

# Weekly Summary of Vermont COVID-19 Data

Reflecting cases identified between  
March 5 – September 23, 2020



Date published: September 25, 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 16 through September 23.

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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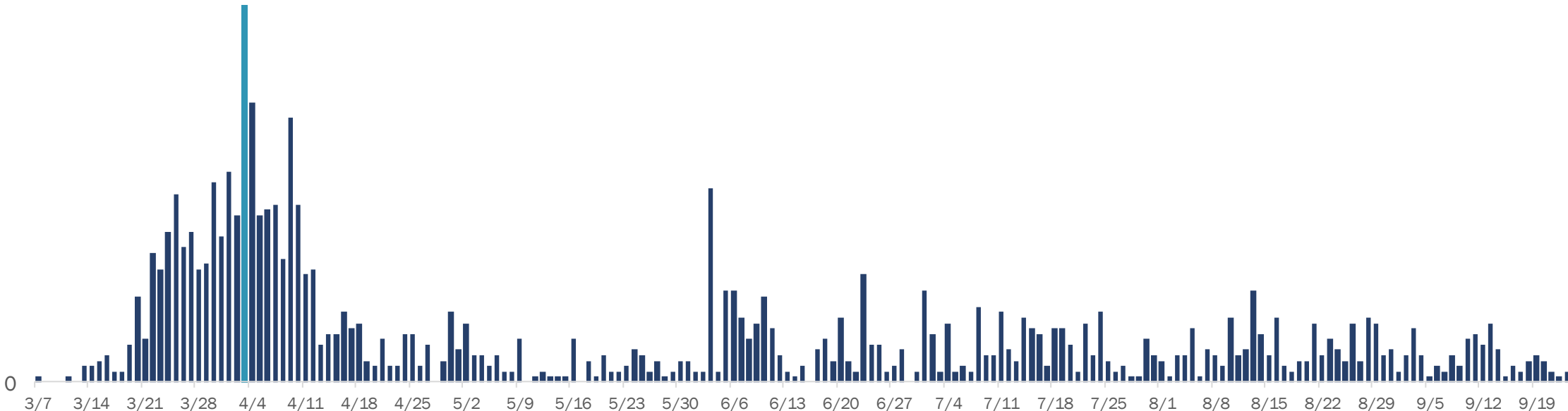
**Weekly Spotlight**

# COVID-19 in Vermont

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

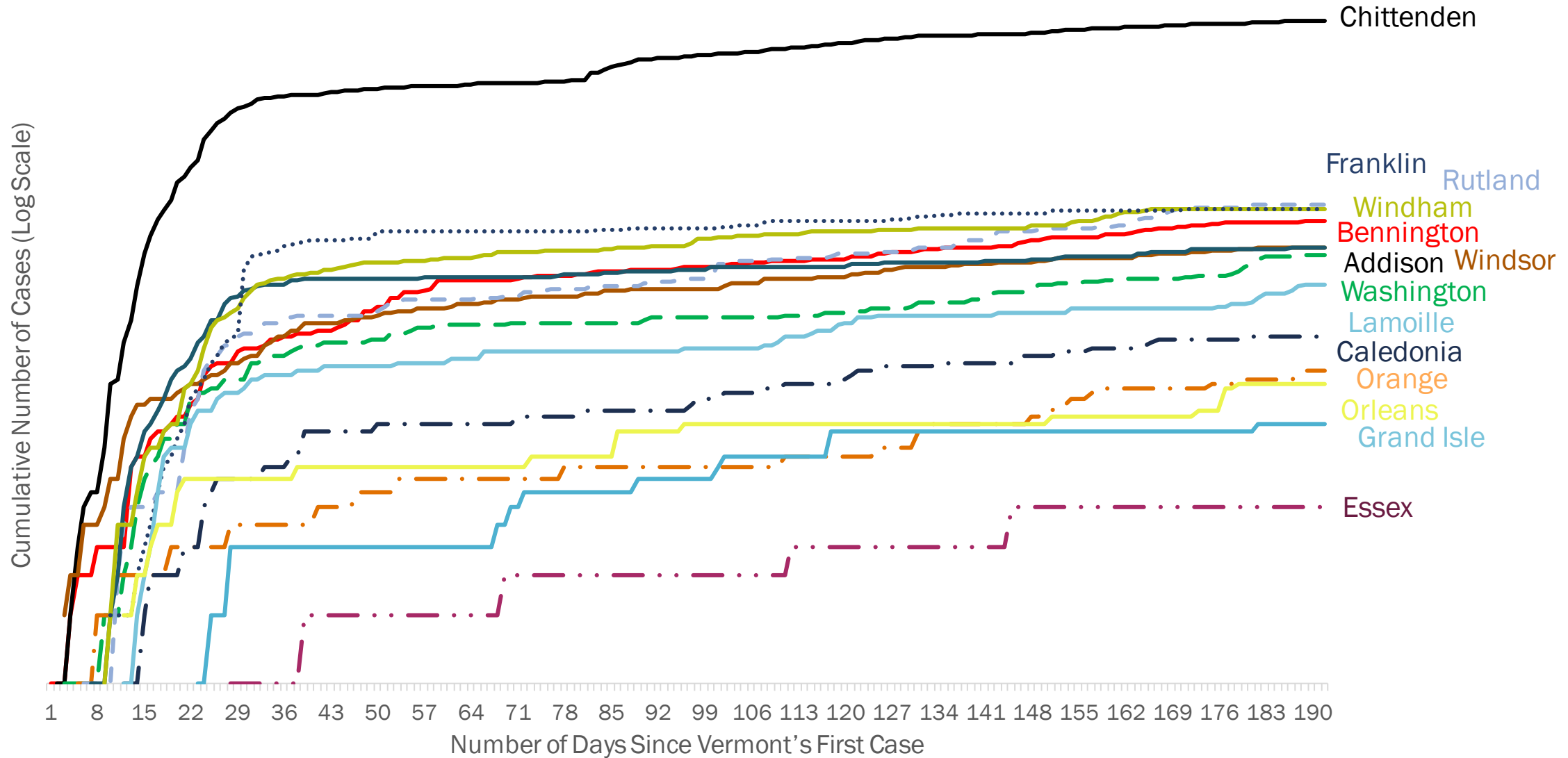
# Total Number of Cases in Vermont: 1,724

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

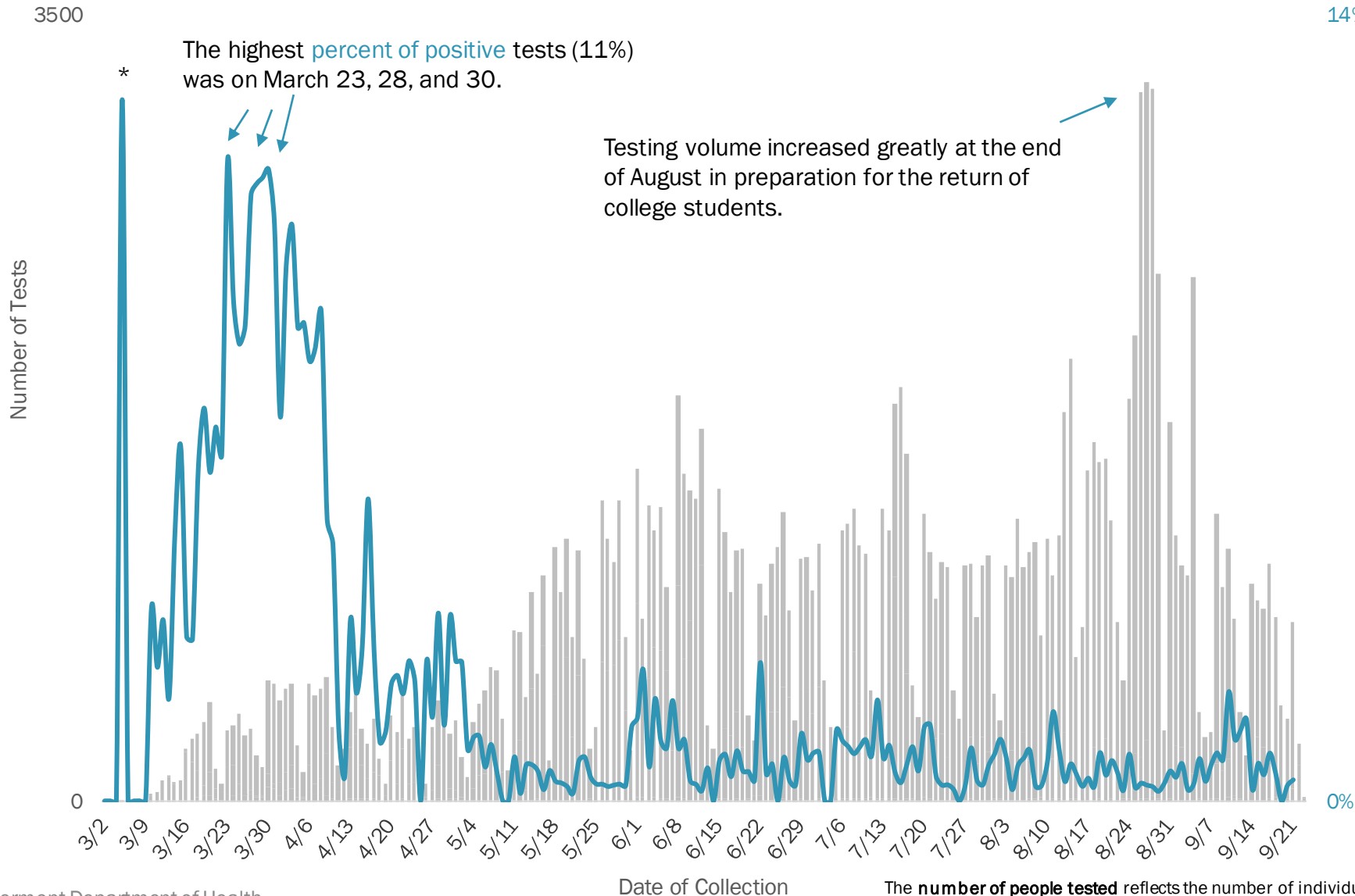


# Most counties have reached a plateau in the number of new cases.

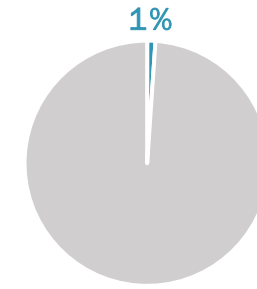
Growth over time by county (n=1,716)



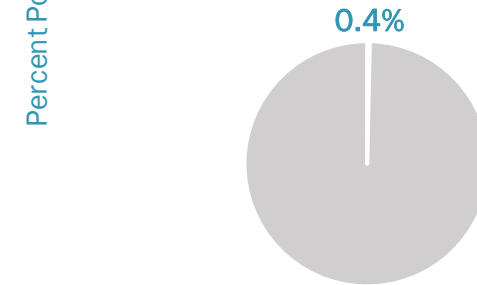
# Percent of positive COVID-19 tests may indicate how prevalent the disease is in the population.



