

Weekly Summary of Vermont COVID-19 Data

Reflecting cases identified between
March 5, 2020 – January 27, 2021



Date published: January 29, 2021. 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 January 20 through January 27.

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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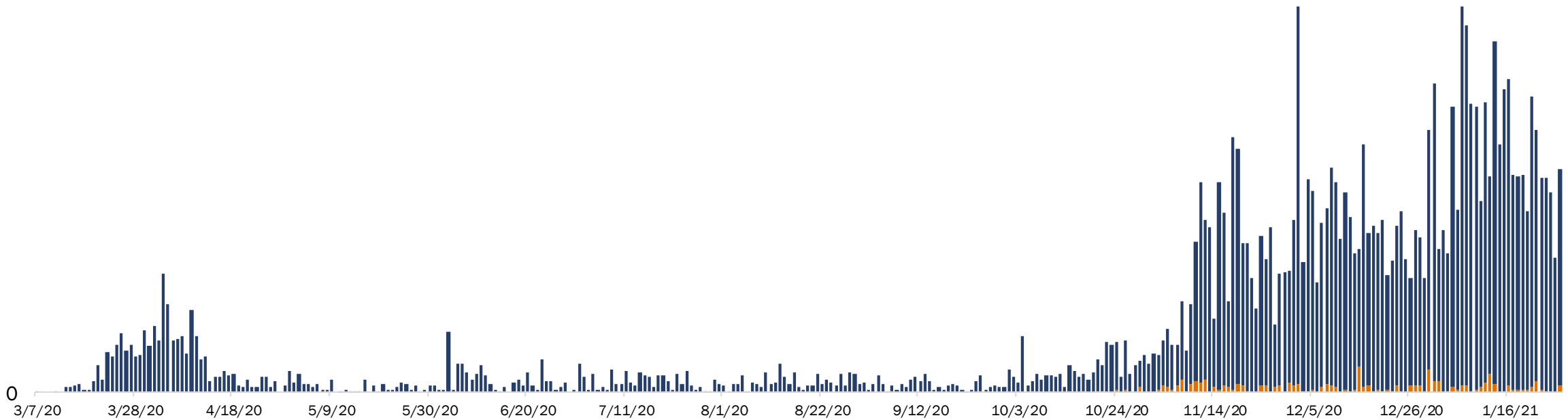
Weekly Spotlight

COVID-19 in Vermont

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

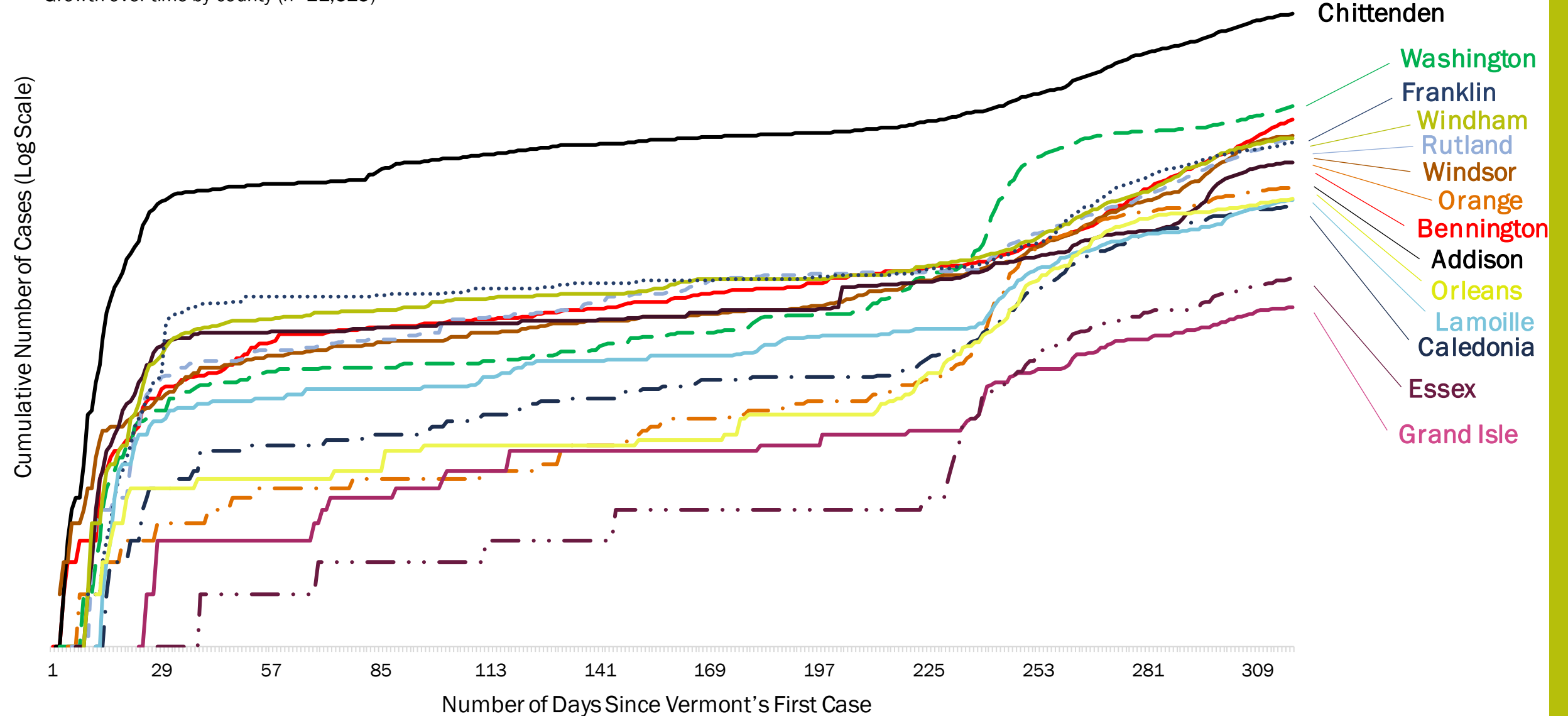
Total Number of **Confirmed** and **Probable** Cases in Vermont: 11,523

250

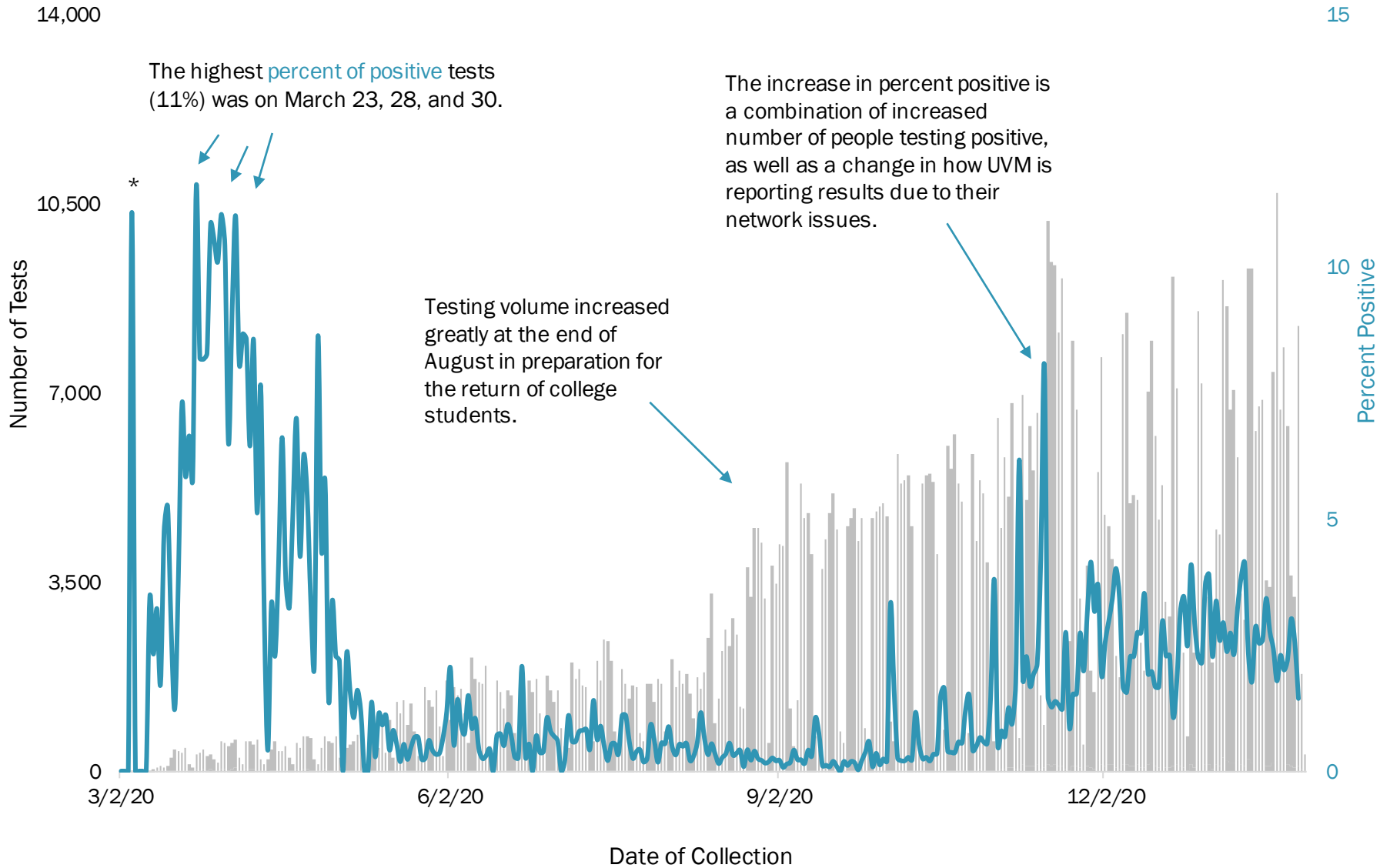


Most counties continue to see new cases.

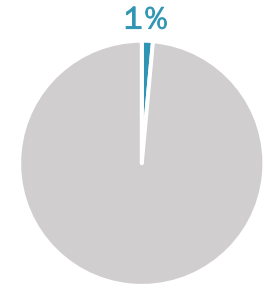
Growth over time by county (n=11,515)



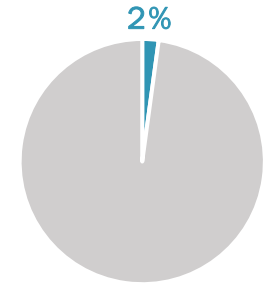
Percent of positive COVID-19 tests may indicate how prevalent the disease is in the population.



