Weekly Summary of Vermont COVID-19 Data

Reflecting cases identified between
March 5 – May 7, 2020

Date published: May 11, 2020. This summary will be updated every Friday.

VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Common Terms and Data Sources

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

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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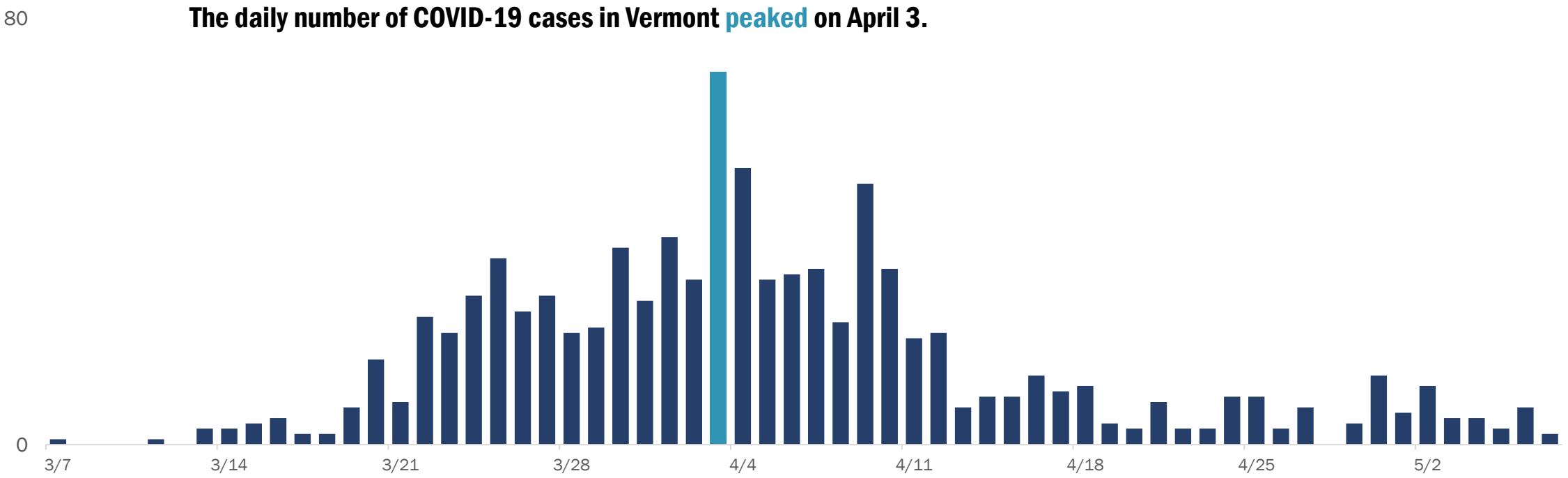
COVID-19 in Vermont

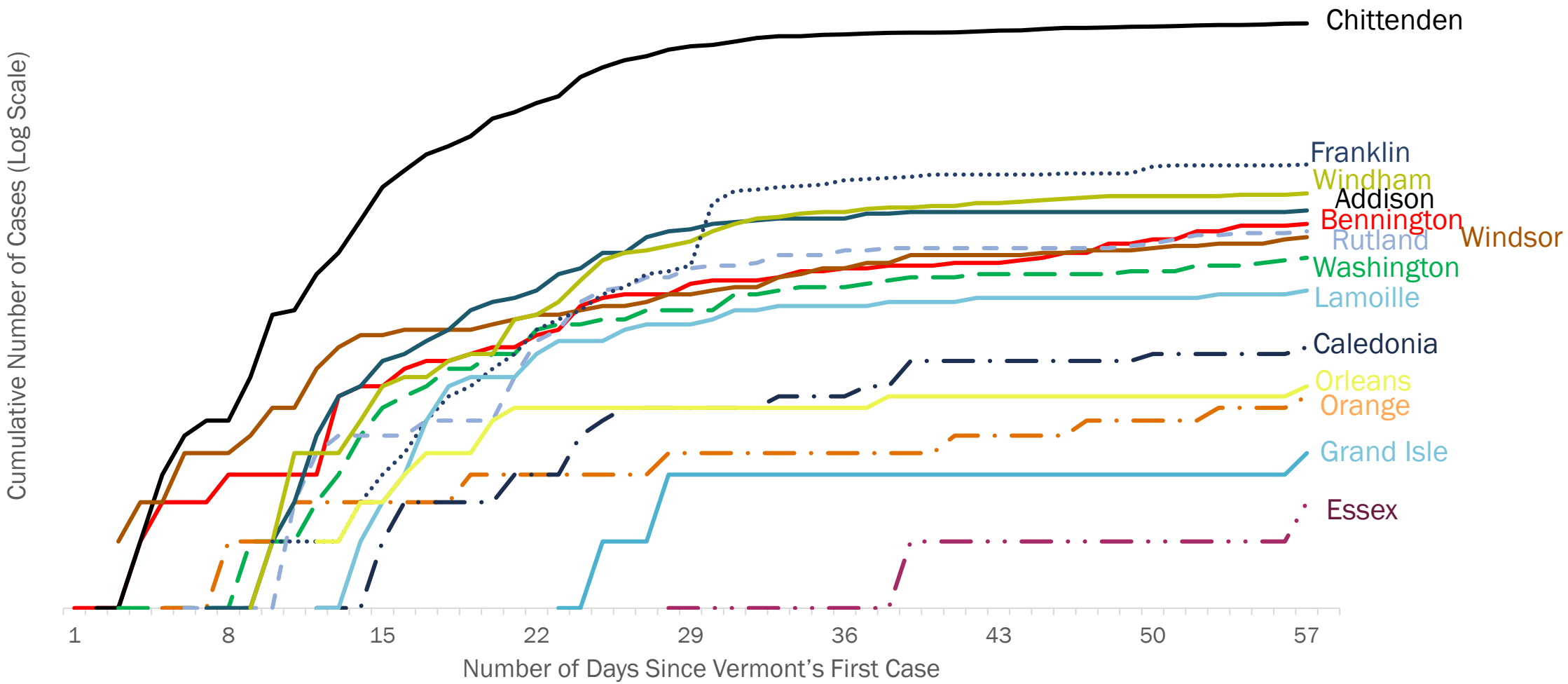
An overview of our number of cases and laboratory testing to date.