## Percent Positive to Date



## Percent Positive This Week (September 16 - September 23)



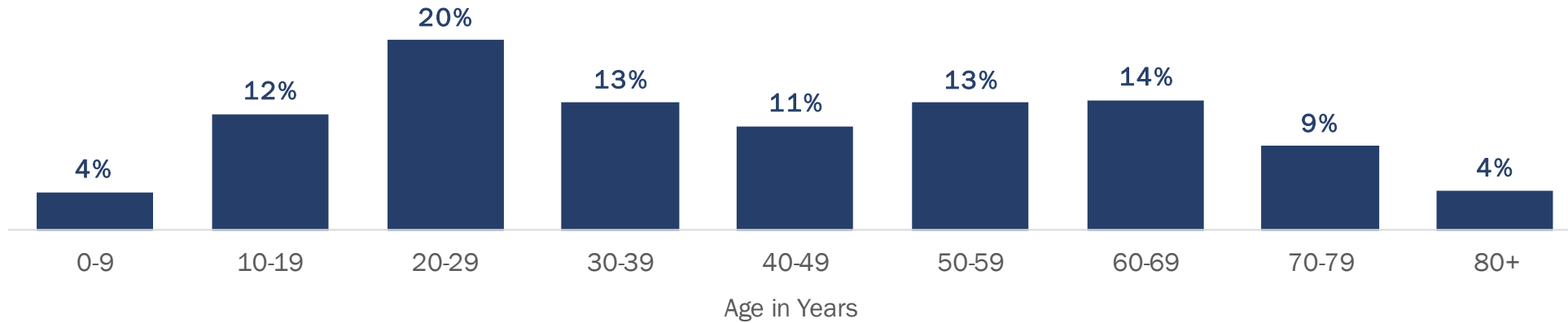
<b>6,387</b> People Tested this Week	<b>27,793</b> Tests this Week
<b>158,189</b> People Tested to Date	<b>261,733</b> Tests to Date

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**.

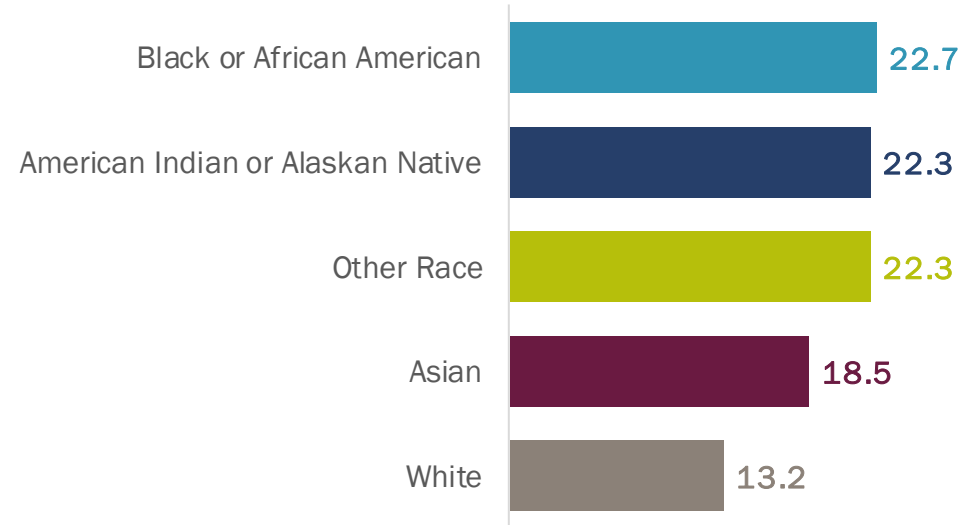
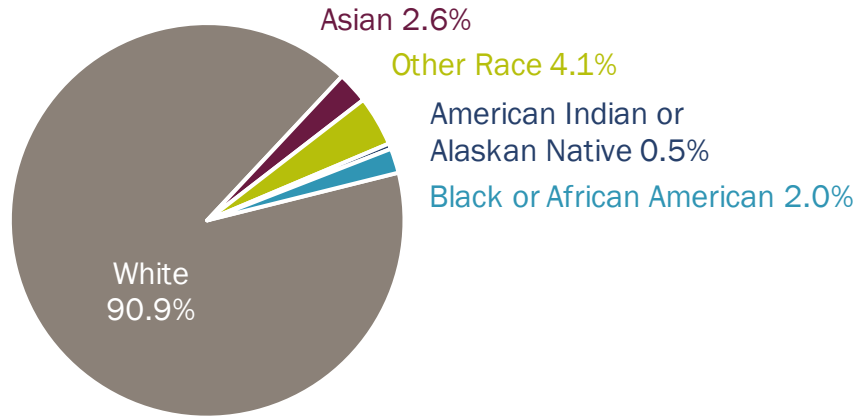


**44%** of people tested for COVID-19 are **male**.



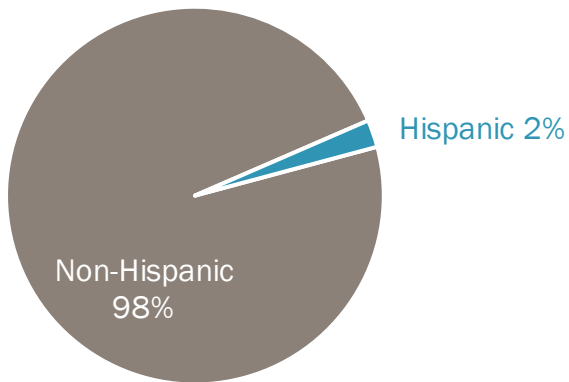
## While the majority of people tested in Vermont for COVID-19 are white, the rates are similar across racial groups.

Rates per 100 Vermonters

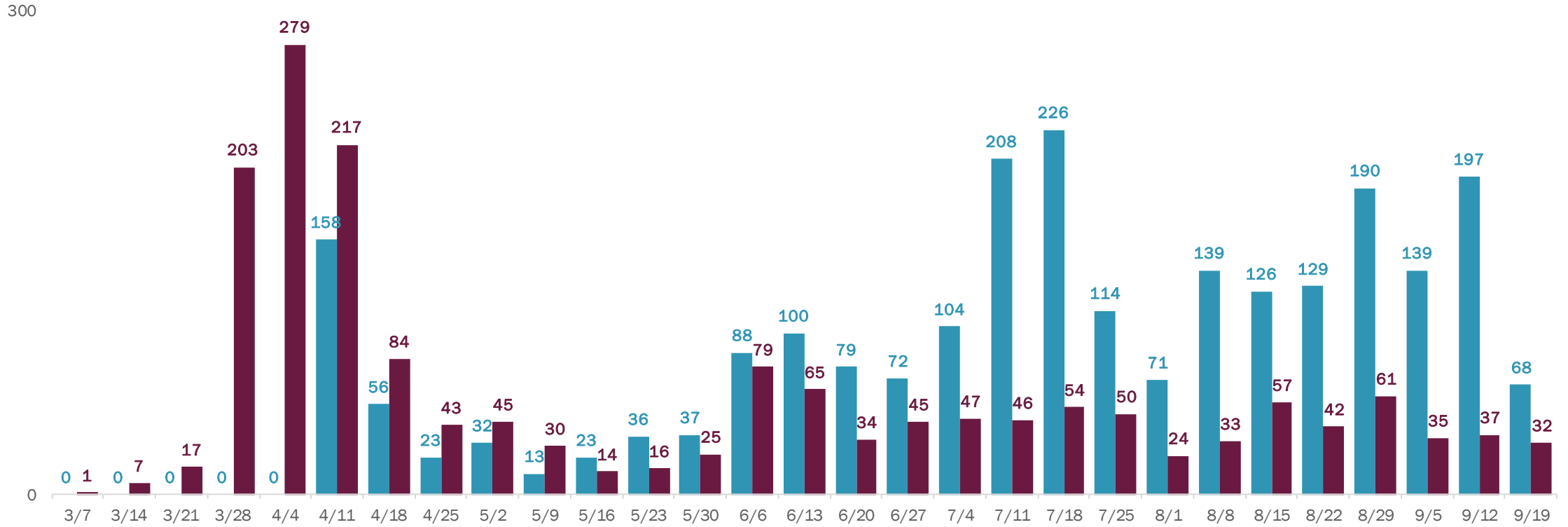


## While the majority of people tested in Vermont for COVID-19 are non-Hispanic, the rates are nearly the same across ethnic groups.

