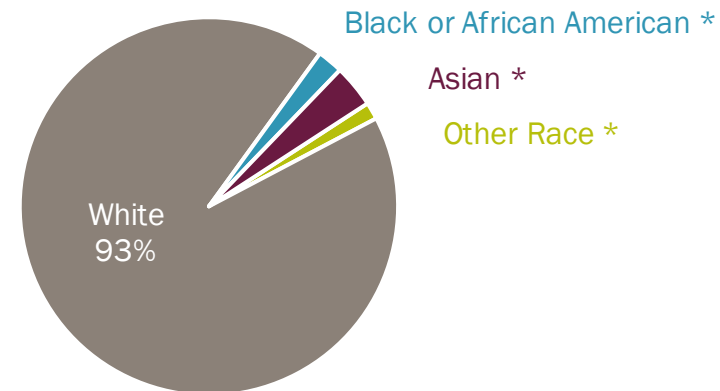
Vermonters 80 years and older are more likely to be hospitalized for COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



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

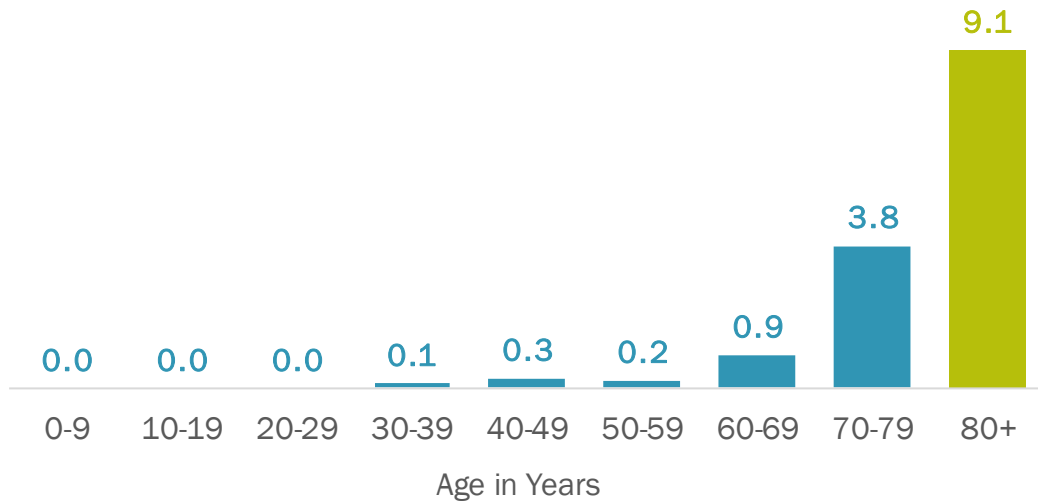
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



Please note 5 hospitalized persons are missing race information.
*Values suppressed due to small numbers.

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

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

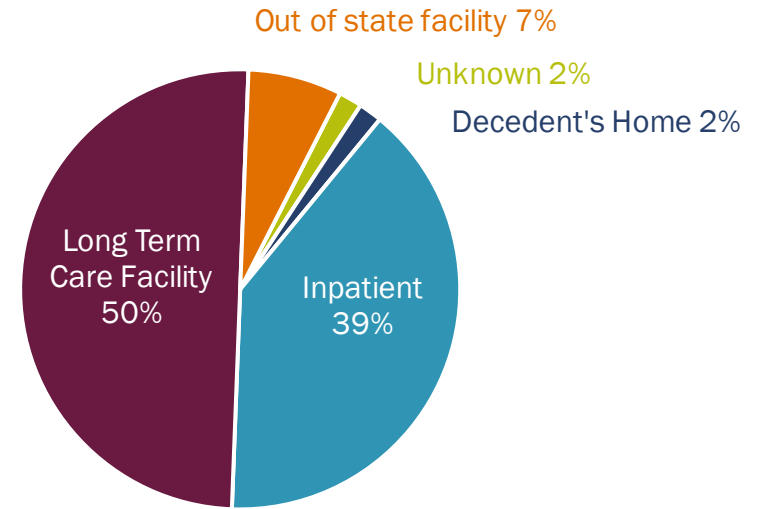


Males and females have similar rates of COVID-19 death.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