Percent Positive to Date



Percent Positive This Week (January 20 - January 27)



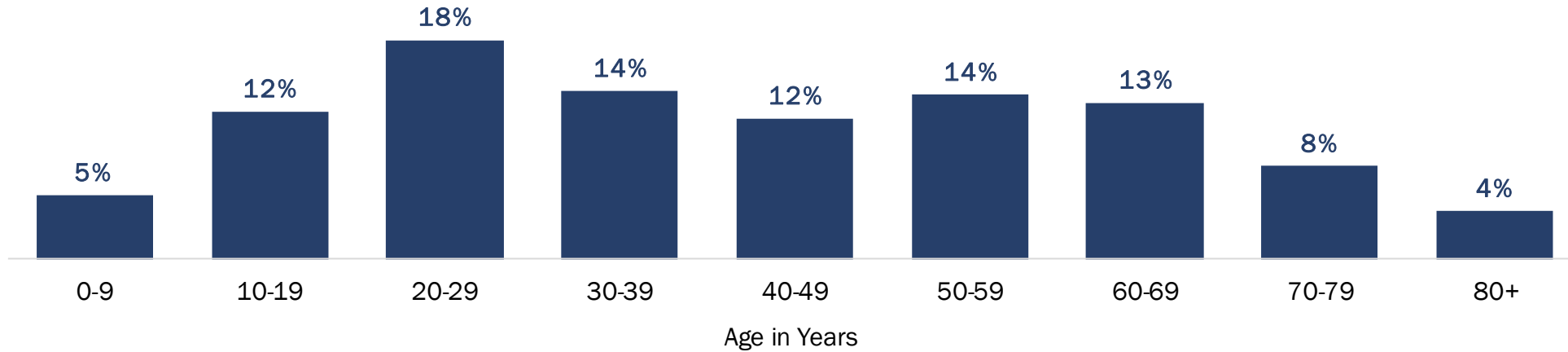
9,397 People Tested this Week	38,238 Tests this Week
299,339 People Tested to Date	870,908 Tests to Date

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 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.

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

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



More **females** are tested than **males** for COVID-19.



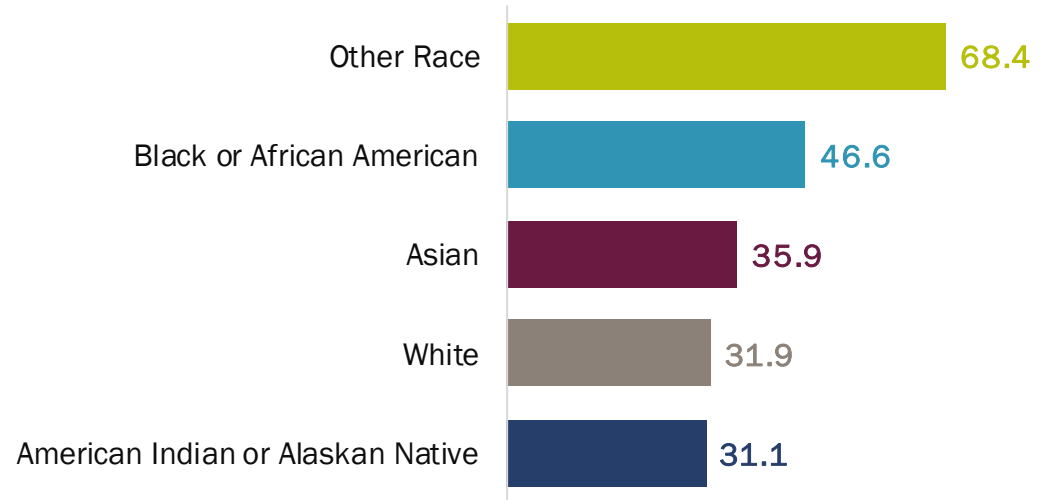
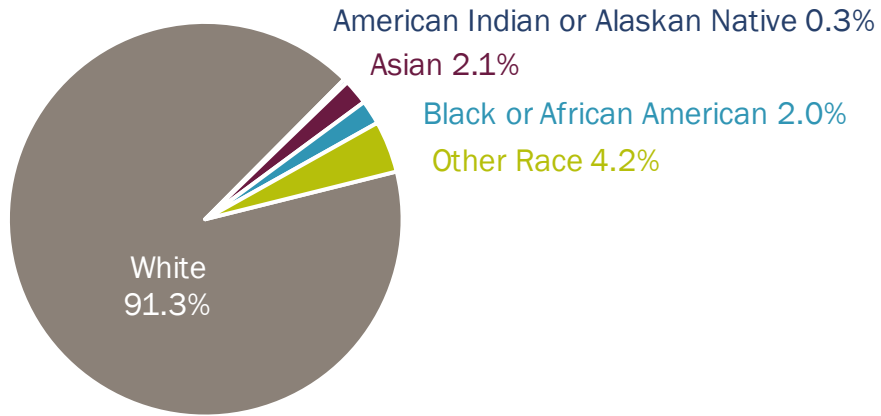
55% of people tested for COVID-19 are **female**.



45% of people tested for COVID-19 are **male**.

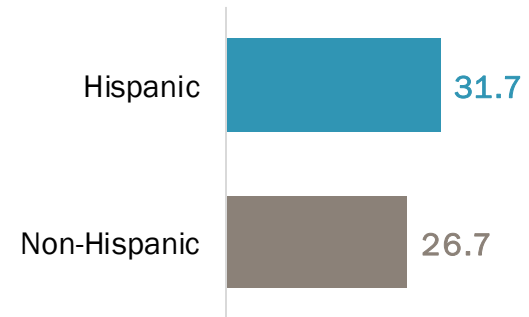
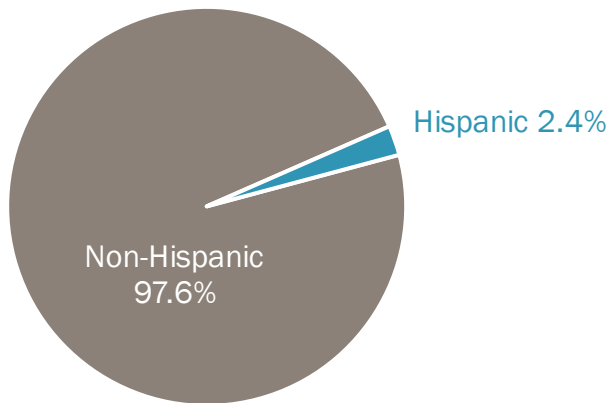
White Vermonters represent the majority of people tested in Vermont for COVID-19. Vermonters with other race have the highest rate of testing.

Rates per 100 Vermonters

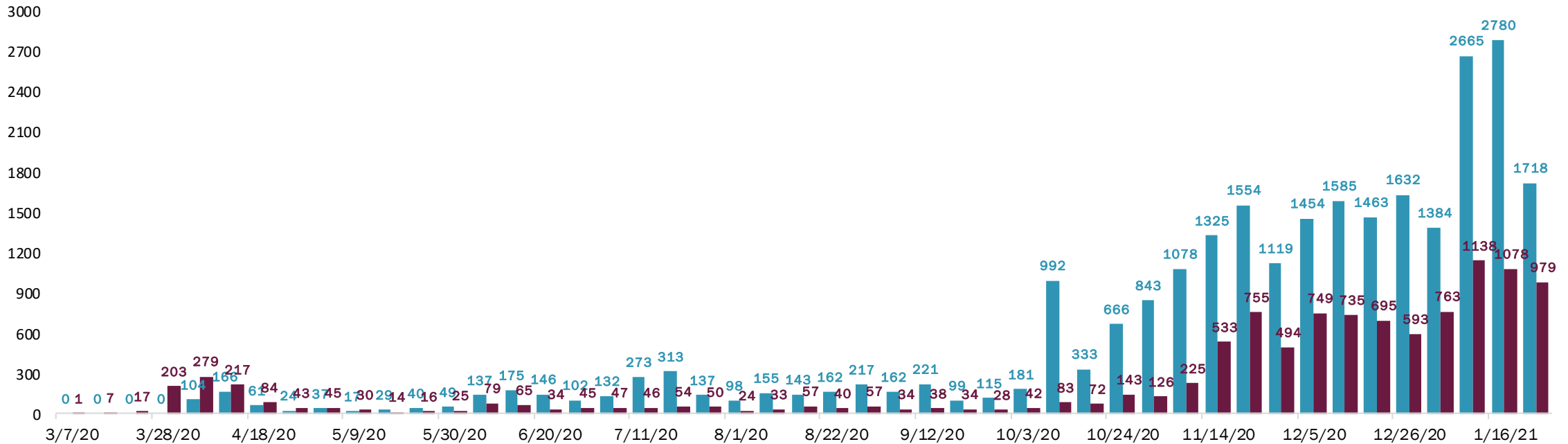


Non-Hispanic Vermonters represent the majority of people tested in Vermont for COVID-19. Hispanic Vermonters have the higher rate of testing.

Rates per 100 Vermonters



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



195

Number of full-time equivalent contact tracing staff trained

841

Cases interviewed last week

January 17 – January 23

1,718

Contacts named last week

January 17 – January 23

3.1

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.

In the last two weeks (from January 10 to January 23):



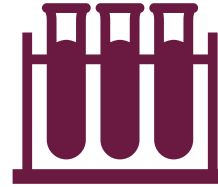
84%

Of cases were interviewed within 24 hours



78%

Of cases provided their close contacts



69%

Of contacts were tested within 14 days of exposure



17%

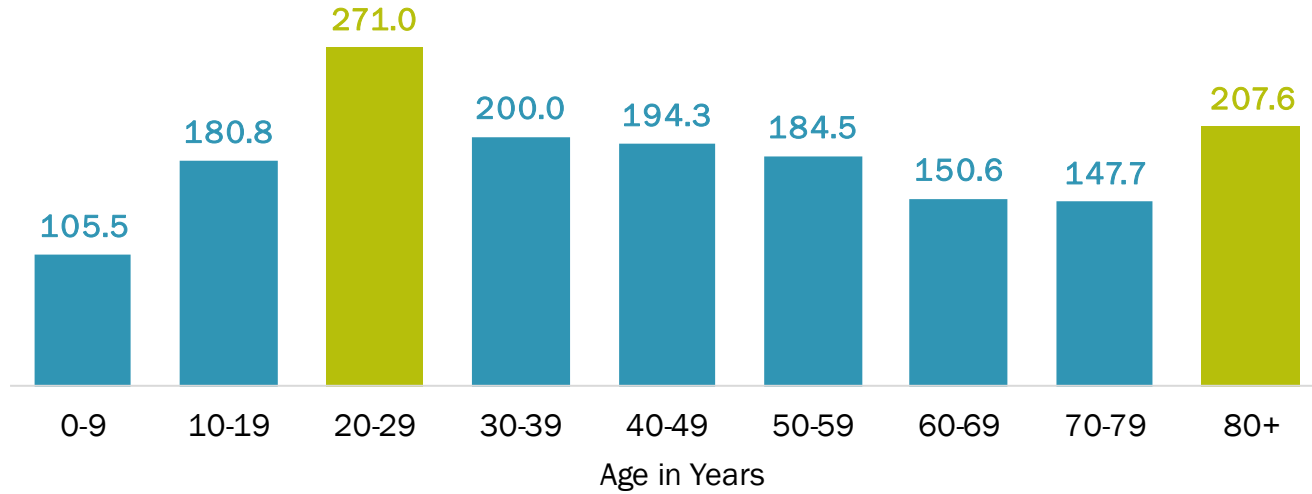
Of contacts became a case

Case Demographics

Who has been impacted by COVID-19 in Vermont?