Total Number of Cases in Vermont: 918



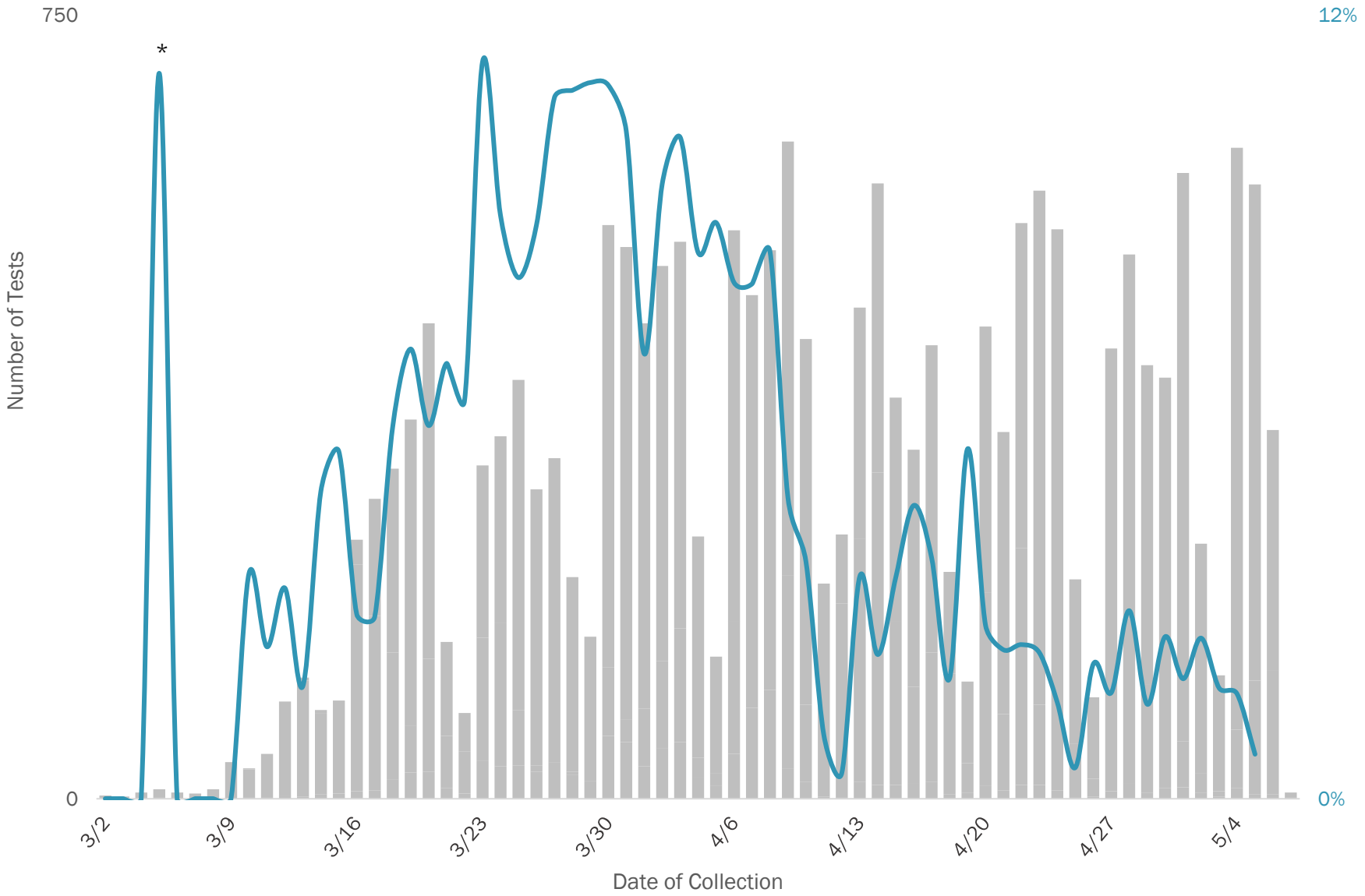
Most counties have reached a plateau in the number of new cases.

Growth over time by county (n=915)

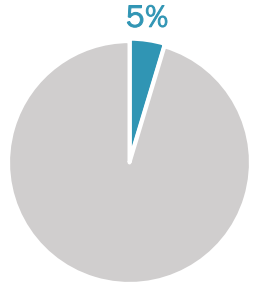


Cumulative cases are presented using a log scale to help compare the large number of cases in Chittenden County (n=431, roughly 50% of all cases) to other counties. Using a log scale also helps visualize percent change. For the number of cases by county, see the Data Dashboard.

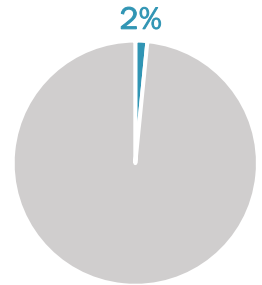
Percent of positive COVID-19 tests may indicate how prevalent the disease is in the population.



Percent Positive to Date



Percent Positive This Week



2,934
People Tested this Week

21,162
People Tested to Date

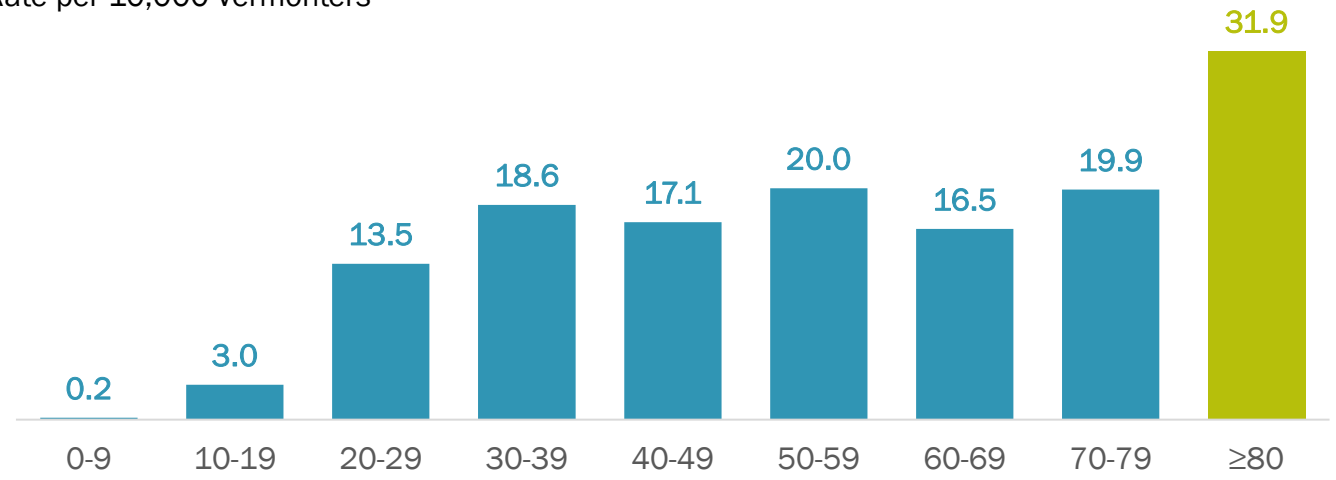
*Not a stable estimate due to small numbers. There were 9 total tests and 1 was positive.