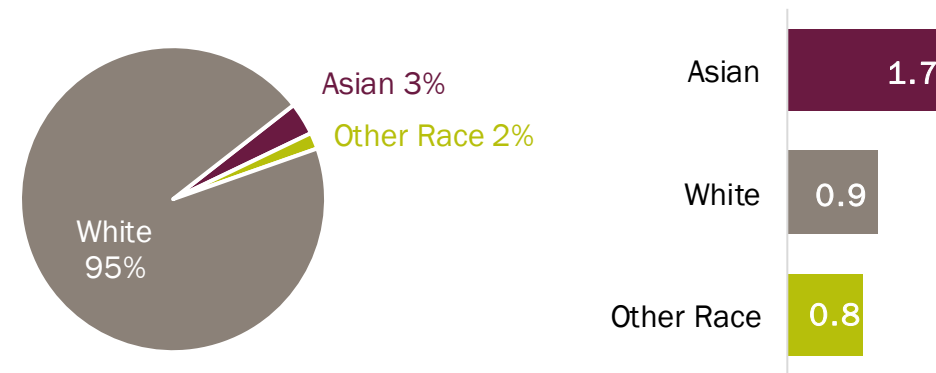


Most COVID-19 deaths occurred in an inpatient hospital setting or a long-term care facility.



White Vermonters represent a majority of COVID-19 deaths. Death rates by race are similar.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



Note: No deaths have identified as Hispanic or Latino.

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

3 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 COVID-19 positive tests or people with COVID-like illness occur after 28 days from the last positive test or illness start date (whichever is later).

Educational Settings

2 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 COVID-19 positive tests or people with COVID-like illness occur after 28 days from the last known exposure to the school.

Congregate Care or Living Settings*

One resident or staff member with COVID-19, and one or more residents or staff with respiratory illness who have had contact with each other.

or

Two or more facility residents and/or staff with an illness start or positive test collection date within 14 days.

*Examples include long-term care and other residential care facilities, correctional facilities and homeless shelters.

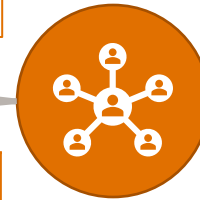
Resolved when no new COVID-19 positive tests occur after 28 days from the last positive test or illness start date (whichever is later).

Workplaces

2 or more COVID-19 cases among employees at the same workplace, and the cases:

- had contact with each other in the workplace, and
- 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 COVID-19 positive tests or people with COVID-like illness occur after 28 days from the last known exposure to the workplace.





27% of people testing positive for COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak



Outbreaks

6 Active

27 Resolved*

*See previous page for definitions of resolved outbreaks.

Congregate Care & Living



160
cases among residents



84
cases among facility staff

Schools and Child Care



7
cases among children and staff

Workplace



77
cases among employees

Community

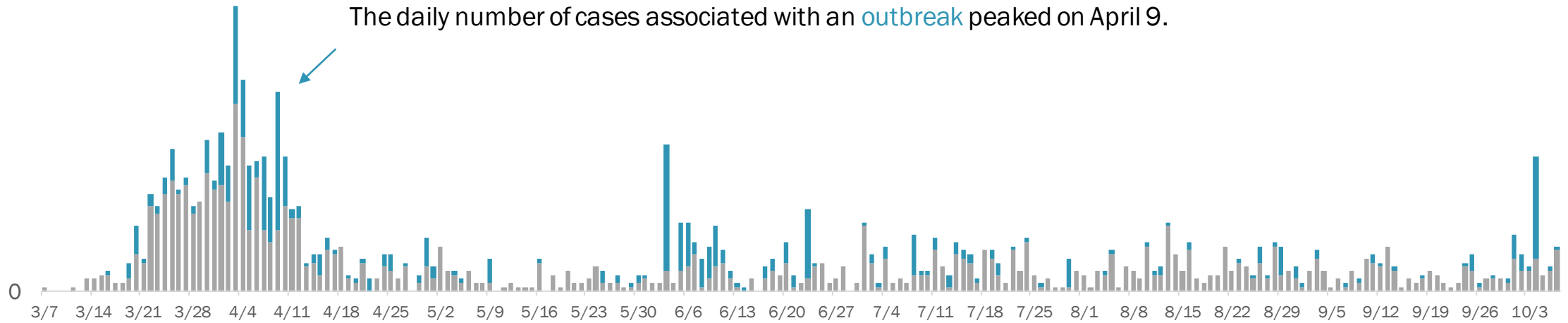


175
cases

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 10/07/2020.

