

Weekly Summary of Vermont COVID-19 Data

Reflecting cases identified between
March 5 – September 9, 2020



Date published: September 11, 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 2 through September 9.

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.

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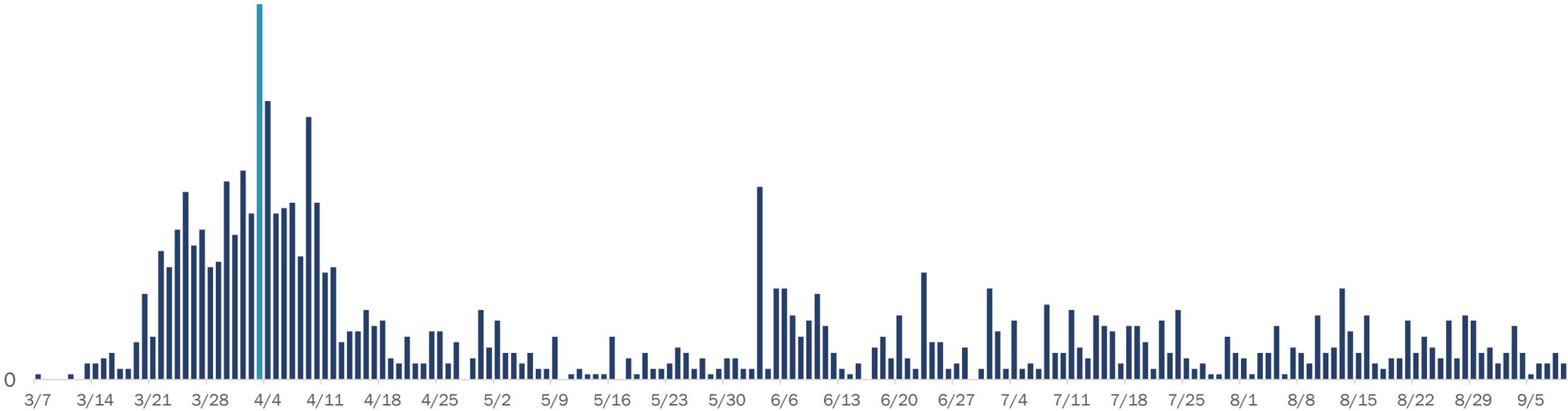
[Syndromic Surveillance](#)

