

Weekly Summary of Vermont COVID-19 Data

Reflecting cases identified between
March 5, 2020 – February 10, 2021



Date published: February 12, 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 February 3 through February 10.

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 February 11, 2021 the denominators used to calculate rates by age and sex were updated from 2018 to 2019 Vermont Department of Health estimates based on Census data. The corresponding change in rates in the February 12, 2021 Weekly Summary is due to this change in methodology.

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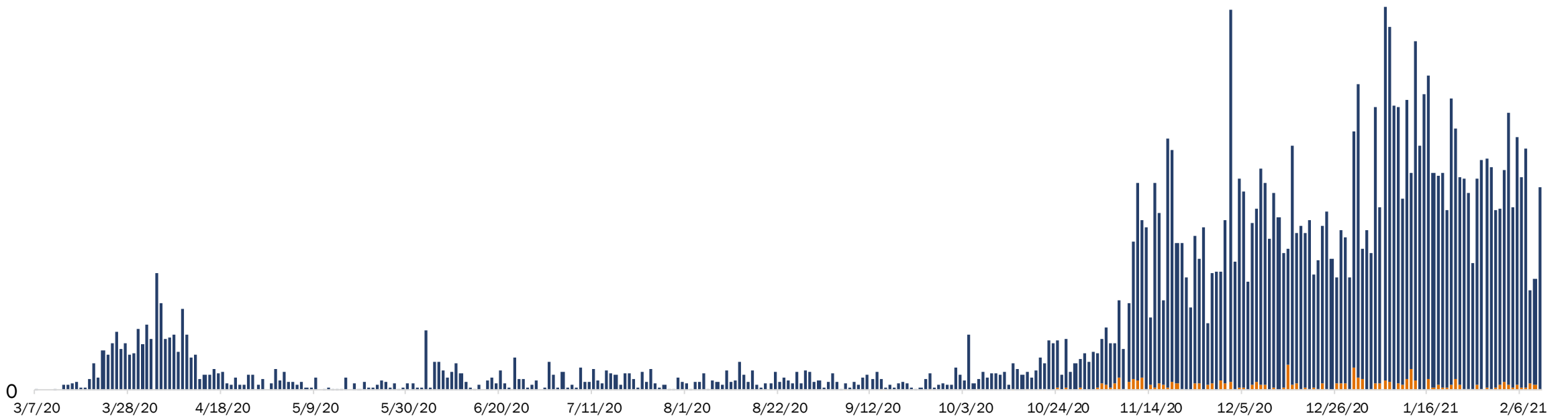
Weekly Spotlight

COVID-19 in Vermont

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

Total Number of **Confirmed** and **Probable** Cases in Vermont: 13,249

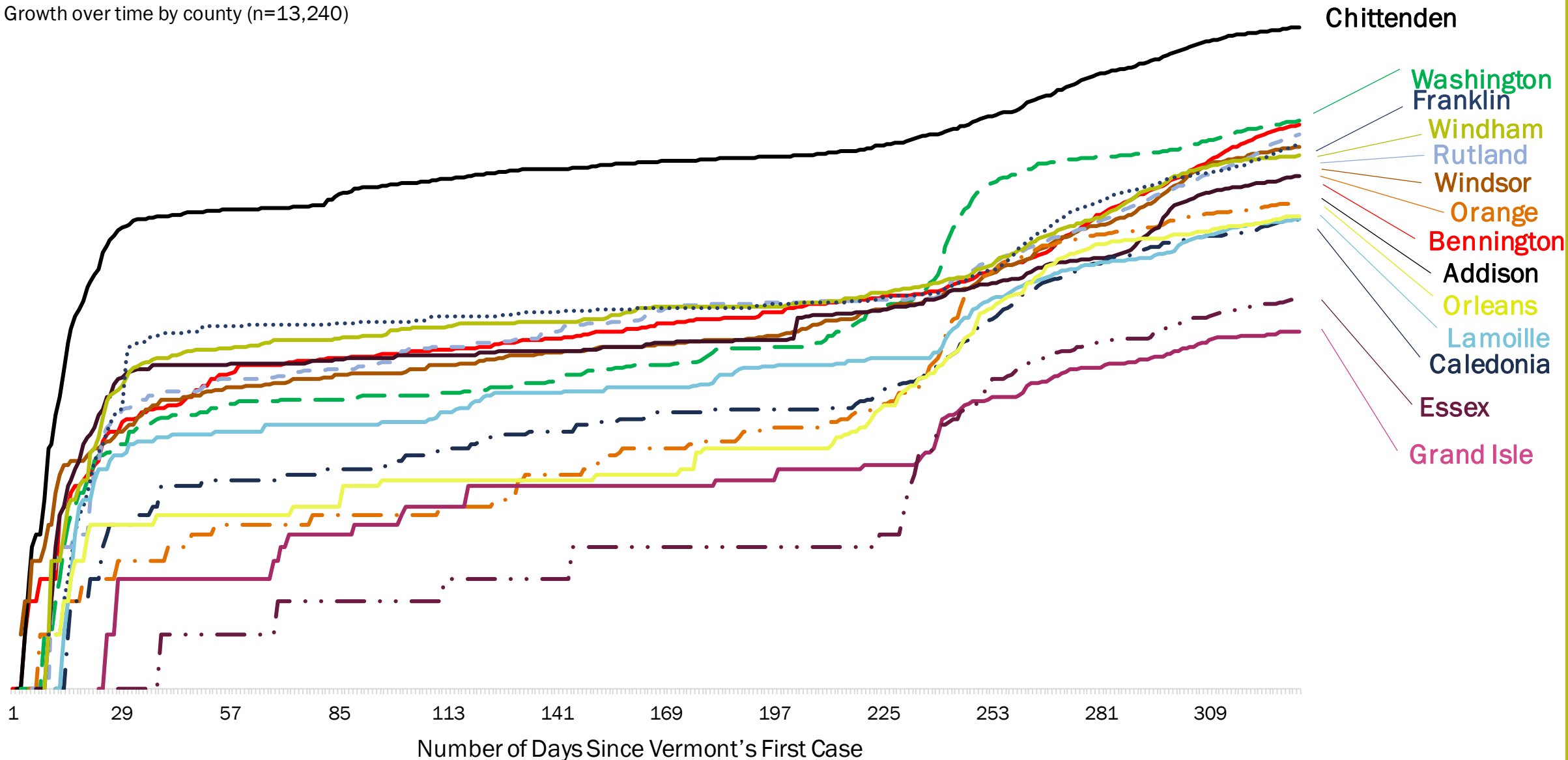
250



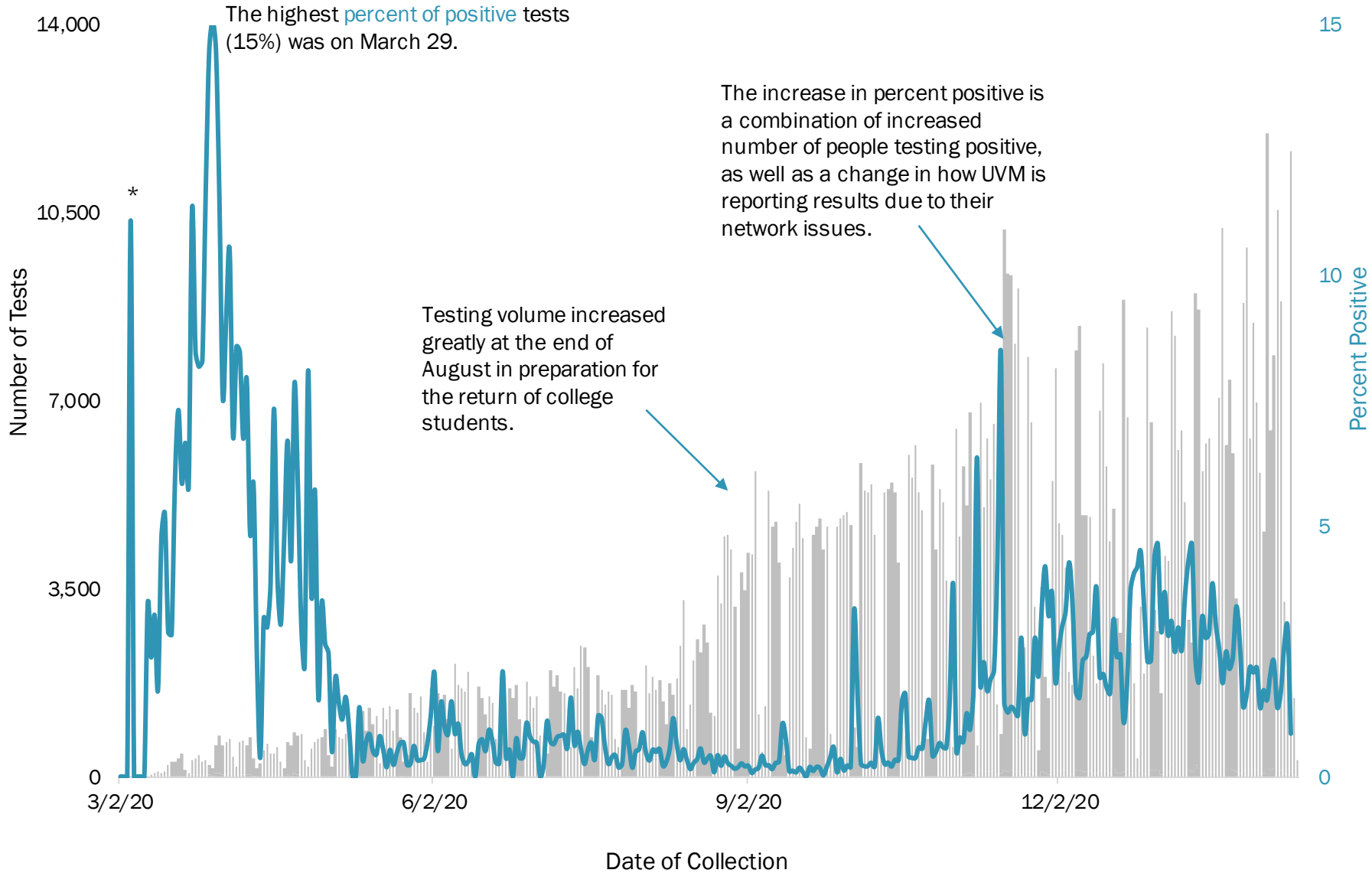
Most counties continue to see new cases.

Growth over time by county (n=13,240)

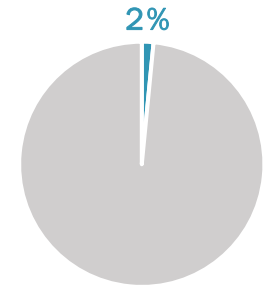
Cumulative Number of Cases (Log Scale)



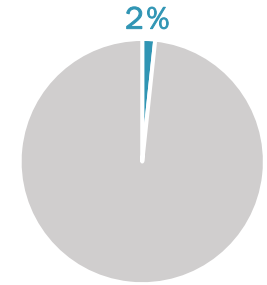
Percent of positive COVID-19 tests may indicate how prevalent the disease is in the population.