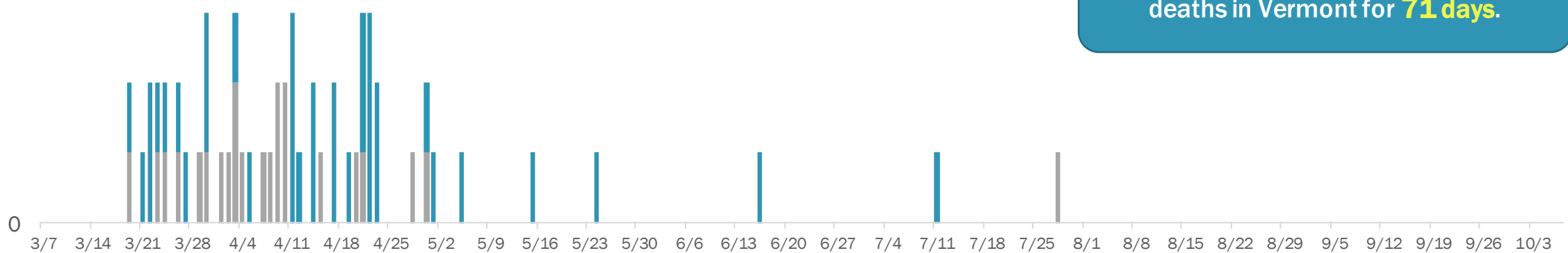
Vermont COVID-19 Cases Associated with an Outbreak Over Time

90



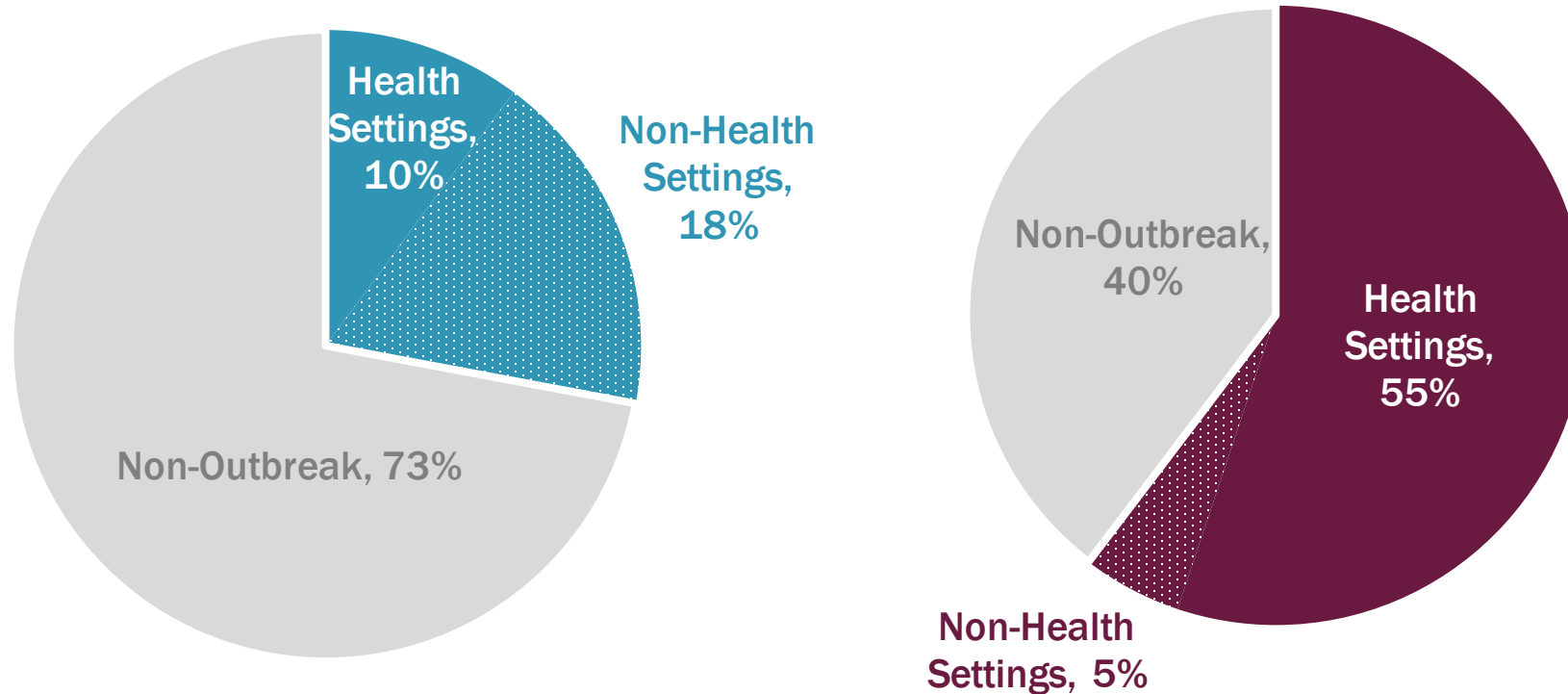
Vermont COVID-19 Deaths Associated with an Outbreak Over Time