COVID-19 in Vermont

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

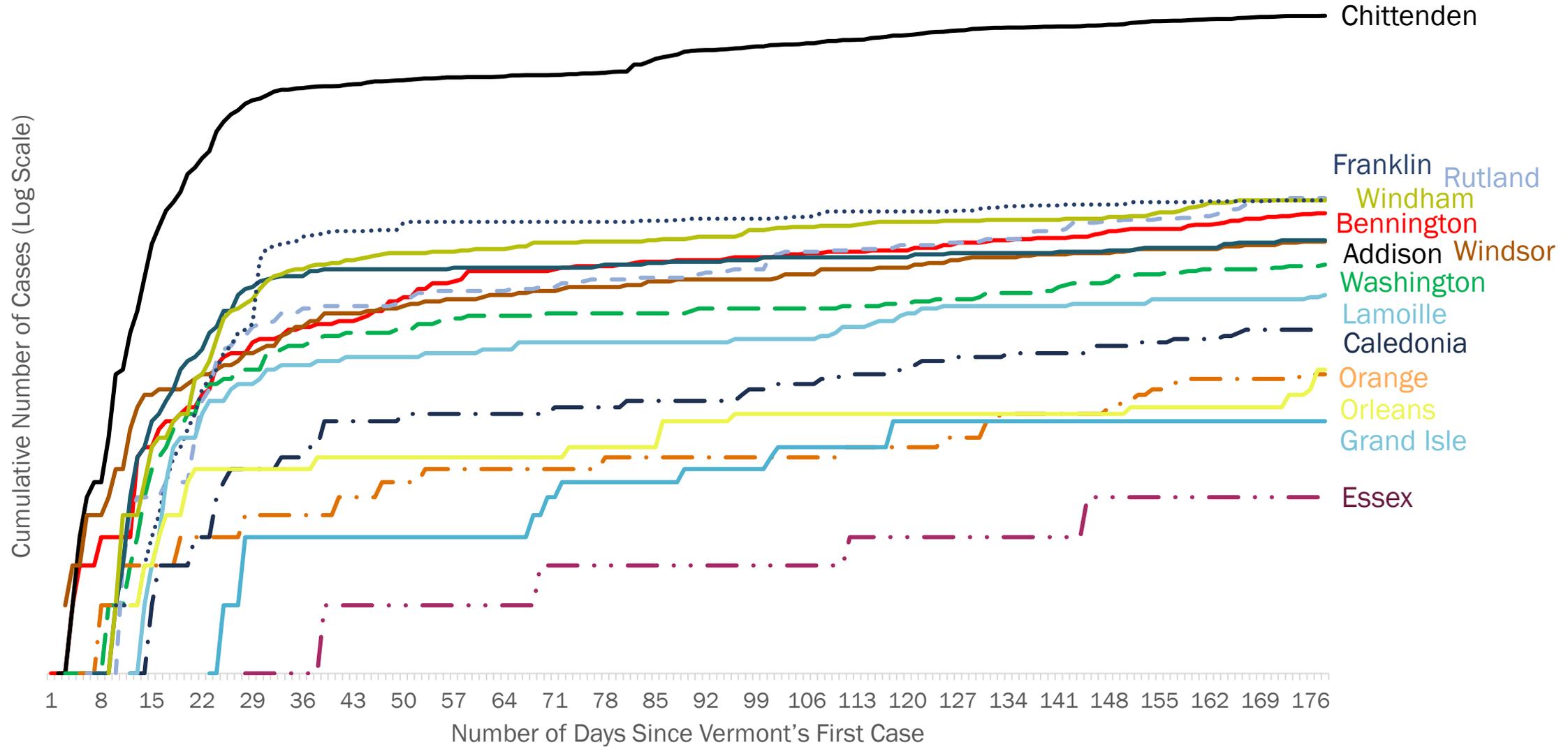
Total Number of Cases in Vermont: 1,661

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

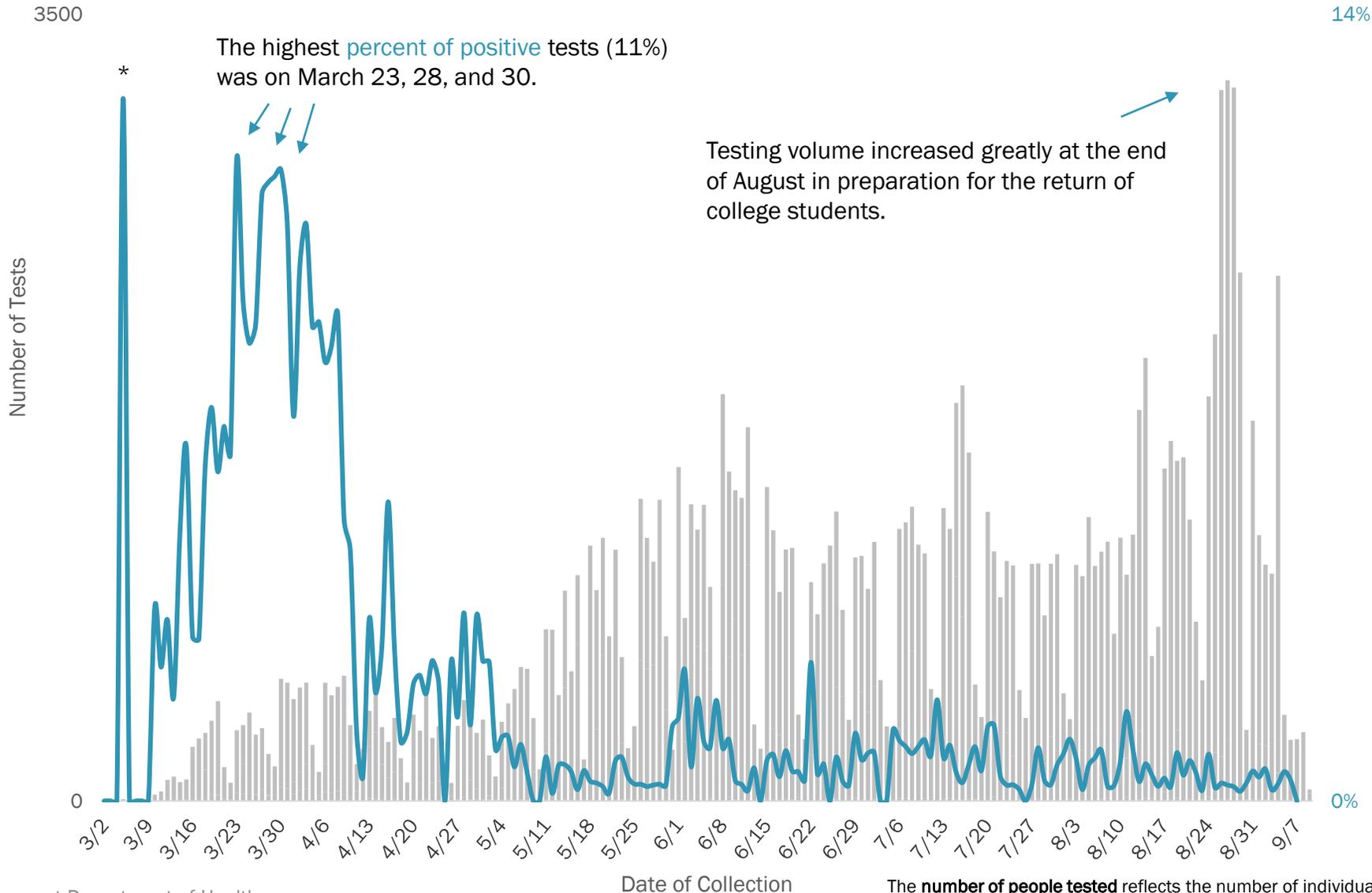


Most counties have reached a plateau in the number of new cases.

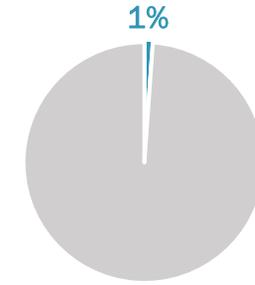
Growth over time by county (n=1,653)



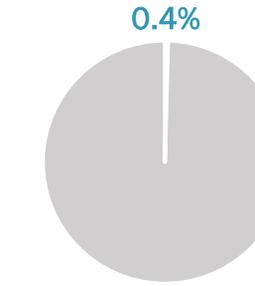
Percent of positive COVID-19 tests may indicate how prevalent the disease is in the population.



Percent Positive to Date



Percent Positive This Week (September 2- September 9)



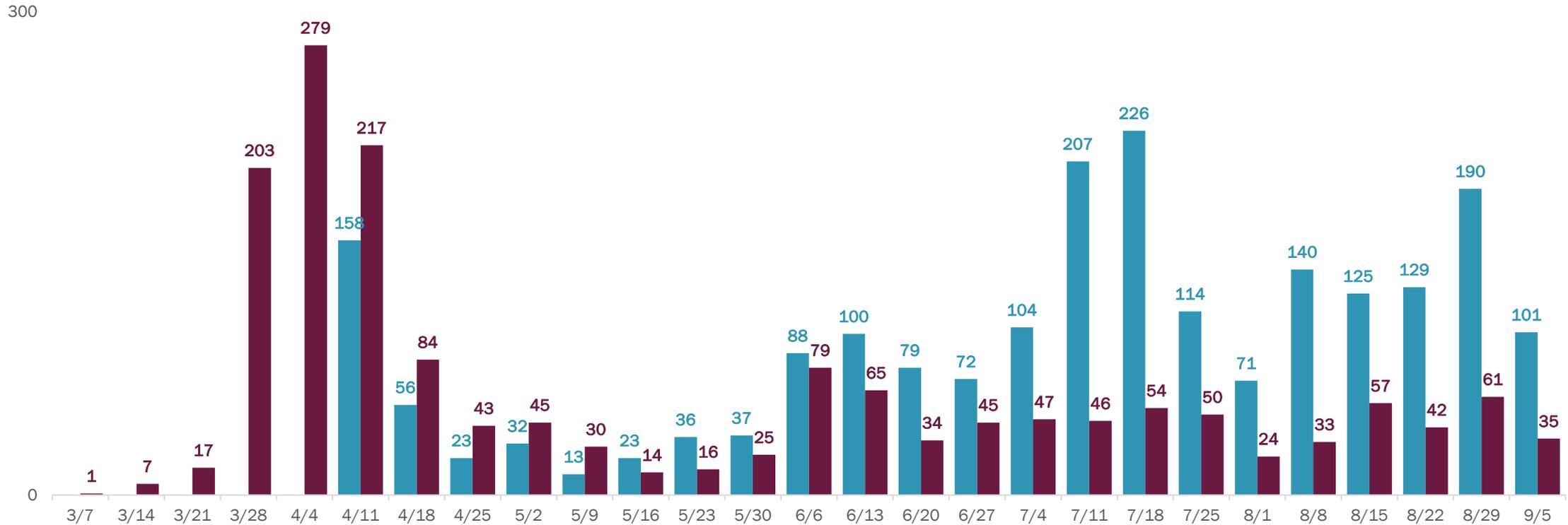
8,471 People Tested this Week	24,545 Tests this Week
147,306 People Tested to Date	214,240 Tests to Date

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 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.

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



65

Number of contact tracers trained

33

Cases interviewed last week

August 30 –September 5

101

Contacts named last week

August 30 –September 5

3

Average number of contacts per case*

*Since March 7

In the last two weeks (from August 23 to September 5):



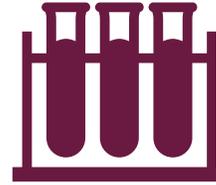
96%

Of cases were interviewed within 24 hours



88%

Of cases provided their close contacts



37%

Of contacts were tested within 14 days of exposure



4%

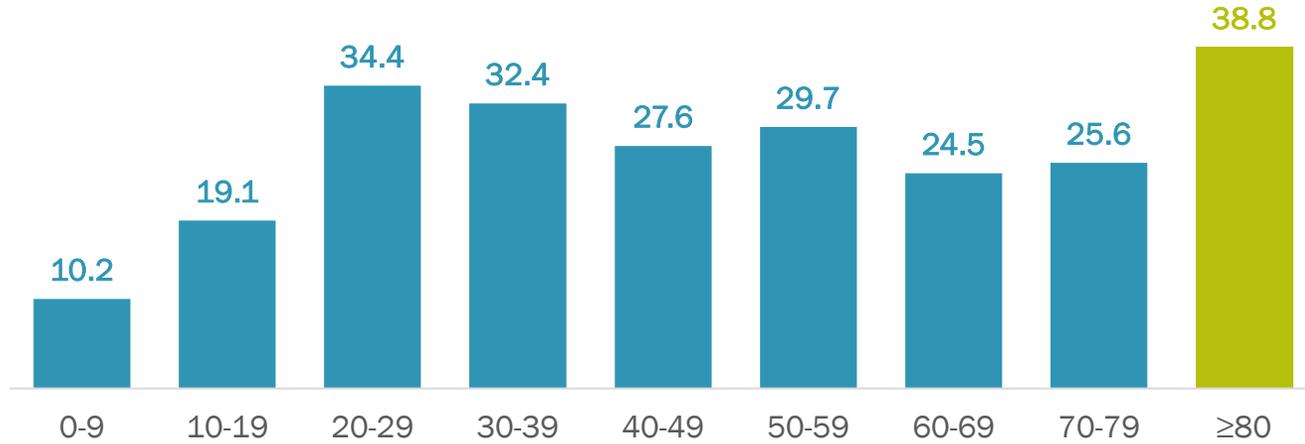
Of contacts became a case

Case Demographics

Who has been impacted by COVID-19 in Vermont?