Case Demographics

Who has been impacted by COVID-19 in Vermont?

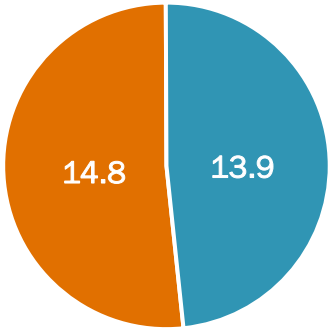
Rates of COVID-19 are disproportionately high among Vermonters 80 years and older.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



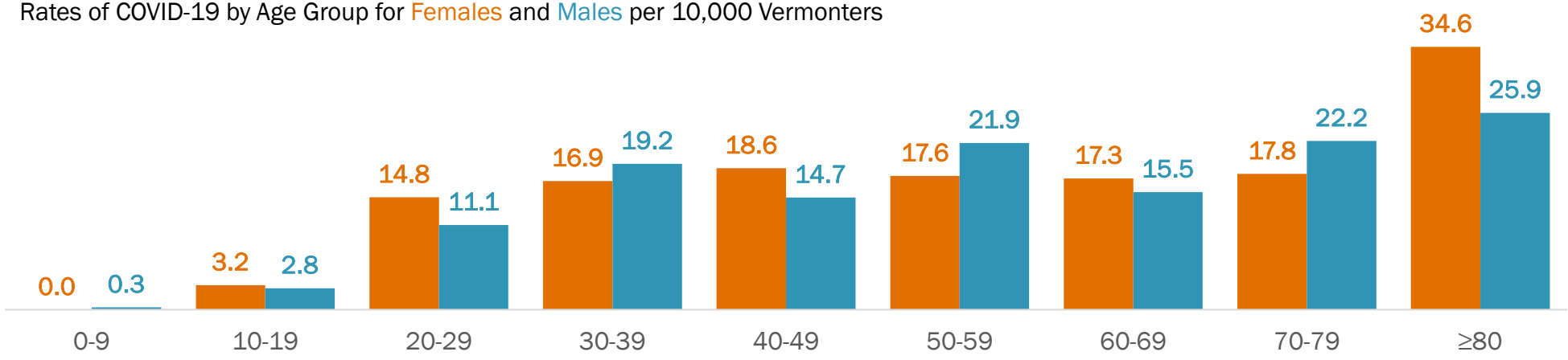
Females and males have similar rates of COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



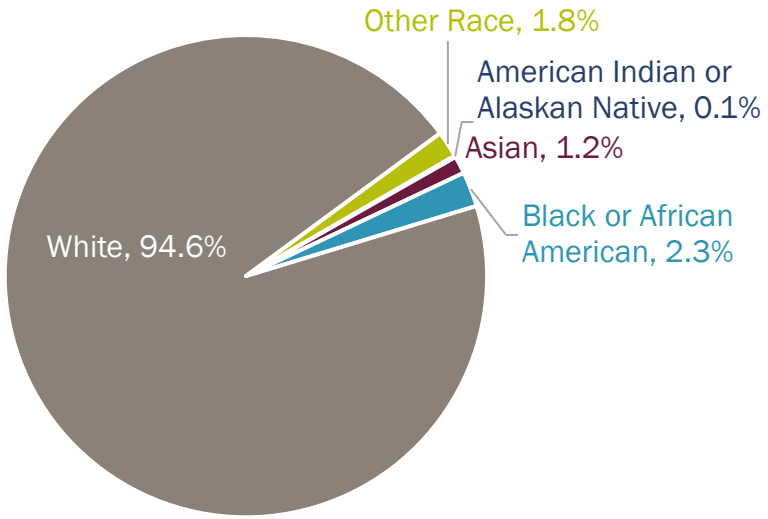
There are differences in age and sex of Vermonters with COVID-19.

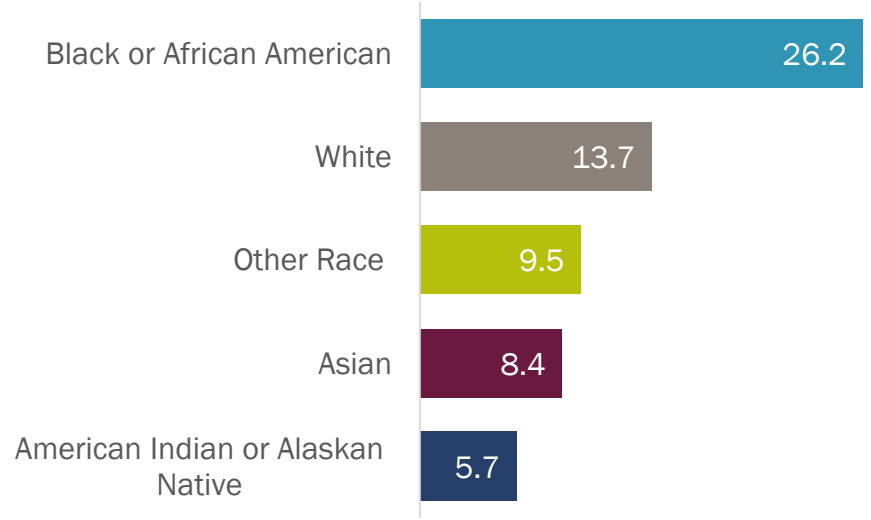
Rates of COVID-19 by Age Group for Females and Males per 10,000 Vermonters



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

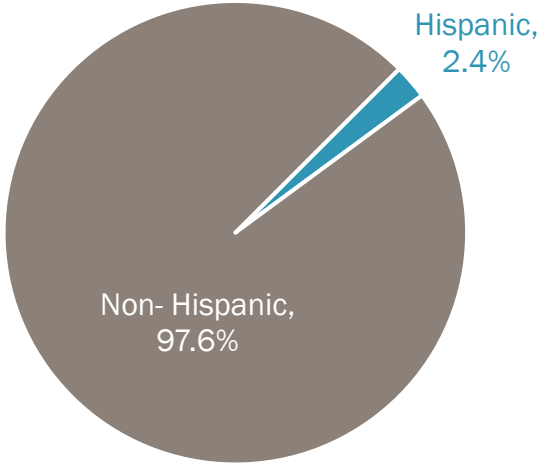
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