Rates per 100 Vermonters



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



**65**

Number of contact tracers trained

**32**

Cases interviewed last week

September 13 –September 19

**68**

Contacts named last week

September 13 –September 19

**2**

Average number of contacts per case\*

\*Since March 7

## In the last two weeks (from September 6 to September 19):



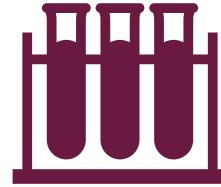
**99%**

Of cases were interviewed within 24 hours



**90%**

Of cases provided their close contacts



**49%**

Of contacts were tested within 14 days of exposure



**7%**

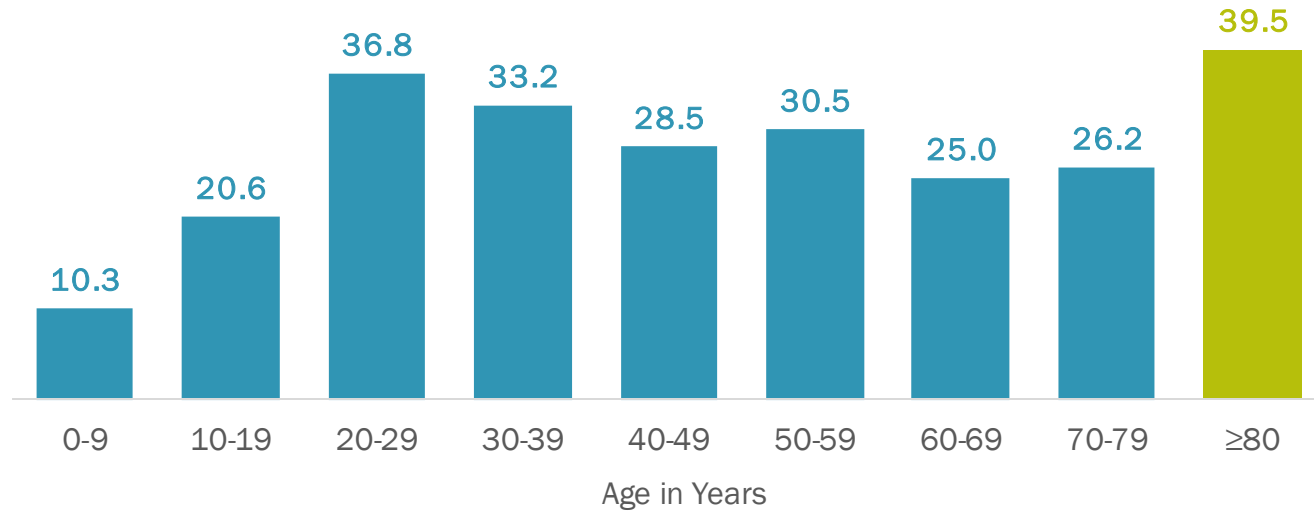
Of contacts became a case

# Case Demographics

Who has been impacted by COVID-19 in Vermont?

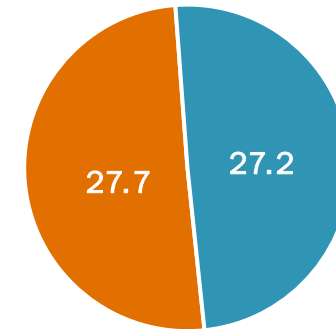
### Rates of COVID-19 are highest among Vermonters 80 years and older.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



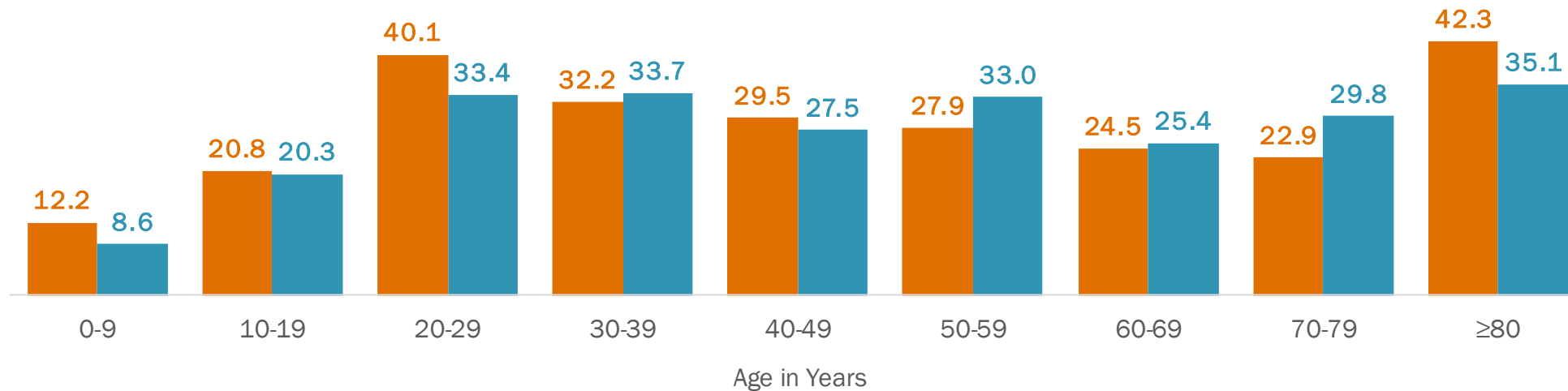
### Females and males have similar rates of COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



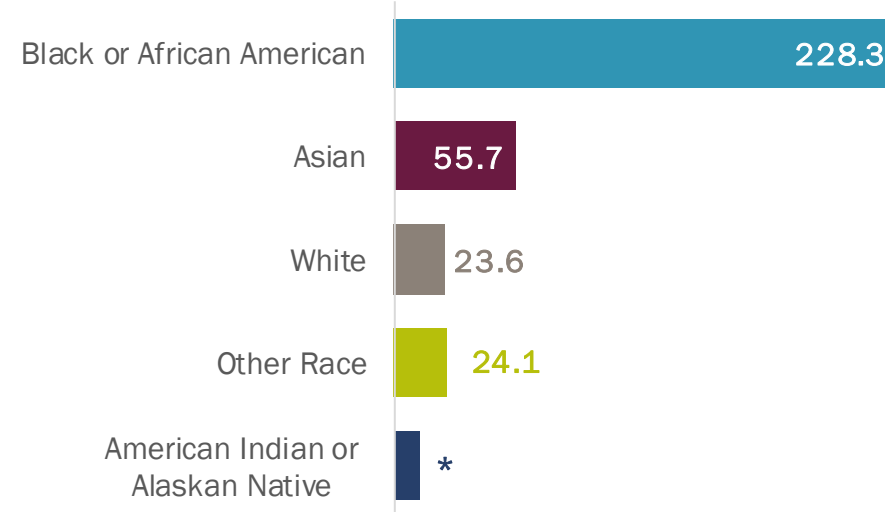
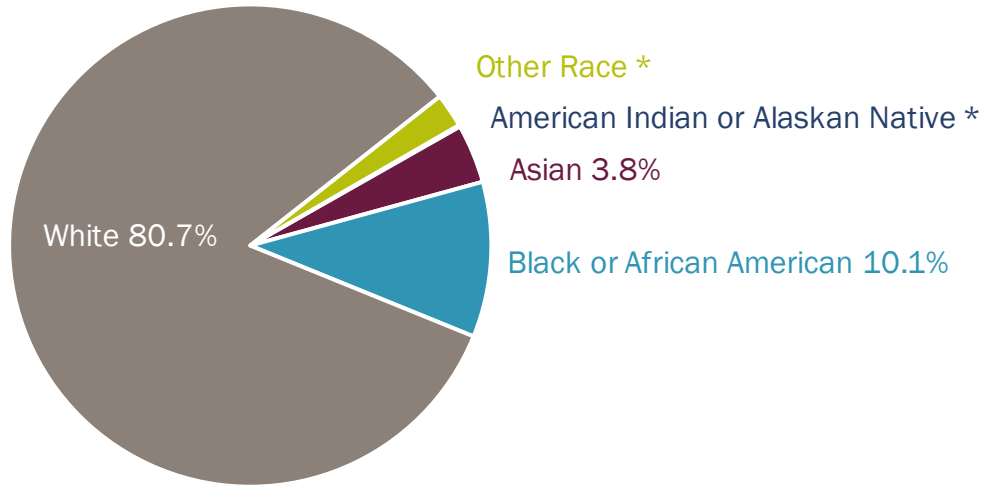
### There are differences in age and sex of Vermonters with COVID-19.

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



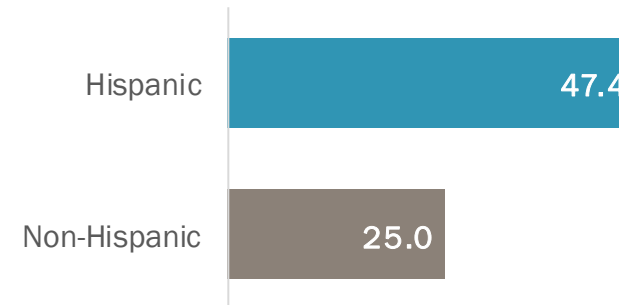
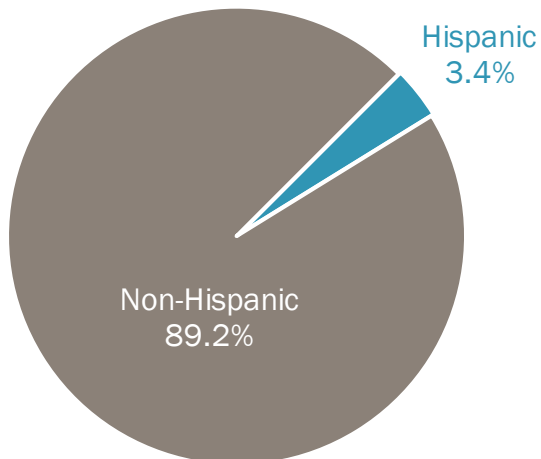
**White Vermonters represent the majority of COVID-19 cases. African American Vermonters have the highest rate.**

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 = 53) and ethnicity is unknown in 7% of cases (n = 128).

\* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

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

\*of the 1,404 people that the Health Department has pre-existing condition data for.