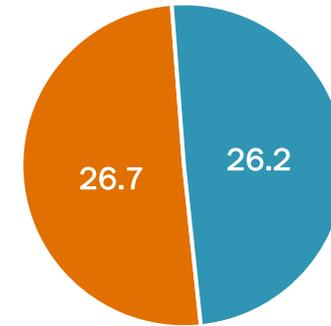
Rates of COVID-19 are highest among Vermonters 80 years and older.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



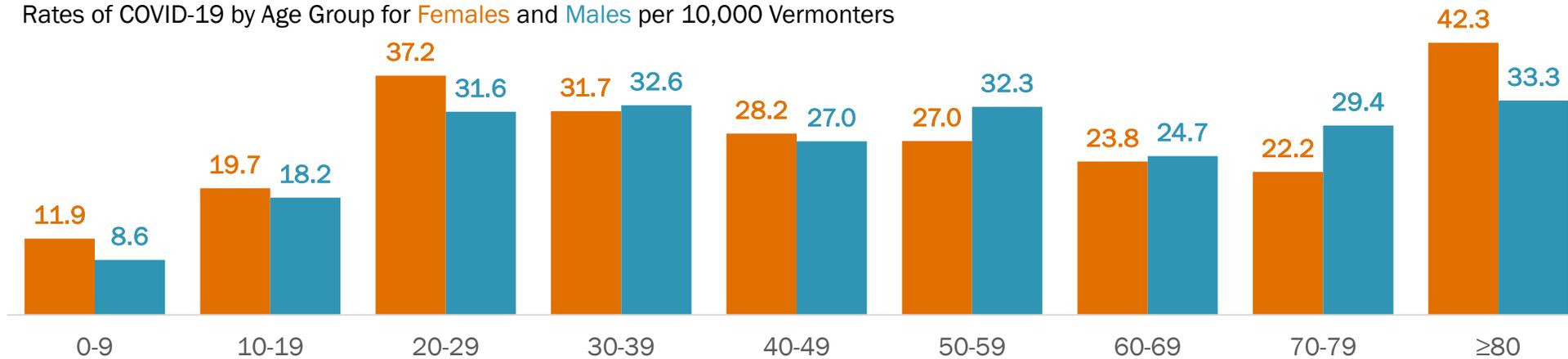
Females and males have similar rates of COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



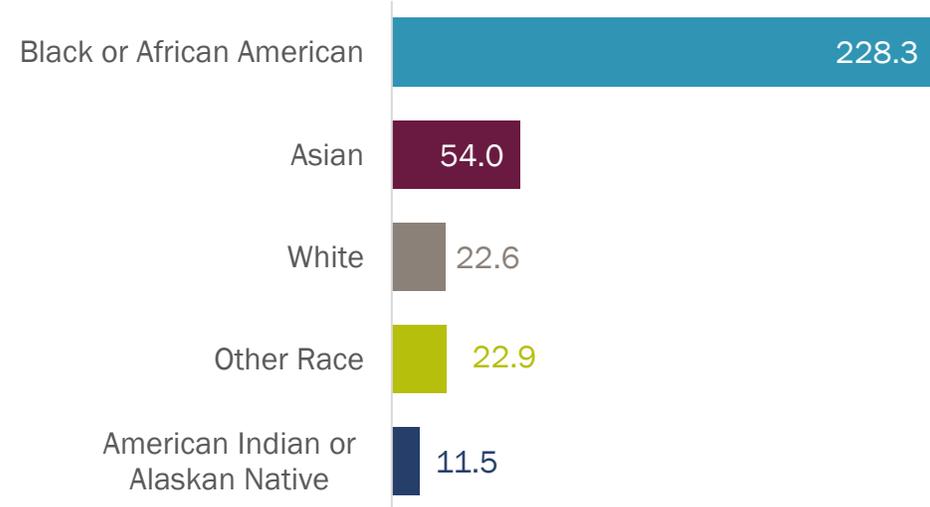
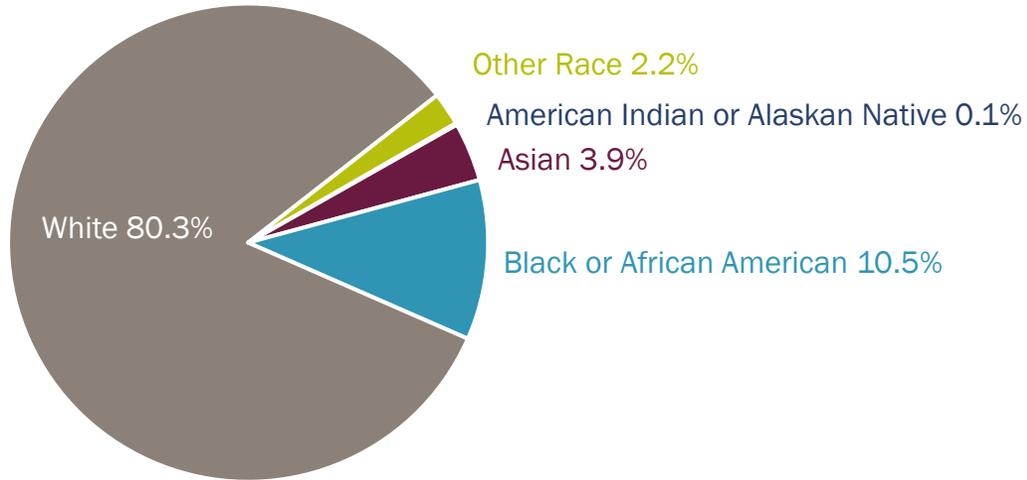
There are differences in age and sex of Vermonters with COVID-19.

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



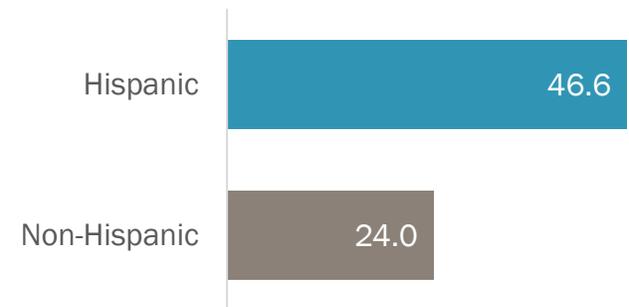
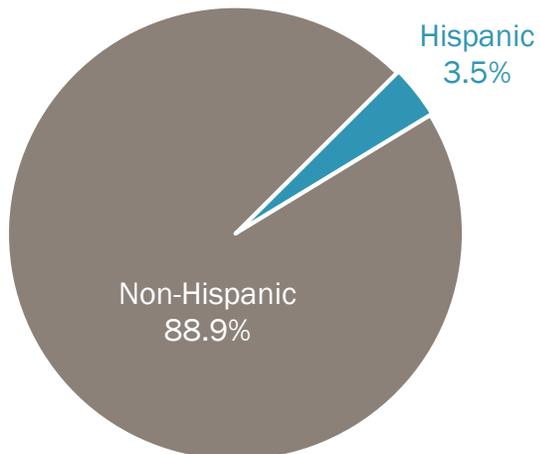
White Vermonters represent the majority of COVID-19 cases. African American Vermonters have the highest rate.

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.