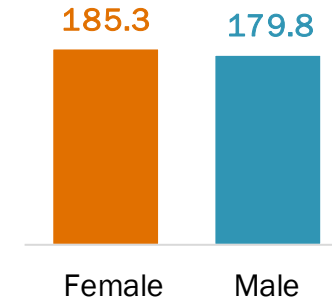
Rates of COVID-19 are highest among Vermonters 20-29 and 80 years and older.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



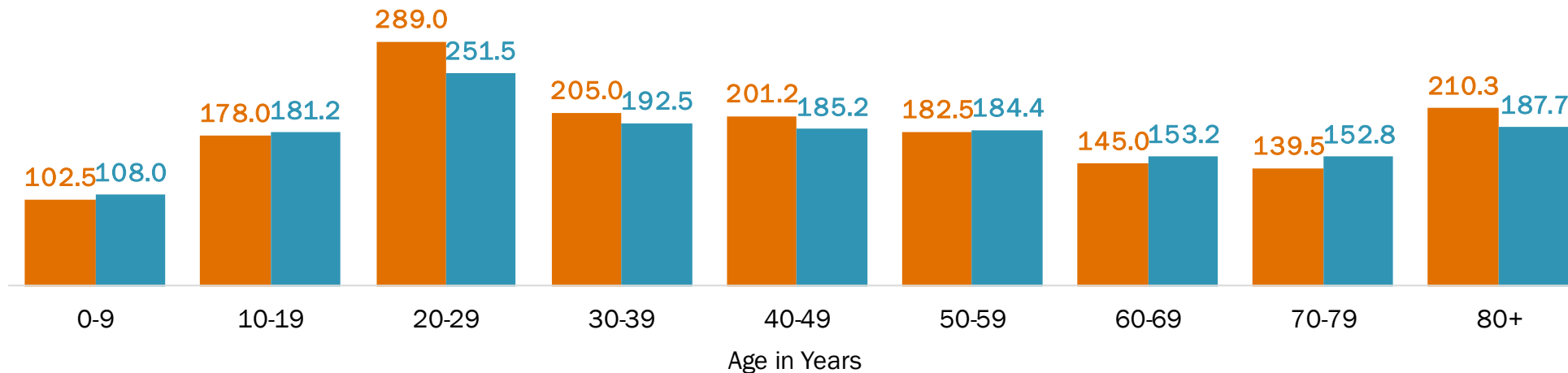
Females and males have similar rates of COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



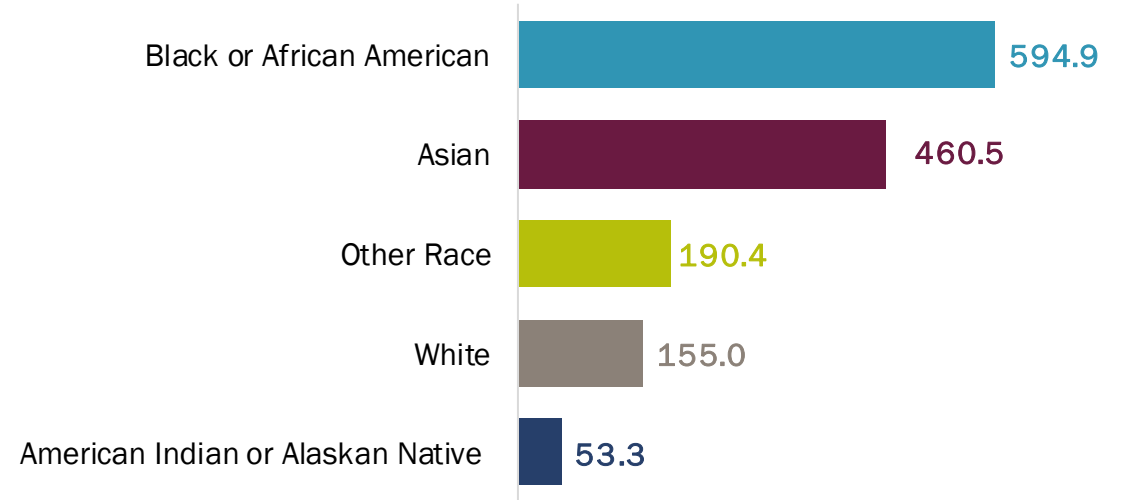
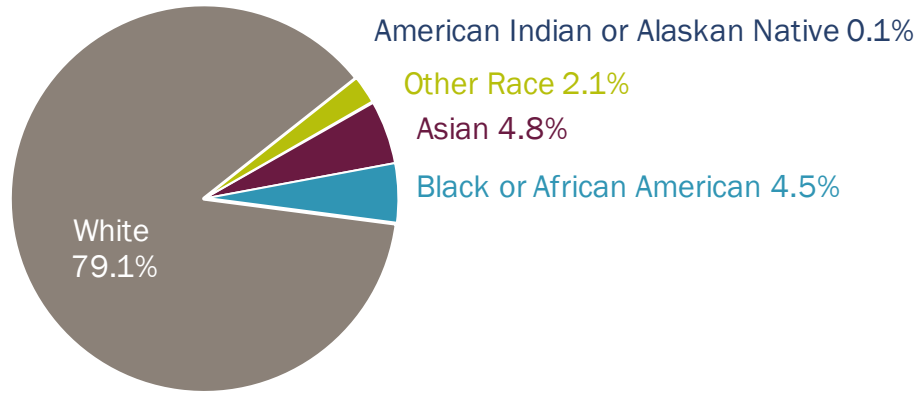
There are differences in age and sex of Vermonters with COVID-19.

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



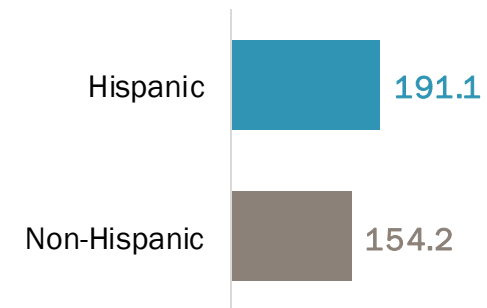
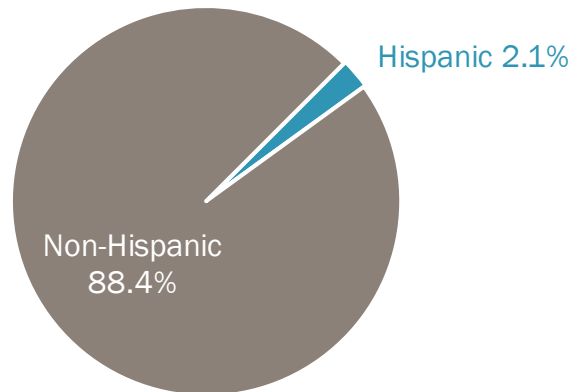
White Vermonters represent the majority of COVID-19 cases. African American Vermonters have the highest rate.

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 9% of cases (n = 1,077) and ethnicity is unknown in 16% of cases (n = 1,852).

Approximately 35% of people* with COVID-19 have a pre-existing condition.

*of the 9,499 people that the Health Department has pre-existing condition data for.

Condition	Count	Percentage
Other Chronic Condition**	997	10%
Chronic Lung Disease (includes asthma and COPD)	898	9%
Current/Former Smoker	891	9%
Diabetes	496	5%
Heart Disease	423	4%
Disability***	191	2%
Immunocompromised Condition	133	1%
Chronic Kidney Disease	78	1%
Pregnant	59	1%
Chronic Liver Disease	26	0.3%

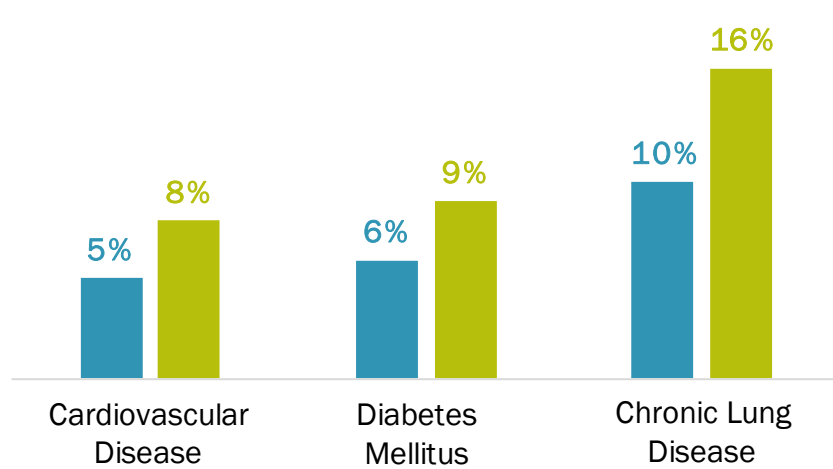
28% of people with a pre-existing condition have two or more conditions.

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

***Includes neurologic, neurodevelopmental, and intellectual disabilities, as well as physical, vision, and hearing impairments (as of 11/4/20).