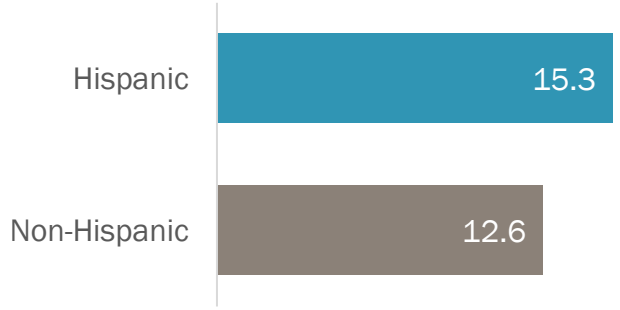




Non-Hispanic Vermonters represent the majority of COVID-19 cases. Hispanic Vermonters have the higher rate.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



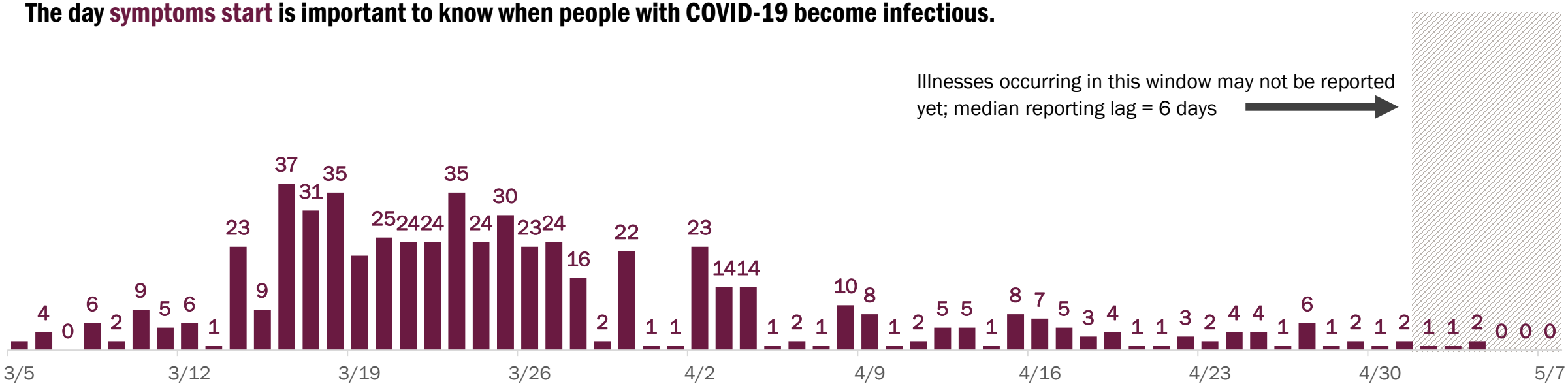


Note: Race is unknown in 7% of cases and ethnicity is unknown in 15% of cases.

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.

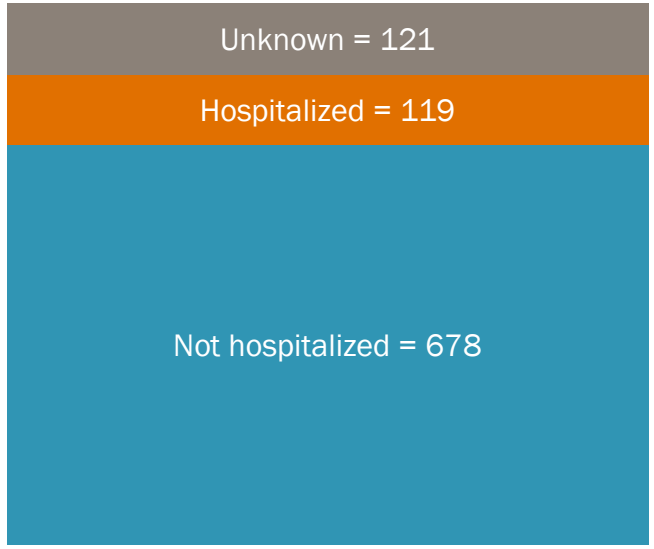


Note: Date of symptom onset is not always known.

15 days
Average illness duration

Sign or Symptom	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	75%
Fatigue	70%
Fever	55%
Headache	55%
Muscle Pain	53%

Most Vermonters with COVID-19 are not hospitalized.



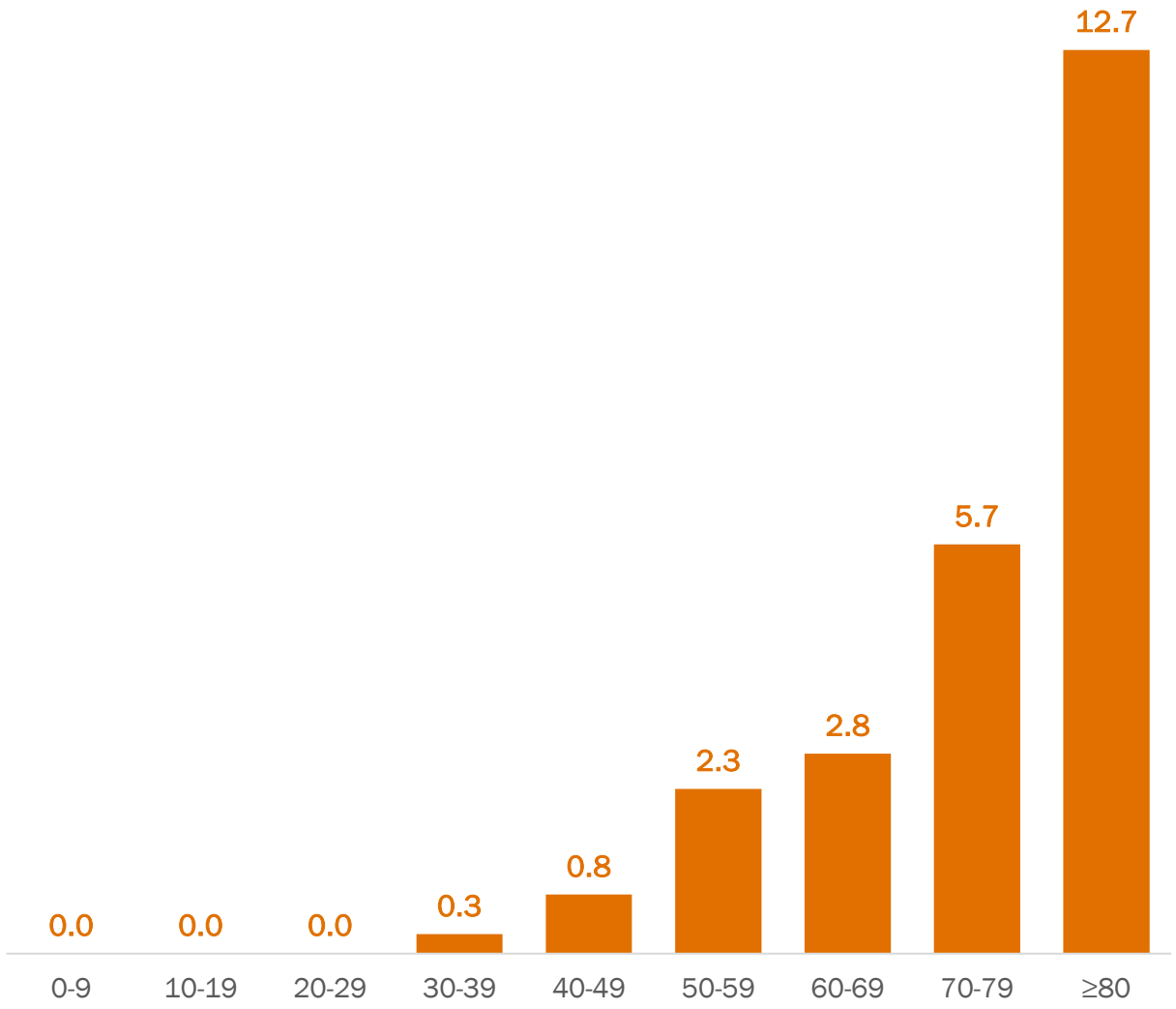
17%
Of those hospitalized who were on a ventilator