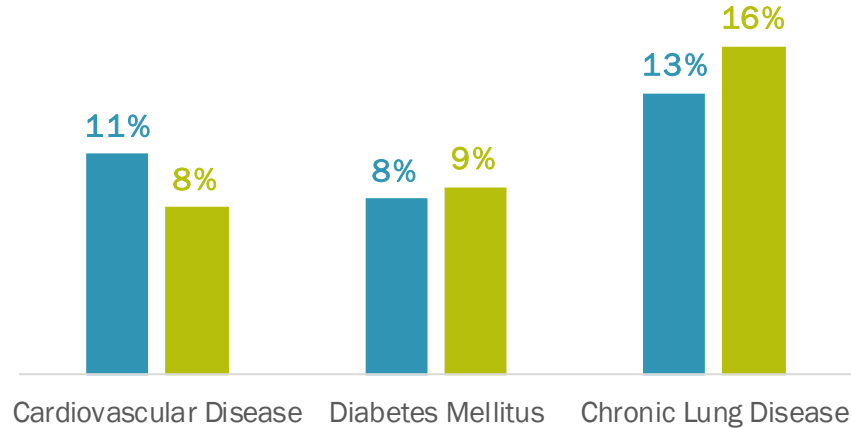
Condition	Count	Percentage
Heart Disease	148	11%
Chronic Lung Disease (includes asthma and COPD)	189	13%
Chronic Liver Disease	11	1%
Chronic Kidney Disease	35	2%
Current/Former Smoker	270	19%
Diabetes	118	8%
Immunocompromised Condition	55	4%
Neurologic Condition/Intellectual Disability	38	3%
Other Chronic Condition**	333	24%
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% (1,404) of 1,724 total COVID-19 cases.

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



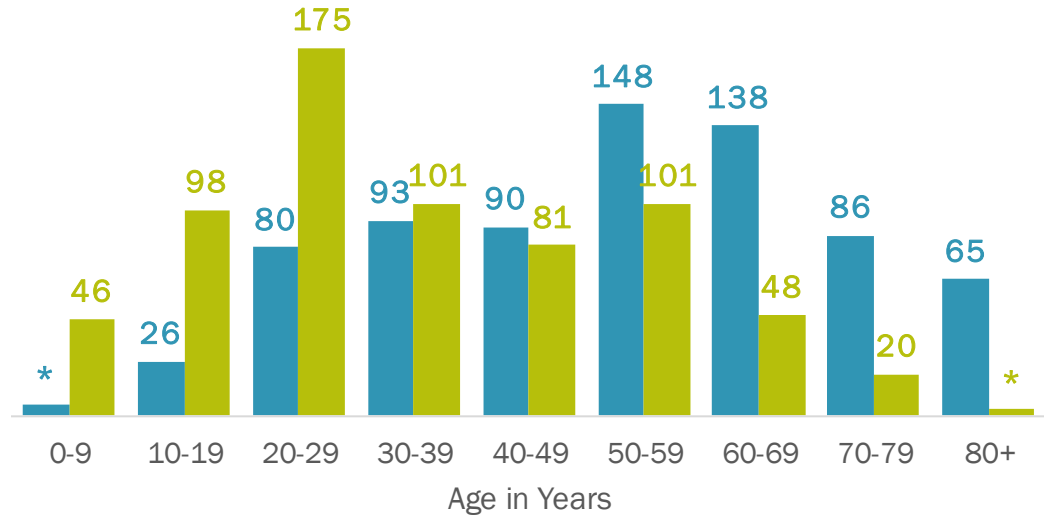
Data Source: Cardiovascular disease and diabetes, BRFSS 2018 annual report. Chronic lung disease, 3-4-50 Community profile (2016-2017 BRFSS).

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



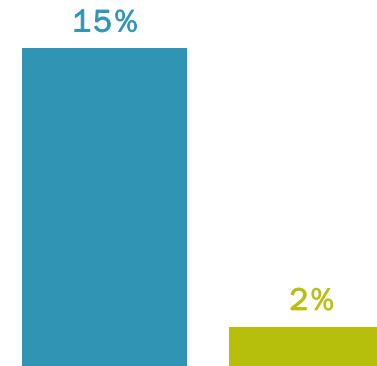
Vermont Department of Health

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



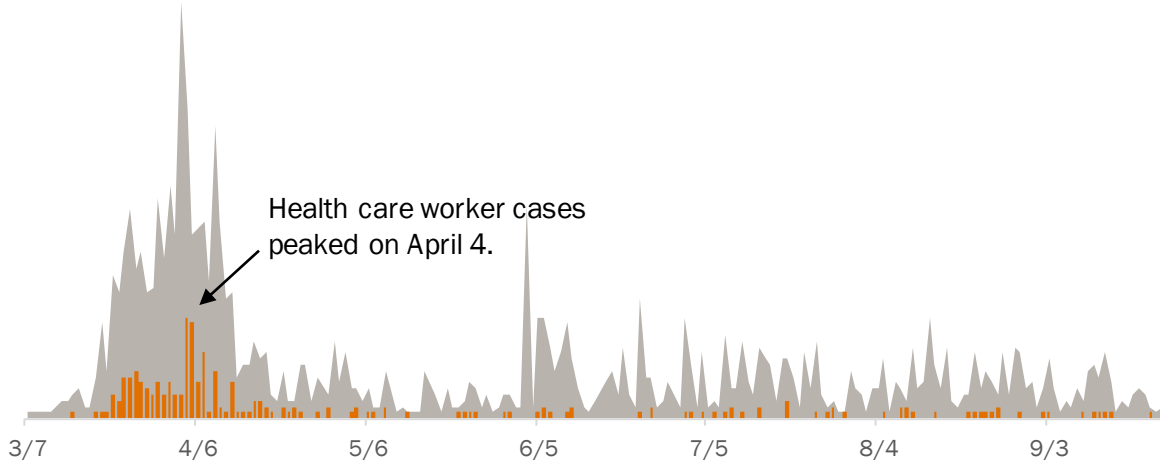
\* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

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





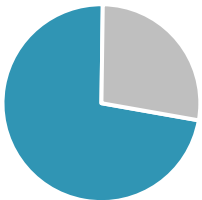
## Number of **New Health Care Worker** and **All Cases** by Day



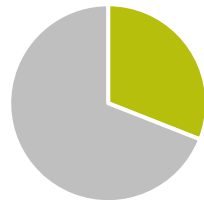
**1 in 6** Vermonters with COVID-19 are health care workers.



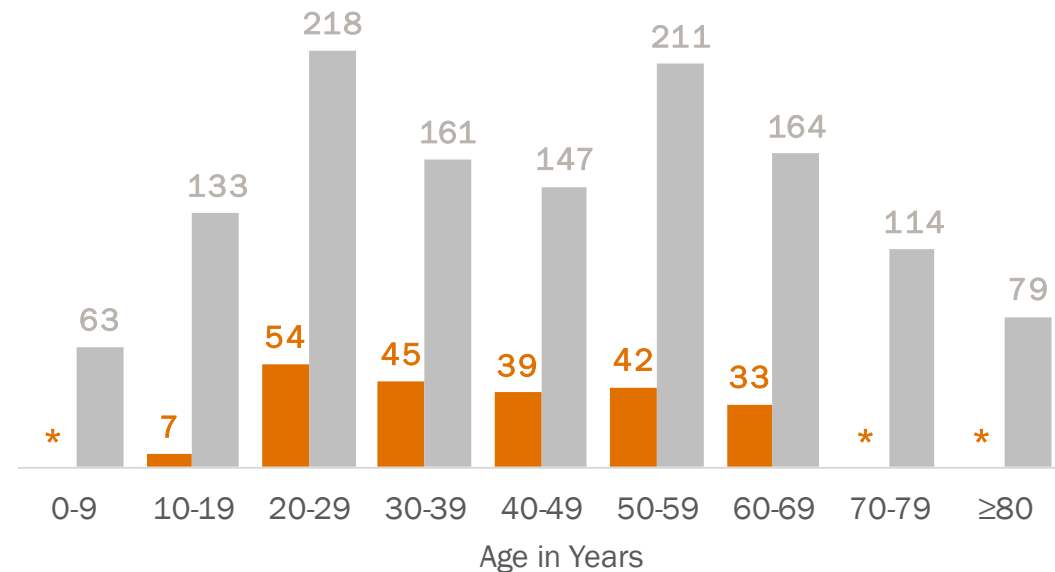
**7 in 10** health care workers with COVID-19 are **female**.



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

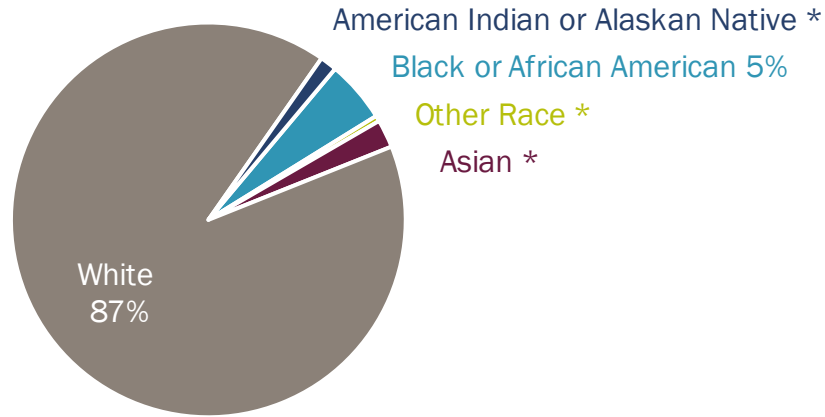


**Health care workers** with COVID-19 tend to be younger than non-health care workers with COVID-19.



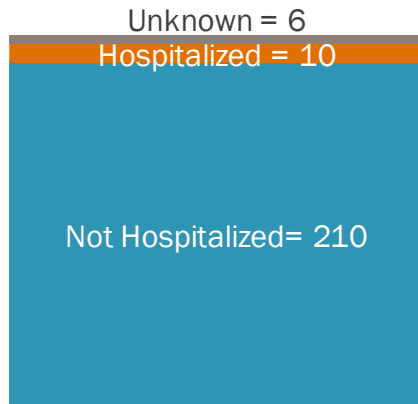
\* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