Percent Positive to Date



Percent Positive This Week (February 3 – February 10)



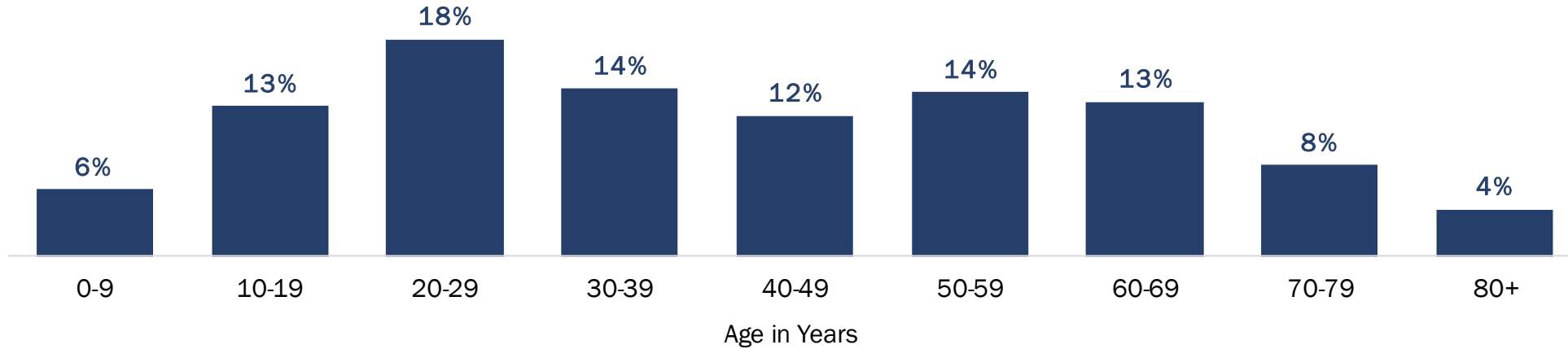
| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 8,419 People Tested this Week | 46,008 Tests this Week |
| 314,805 People Tested to Date | 960,669 Tests to Date |

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.



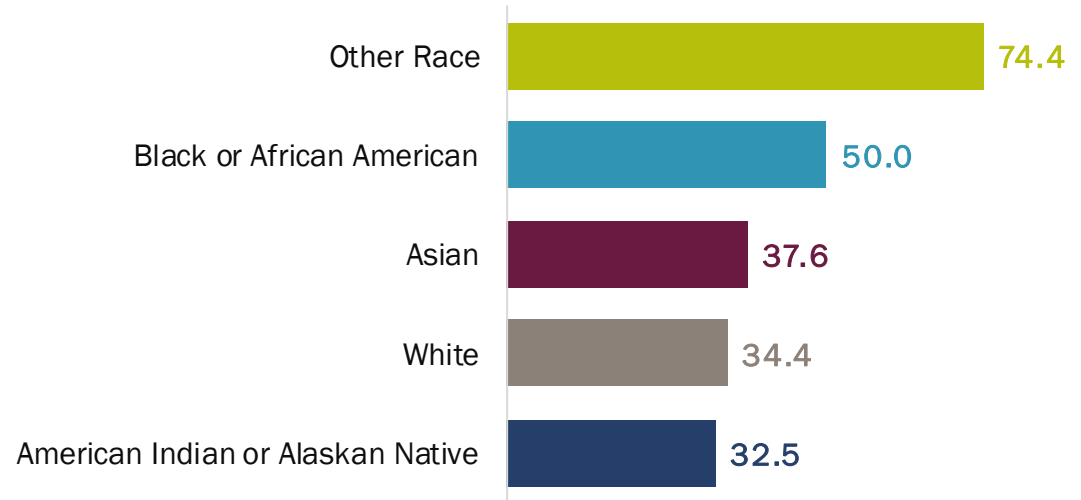
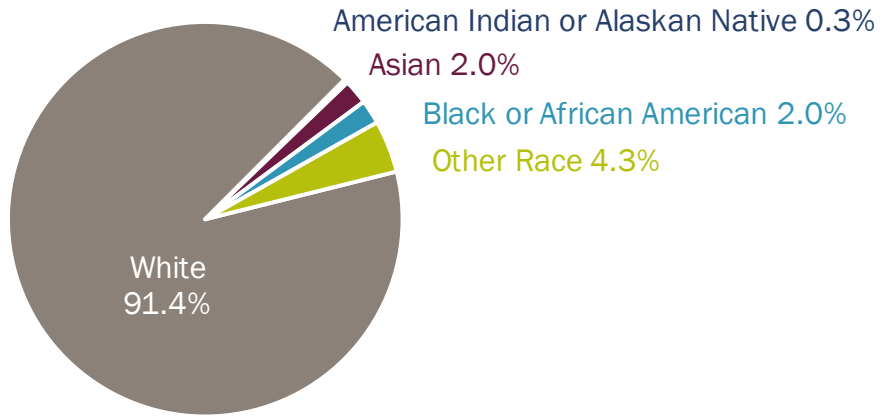
55% of people tested for COVID-19 are **female**.



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

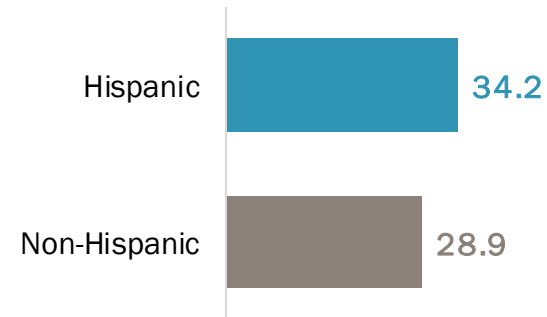
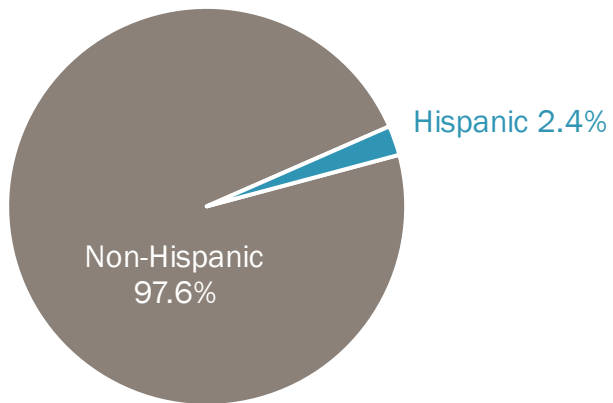
White Vermonters represent the majority of people tested in Vermont for COVID-19. Vermonters with other race have the highest rate of testing.

Rates per 100 Vermonters



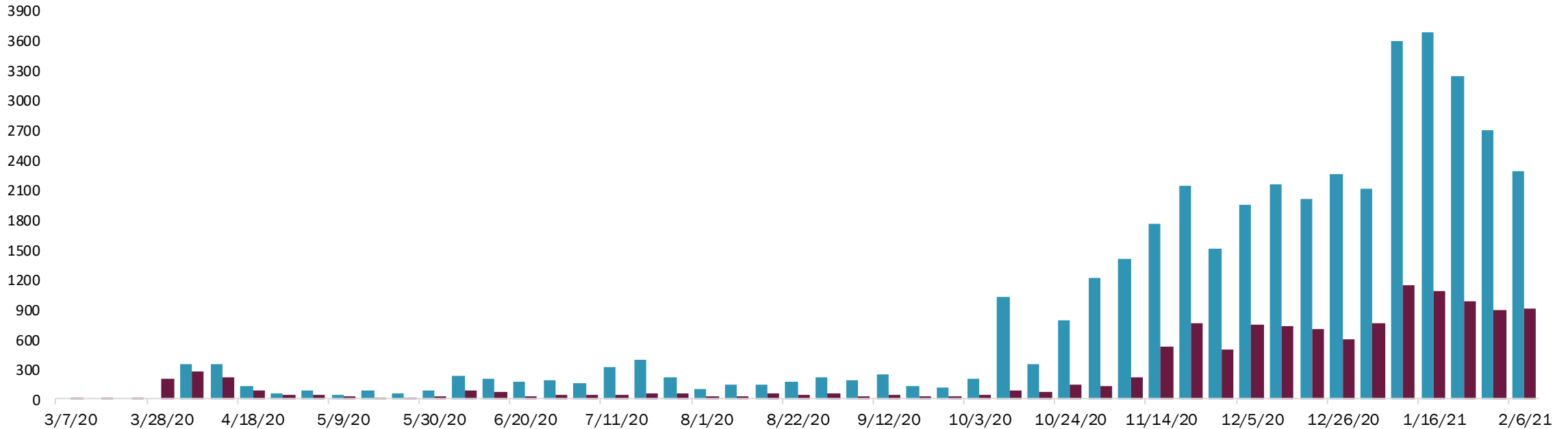
Non-Hispanic Vermonters represent the majority of people tested in Vermont for COVID-19. Hispanic Vermonters have the higher rate of testing.

Rates per 100 Vermonters



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.

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



82

Number of full-time equivalent contact tracing staff trained

804

Cases interviewed last week

January 31 – February 6

2,285

Contacts named last week

January 31 – February 6

3.3

Average number of contacts per case*

*Since April 1, 2020

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. On 2/11/2021, the methodology for determining contact metrics was updated.

In the last two weeks (from January 17 to January 30):



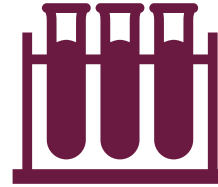
86%

Of cases were interviewed within 24 hours



81%

Of cases provided their close contacts



58%

Of contacts were tested within 14 days of exposure



9%

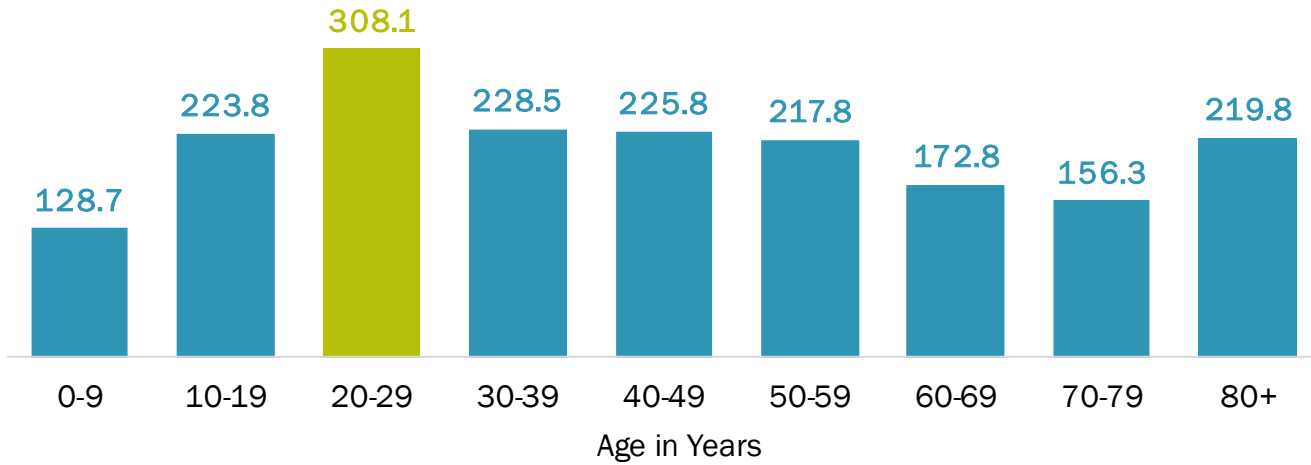
Of contacts became a case

Case Demographics

Who has been impacted by COVID-19 in Vermont?