37%
Of those hospitalized who were in the ICU

8 days
Average hospital stay
(range: 0-18 days)

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

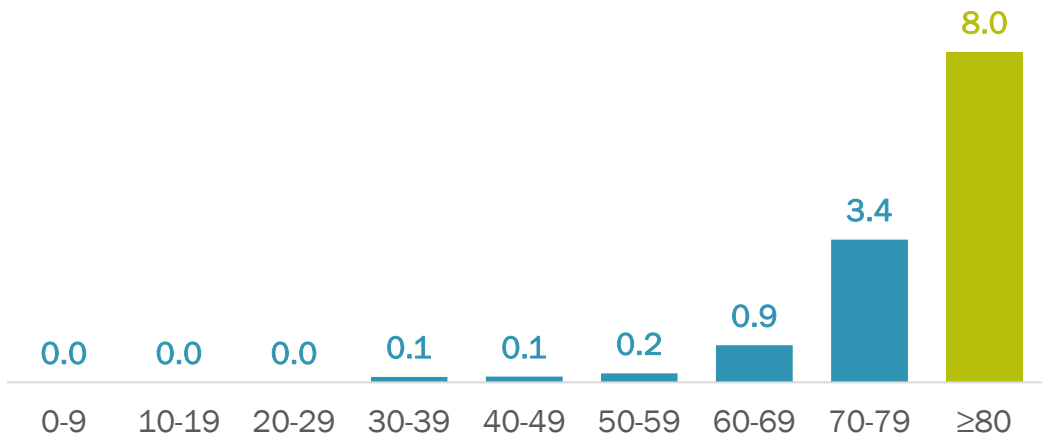
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



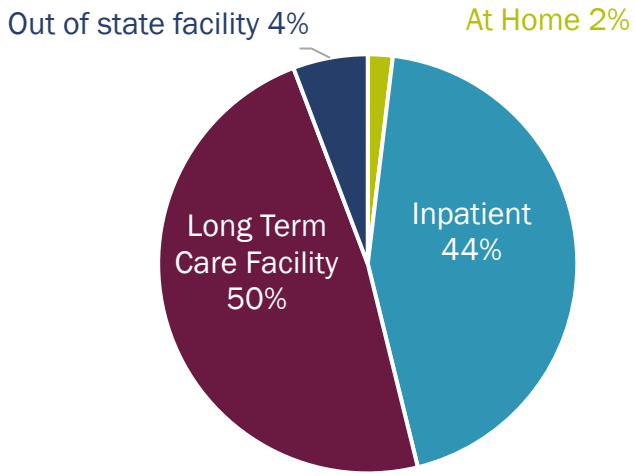
Clinical Course

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

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

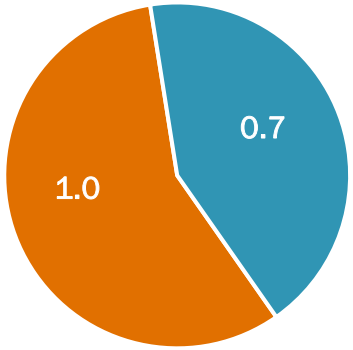


Most COVID-19 deaths occurred in an inpatient hospital setting or a long-term care facility.



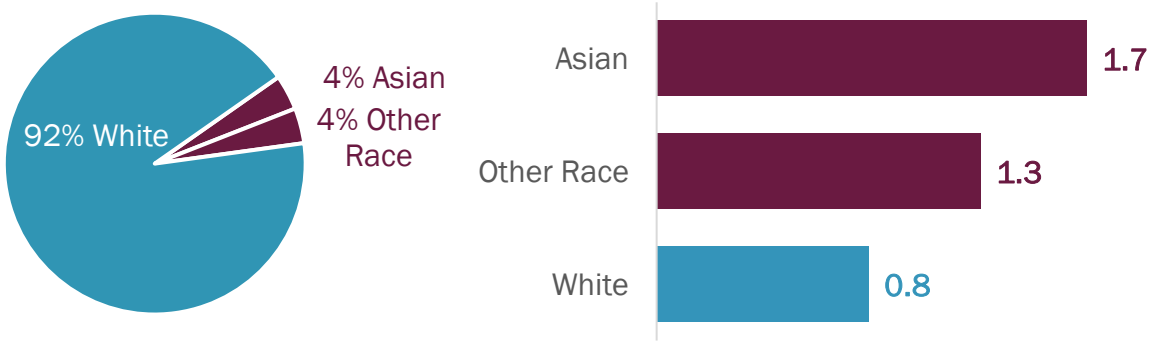
Males have higher rates of COVID-19 death than females.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



White Vermonters represent a majority of COVID-19 deaths. However the rate is higher among racial minorities.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



Note: No deaths have identified as Hispanic or Latino.

Outbreaks

How is COVID-19 impacting group settings?

What is an outbreak?