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



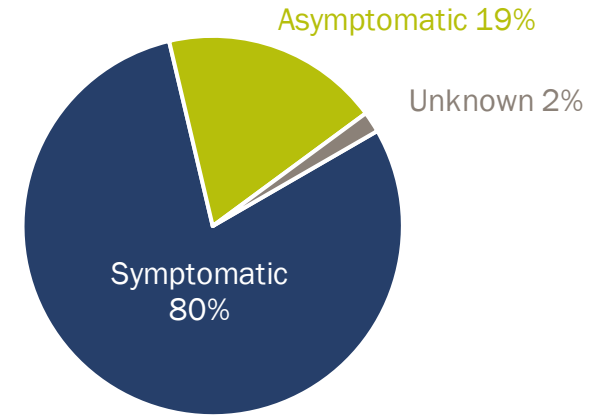
\* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

**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.**

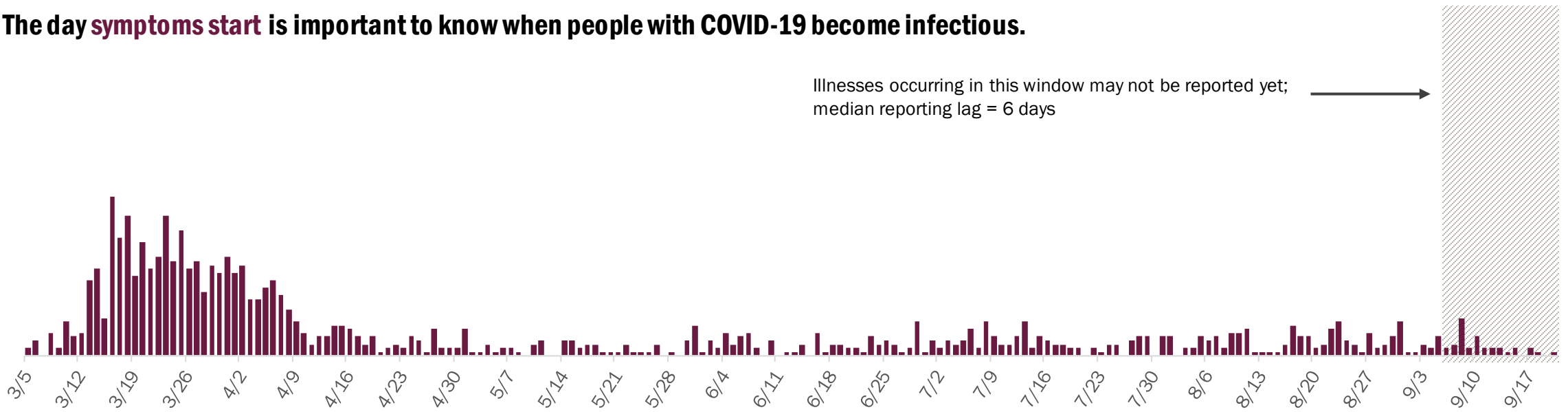


Sign or Symptom among Health Care Workers with COVID-19	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	71%
Fatigue	63%
Headache	61%
Loss of Smell or Taste	52%
Muscle Pain	49%
Runny nose	46%
Chills	43%
Fever	41%

# 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.**



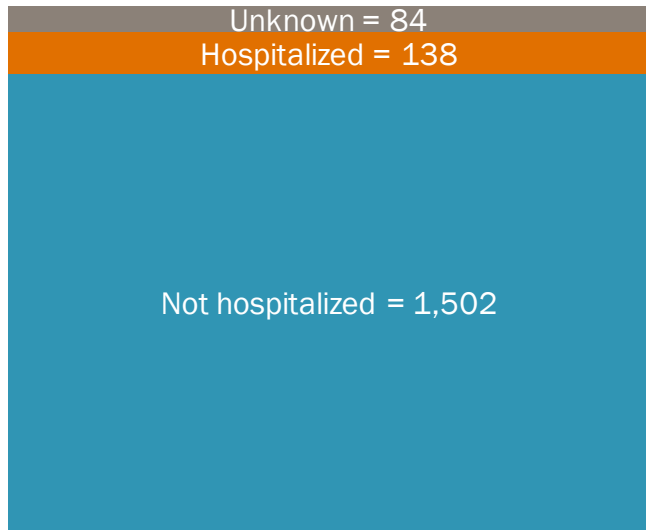
Note: Date of symptom onset is not always known.

**12 days**  
Average illness duration

**73%**  
Cases with symptoms

Sign or Symptom	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	66%
Fatigue	65%
Headache	54%
Muscle Pain	49%
Fever	45%
Loss of Smell/Taste	46%

**Most Vermonters with COVID-19 are not hospitalized.**



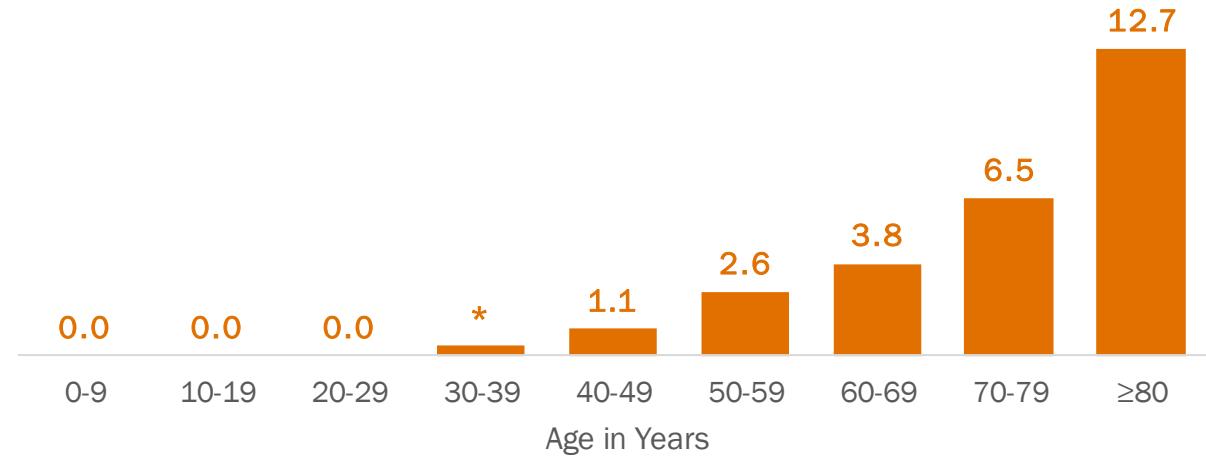
**15%**  
Of those hospitalized  
were on a ventilator

**36%**  
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

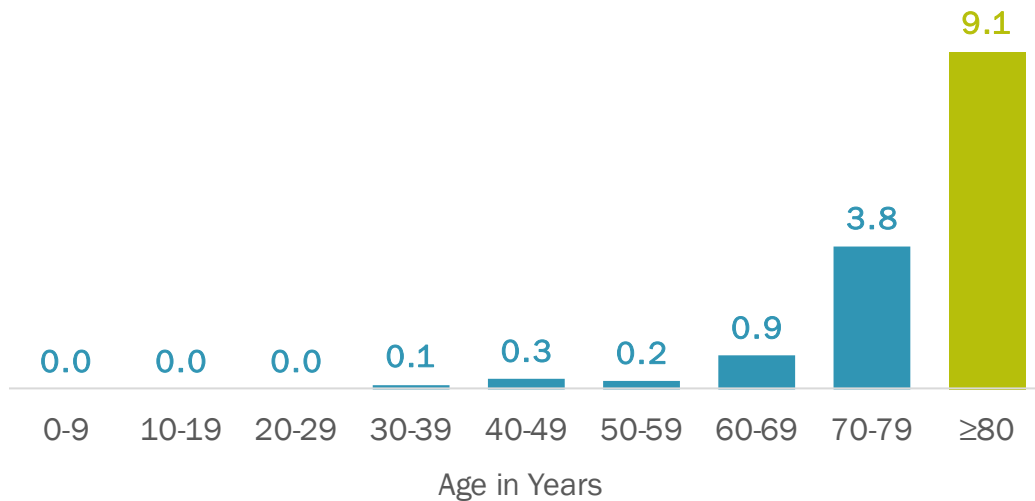


Please note 5 hospitalized persons are missing race information.

\*Values suppressed due to small numbers.

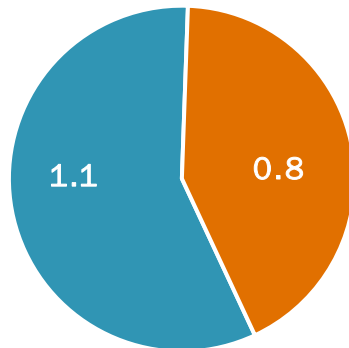
**Vermonters 80 years and older have higher rates of COVID-19 death than other age groups.**

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

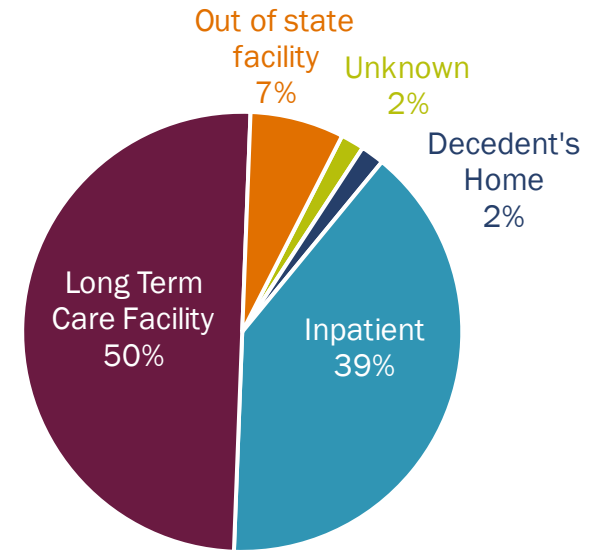


**Males and females have similar rates of COVID-19 death.**

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

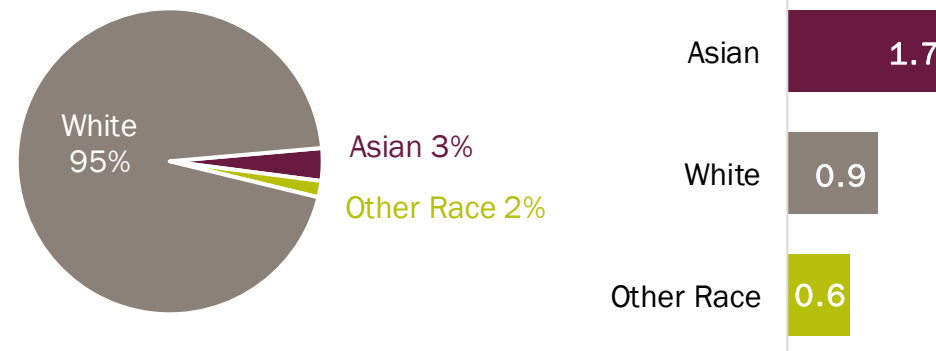


**Most COVID-19 deaths occurred in an inpatient hospital setting or a long-term care facility.**



**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

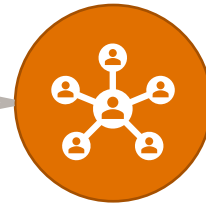
3 or more COVID-19 cases involving more than one family or household where the cases:

- 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.