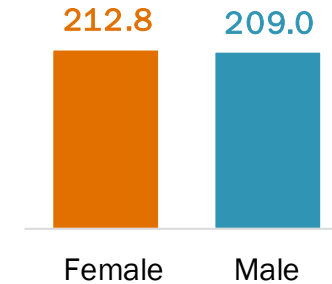
Rates of COVID-19 are highest among Vermonters 20-29 years old.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



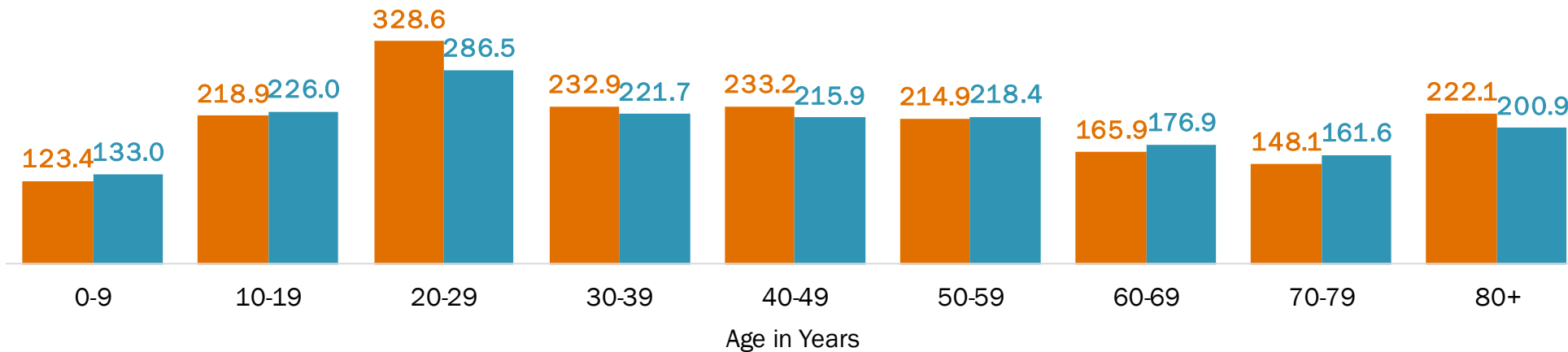
Females and males have similar rates of COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



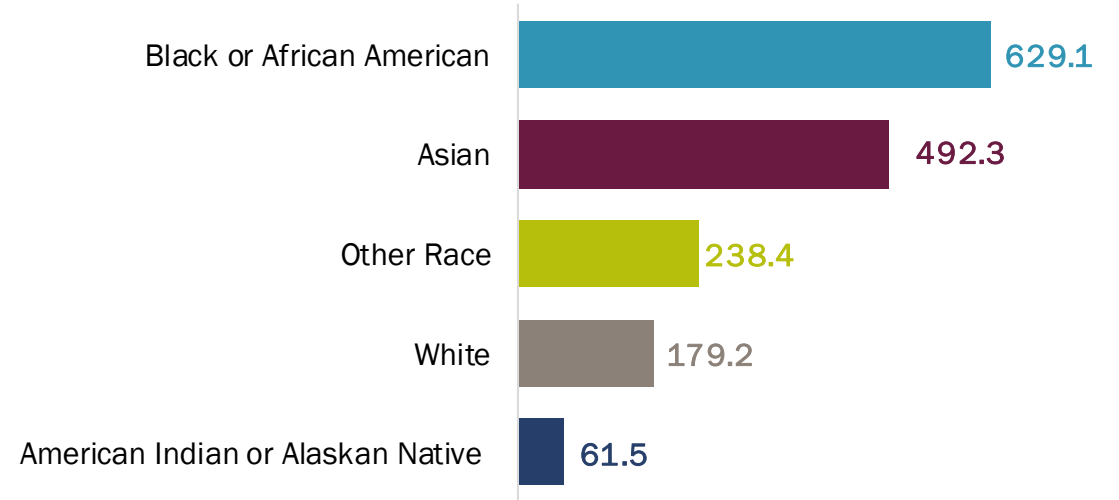
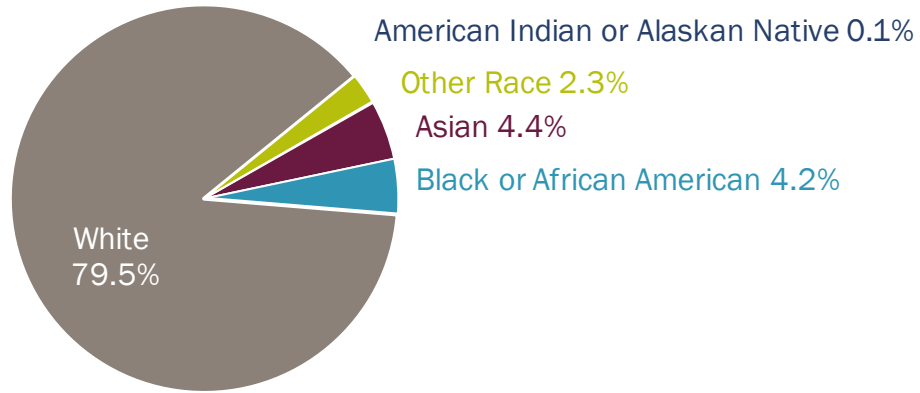
There are differences in age and sex of Vermonters with COVID-19.

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



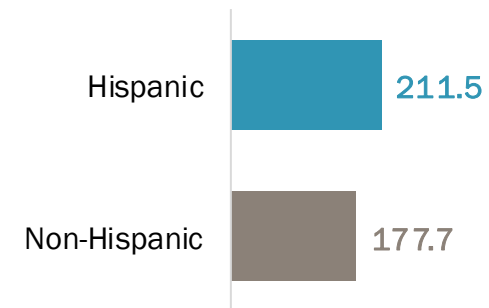
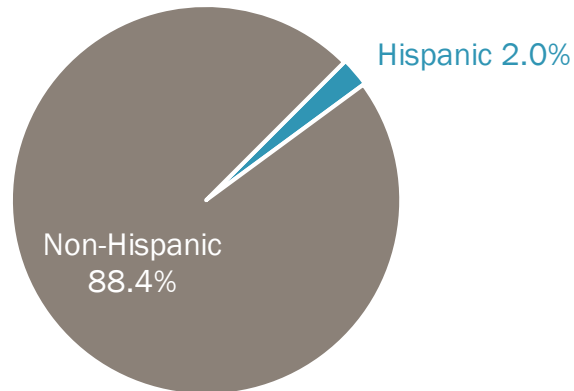
White Vermonters represent the majority of COVID-19 cases. African American Vermonters have the highest rate.

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 = 1,252) and ethnicity is unknown in 16% of cases (n = 2,120).

Approximately 34% of people* with COVID-19 have a pre-existing condition.

*of the 11,034 people that the Health Department has pre-existing condition data for.

| Condition | Count | Percentage |
|---|-------|------------|
| Other Chronic Condition** | 1,099 | 10% |
| Chronic Lung Disease (includes asthma and COPD) | 1,074 | 10% |
| Current/Former Smoker | 1,005 | 9% |
| Diabetes | 577 | 5% |
| Heart Disease | 471 | 4% |
| Disability*** | 215 | 2% |
| Immunocompromised Condition | 148 | 1% |
| Chronic Kidney Disease | 80 | 1% |
| Pregnant | 70 | 1% |
| Chronic Liver Disease | 30 | 0.3% |

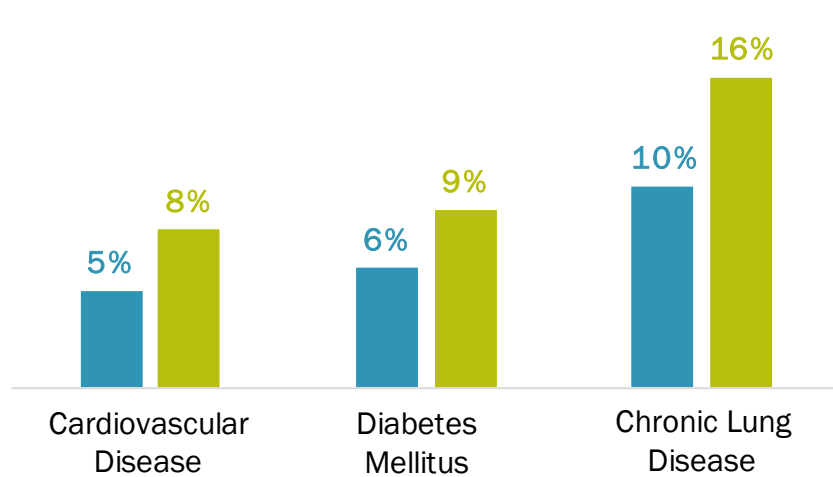
28% of people with a pre-existing condition have two or more conditions.

**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).

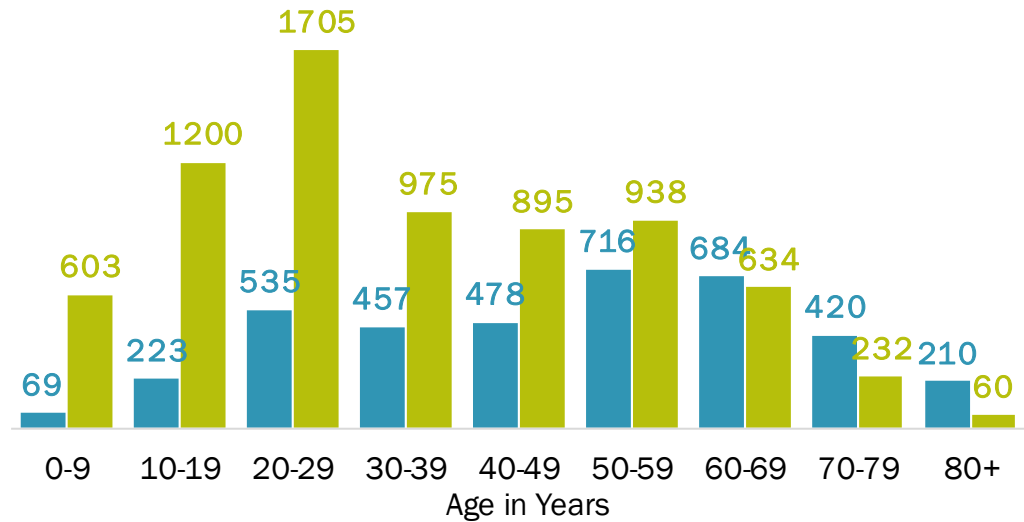
The Health Department has information about pre-existing conditions in 83% (11,034) of 13,249 total COVID-19 cases.

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

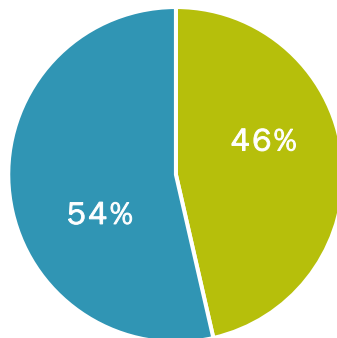


Data Source: Cardiovascular disease and diabetes, BRFSS 2018 annual report. Chronic lung disease, 3-4-50 Community profile (2016-2017 BRFSS).

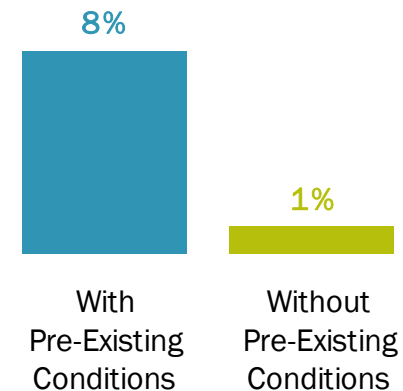
COVID-19 patients with pre-existing conditions tend to be older than those without pre-existing conditions.



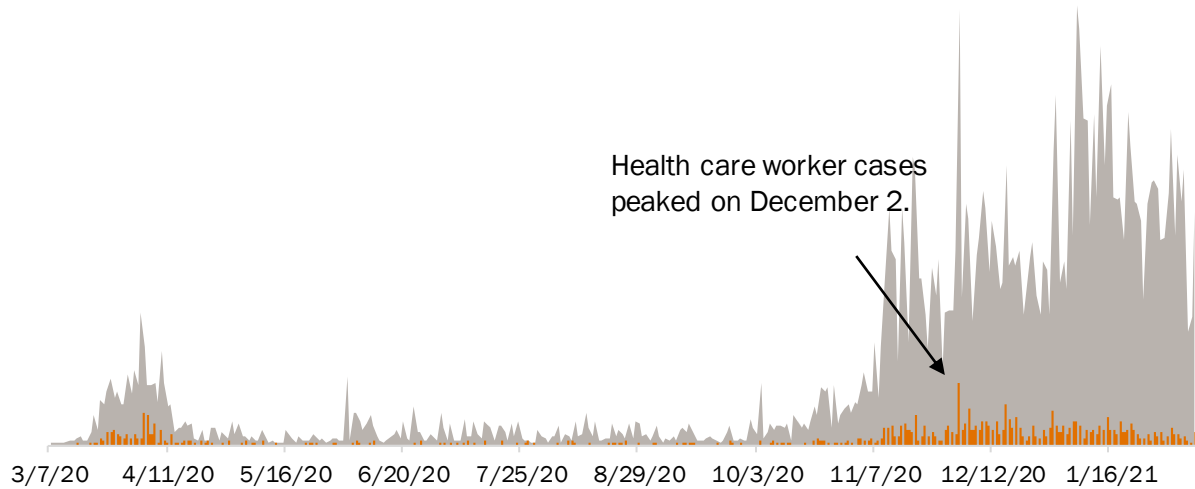
The likelihood of having a pre-existing condition is greater among female compared to male COVID-19 patients.