4



Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 10/07/2020.

While only 27% of all people testing positive for COVID-19 are associated with outbreaks, more than half of COVID-19-related deaths occur in outbreak settings.



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.

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 10/07/2020.

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.

The percentages of **females** and **males** with COVID-19 that are associated with an outbreak is about even.

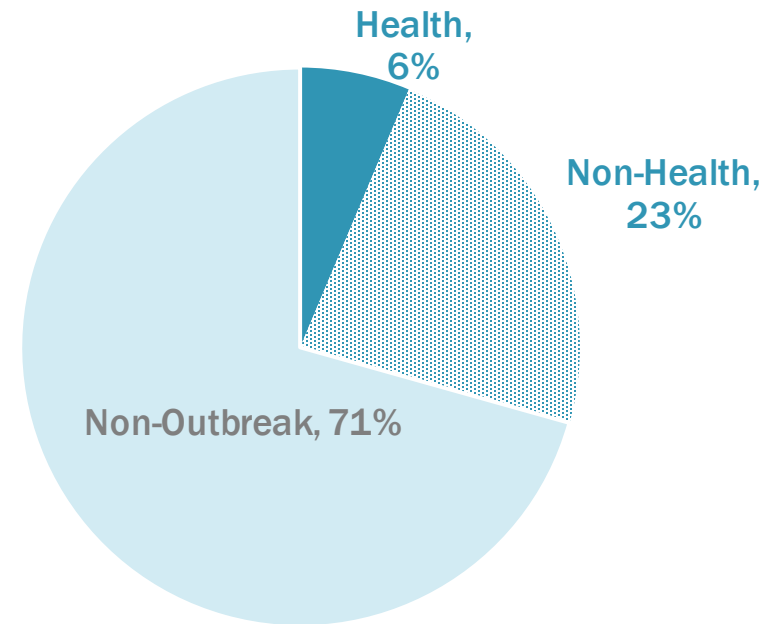
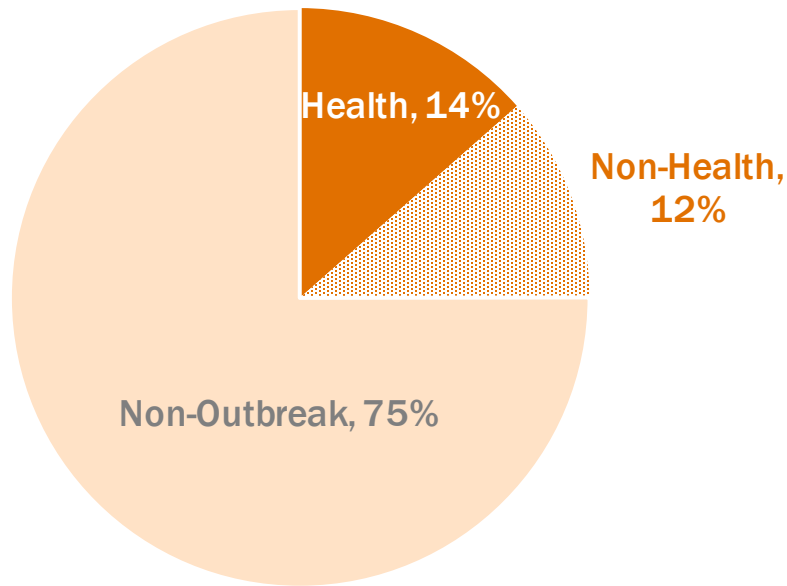