## 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.



## 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.

## 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.





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



# Outbreaks

3 Active

25 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



**43** cases among employees

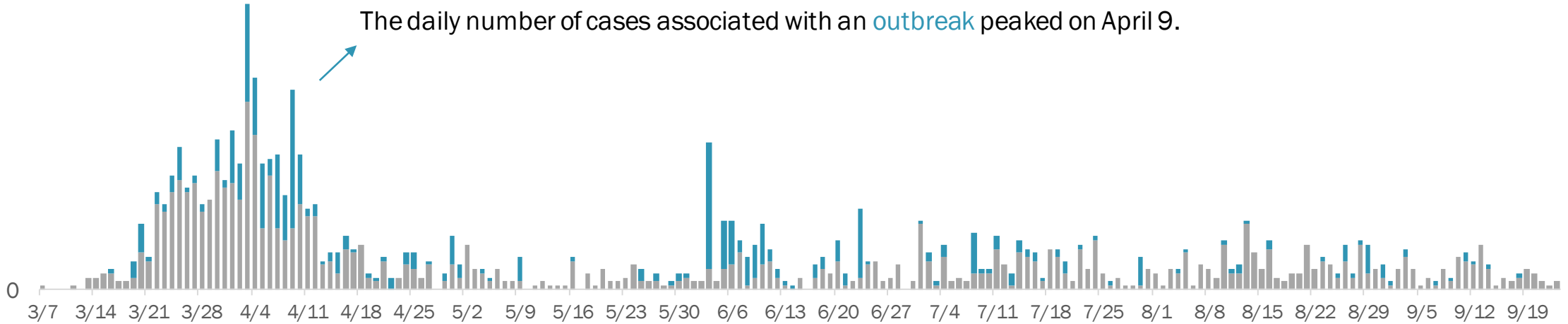
## Community



**166** cases

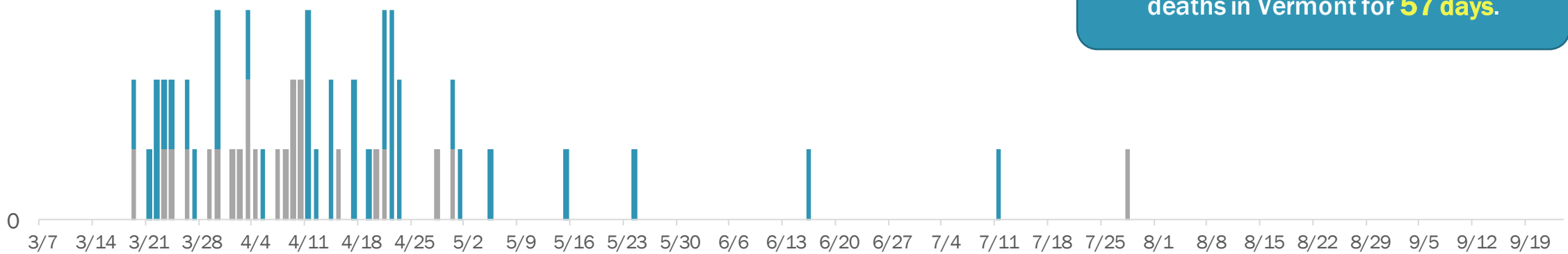
# Vermont COVID-19 Cases Associated with an Outbreak Over Time

90



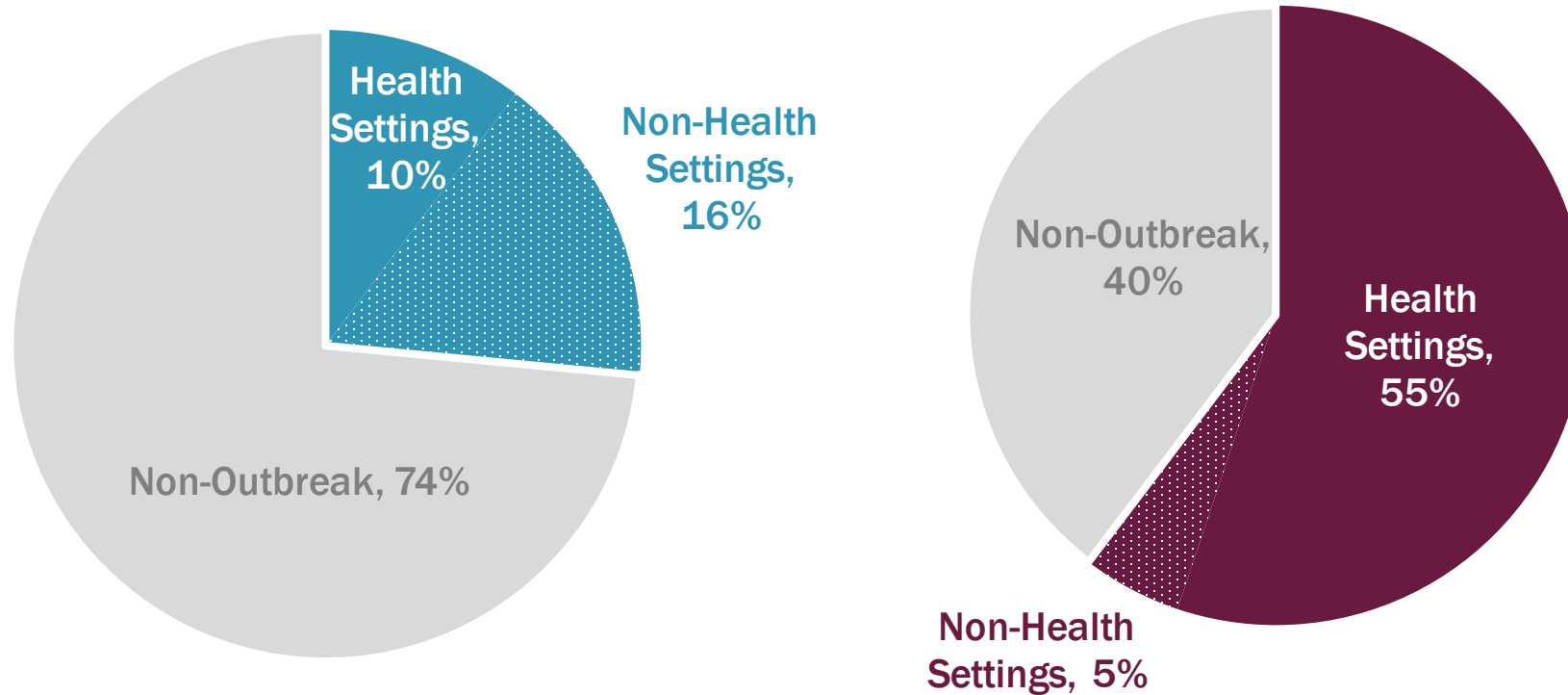
# Vermont COVID-19 Deaths Associated with an Outbreak Over Time

4



Source: Vermont Department of Health  
Reflects confirmed data as of 9/23/2020.

**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 9/23/2020.

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.

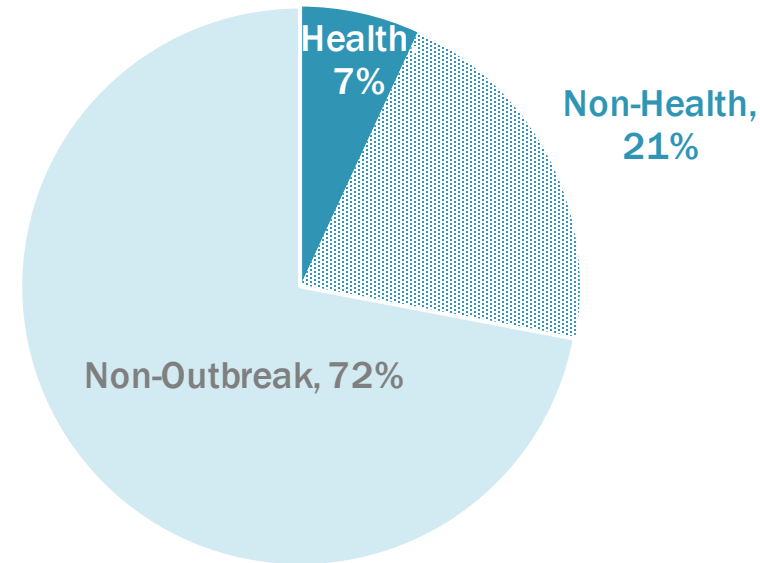
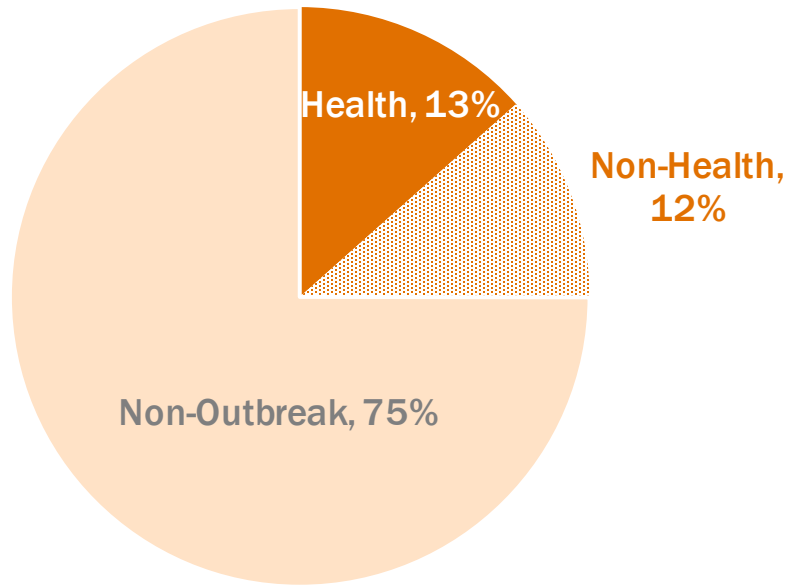