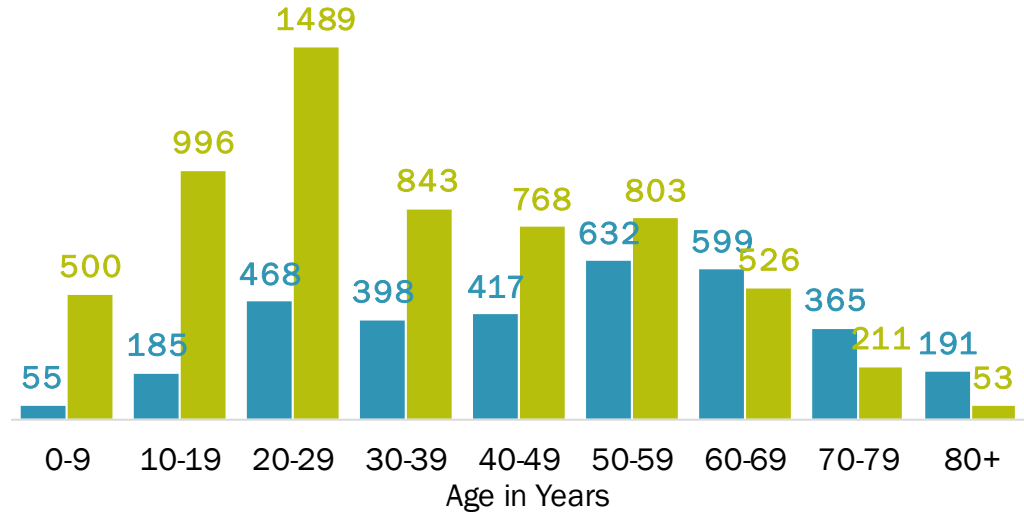
The Health Department has information about pre-existing conditions in 82% (9,499) of 11,523 total COVID-19 cases.

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

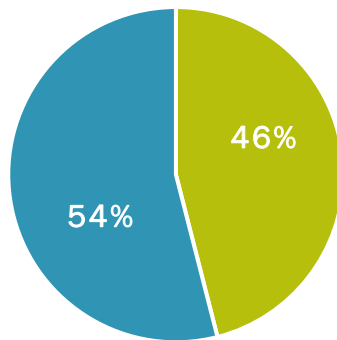


Data Source: Cardiovascular disease and diabetes, BRFSS 2018 annual report. Chronic lung disease, 3-4-50 Community profile (2016-2017 BRFSS).

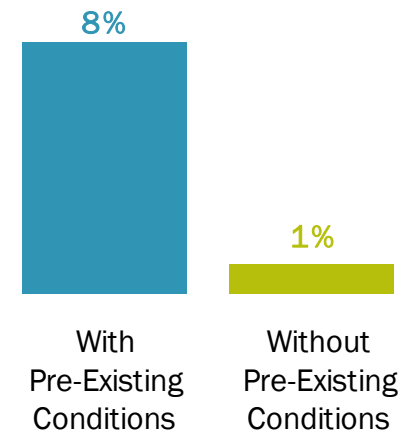
COVID-19 patients with pre-existing conditions tend to be older than those without pre-existing conditions.



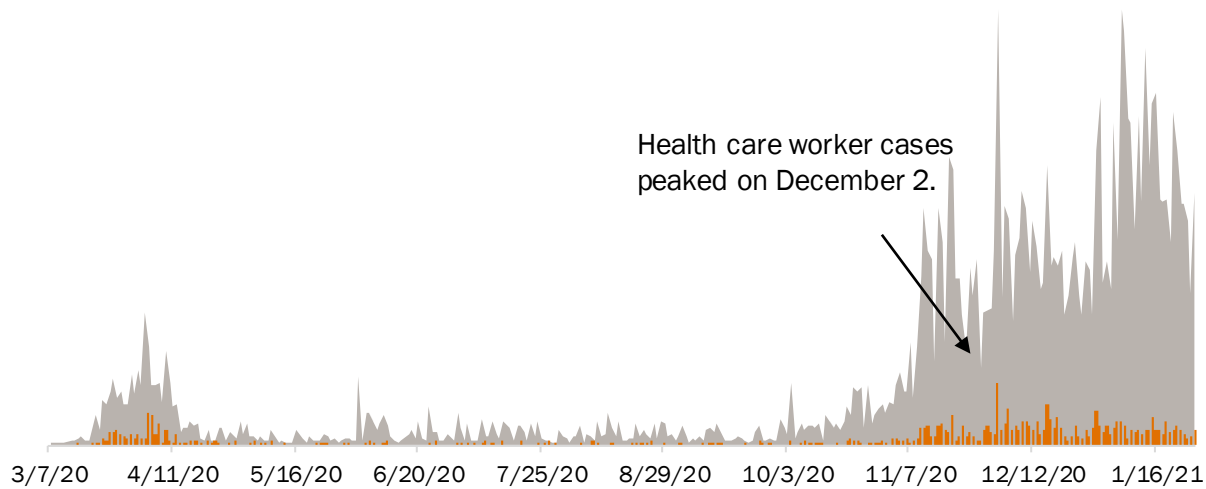
The likelihood of having a pre-existing condition is greater among female compared to male COVID-19 patients.



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



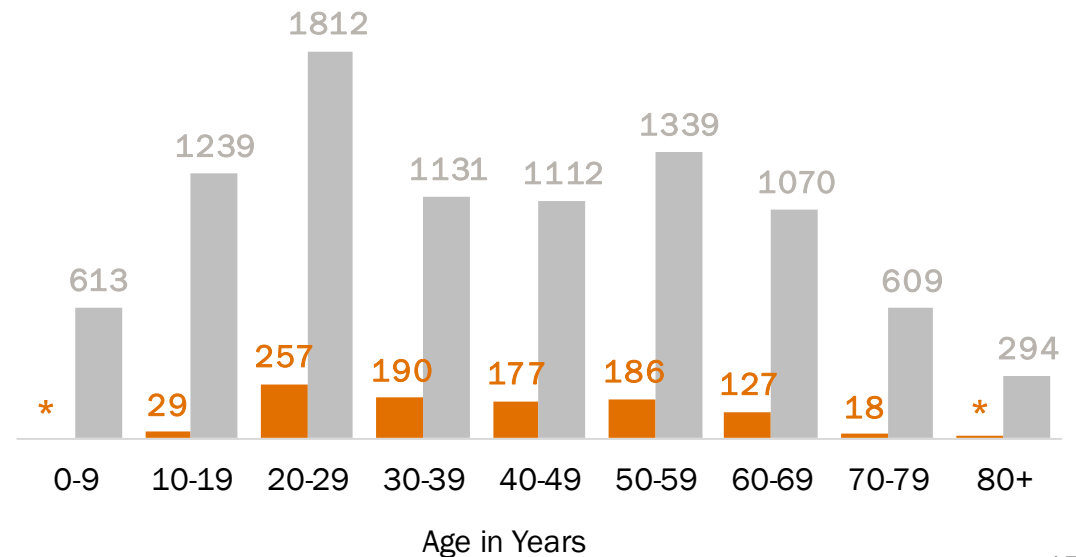
Number of **New Health Care Worker** and **All Cases** by Day



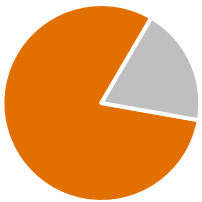
1 in 10 Vermonters with COVID-19 are health care workers.



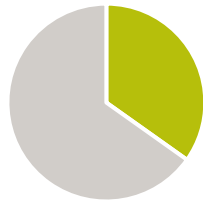
The age distribution of **health care workers** and **non-health care workers** with COVID-19 is similar.



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



35% of health care workers with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.

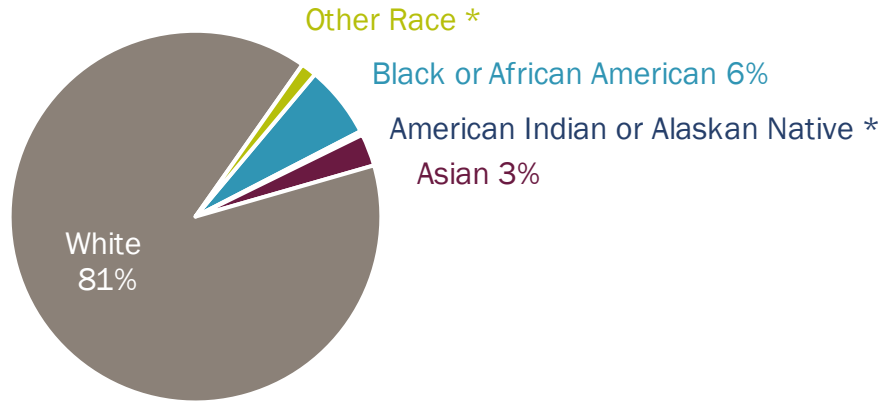


The Health Department has information about healthcare worker status in 89% (10,204) of 11,523 total COVID-19 cases.

Vermont Department of Health

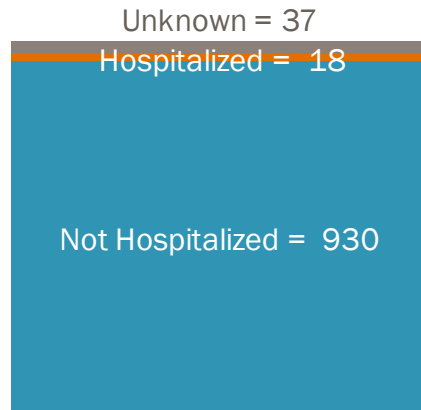
* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

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



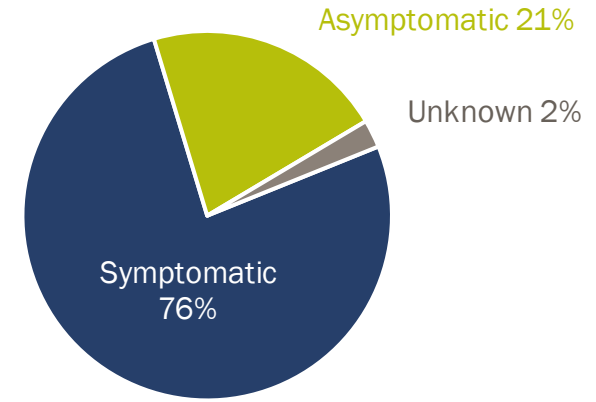
* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

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.