Note: Race is unknown in 3% of cases (n = 51) and ethnicity is unknown in 8% of cases (n = 123).

Approximately 53% of people* with COVID-19 have a pre-existing condition.

*of the 1,343 people that the Health Department has pre-existing condition data for.

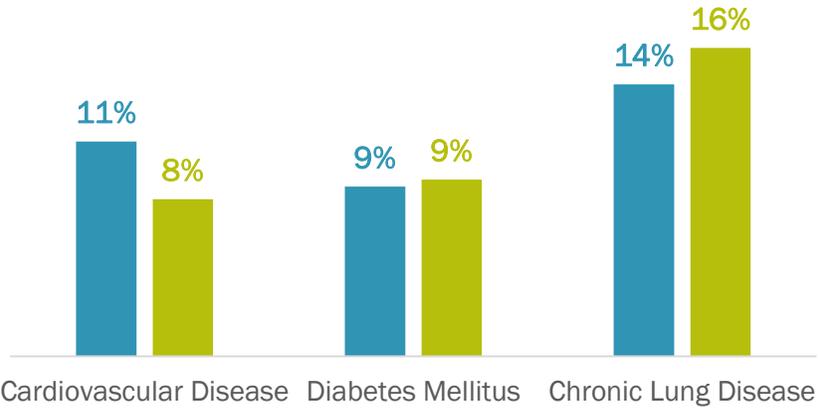
Condition	Count	Percentage
Heart Disease	147	11%
Chronic Lung Disease (includes asthma and COPD)	186	14%
Chronic Liver Disease	11	1%
Chronic Kidney Disease	34	3%
Current/Former Smoker	273	20%
Diabetes	116	9%
Immunocompromised Condition	54	4%
Neurologic Condition/Intellectual Disability	38	3%
Other Chronic Condition**	331	25%
Pregnant	14	1%

44% 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.

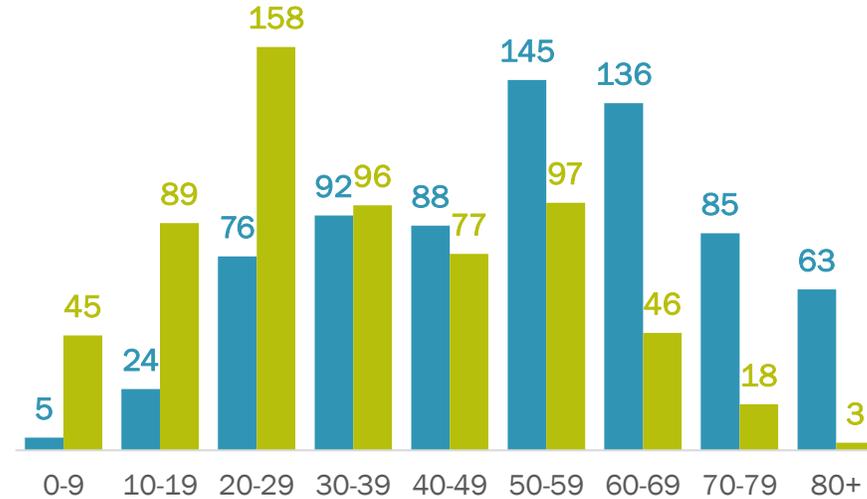
The Health Department has information about pre-existing conditions in 81% (1,343) of 1,661 total COVID-19 cases.

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

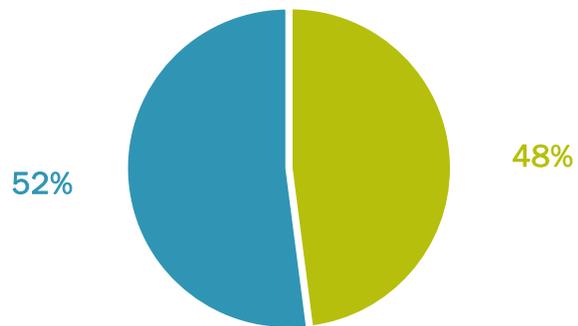


Data Source: Cardiovascular disease and diabetes, BRFSS 2018 annual report. Chronic lung disease, 3-4-50 Community profile (2016-2017 BRFSS).

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

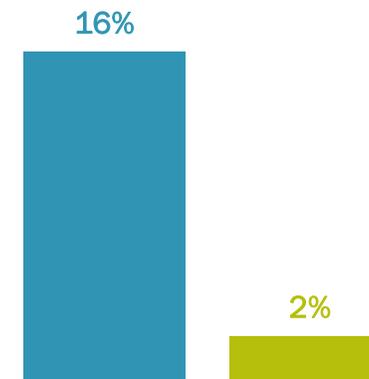


Prevalence of pre-existing conditions is approximately equal between female and male COVID-19 patients.

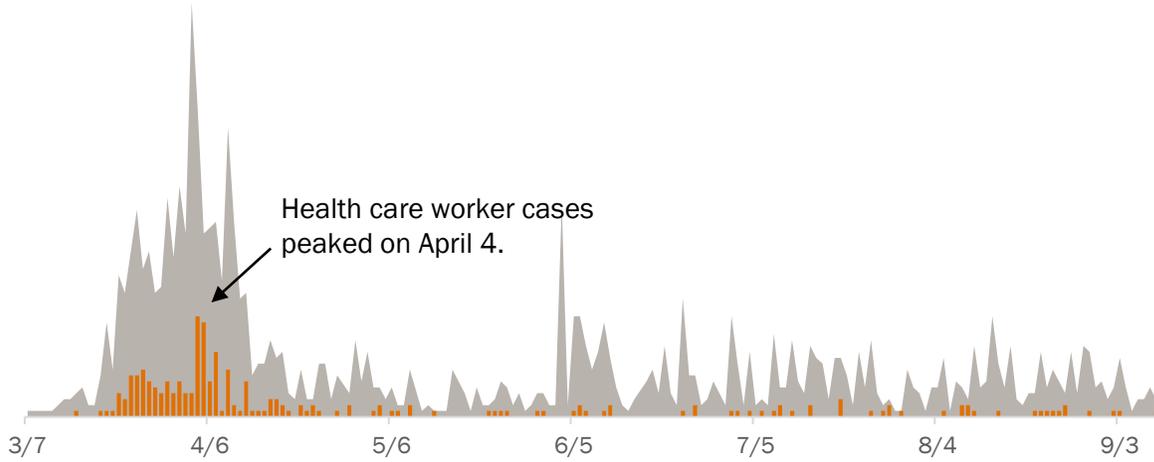


Vermont Department of Health

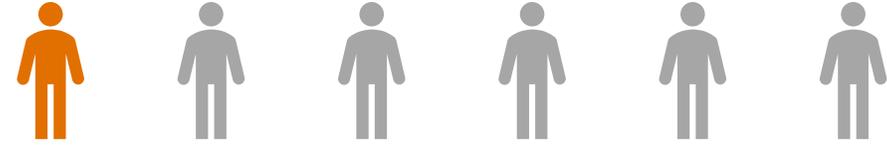
A higher percentage of COVID-19 patients with pre-existing conditions have been hospitalized than those without pre-existing conditions.



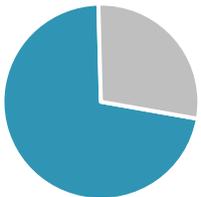
Number of **New Health Care Worker** and **All Cases** by Day



1 in 6 Vermonters with COVID-19 are health care workers.