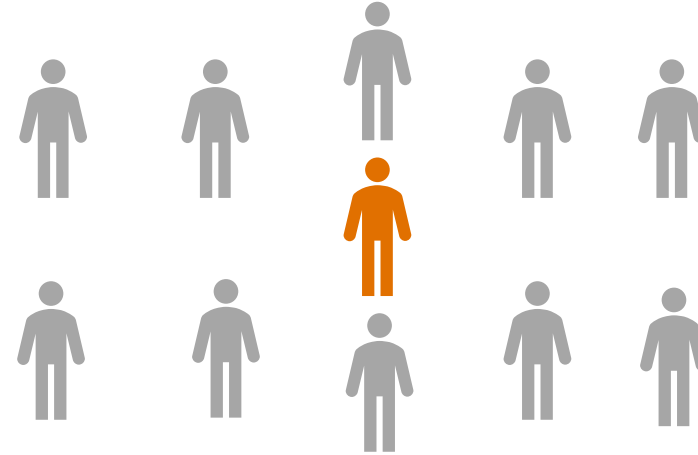
A higher percentage of COVID-19 patients with pre-existing conditions have been hospitalized than those without pre-existing conditions.



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

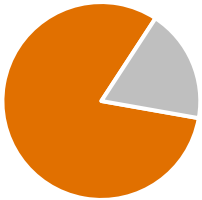


1 in 11 Vermonters with COVID-19 are health care workers.

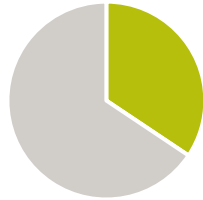


The age distribution of **health care workers** and **non-health care workers** with COVID-19 is similar.

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

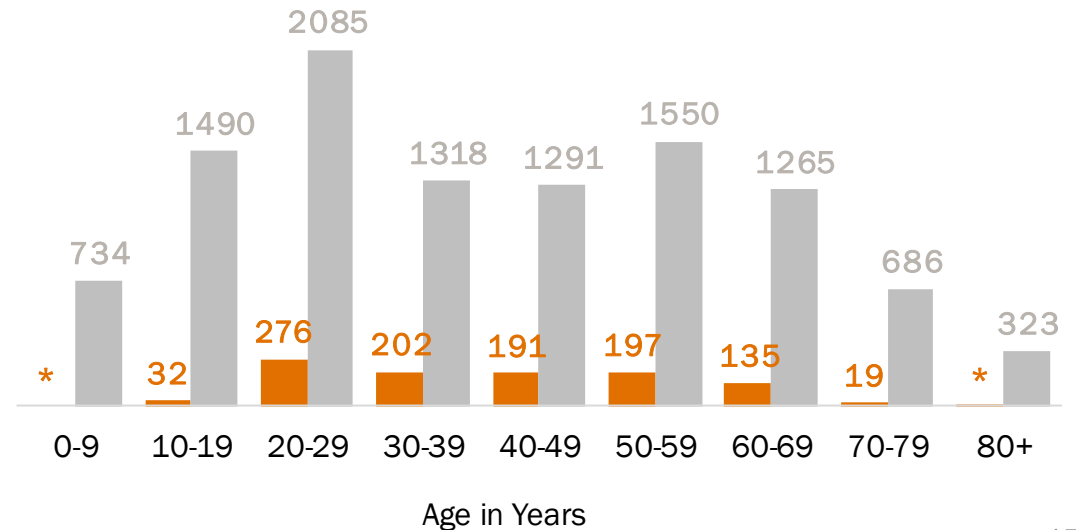


34% of health care workers with COVID-19 are associated with an **outbreak**.



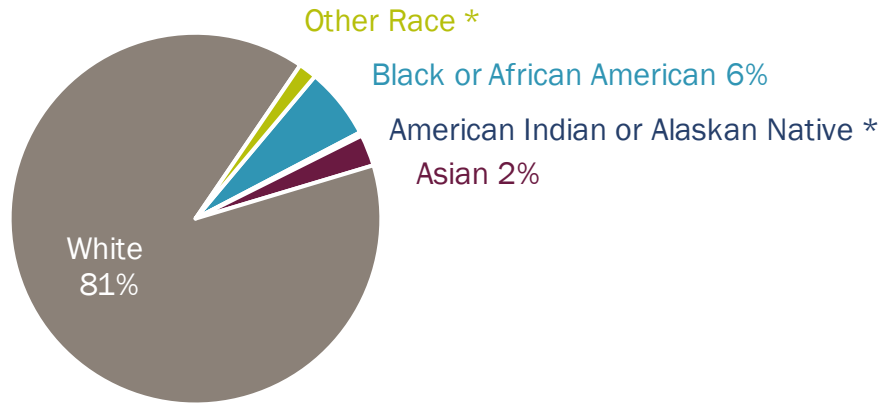
The Health Department has information about healthcare worker status in 89% (11,795) of 13,249 total COVID-19 cases.

Vermont Department of Health



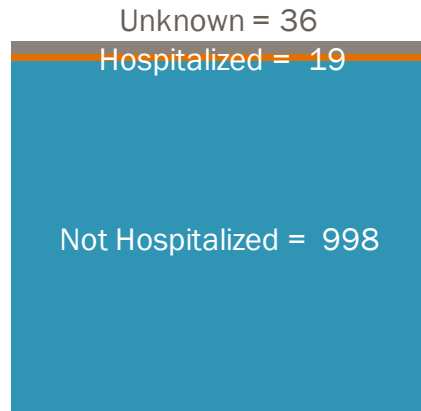
* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

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



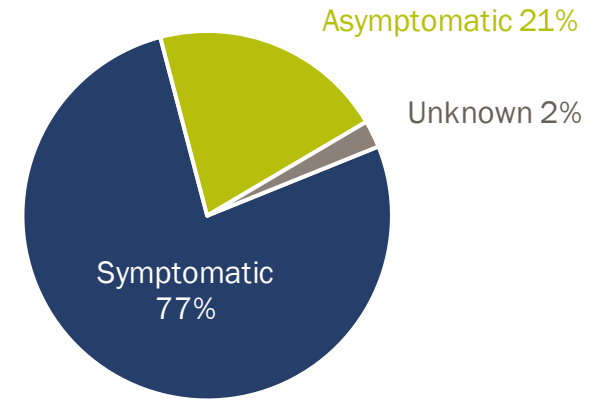
* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

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.

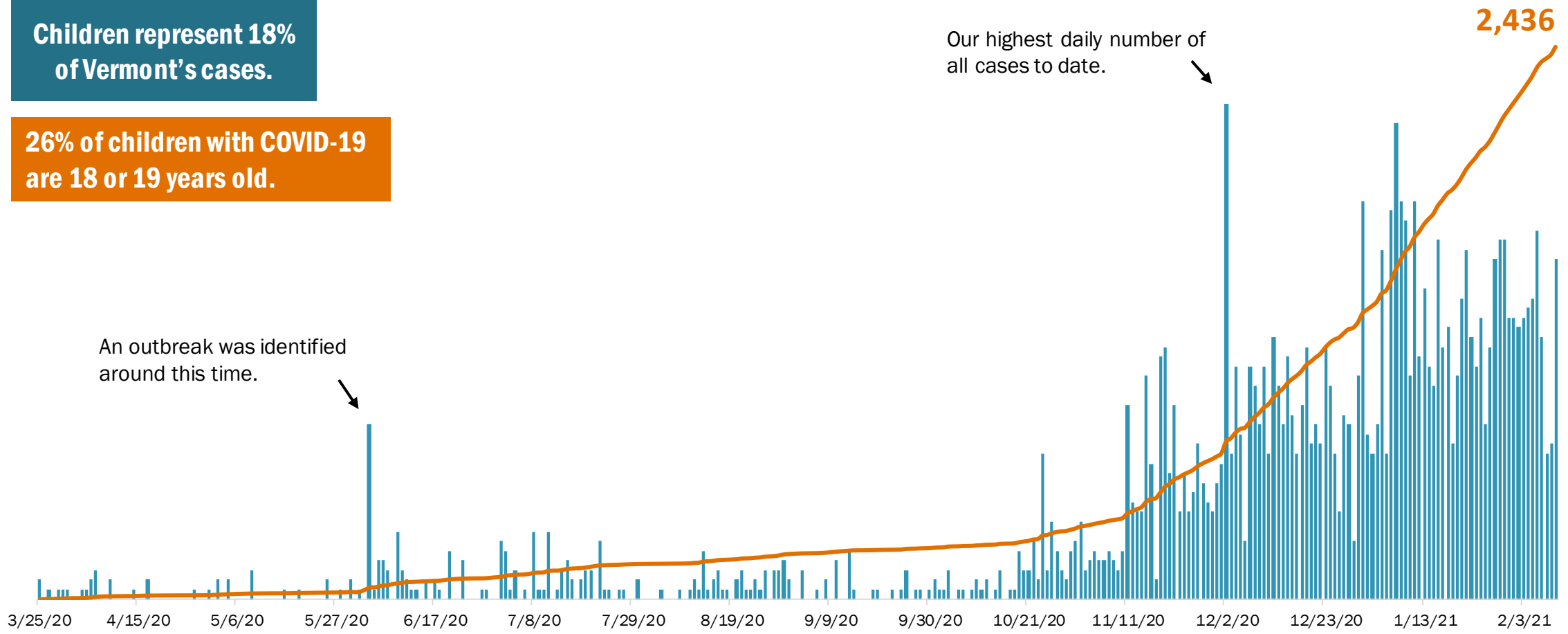


| Sign or Symptom among Health Care Workers with COVID-19 | Percent of Symptomatic Cases |
|---|------------------------------|
| Fatigue | 62% |
| Cough | 61% |
| Headache | 59% |
| Runny Nose | 54% |
| Muscle Pain | 50% |
| Loss of Smell or Taste | 42% |
| Chills | 34% |
| Loss of Appetite | 25% |

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

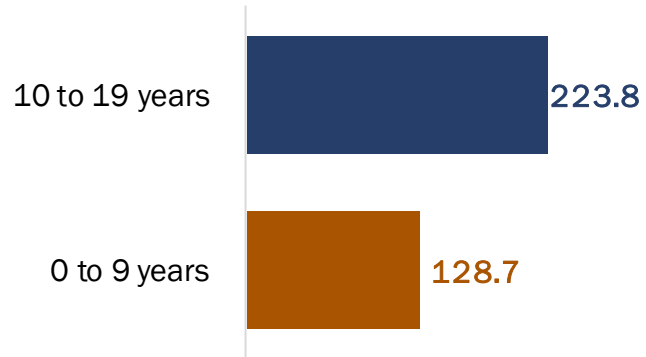
Children represent 18% of Vermont's cases.