**25%** of **females** with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.



**28%** 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.

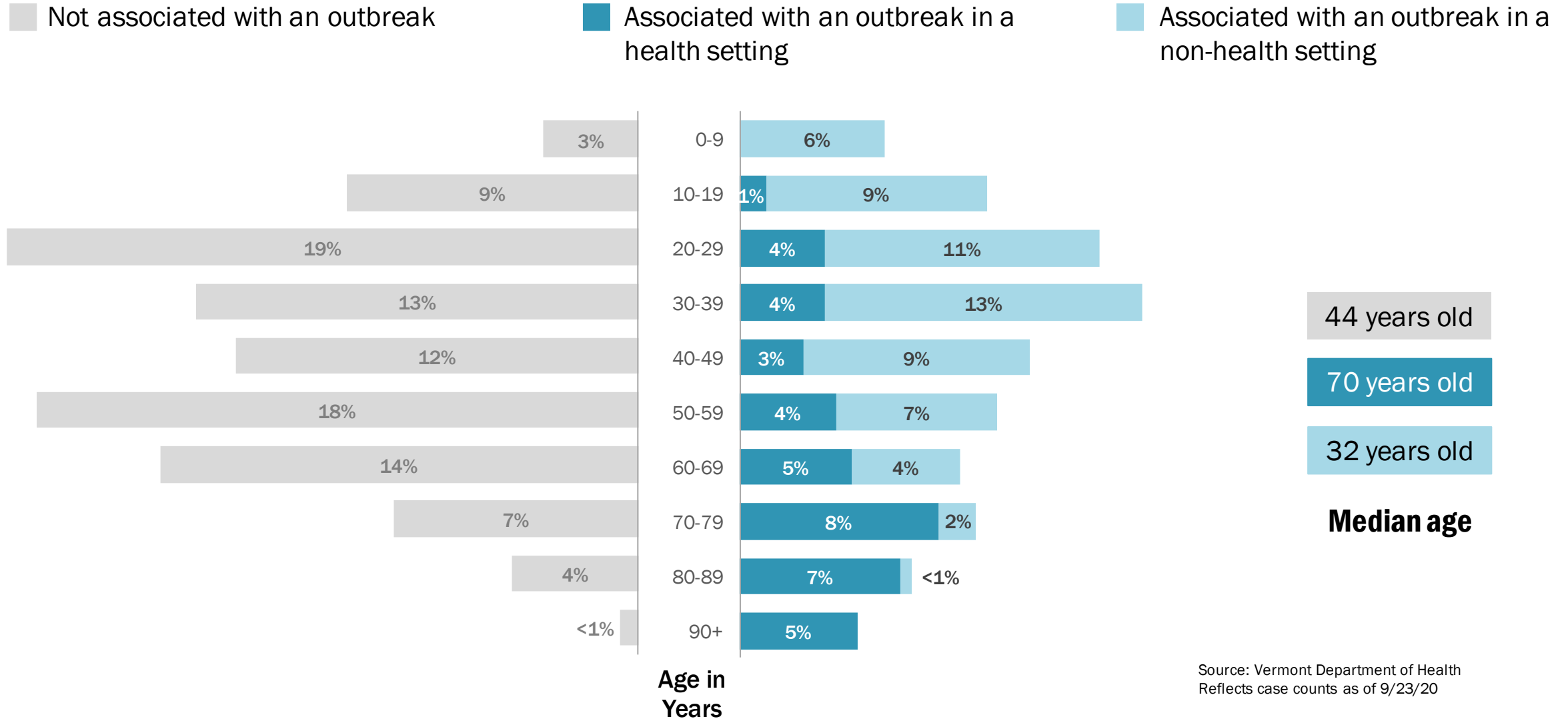


Values in these charts are rounded to the nearest whole number and therefore may not always add to 100% due to error introduced in rounding. Percentages by outbreak type are rounded to the whole number, but combined totals take into account the full percentages.

Source: Vermont Department of Health  
Reflects case counts as of 9/23/20

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 9/23/20

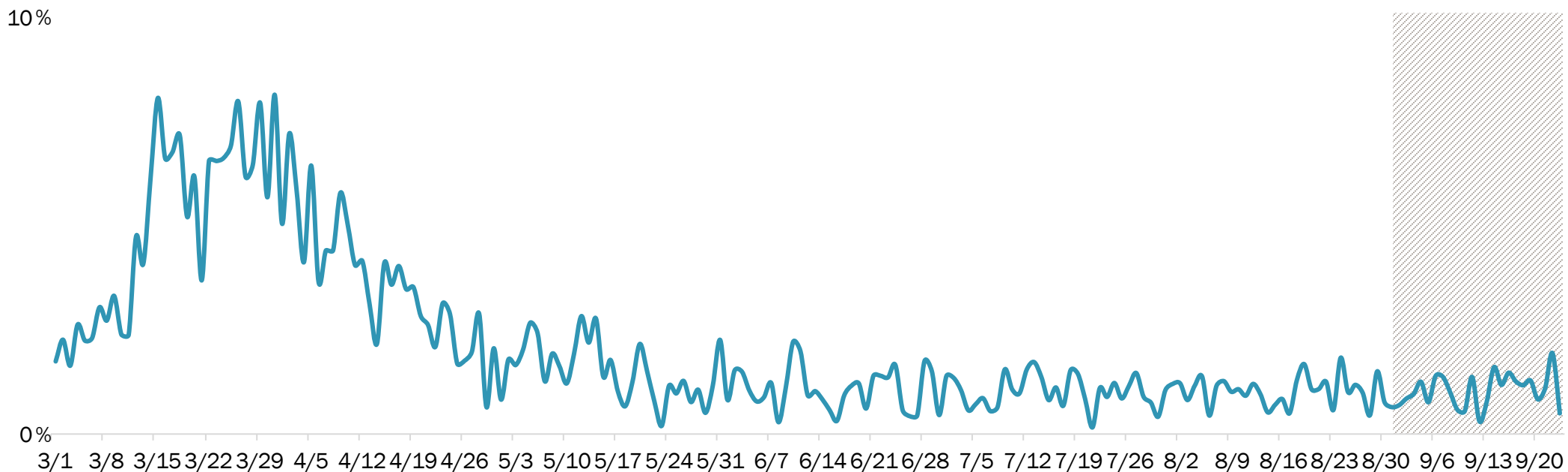
Note: Examples of a health setting include long-term care or assisted living facilities, therapeutic treatment centers, and behavioral health institutions. Examples of a non-health setting include correctional facilities, senior housing communities, businesses, and homeless shelters. Vermont has not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

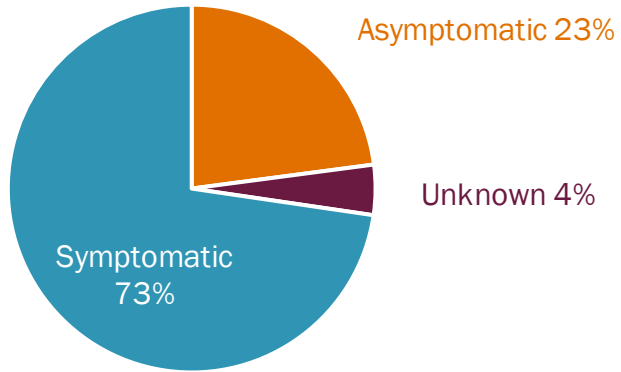
COVID-19-like illness excludes patients with an influenza discharge diagnosis.

## **Weekly Spotlight: Symptoms**

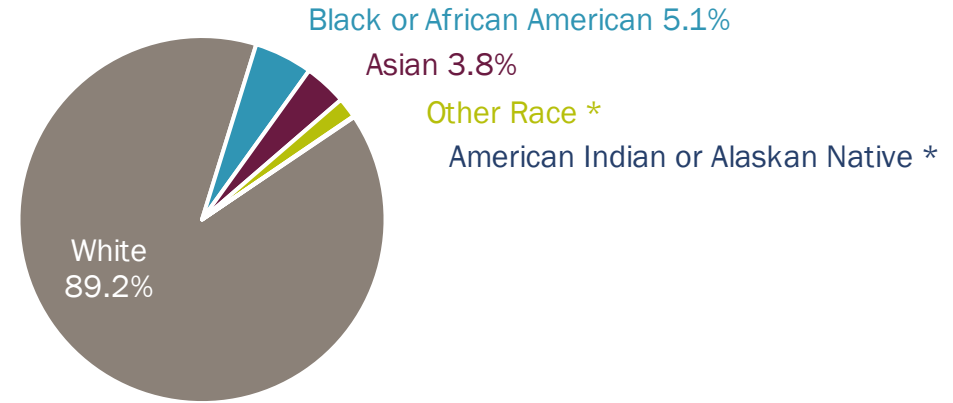
73% of Vermonters with COVID-19 experience symptoms while 23% of Vermonters with COVID-19 do not experience symptoms.



Nearly 3 in 4 Vermonters with COVID-19 experience **symptoms**.