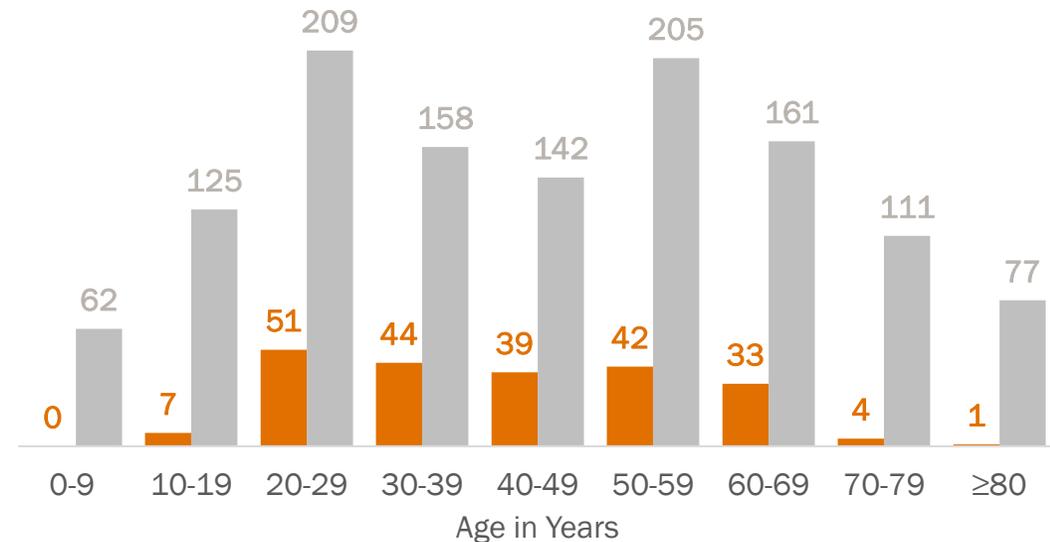
7 in 10 health care workers with COVID-19 are **female**.



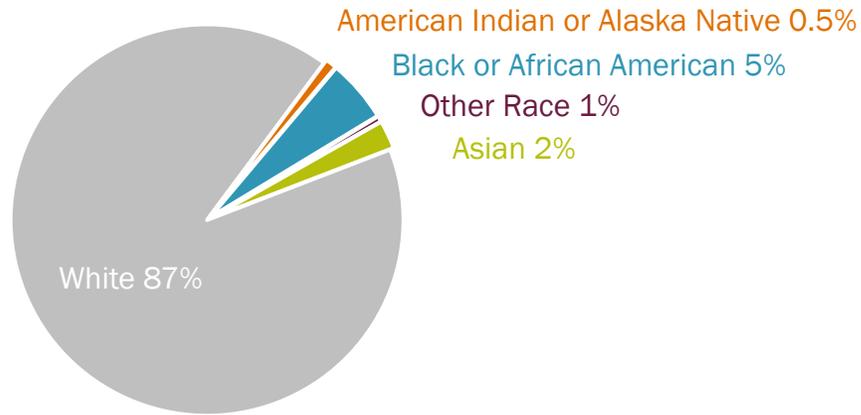
32% of health care workers with COVID-19 are associated with an **outbreak**.



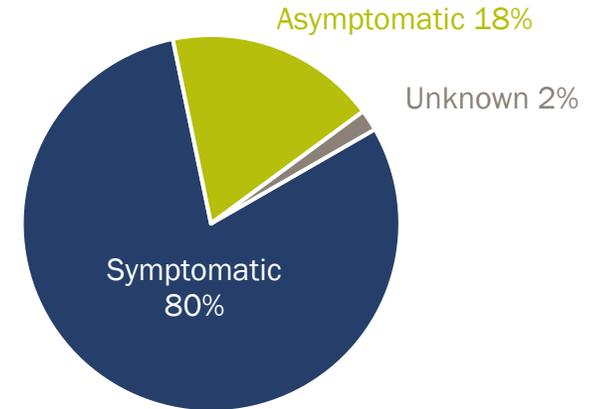
Health care workers with COVID-19 tend to be younger than non-health care workers with COVID-19.



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



Most health care workers with COVID-19 have symptoms.



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



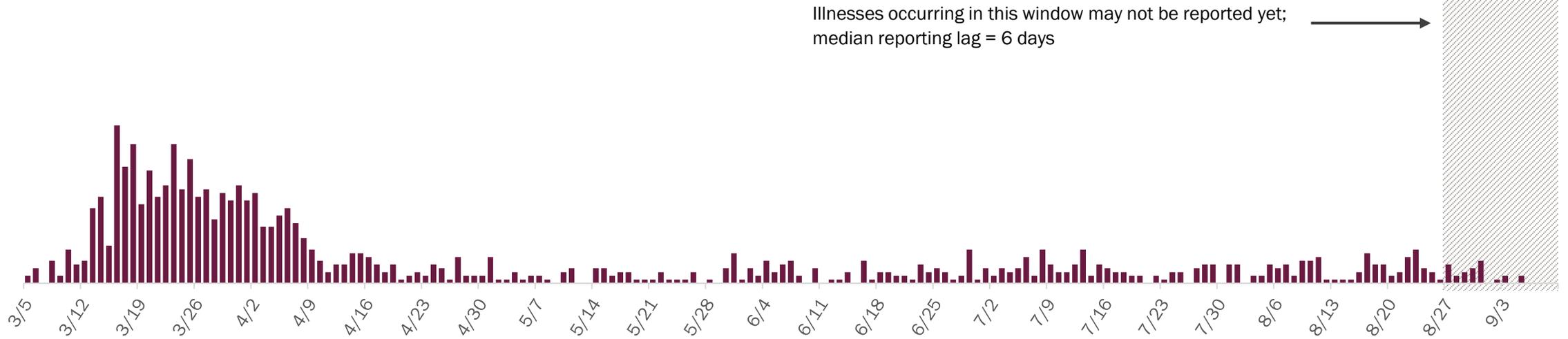
There are no reported deaths among health care workers.

Sign or Symptom among Health Care Workers with COVID-19	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	71%
Fatigue	64%
Headache	61%
Loss of Smell or Taste	53%
Muscle Pain	50%
Runny nose	46%
Chills	44%
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

73%
Cases with symptoms

Sign or Symptom	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	67%
Fatigue	66%
Headache	53%
Muscle Pain	50%
Fever	46%
Loss of Smell/Taste	46%

Most Vermonters with COVID-19 are not hospitalized.



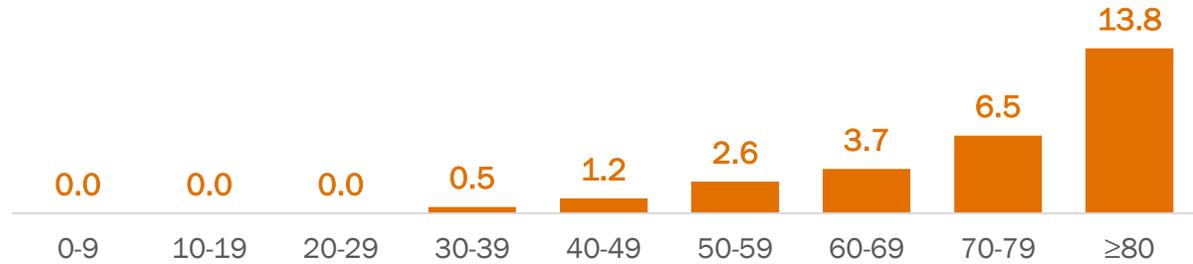
15%
Of those hospitalized were on a ventilator

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.