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



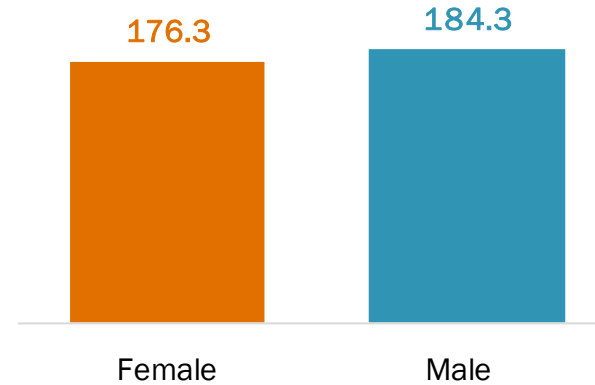
Older children have a higher rate of COVID-19 compared to younger children.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters 0-19 years old

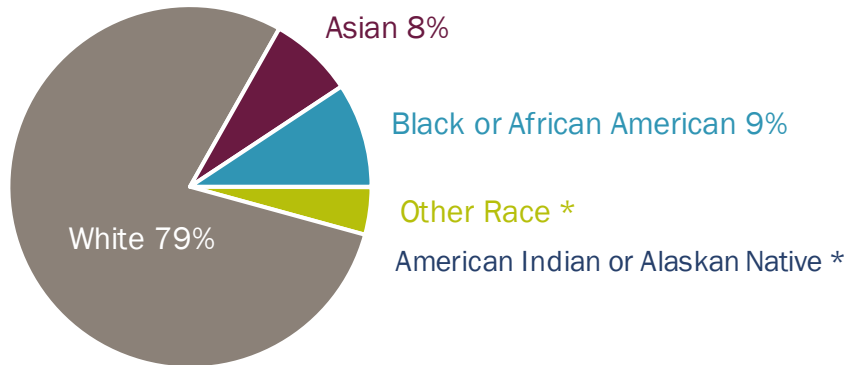


Female and male children have similar rates of COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters 0 to 19 years old

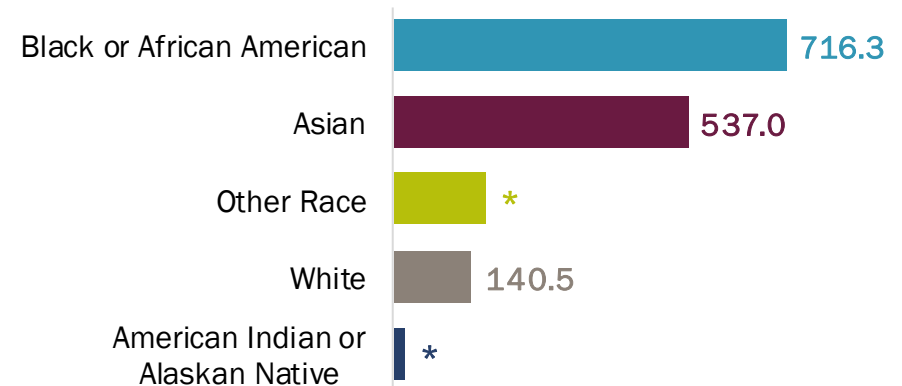


Among children with COVID-19, Black, Indigenous and people of color represent 21% of cases.



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

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters 0 to 19 years

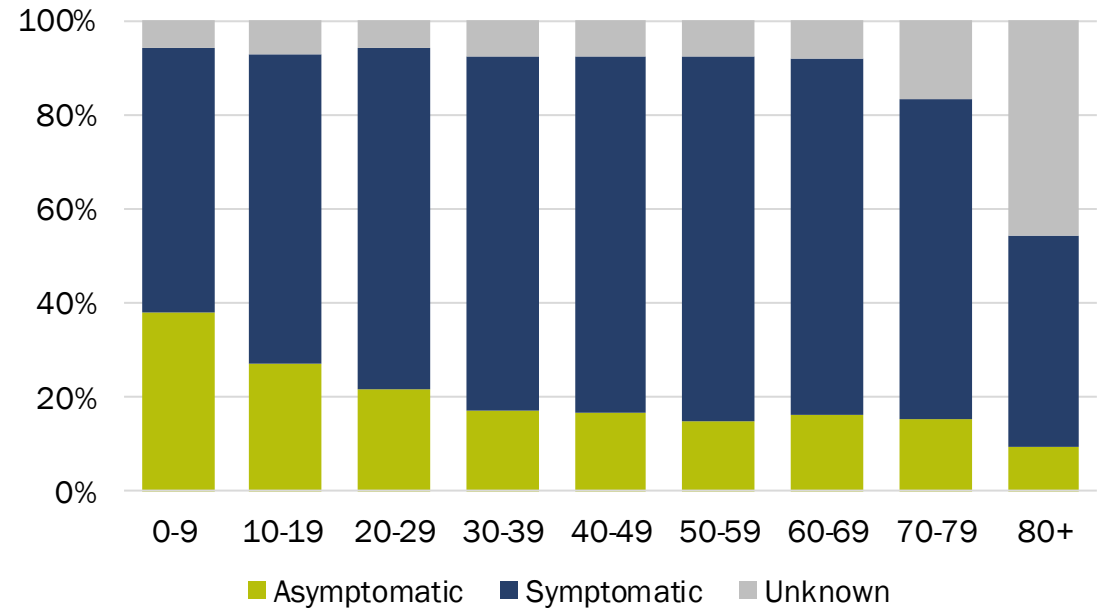


| Sign or Symptom | Percent of Children with Symptom |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Runny nose | 51% |
| Headache | 44% |
| Cough | 42% |
| Fatigue | 39% |
| Sore Throat | 38% |
| Loss of smell or taste | 26% |
| Muscle pain | 26% |
| Fever | 21% |

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.

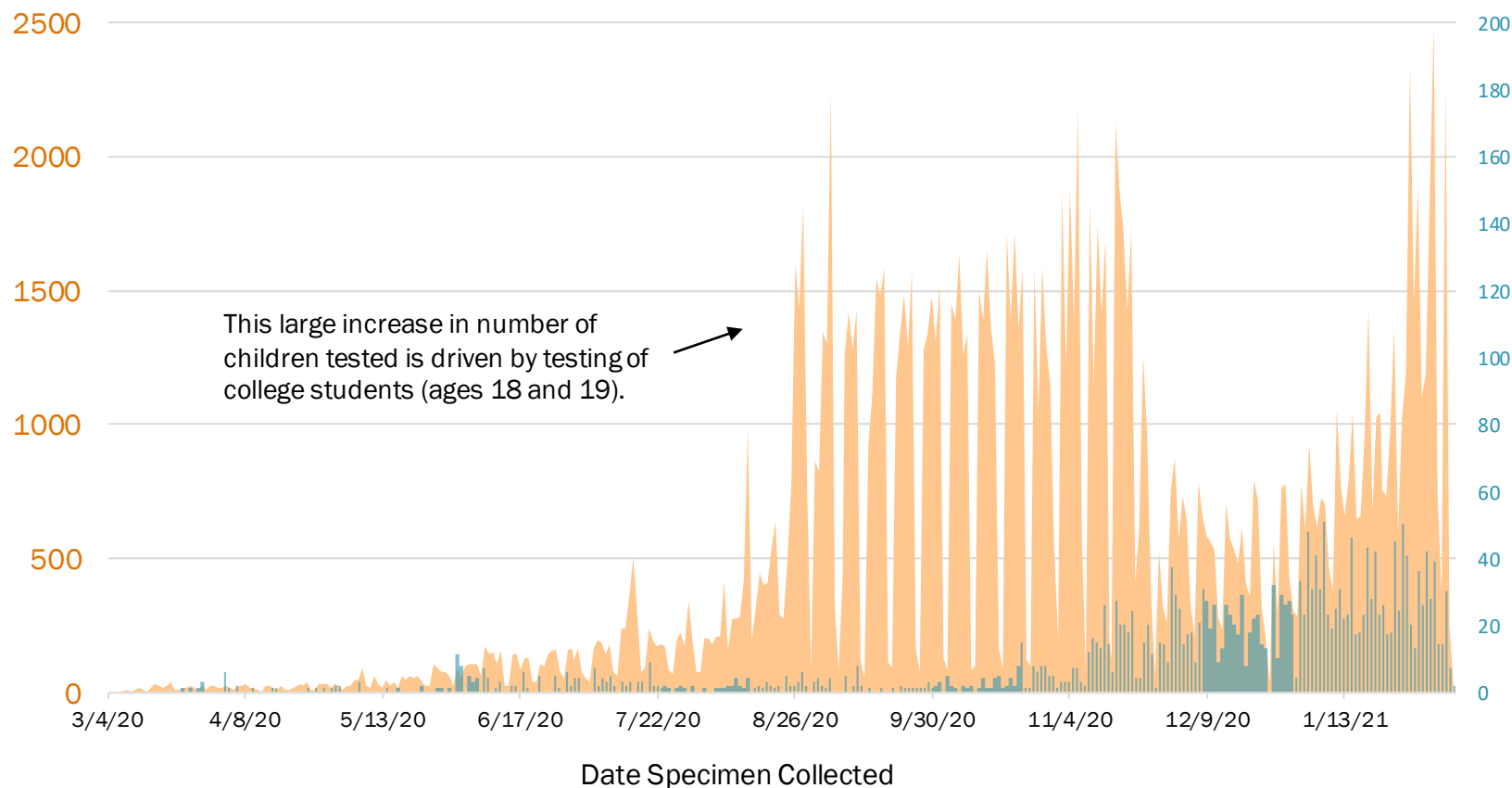
The percent of COVID-19 cases with no symptoms is higher among children. Less than one third (31%) of cases among children had no symptoms reported.



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

16% of children with COVID-19 were part of an outbreak.

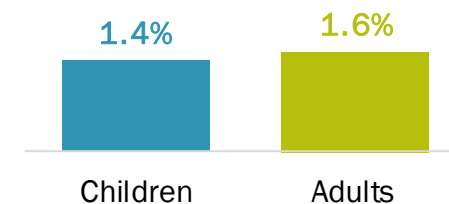
The number of **tests among children** for COVID-19 and the number of **positive tests** have increased over time.



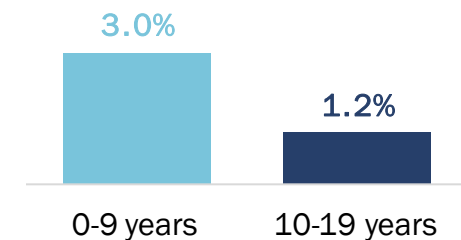
Total tests represents the total number of tests among children (specimen level).

There have been **176,175** 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.




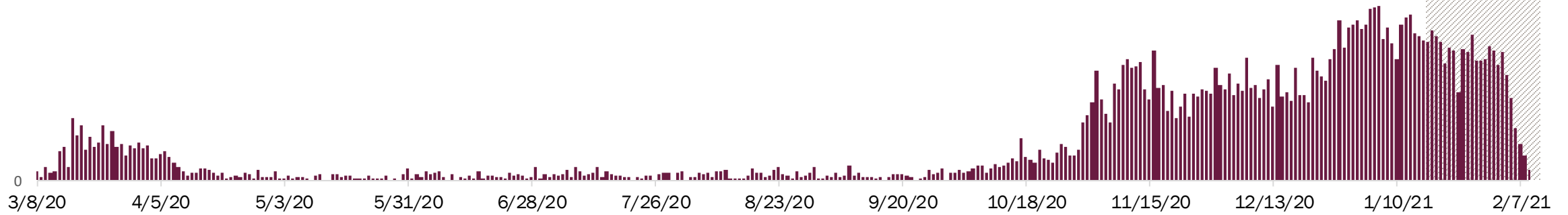
Clinical Course

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



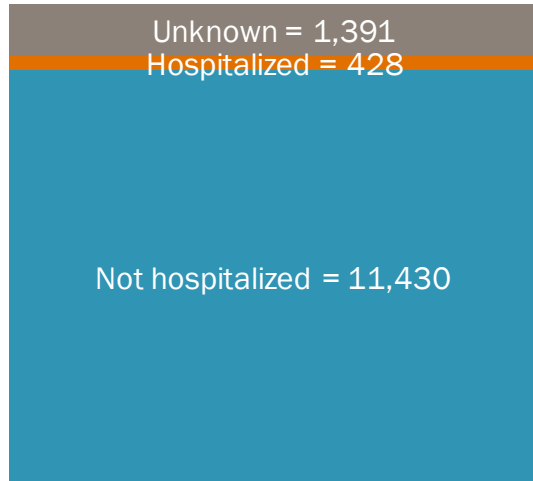
Note: Date of symptom onset is not always known.