25% of **females** with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.



29% of **males** with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.

But in outbreak settings, **males** with COVID-19 are more likely to be associated with non-health settings than health settings.



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. Percentages by outbreak type are rounded to the whole number, but combined totals take into account the full percentages.

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects case counts as of 10/07/20

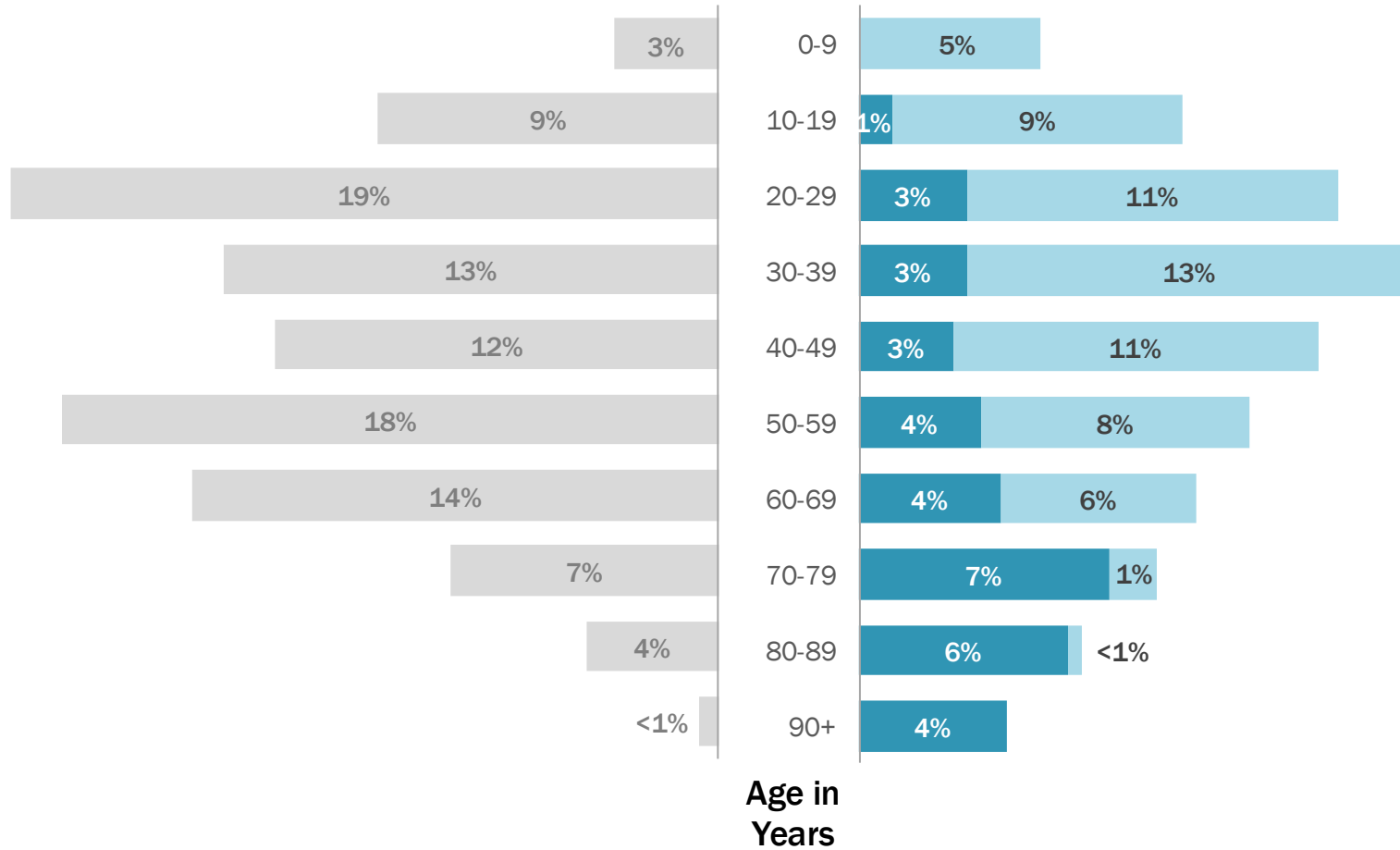
Note: Examples of a health setting include long-term care or assisted living facilities, therapeutic treatment centers, and behavioral health institutions. Examples of a non-health setting include correctional facilities, senior housing communities, businesses, and homeless shelters. Vermont has not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