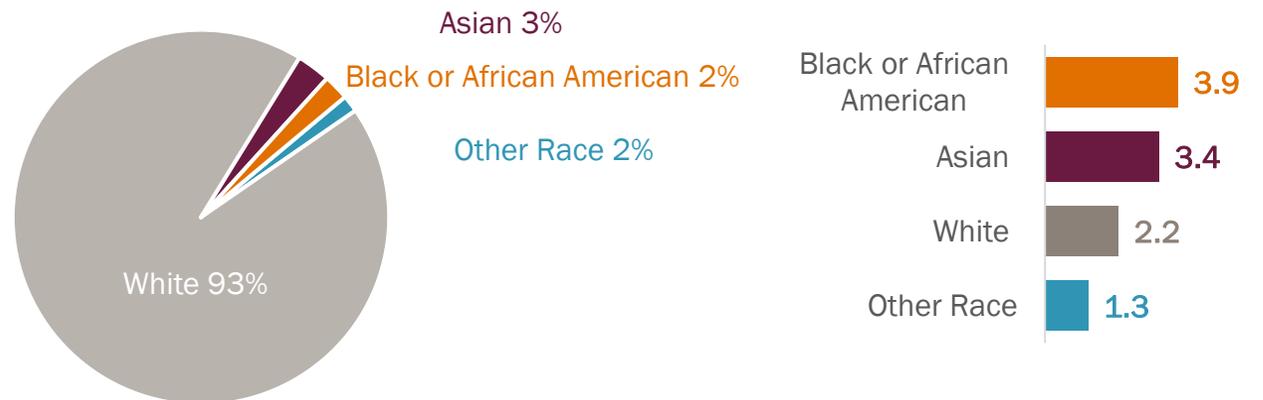
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



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

Hospitalization rates by race are similar.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

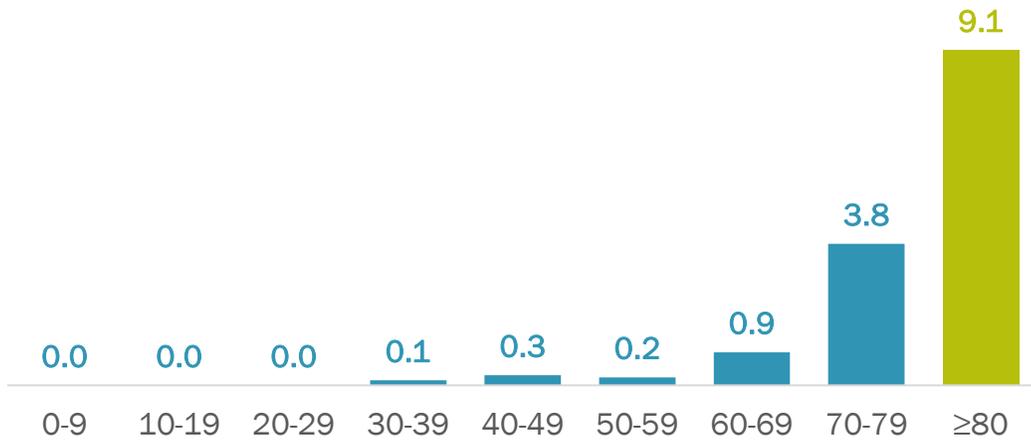


Please note 5 hospitalized persons are missing race information.

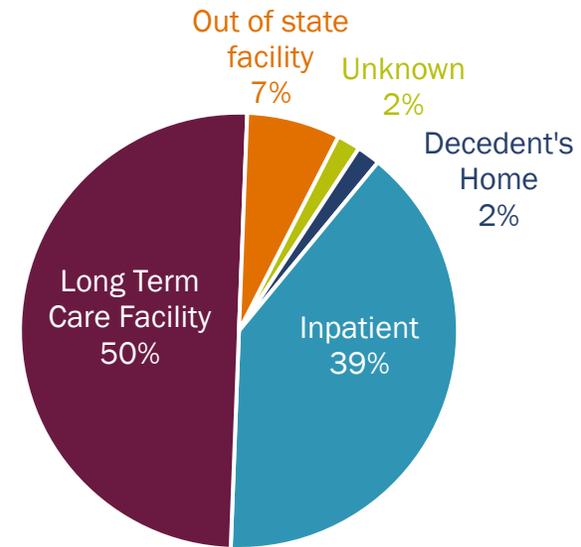
*The number of Asian, Black, and persons in the other race category is less than 5.

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

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

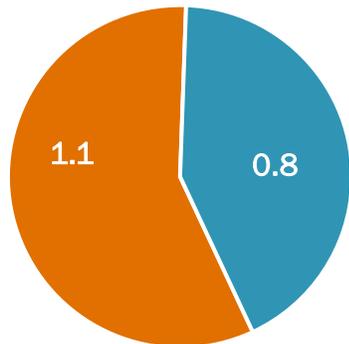


Most COVID-19 deaths occurred in an inpatient hospital setting or a long-term care facility.



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

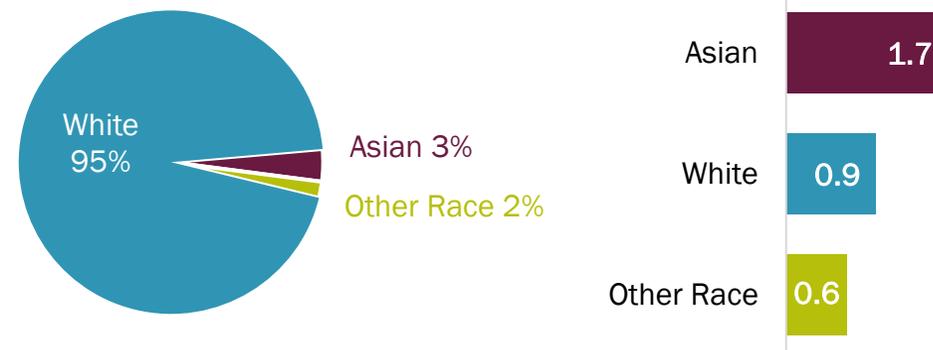
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



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

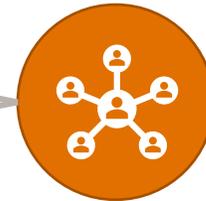
3 or more COVID-19 cases involving more than one family or household where the cases:

- have an illness start date or positive test 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.

Educational Settings

2 or more COVID-19 cases among students or teachers/staff with known connections in the educational setting, where the cases are connected by:

- having an illness start date or a positive test within 14 days, and
- not living together or having close contact with each other in another setting, and
- there is no other more likely source of exposure.



Congregate Care or Living Settings*

One resident or staff member with COVID-19, and one or more residents or staff with whom they had contact with respiratory illness.

or

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

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

Workplaces

2 or more COVID-19 cases among employees at the same workplace, where the cases are connected by:

- having contact with each other, and
- an illness start date or positive test within 14 days, and
- not living together or having close contact with each other in another setting, and
- there is no other more likely source of exposure.



27% of COVID-19 cases are associated with an outbreak



Outbreaks

4 Active

23 Resolved*

*Resolved outbreaks are those where it has been >28 days since the last known case of COVID-19.