1. For congregate care facilities (long term care facility or skilled nursing facility):

   - A single resident with a positive COVID-19 laboratory test and one or more additional residents with respiratory illness

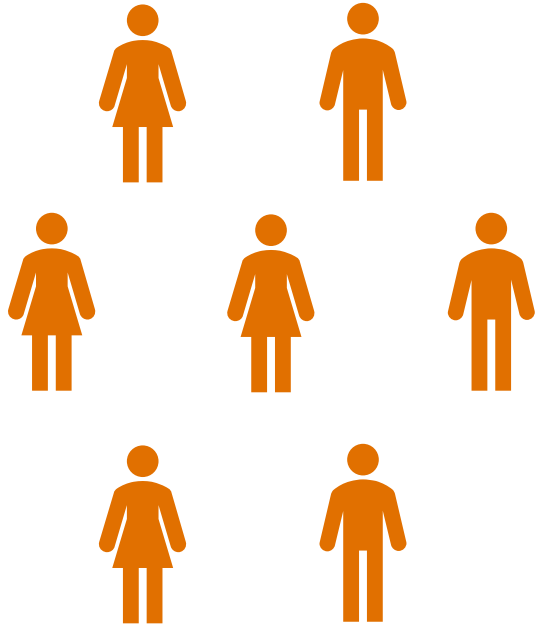
   OR

   - Two or more residents with at least two of the following symptoms: fever (temp ≥ 100°F), cough, difficulty breathing/shortness of breath

2. For other settings (residential communities, businesses):

   - Two or more epidemiologically-linked confirmed COVID-19 cases where there's an opportunity to stop transmission