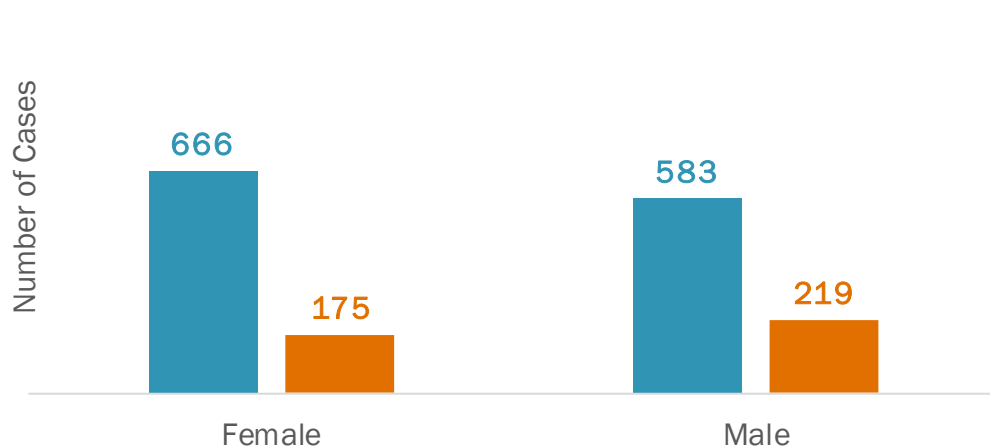


White Vermonters represent the majority of symptomatic COVID-19 cases.

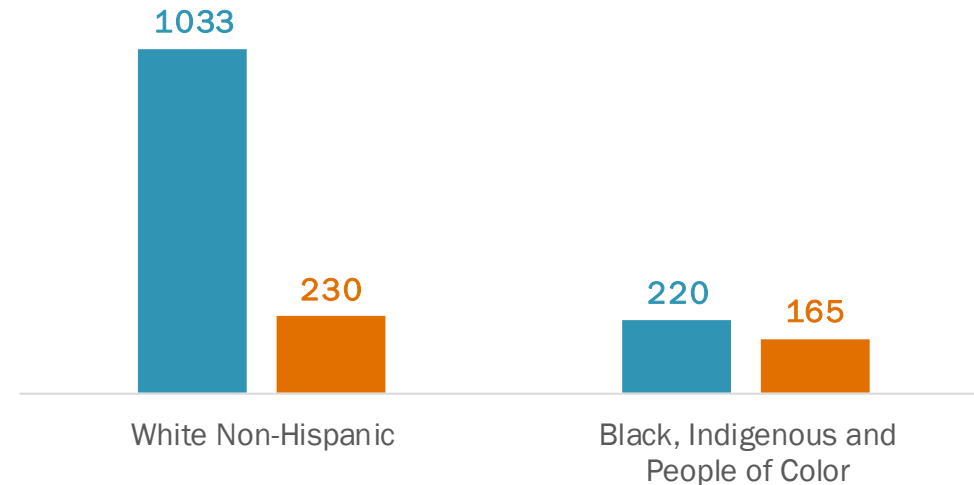


\* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

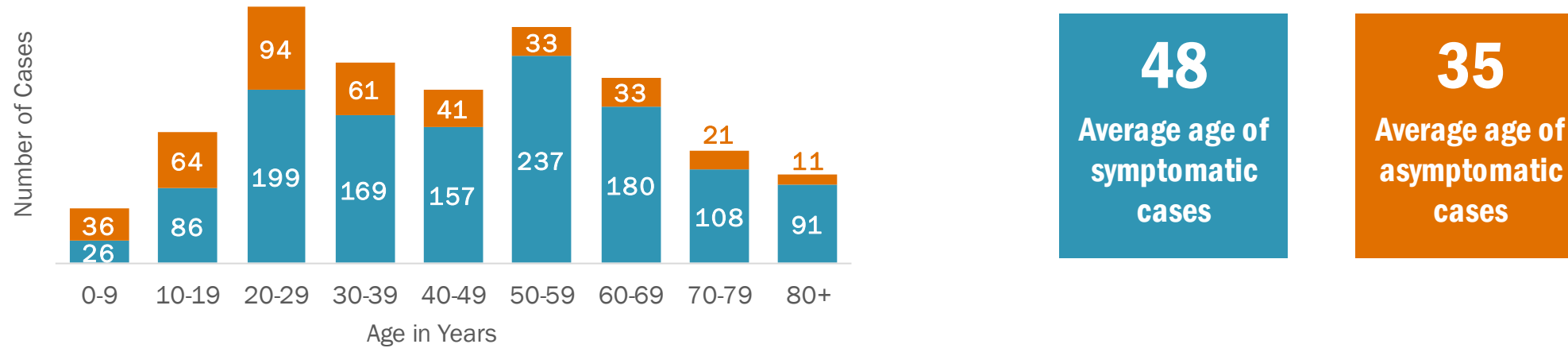
A larger proportion of females with COVID-19 experience **symptoms** than those who are **asymptomatic**, compared to males.



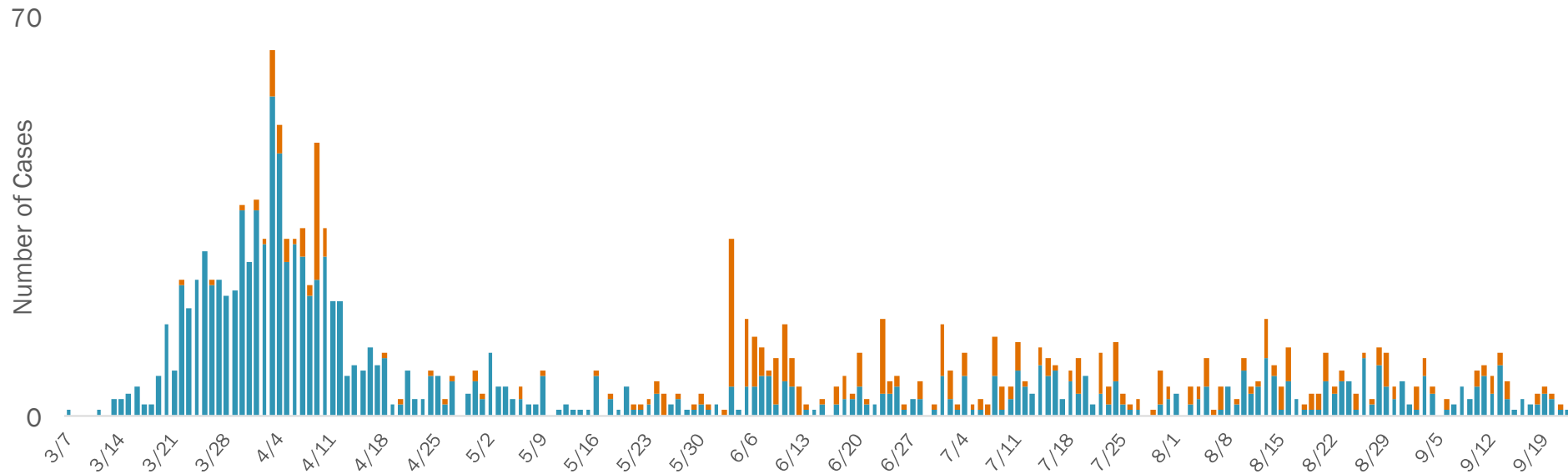
A larger proportion of white non-Hispanic people with COVID-19 experience **symptoms** than those who are **asymptomatic**, compared to those who are Black, Indigenous or people of color.



Vermonters with COVID-19 who experience **symptoms** tend to be older than those who are **asymptomatic**.



The proportion of Vermonters with COVID-19 who are **asymptomatic** has increased over time.



## Symptoms among Symptomatic Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19

Sign or Symptom	Percent of Cases
Cough	77%
Fatigue	77%
Shortness of Breath	73%
Fever	65%
Loss of Appetite	53%
Felt Feverish	47%
Chills	45%
Muscle Pain	44%
Loss of Smell or Taste	41%

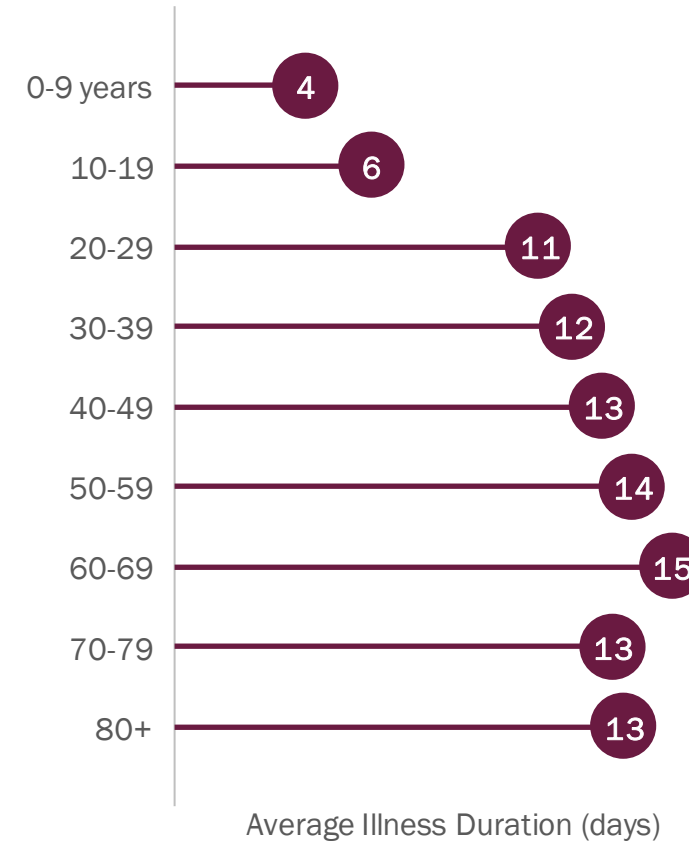
**133**

Number of cases who were symptomatic and hospitalized

**10 days**

Average hospital stay among symptomatic cases

Among all cases of COVID-19 who are symptomatic, the average duration of illness tends to be shorter among those who are younger.





## Learn more about COVID-19 in Vermont:

**Web:** [www.healthvermont.gov/COVID-19](http://www.healthvermont.gov/COVID-19)

**Email:** [AHS.VDHPublicCommunication@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHPublicCommunication@vermont.gov)