Congregate Care & Living



159
cases among residents



82
cases among facility staff

Schools and Child Care



7
cases among children and staff

Workplace



37
cases among employees

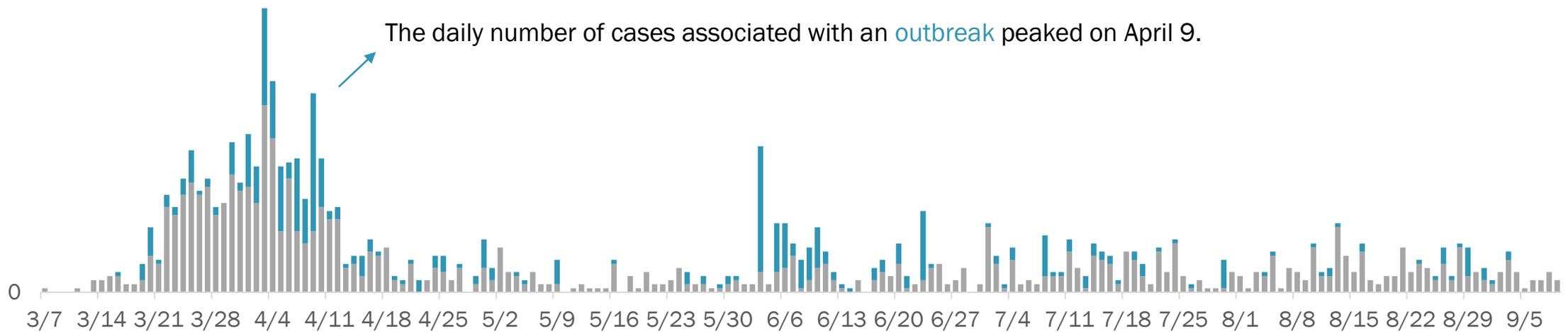
Community



165
cases

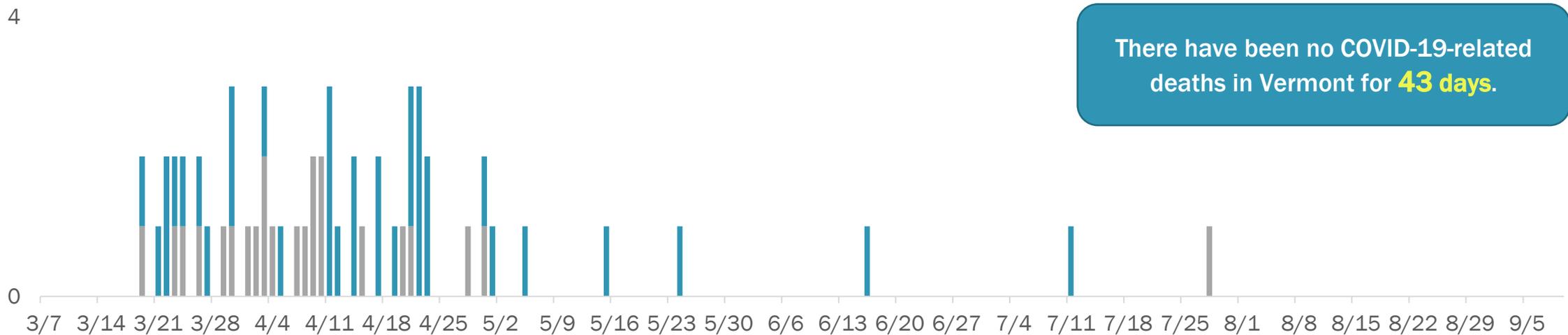
Vermont COVID-19 Cases Associated with an Outbreak Over Time

90



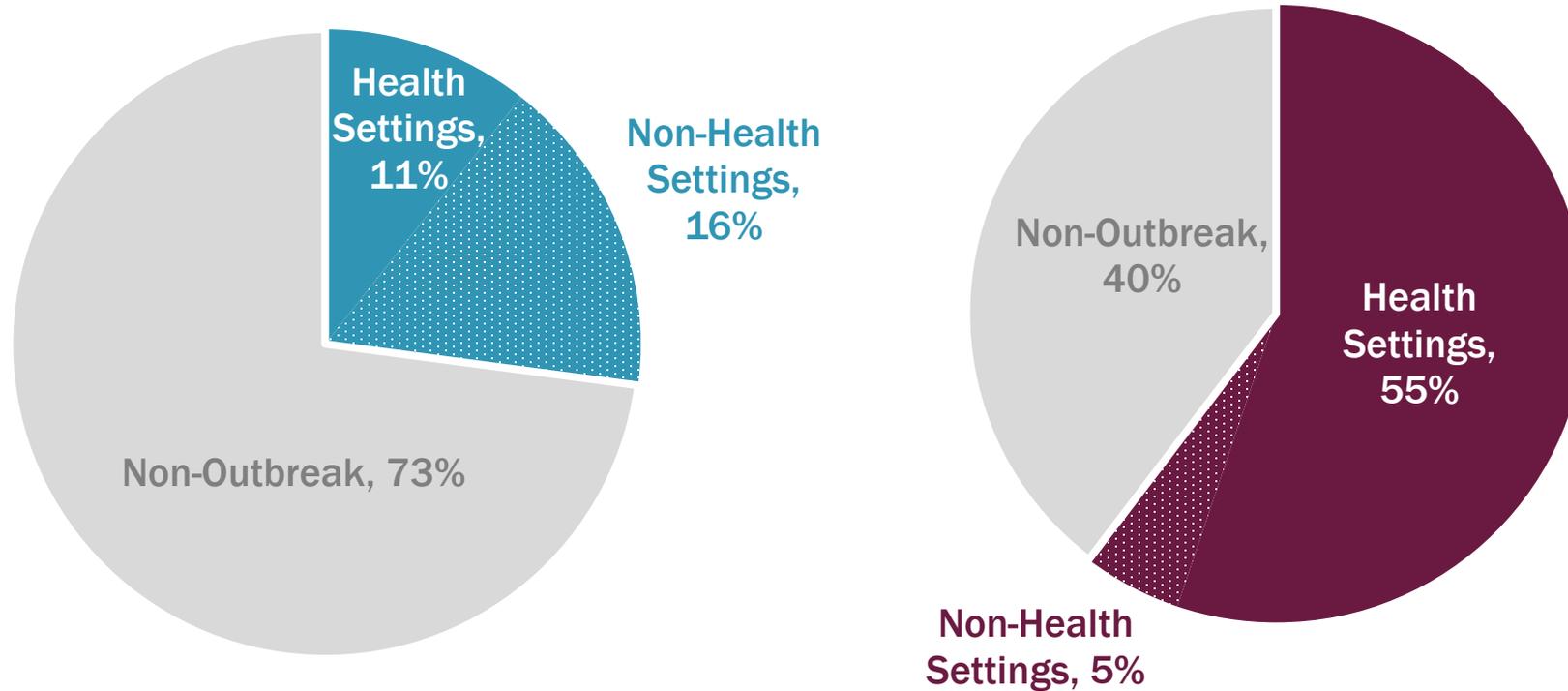
Vermont COVID-19 Deaths Associated with an Outbreak Over Time

4



Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 9/2/2020.

While only 27% of all COVID-19 cases 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 9/9/2020.

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.

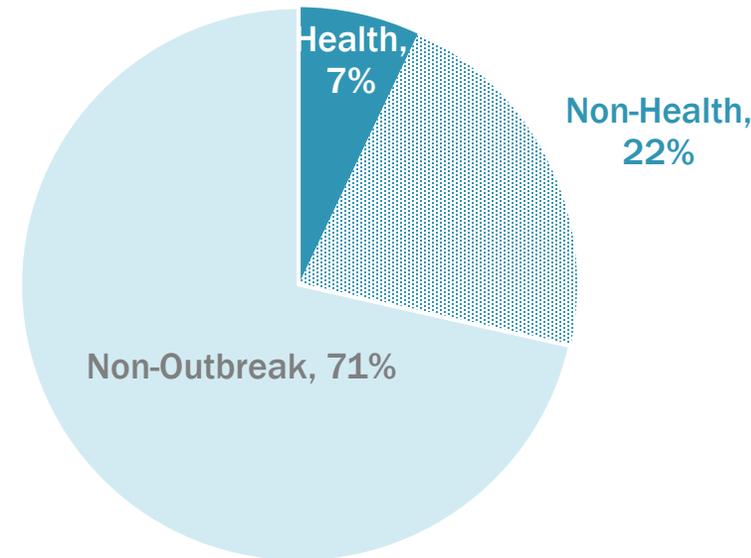
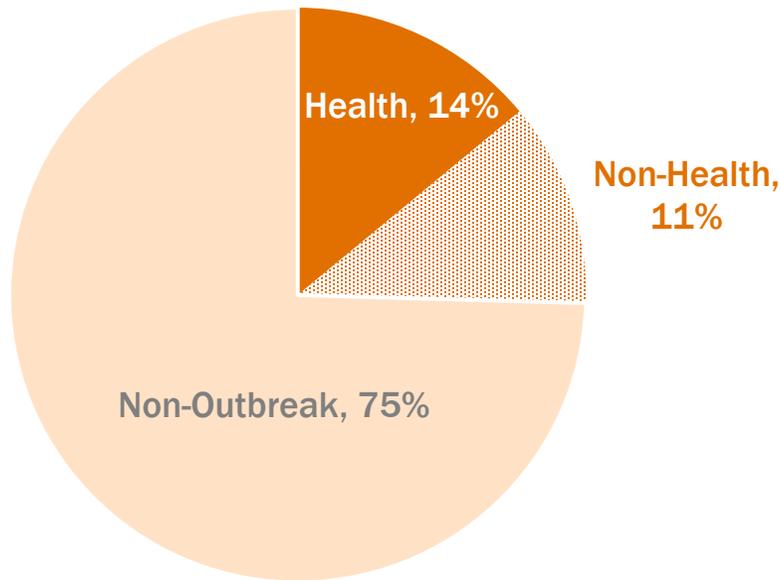


25% of **females** with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.