26% of COVID-19 cases are associated with an outbreak



Outbreaks

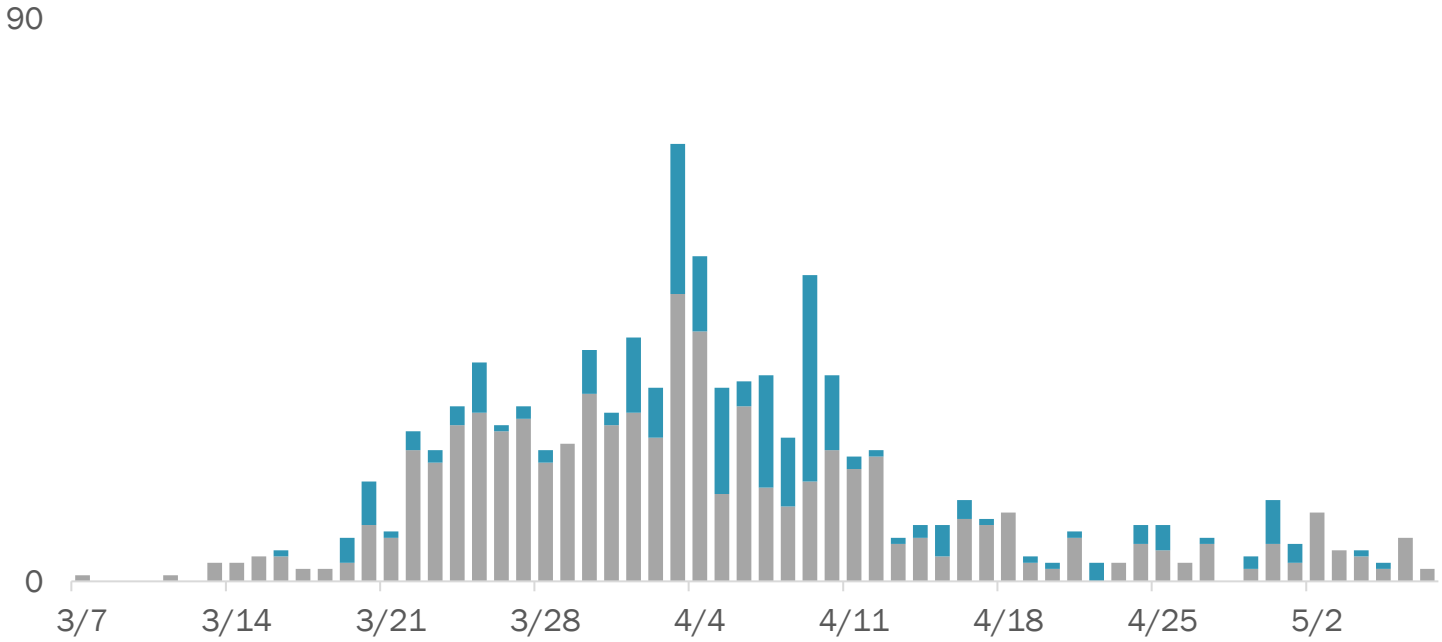
5 Active

2 Resolved

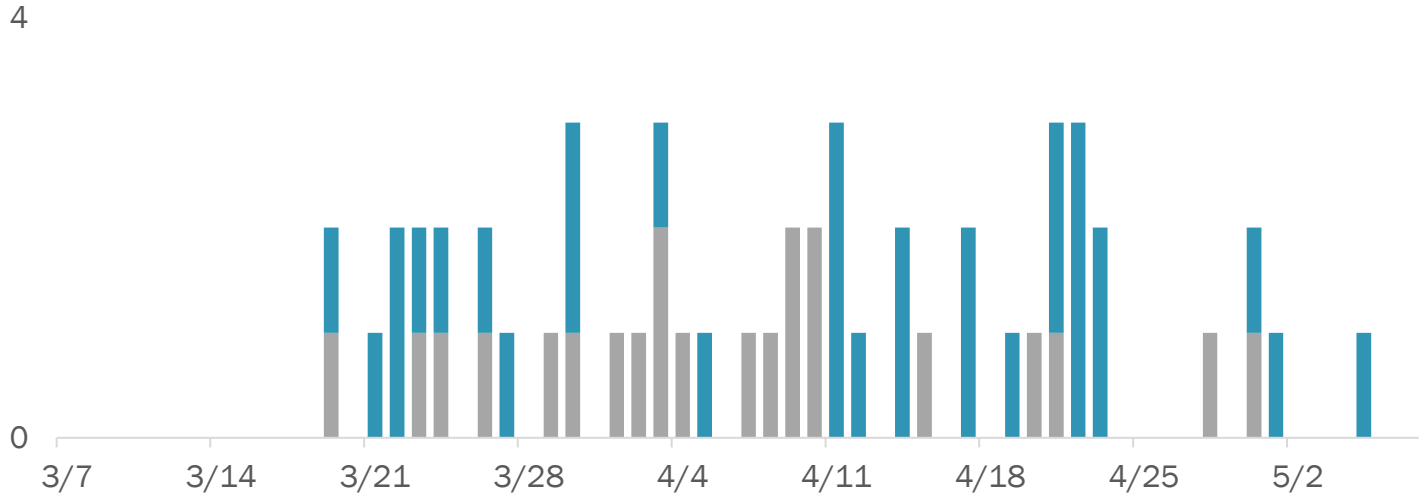
154
cases among residents

79
cases among staff

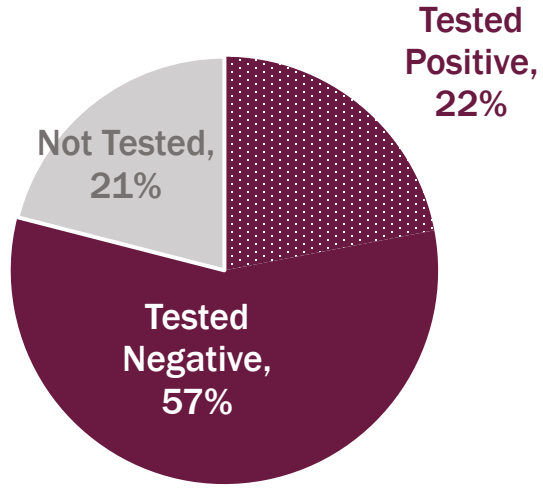
Vermont COVID-19 Cases Associated with an Outbreak Over Time



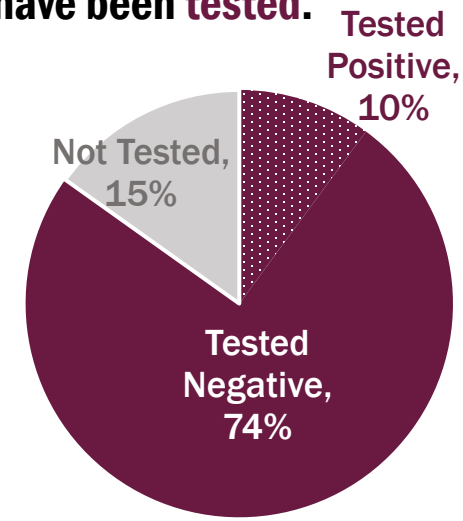
Vermont COVID-19 Deaths Associated with an Outbreak Over Time



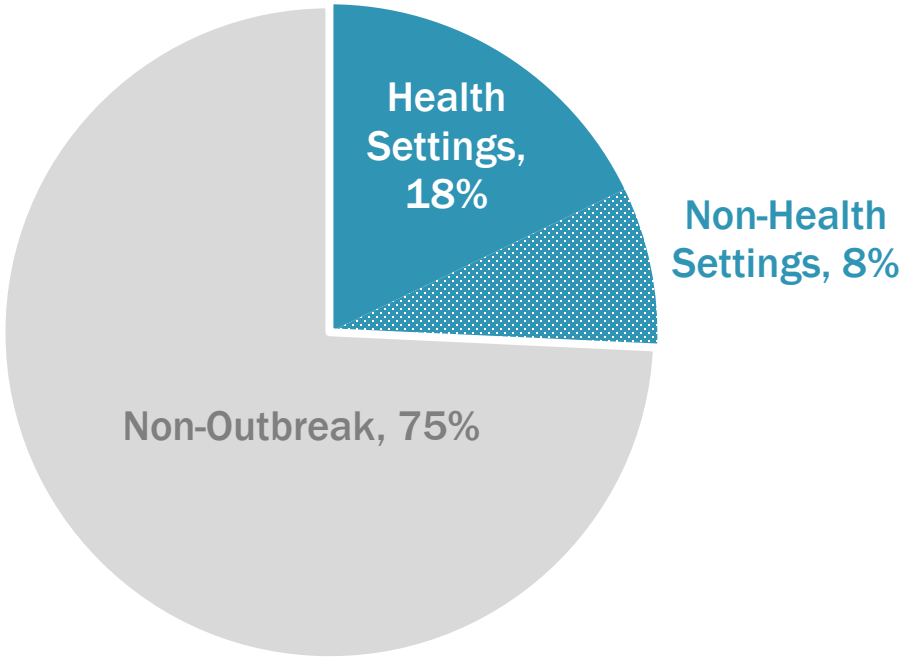
In facilities with an outbreak, 79% of residents have been tested.

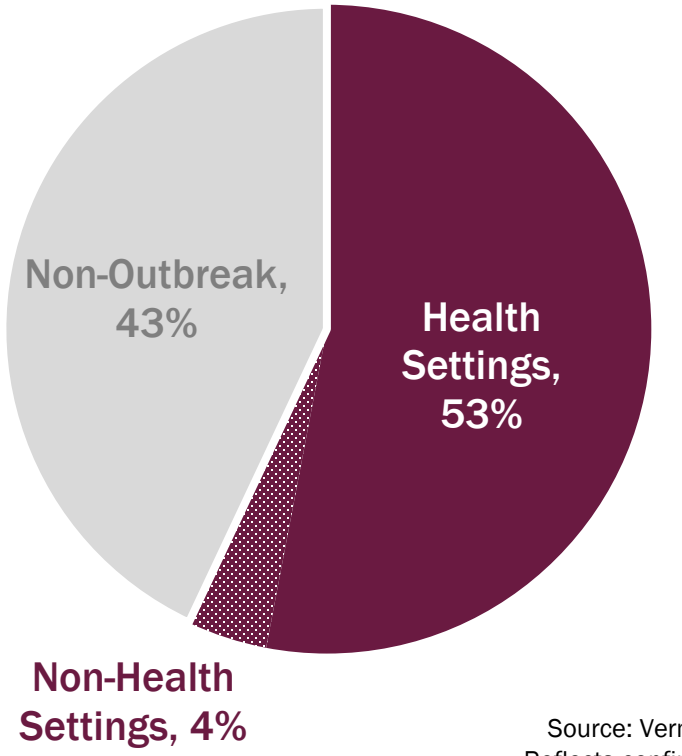


In facilities with an outbreak, 85% of staff have been tested.



While only 26% of all COVID-19 cases are associated with outbreaks, more than half of COVID-19-related deaths occur in outbreak settings.





Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 5/7/2020.