8 days
Average illness duration

71%
Cases with symptoms

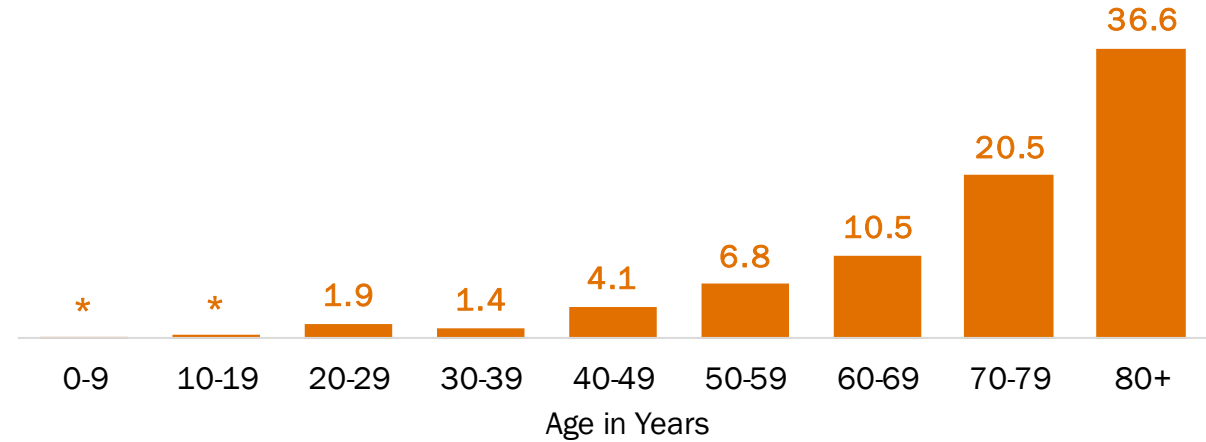
| Sign or Symptom | Percent of Symptomatic Cases |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Cough | 57% |
| Fatigue | 54% |
| Headache | 52% |
| Runny Nose | 50% |
| Muscle Pain | 44% |
| Loss of Smell/Taste | 37% |
| Sore Throat | 36% |
| Felt Feverish | 34% |

Most Vermonters with COVID-19 are not hospitalized.

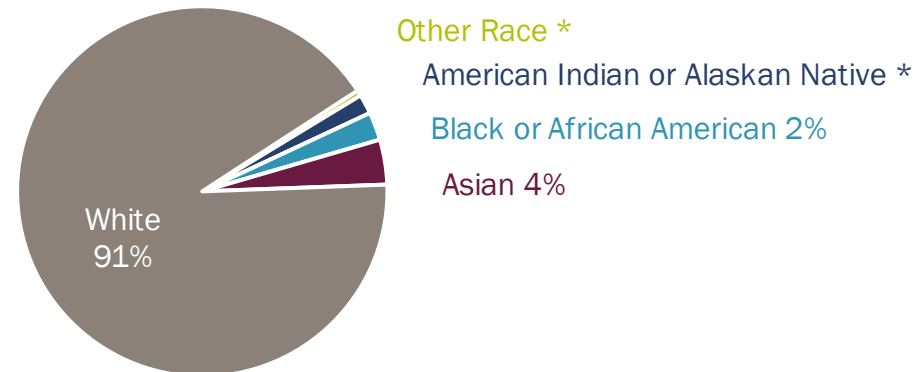


Vermonters 80 years and older are more likely to be hospitalized for COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



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



Please note 20 hospitalized persons are missing race information.
*Values suppressed due to small numbers.

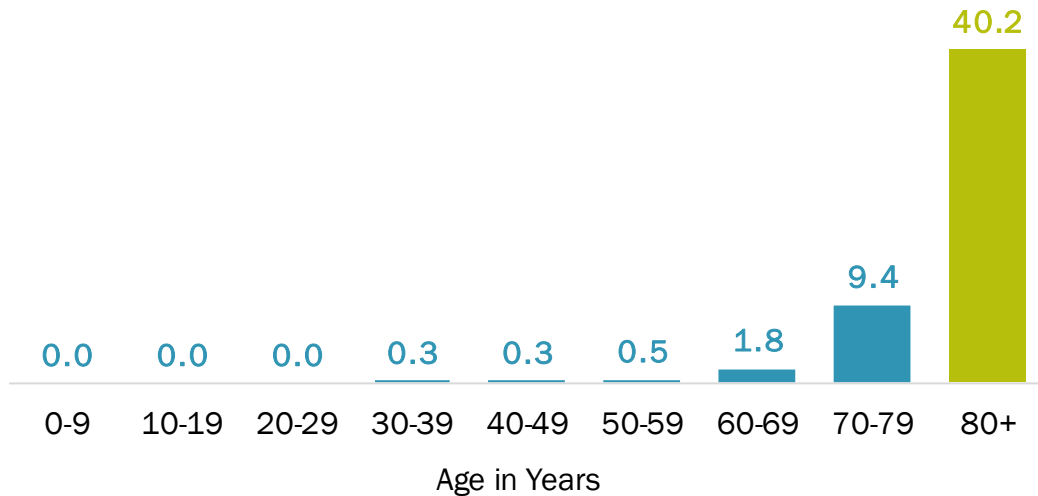
8%
Of those hospitalized were on a ventilator

24%
Of those hospitalized were in the ICU

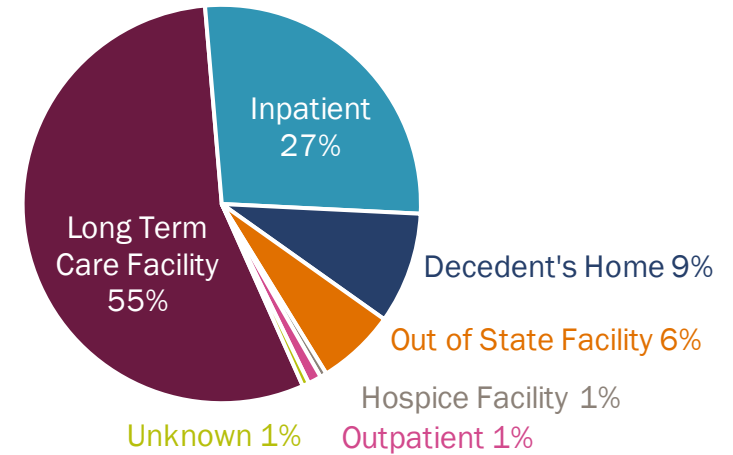
6 days
Average hospital stay (range: 0-43 days)

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

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

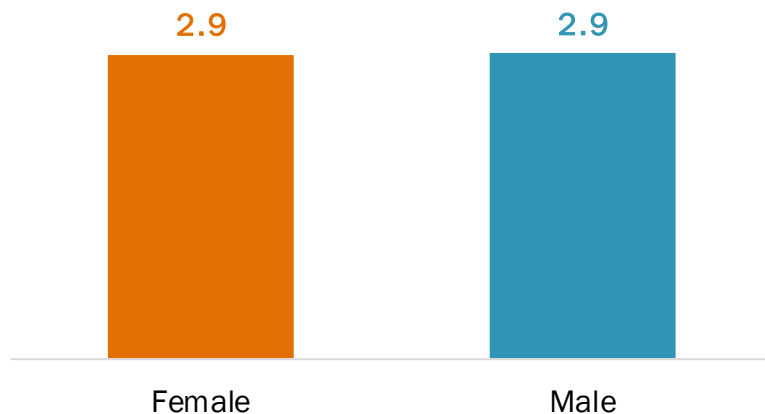


Most COVID-19 deaths occurred in a **long-term care facility** or an **inpatient hospital setting**.



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

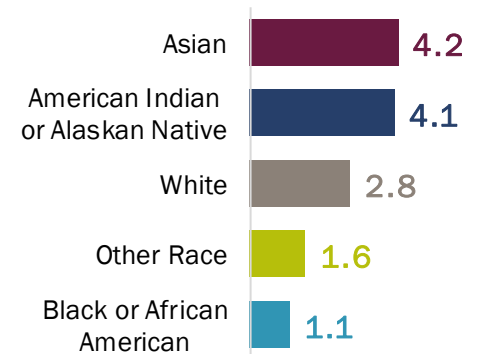
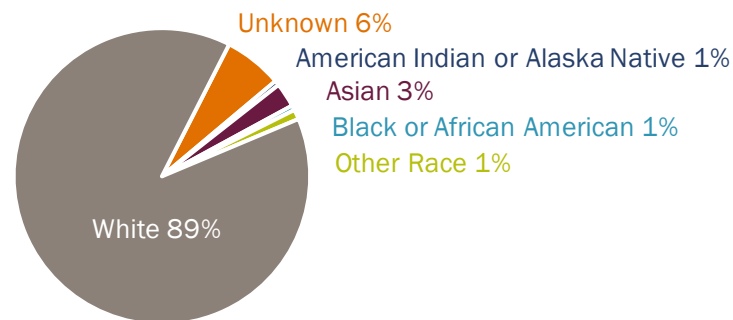
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



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. Death rates by race are not statistically different.

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**
- attended a social event/gathering, **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).

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).

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.

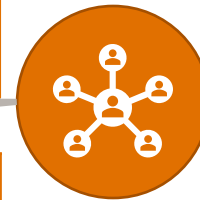
Resolved when no new confirmed or positive cases are identified after 28 days (two incubation periods) from the last known facility exposure from a case, or if unknown, the last case's specimen collection or illness onset date (whichever is later).

Businesses/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

70 Active

137 Resolved*

*See previous page for definitions of resolved outbreaks.

Congregate Care & Living



621
cases among residents



401
cases among facility staff

Schools and Child Care



363
cases among children and staff

Workplaces



442
cases among employees

Community



682
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 4/4 5/2 5/30 6/27 7/25 8/22 9/19 10/17 11/14 12/12 1/9 2/6