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.

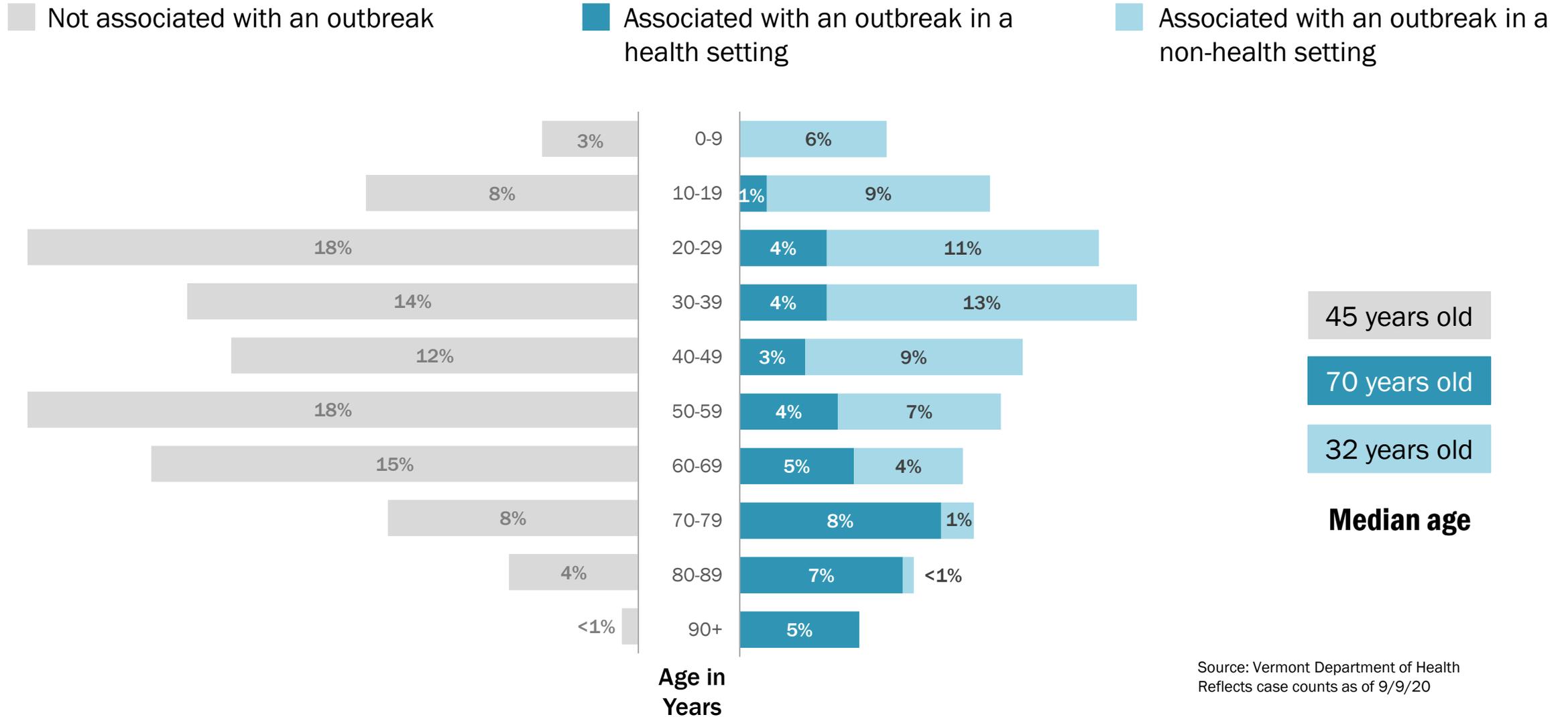


Values in these charts are rounded to the nearest whole number and therefore may not always add to 100% due to error introduced in rounding. Percentages by outbreak type are rounded to the whole number, but combined totals take into account the full percentages.

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects case counts as of 9/9/20

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 Cases by Outbreak Status and Age



Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects case counts as of 9/9/20

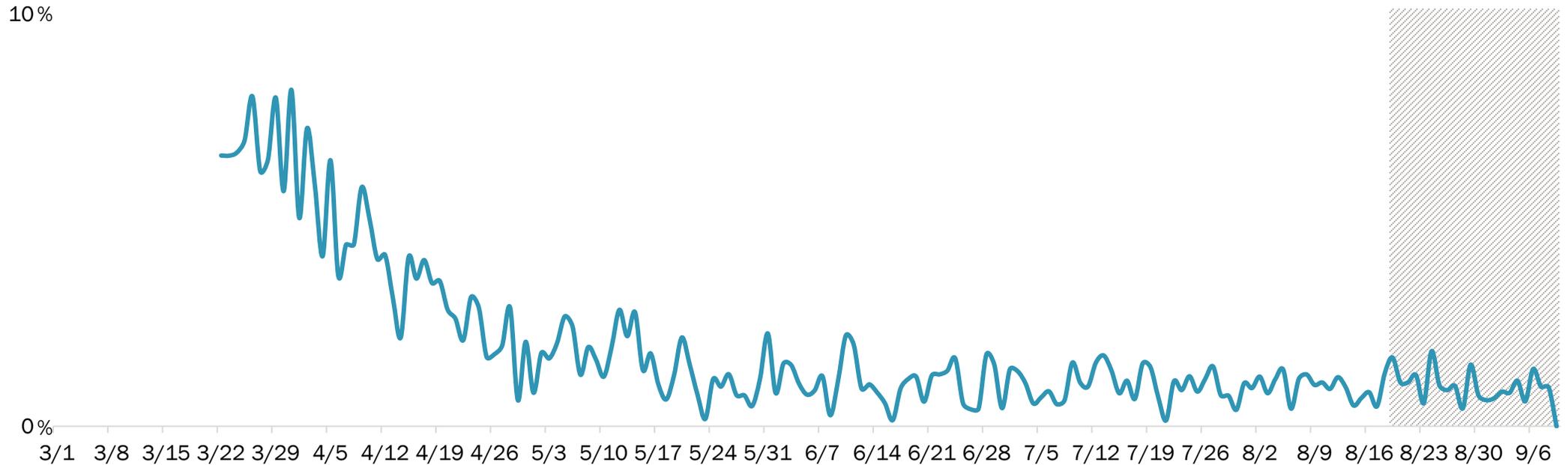
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Syndromic Surveillance

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.

*Please note: the query used to identify COVID-19-like illness in syndromic surveillance data changed on 5/28. This was to be consistent with the most up-to-date national definition provided by the CDC.



Learn more about COVID-19 in Vermont:

Web: www.healthvermont.gov/COVID-19

Email: AHS.VDHPublicCommunication@vermont.gov