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



44 years old

70 years old

35 years old

Median age

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects case counts as of 10/07/20

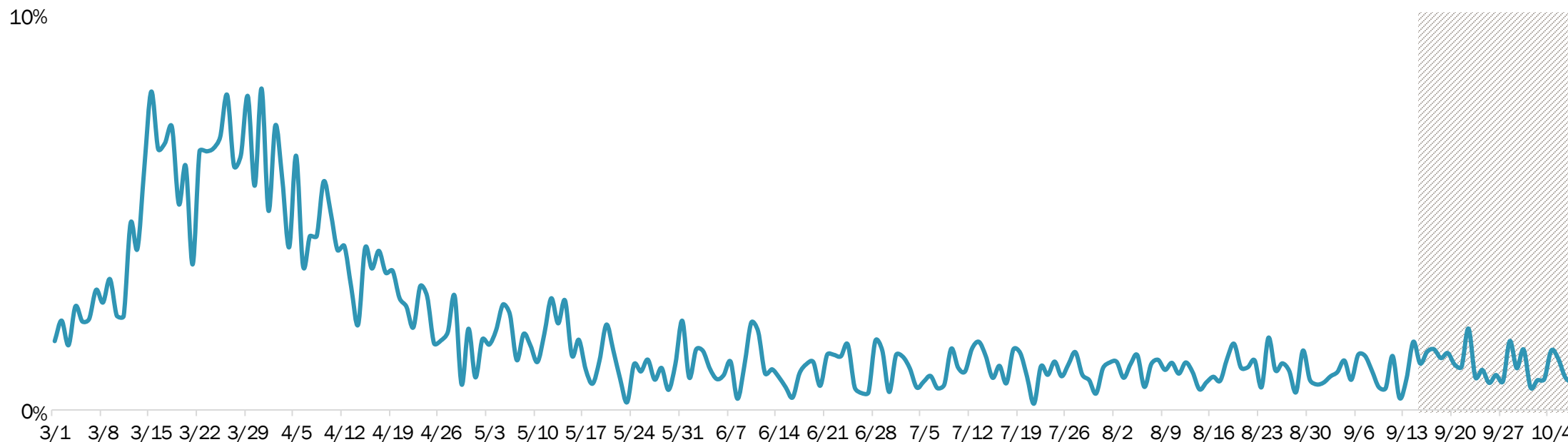
Note: Examples of a health setting include long-term care or assisted living facilities, therapeutic treatment centers, and behavioral health institutions. Examples of a non-health setting include correctional facilities, senior housing communities, businesses, and homeless shelters. Vermont has not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

Syndromic Surveillance

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

The percent of emergent care visits for COVID-19-like illness remains steady.

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.

Weekly Spotlight: Percent Positivity

This section focuses on percent positivity, a metric used to determine the current transmission levels of COVID-19 in the community.



What is percent positivity and what can it tell us about COVID-19?