Vermont COVID-19 Deaths Associated with an Outbreak Over Time

8

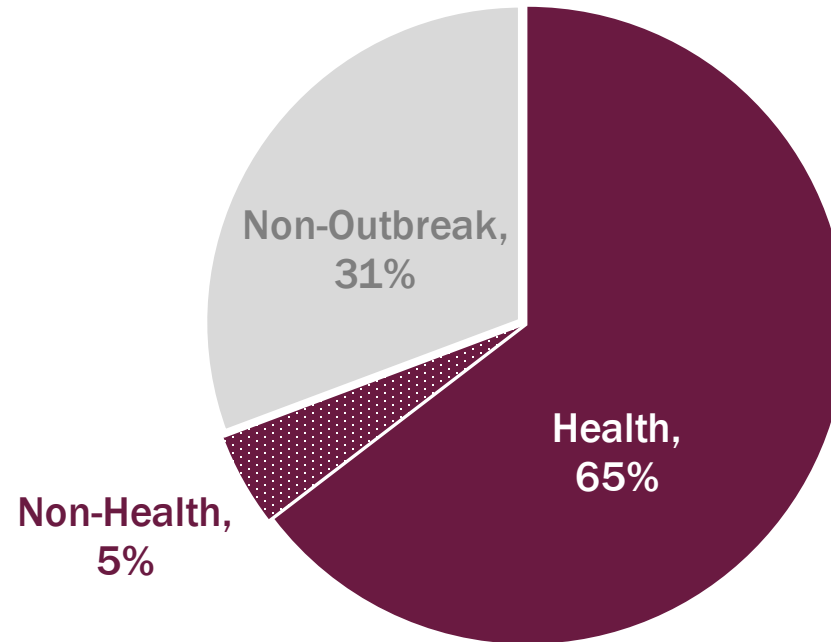
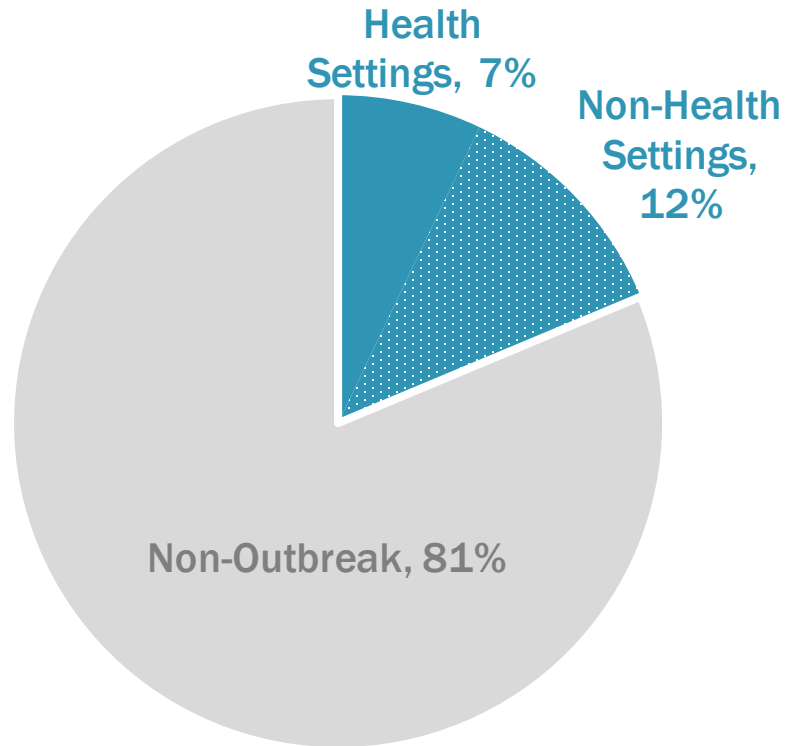
4

0

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

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 2/10/2021

While only 19% of all people testing positive for COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak, 70% 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

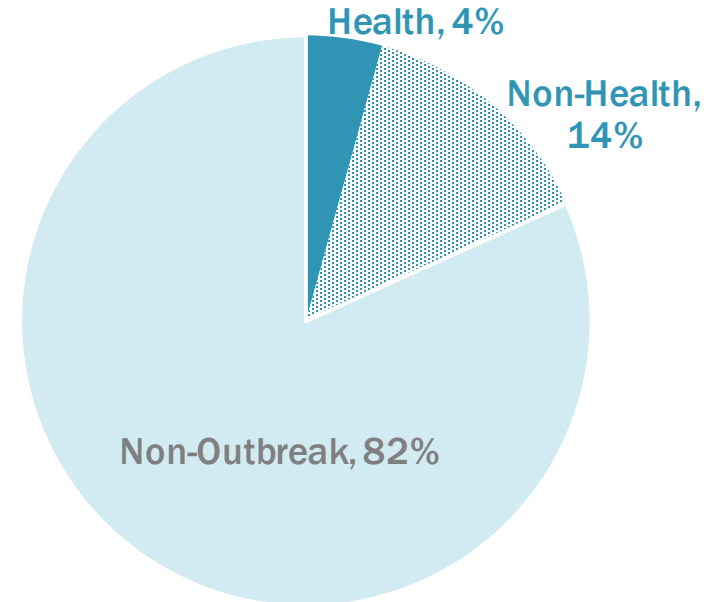
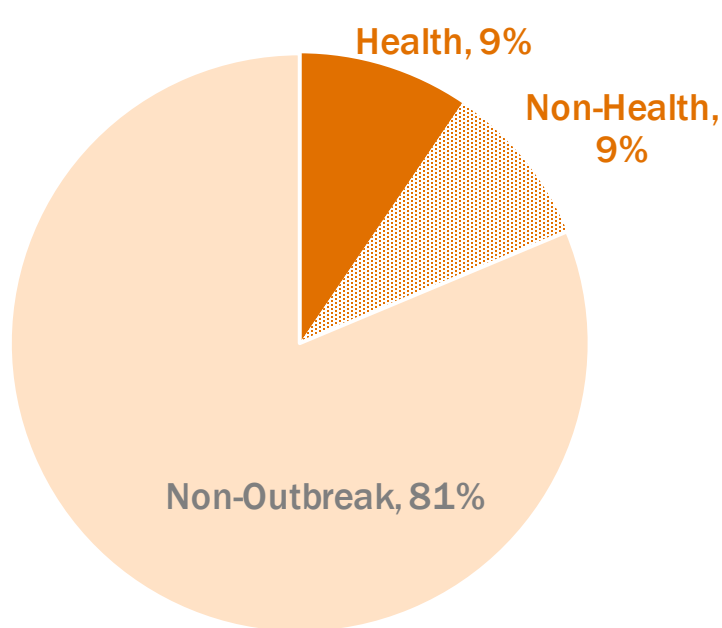


19% of **females** with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.



18% of **males** with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.

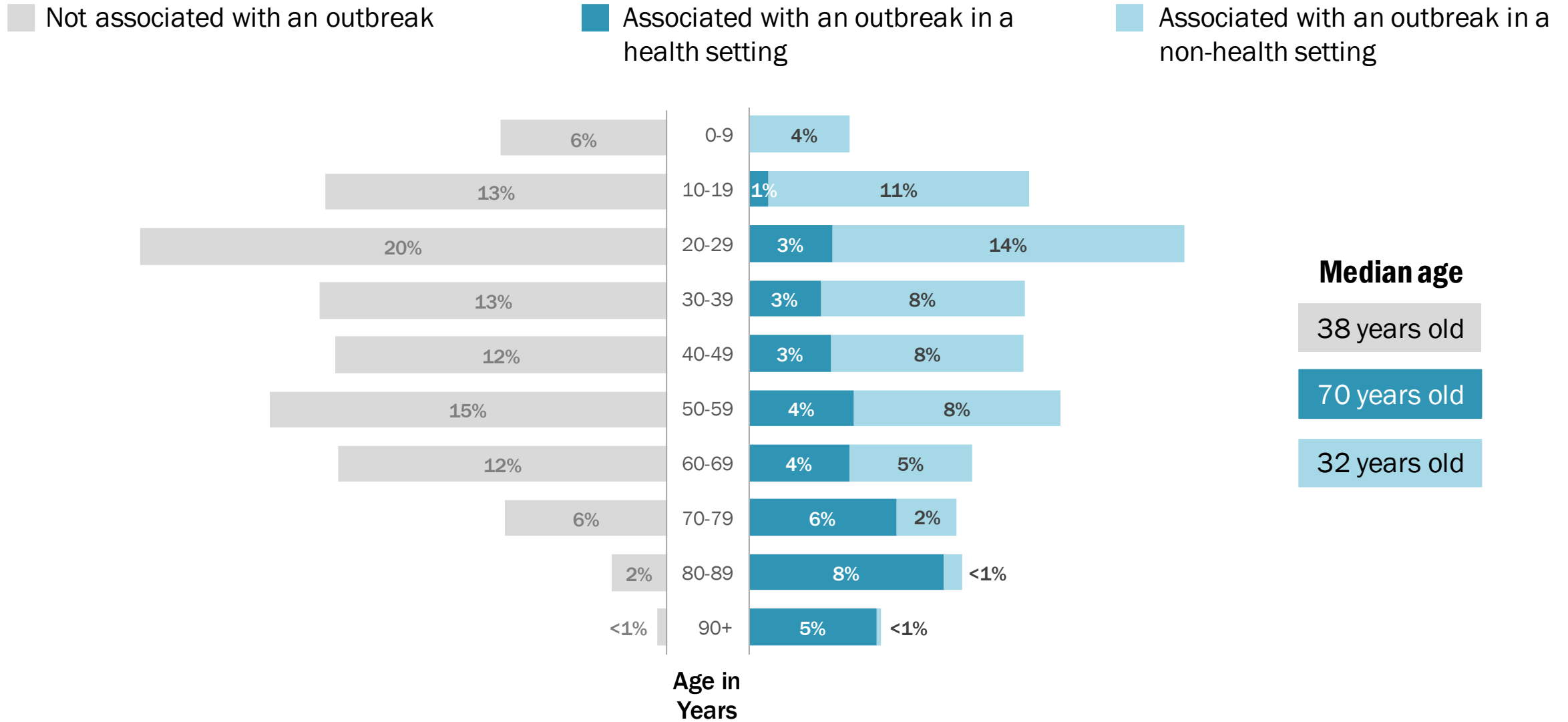
Males with COVID-19 are more likely to be associated with outbreaks in non-health settings.



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



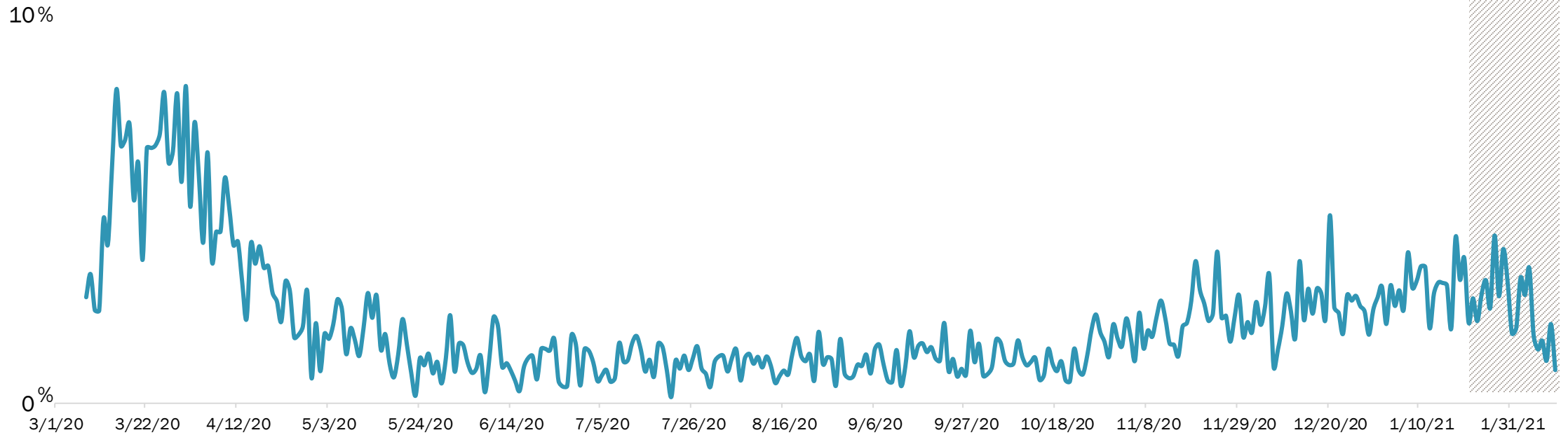
Note: Examples of a health setting include long-term care or assisted living facilities, therapeutic treatment centers, and behavioral health institutions. Examples of a non-health setting include correctional facilities, senior housing communities, businesses, and homeless shelters.