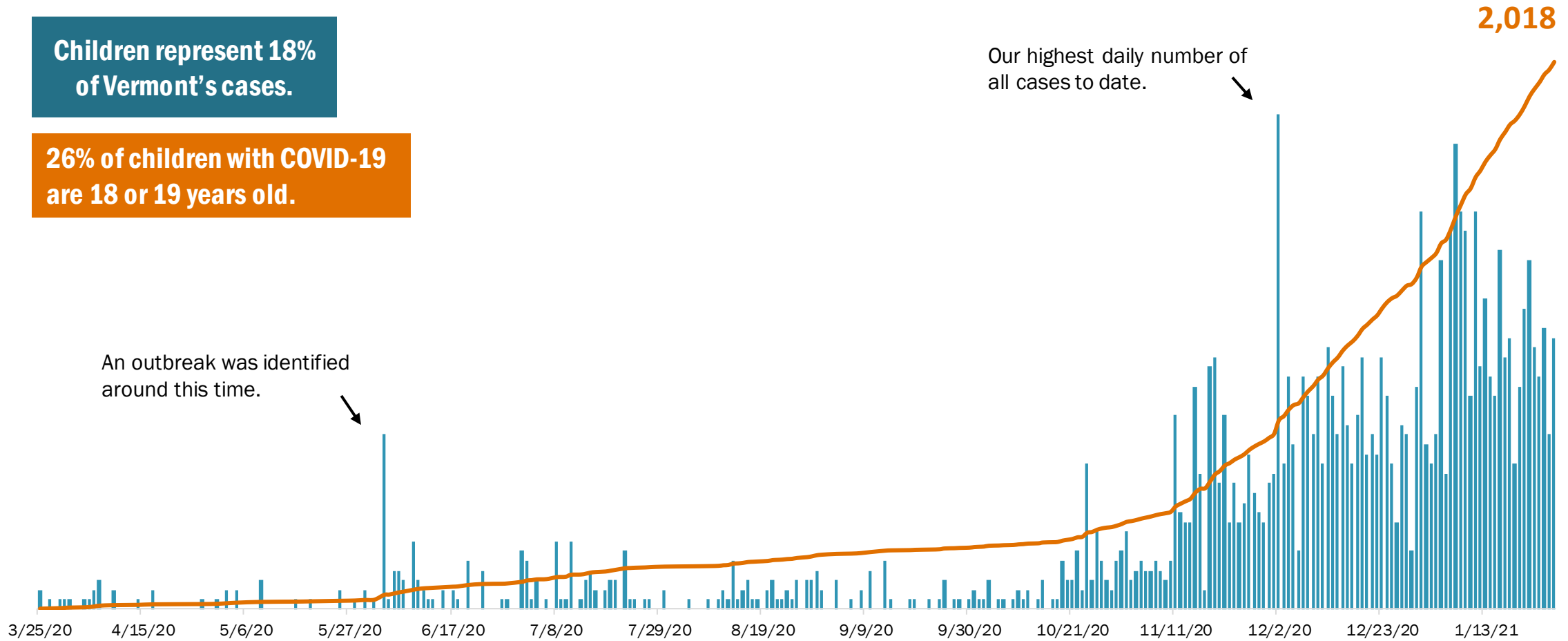


Sign or Symptom among Health Care Workers with COVID-19	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	62%
Fatigue	62%
Headache	58%
Runny Nose	54%
Muscle Pain	50%
Loss of Smell or Taste	43%
Chills	34%
Fever	24%

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

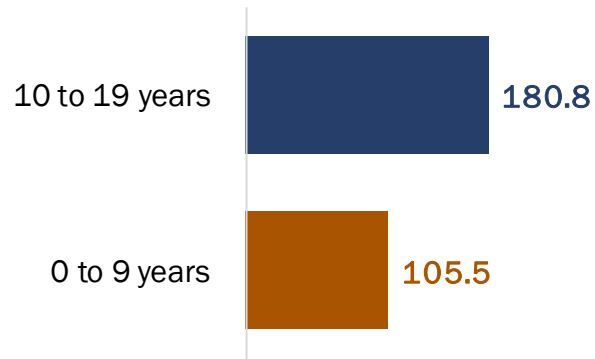
Children represent 18% of Vermont's cases.

26% of children with COVID-19 are 18 or 19 years old.



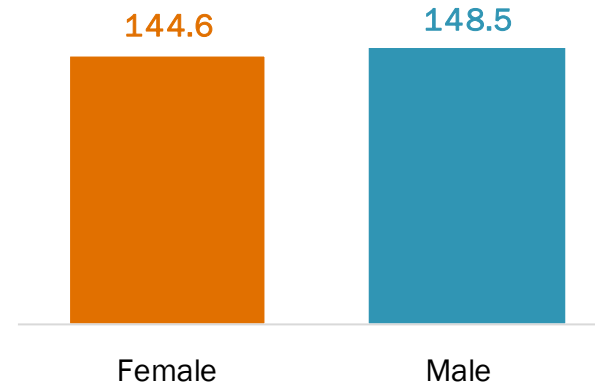
Older children have a higher rate of COVID-19 compared to younger children.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters 0-19 years old

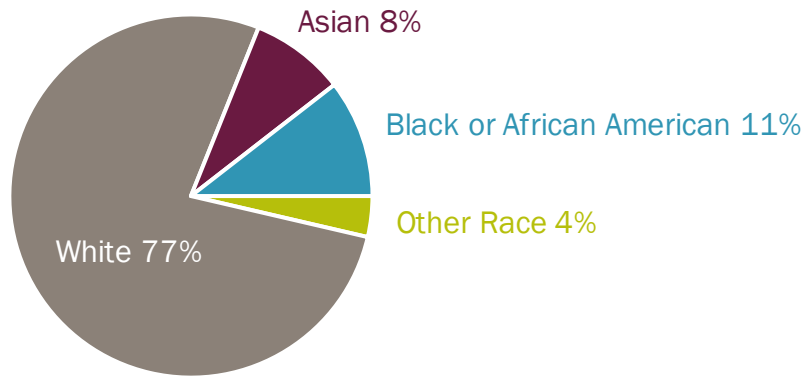


Female and male children have similar rates of COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters 0 to 19 years old

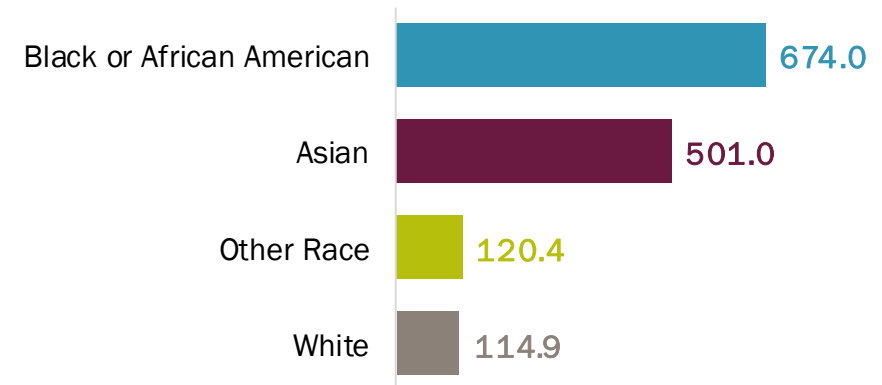


Among children with COVID-19, Black, Indigenous and people of color represent 23% of cases.



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

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters 0 to 19 years



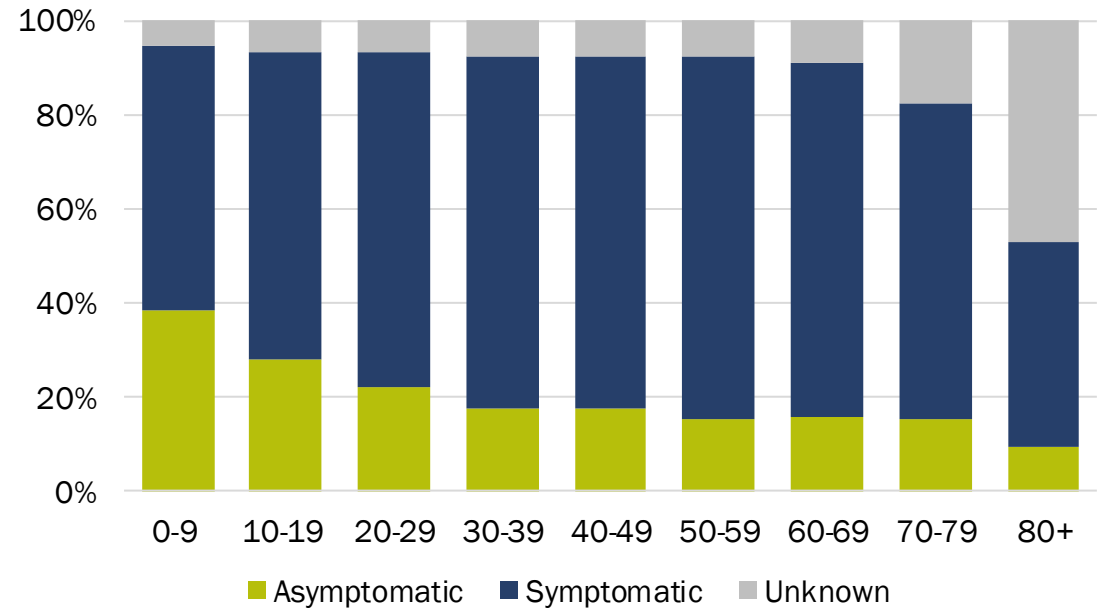
Note: No children with COVID-19 identify as American Indian or Alaskan Native.

Sign or Symptom	Percent of Children with Symptom
Runny nose	51%
Headache	44%
Cough	41%
Fatigue	38%
Sore Throat	36%
Loss of smell or taste	25%
Muscle pain	24%
Fever	20%

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.