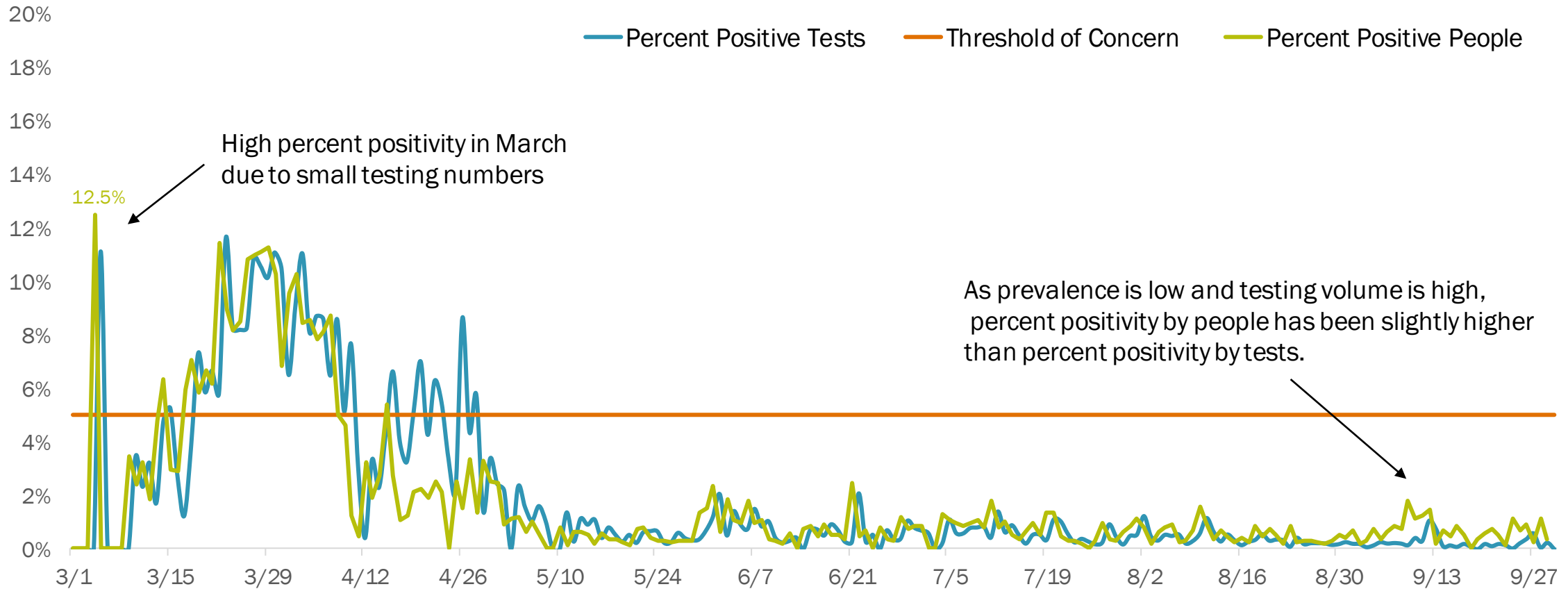
- Percent Positivity is a metric that helps public health officials determine the current transmission levels of COVID-19 in the community.
- There are two common ways to calculate percent positivity:

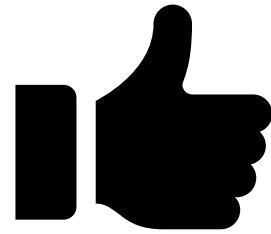
$$\text{Percent Positivity of People} = \frac{\text{Number of new positive individuals daily}}{\text{Number of individuals tested}}$$

$$\text{Percent Positivity of Tests} = \frac{\text{Number of positive tests daily}}{\text{Number of specimens tested}}$$

- **What is the difference?** The percent positivity of people reflects only the number of individuals who are tested, even though they may be tested more than once.
- The Health Department currently reports on the **Percent Positivity of People**. The percent positivity of people only includes PCR testing. It does not include antigen or serology testing.

Vermont's percent positivity has remained low since May. It has not surpassed Vermont's 5% **threshold of concern** since late April.





Vermont's percent positivity of people, and percent positivity of tests, has remained one of the lowest in the United States since May.



Learn more about COVID-19 in Vermont:

Web: www.healthvermont.gov/COVID-19

Email: AHS.VDHPublicCommunication@vermont.gov

See more data: [Weekly Data Summaries](#)