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 declined over the past 2 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 Deaths

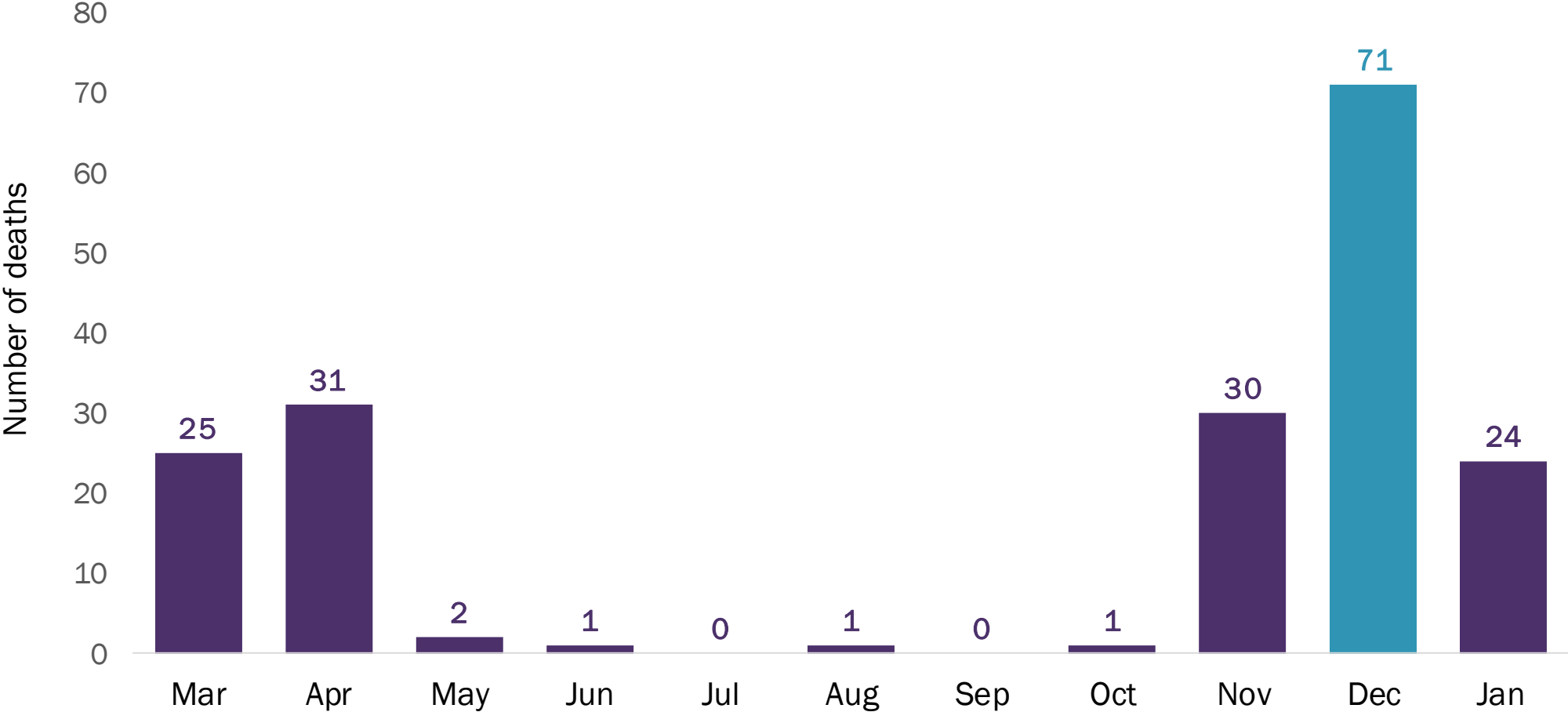
This section focuses on the 188 people with COVID-19 who died in Vermont.

How are COVID-19 deaths counted in Vermont?

- Data analysts review death certificates for names of people who were a [confirmed or probable case](#) of COVID-19.
- Of those people, a death is counted if the person has COVID-19 as a **cause** or **contributing condition** on their death certificate.
- Analysts work closely with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to review these cases to make sure deaths are counted accurately.
- Vermont's deaths include Vermont residents (whether they died in state or out-of-state) and out-of-state residents who died in Vermont.
- The date used in reporting is the date the person died.

Find the total number of deaths across the state, by county, and other demographic data on the [Dashboard](#) or slide 26.

In Vermont, **December** had the highest number of COVID-19 deaths.



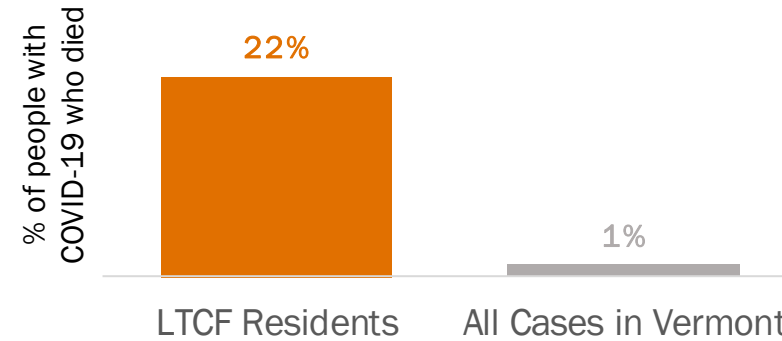
188

Total number of deaths

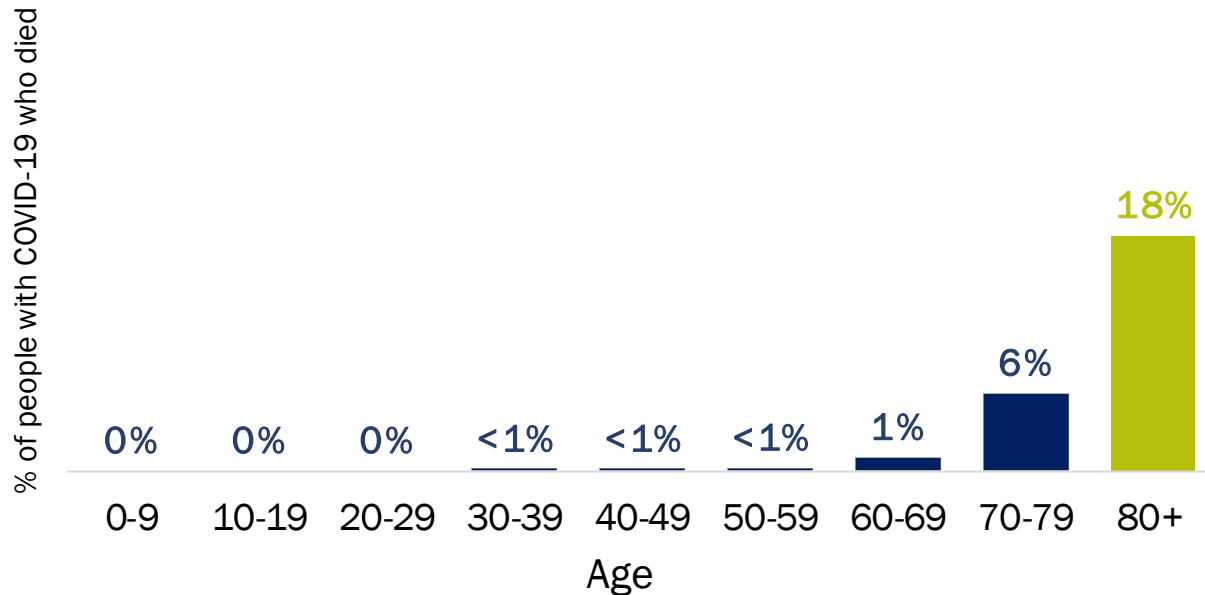
71%

Percent of COVID-19 deaths that were associated with an outbreak

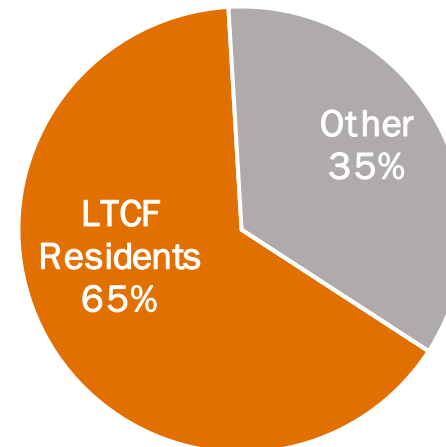
22% of long-term care facility residents with COVID-19 died from COVID-19.



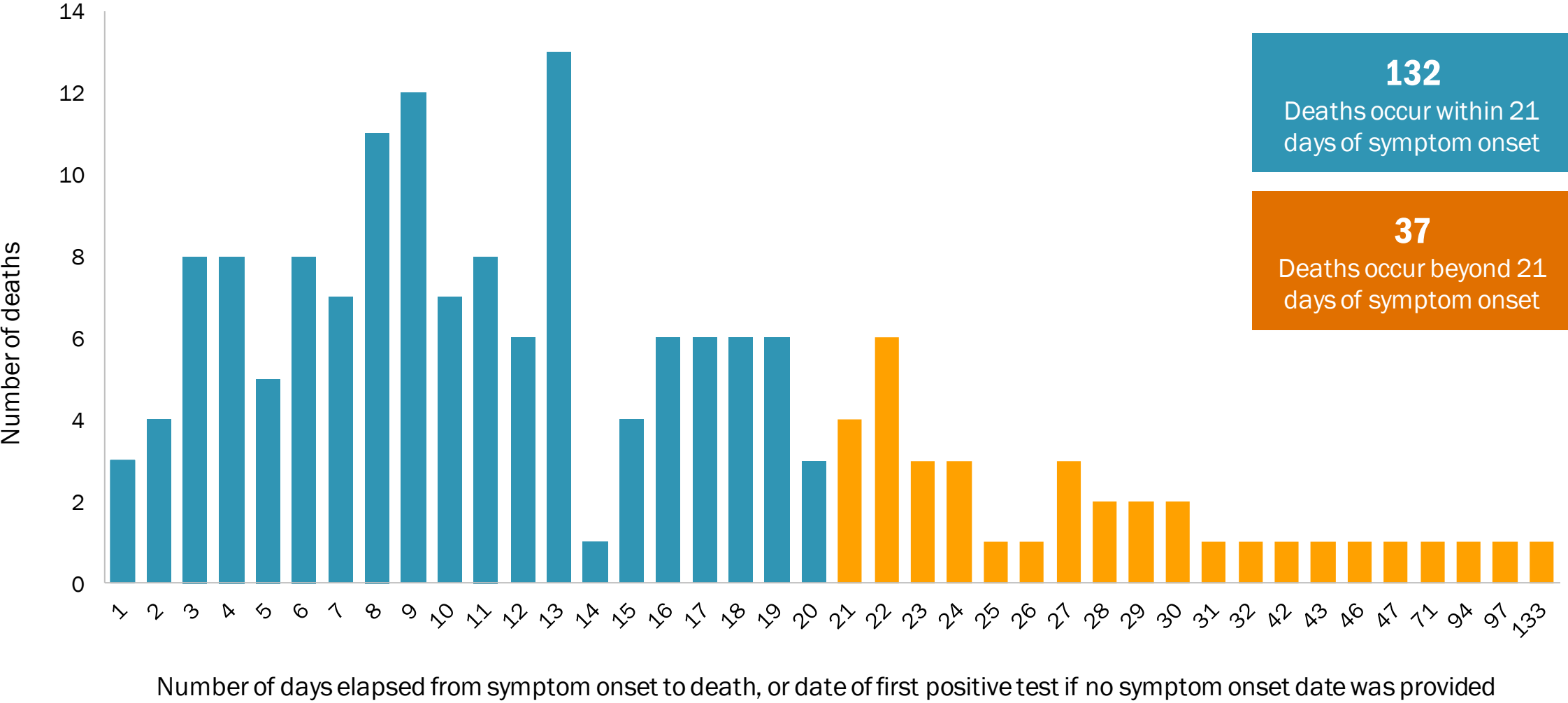
18% of people age 80 and older with COVID-19 died from COVID-19.



Most COVID-19 deaths have been among residents of long-term care facilities.



80% of deaths occur within 21 days of symptom onset (or the date the person tested positive for COVID-19).



132
Deaths occur within 21 days of symptom onset

37
Deaths occur beyond 21 days of symptom onset

Deaths that are probable, those that are missing a symptom onset date or specimen collection date, and those that were tested after they died are not included in the graph (n=19).



Learn more about COVID-19 in Vermont:

Web: www.healthvermont.gov/COVID-19

Email: AHS.VDHPublicCommunication@vermont.gov

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