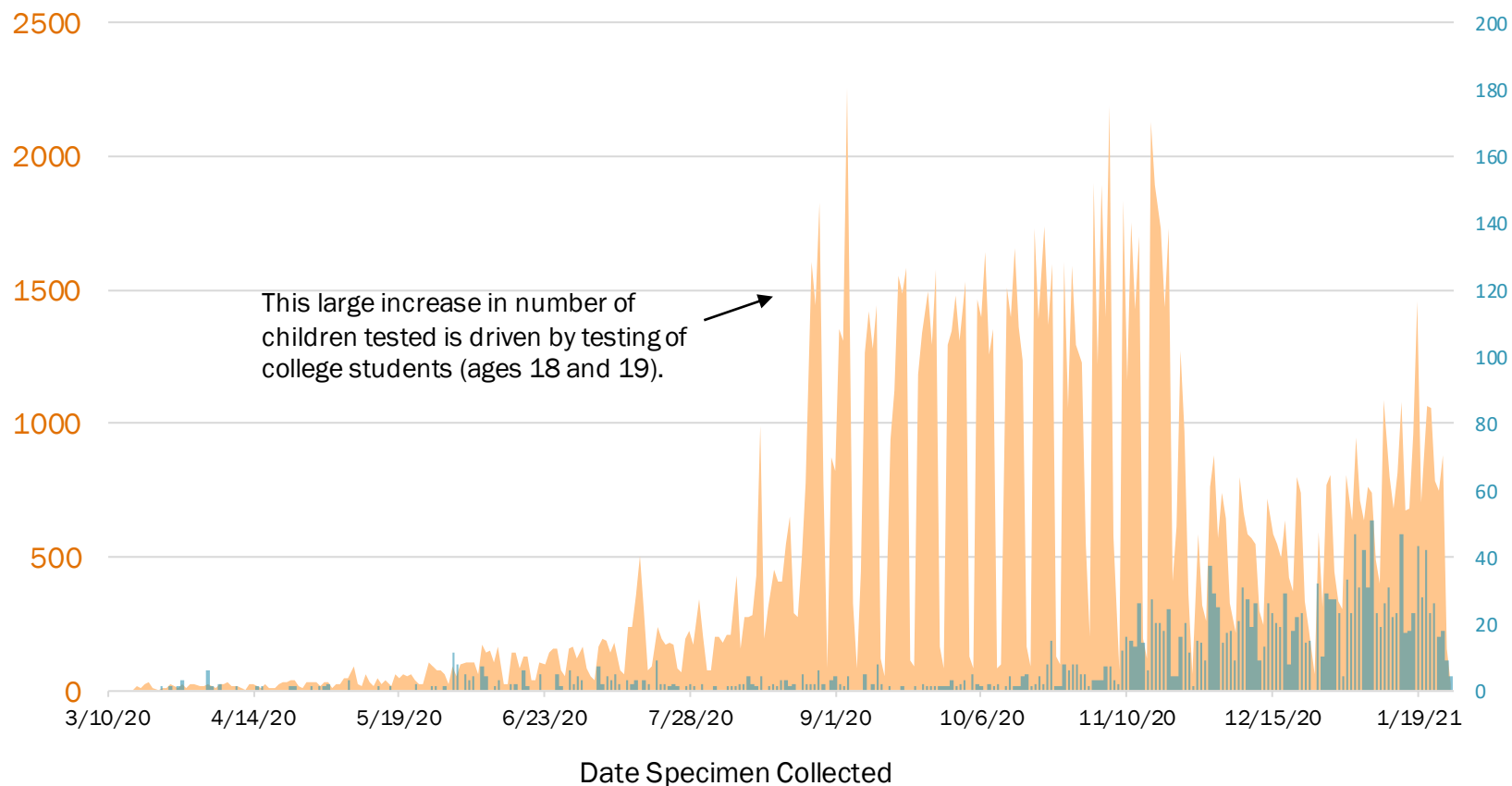
The percent of COVID-19 cases with no symptoms is higher among children. Less than one third (31%) of cases among children had no symptoms reported.



67% of children with COVID-19 had known contact with somebody else who had COVID-19.

15% of children with COVID-19 were part of an outbreak.

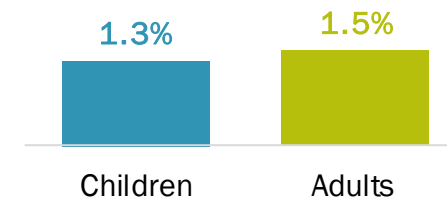
The number of **tests among children** for COVID-19 and the number of **positive tests** have increased over time.



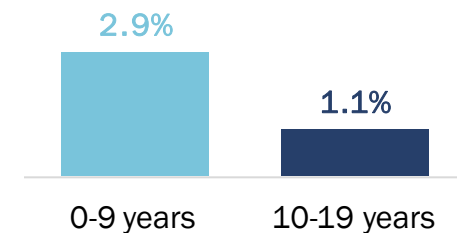
Total tests represents the total number of tests among children (specimen level).

There have been **158,026** COVID-19 tests completed among children.

Percent of tests positive among **children** is similar to **adults**.



Percent of tests positive among **younger children** is greater than **older children**, however many more older children have been tested.




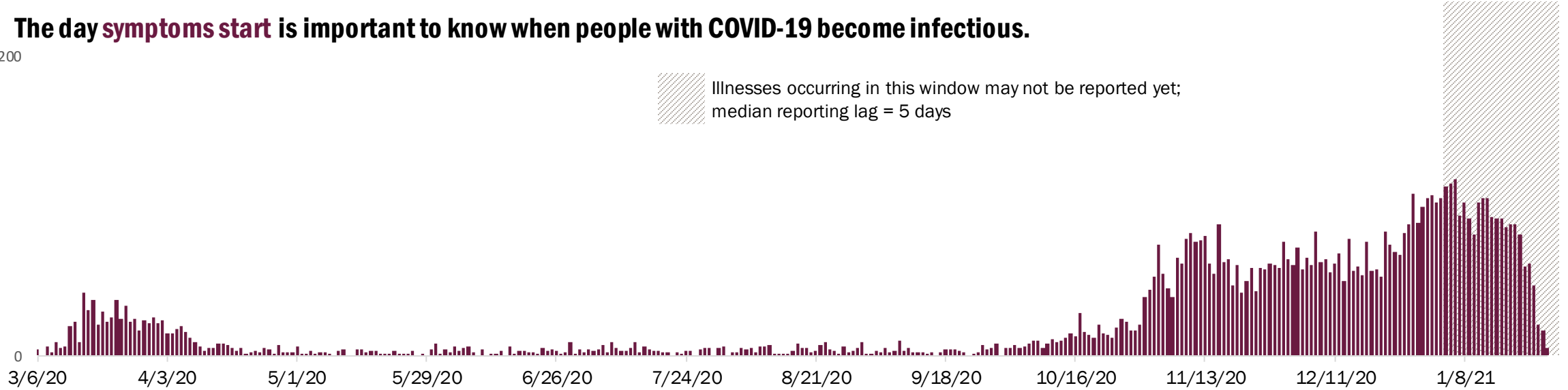
Clinical Course

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.

200

 Illnesses occurring in this window may not be reported yet; median reporting lag = 5 days



Note: Date of symptom onset is not always known.

9 days
Average illness duration

70%
Cases with symptoms

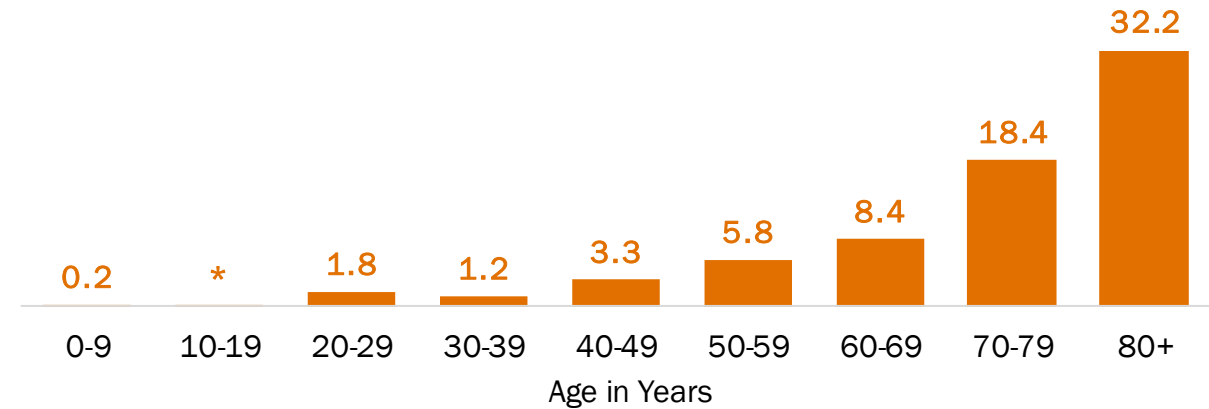
Sign or Symptom	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	57%
Fatigue	55%
Headache	52%
Runny Nose	50%
Muscle Pain	44%
Loss of Smell/Taste	37%
Felt Feverish	35%
Sore Throat	35%

Most Vermonters with COVID-19 are not hospitalized.

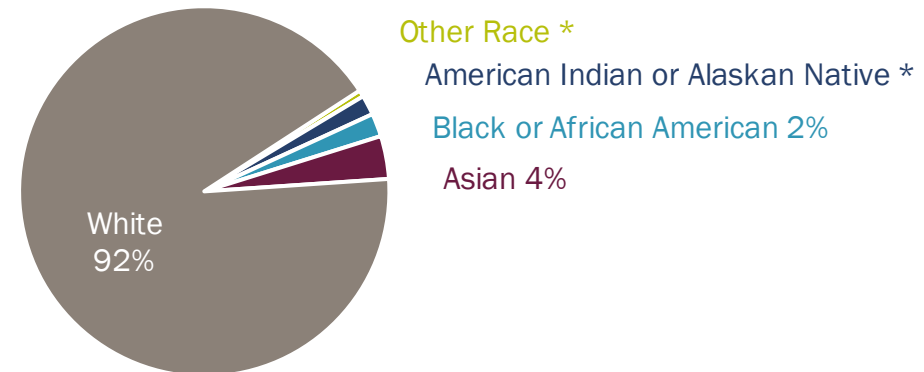


Vermonters 80 years and older are more likely to be hospitalized for COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



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



Please note 17 hospitalized persons are missing race information.
*Values suppressed due to small numbers.