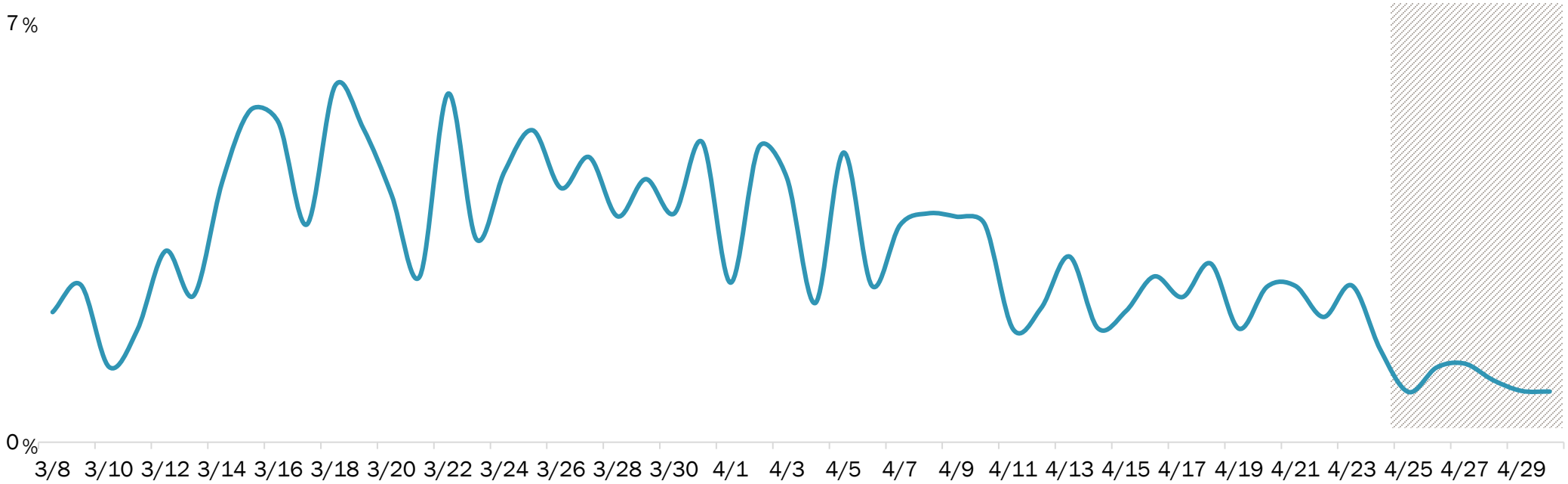
Note: Examples of a health setting include long-term care or assisted living facilities, therapeutic treatment centers, and behavioral health institutions. Examples of a non-health setting include correctional facilities, senior housing communities, businesses, and homeless shelters. Vermont has not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

Syndromic Surveillance

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

The percent of emergent care visits for COVID-19-like illness is decreasing.

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: Pre-existing Conditions

The Health Department has information about pre-existing conditions in 77% (706) of 918 total COVID-19 cases. This section focuses on those 706 cases.

Approximately 62% of people* with COVID-19 have a pre-existing condition.

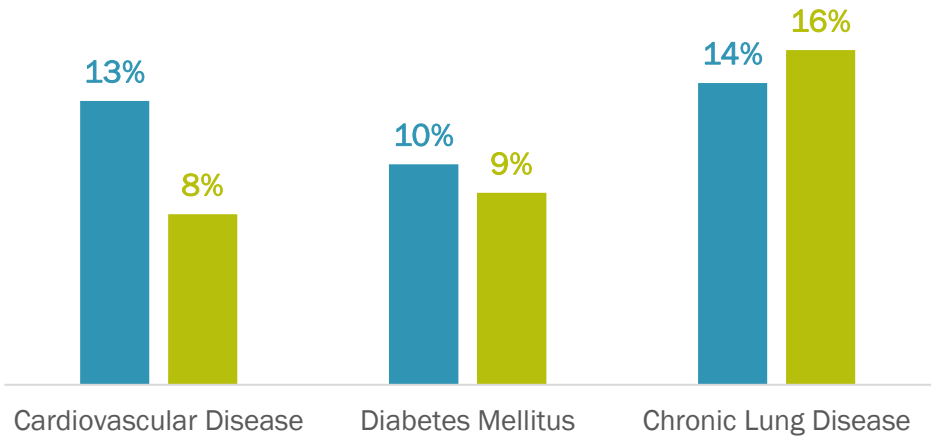
*of the 706 people that the Health Department has pre-existing condition data.

Condition	Count	Percentage
Heart Disease	94	13%
Chronic Lung Disease (includes asthma and COPD)	73	14%
Chronic Liver Disease	7	1%
Chronic Kidney Disease	17	2%
Current/Former Smoker	185	26%
Diabetes	73	10%
Immunocompromised Condition	38	5%
Neurologic Condition/Intellectual Disability	17	2%
Other Chronic Condition**	224	32%
Pregnant	6	1%

33% of people with a pre-existing condition have two or more conditions.

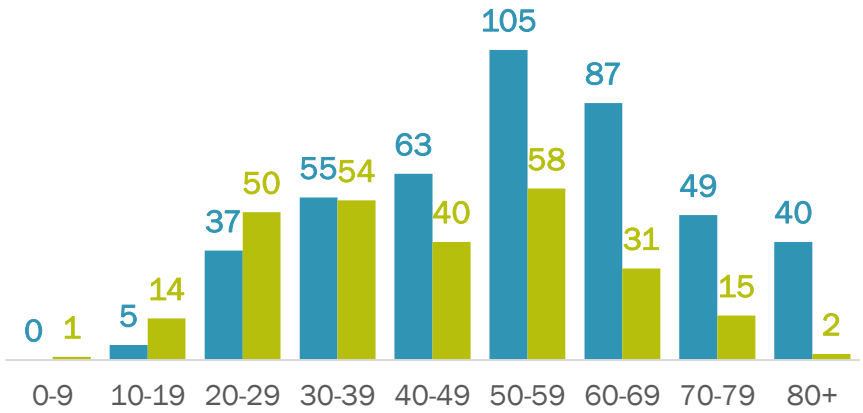
**Not mutually exclusive, includes things like arthritis, thyroid conditions, multiple free text entries.

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



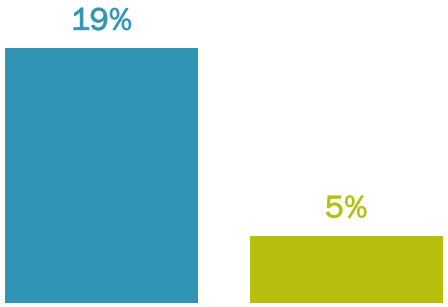
Data Source: Cardiovascular disease and diabetes, BRFSS 2018 annual report.
Chronic lung disease, 3-4-50 Community profile (2016-2017 BRFSS).

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.

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



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Learn more about COVID-19 in Vermont:

Web: www.healthvermont.gov/COVID-19

Email: AHS.VDHPublicCommunication@vermont.gov