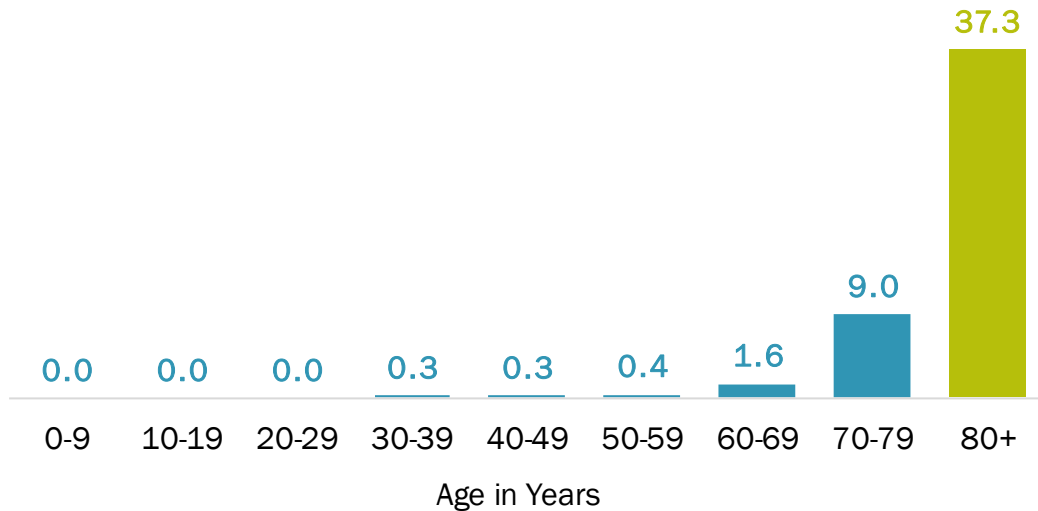
7%
Of those hospitalized were on a ventilator

25%
Of those hospitalized were in the ICU

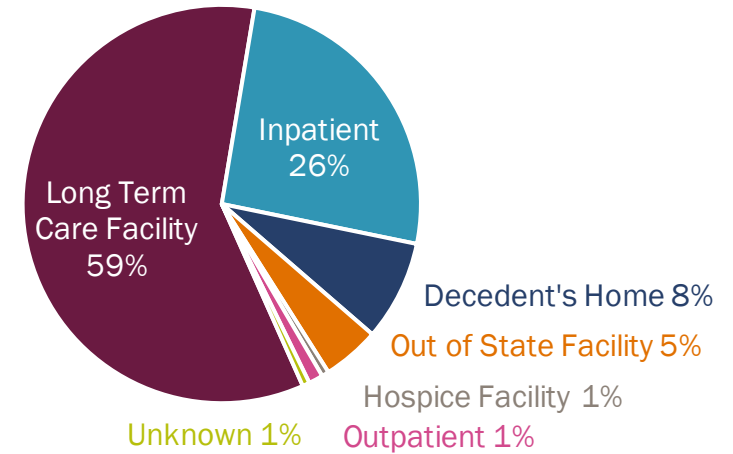
7 days
Average hospital stay (range: 0-43 days)

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

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

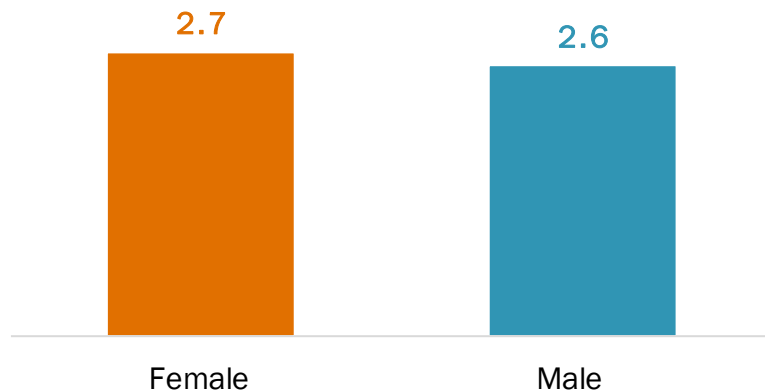


Most COVID-19 deaths occurred in a long-term care facility or an inpatient hospital setting.



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

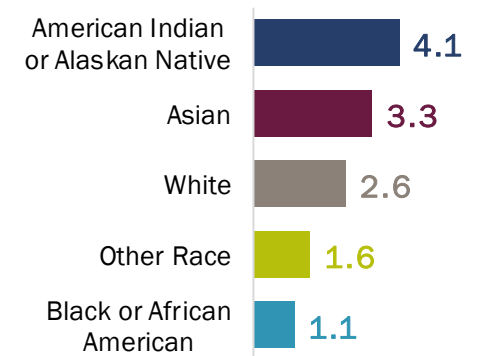
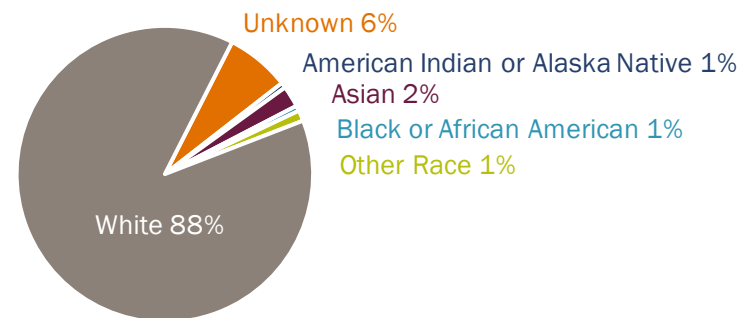
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



White Vermonters represent a majority of COVID-19 deaths.

Death rates by race are similar.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



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

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.

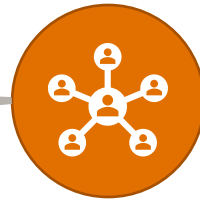
Resolved when no new confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases after 28 days (2 incubational periods) have passed since the most recent case's specimen collection date or illness onset date (whichever is later).

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).



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



Outbreaks

63 Active

107 Resolved*

*See previous page for definitions of resolved outbreaks.

Congregate Care & Living



572
cases among residents



367
cases among facility staff

Schools and Child Care



234
cases among children and staff

Workplaces



354
cases among employees

Community



659
cases

Vermont COVID-19 Cases Associated with an Outbreak Over Time

270

The daily number of cases associated with an outbreak peaked on December 16, 2020. Outbreak-associated cases had previously peaked on April 9 and December 1.

180

90

0

3/7/20 4/4/20 5/2/20 5/30/20 6/27/20 7/25/20 8/22/20 9/19/20 10/17/20 11/14/20 12/12/20 1/9/21

Vermont COVID-19 Deaths Associated with an Outbreak Over Time

8

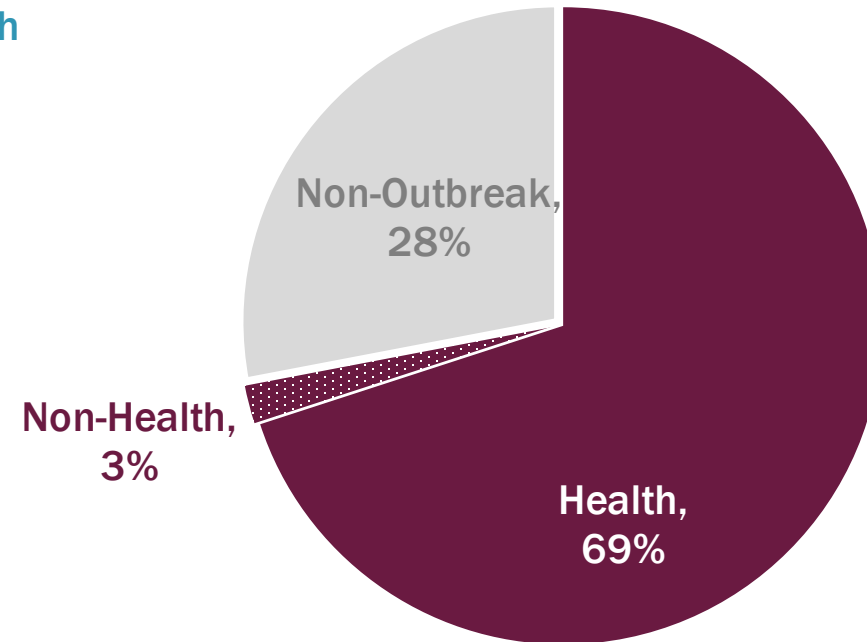
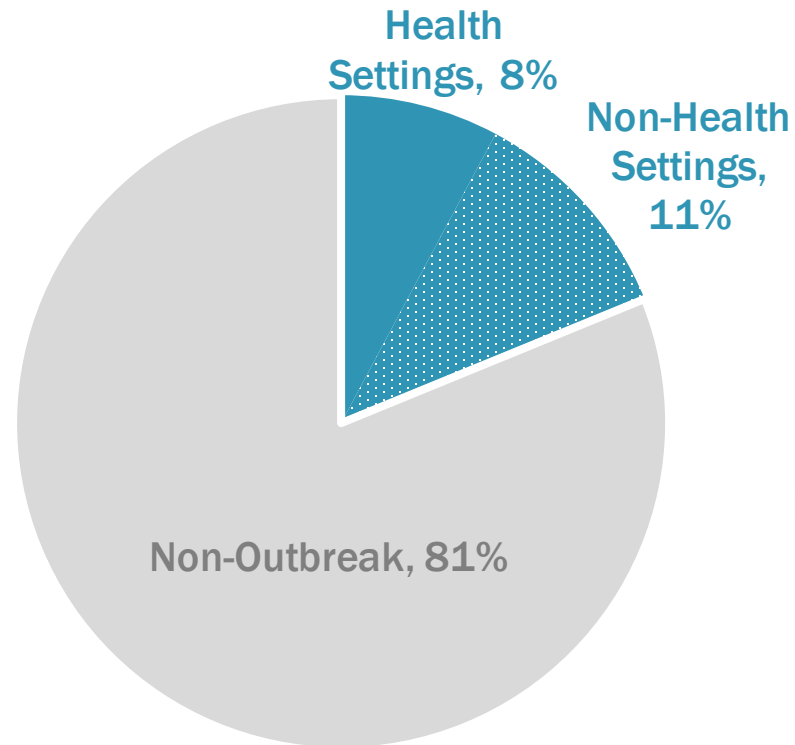
4

0

3/7/20 4/4/20 5/2/20 5/30/20 6/27/20 7/25/20 8/22/20 9/19/20 10/17/20 11/14/20 12/12/20 1/9/21

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 1/27/2021

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

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.

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

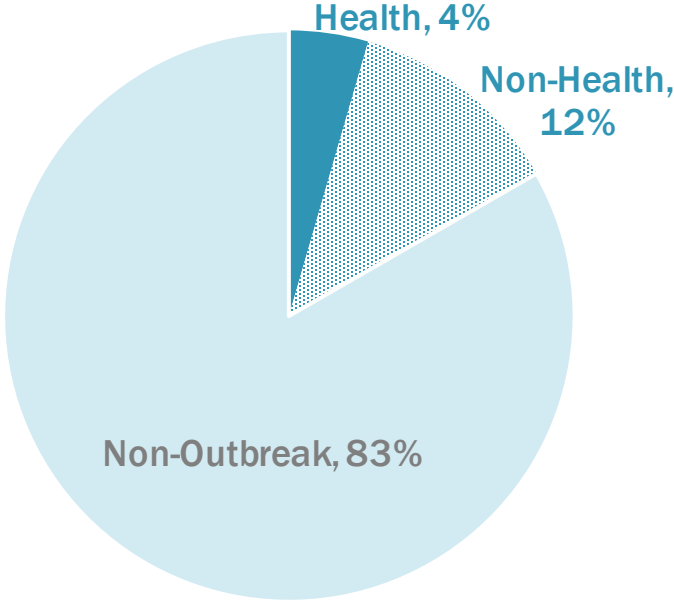
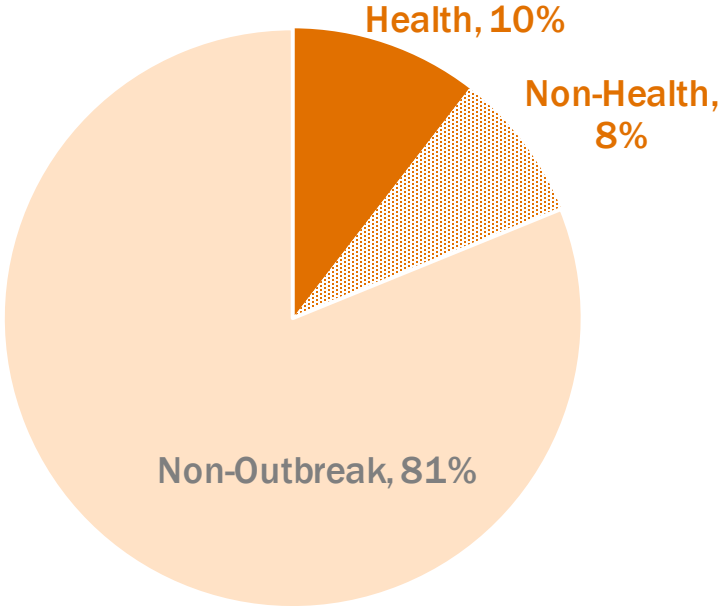


19% of **females** with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.



17% of **males** with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.

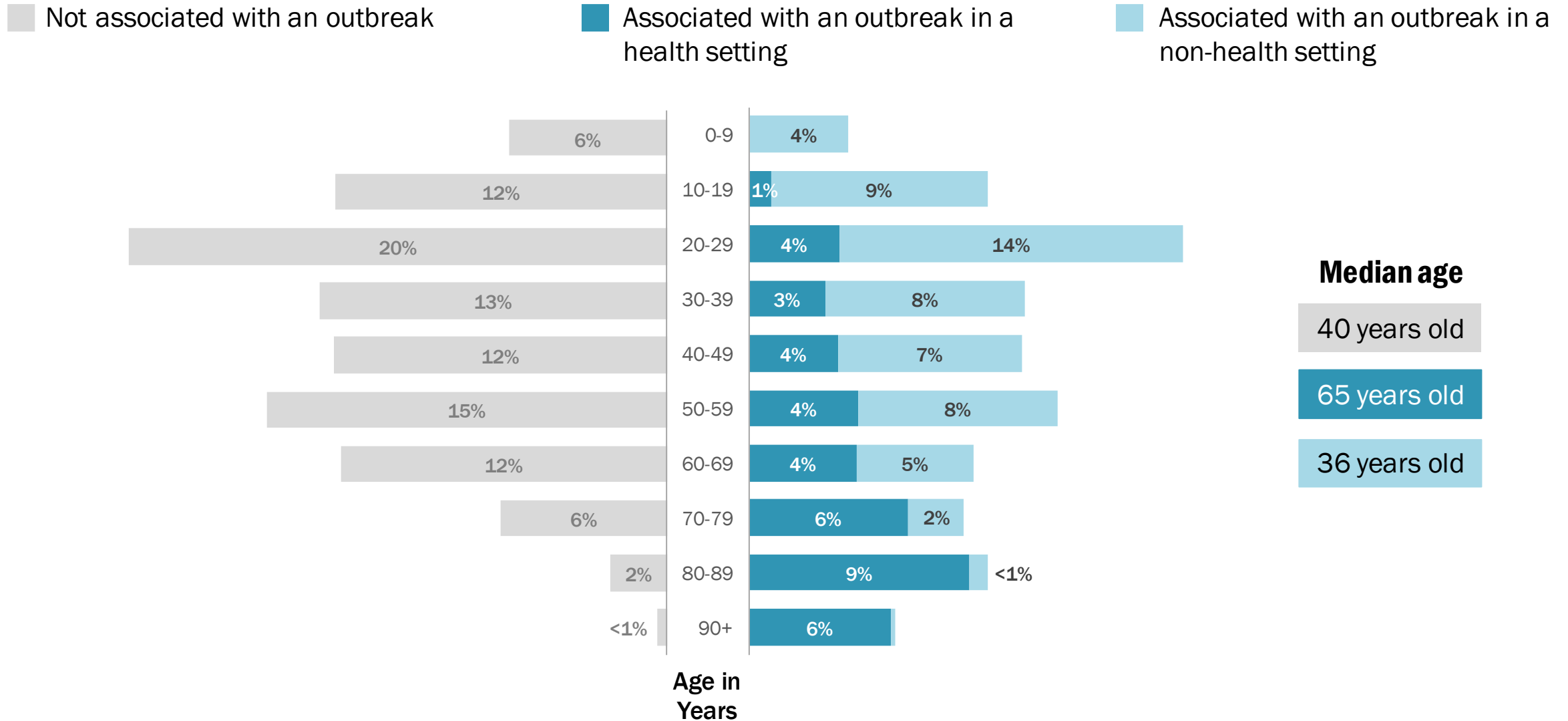
Females with COVID-19 are more likely to be associated with outbreaks in health settings while **males** with COVID-19 are more likely to be associated with non-health settings.



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.

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



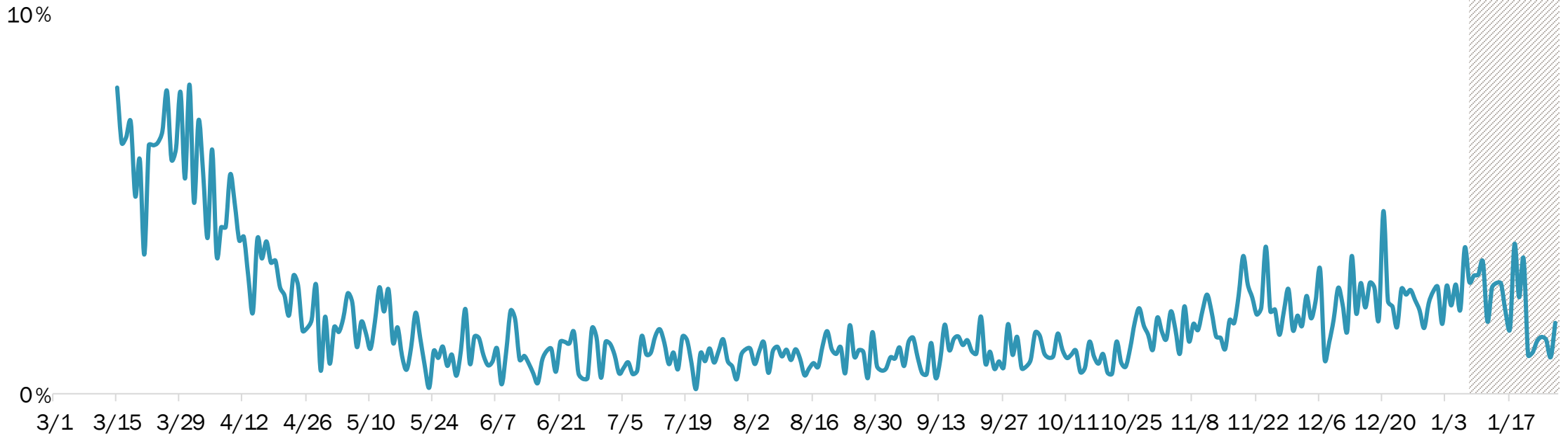
Note: Examples of a health setting include long-term care or assisted living facilities, therapeutic treatment centers, and behavioral health institutions. Examples of a non-health setting include correctional facilities, senior housing communities, businesses, and homeless shelters.

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 3 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.

Weekly Spotlight: COVID-19 in Vermont Childcare Settings

This section focuses on how childcare settings are being impacted by COVID-19 by looking at the number of:

- people with COVID-19 who were at a childcare setting while infectious
- outbreaks in childcare facilities

People with COVID-19 in Childcare Settings While Infectious

67

people with COVID-19 were in a childcare setting while infectious.

55

Childcare settings have been impacted.

There are over [1,100 registered programs](#) (childcare centers, pre-K, registered in-home providers and afterschool programs) in the State of Vermont. This analysis includes people who report working or attending a childcare setting, which could include any of these types of programs.

Someone who was at childcare while infectious means there were opportunities for the virus to spread to others in the childcare setting. [Read more about the infectious period.](#)

Outbreaks in Childcare Settings



Of the over 1,100 childcare programs, there have been **6** outbreaks impacting **6** childcare settings.



This includes a total of **21** cases.



On average, there are **3.5** cases per childcare facility outbreak.

What is an outbreak in a childcare setting?

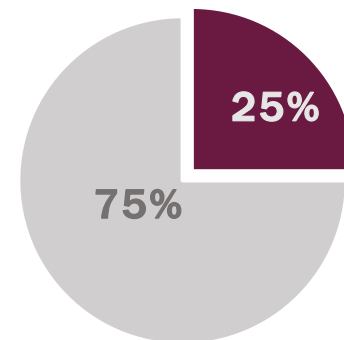
An outbreak is when there are two or more COVID-19 cases among children/students or teachers/staff with known connections in the educational setting, and the cases:

- 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.

How much childcare-based transmission is occurring?

- Childcare facility-based transmission is occurring in a limited capacity, since the outbreaks are usually small and there have not been many outbreaks overall. Less than 1% of childcares in Vermont have had an outbreak.
- Transmission within childcare settings has happened too infrequently to draw any conclusion about the risk of spread.
- However, most people with COVID-19 who were at a childcare setting while infectious **do not spread to others while there (75%)**.

25% of cases present in a childcare setting were likely a result of **transmission within childcare settings**.



Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 1/24/2021 39



Learn more about COVID-19 in Vermont:

Web: www.healthvermont.gov/COVID-19

Email: AHS.VDHPublicCommunication@vermont.gov

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