Weekly Summary of Vermont COVID-19 Data

Reflecting cases identified between
March 5 – September 2, 2020

Date published: September 4, 2020. This summary will be updated every Friday.

VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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 August 26 through September 2.

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.
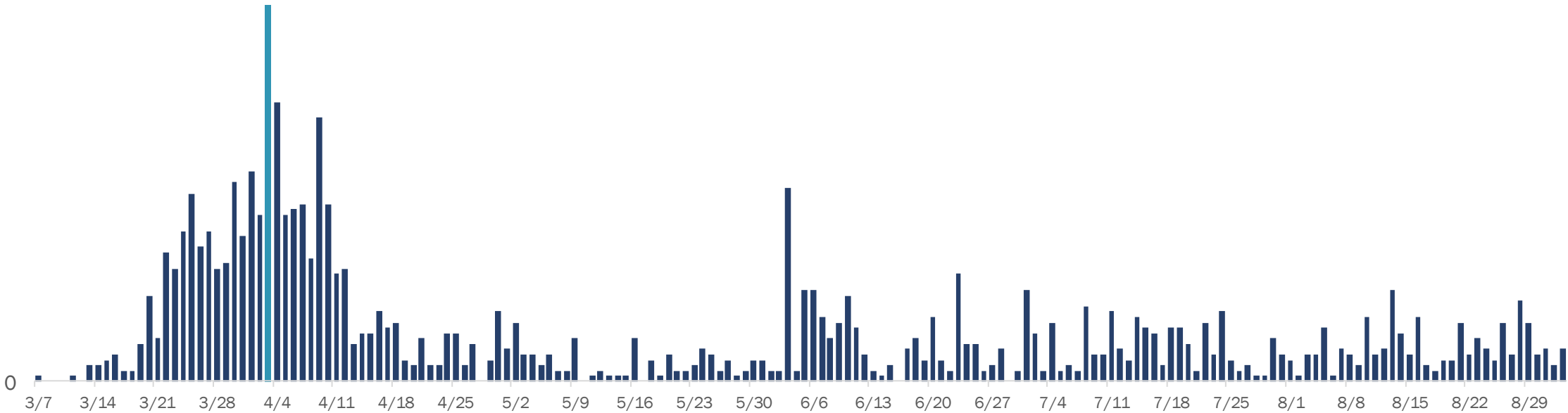
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COVID-19 in Vermont

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

Total Number of Cases in Vermont: 1,636

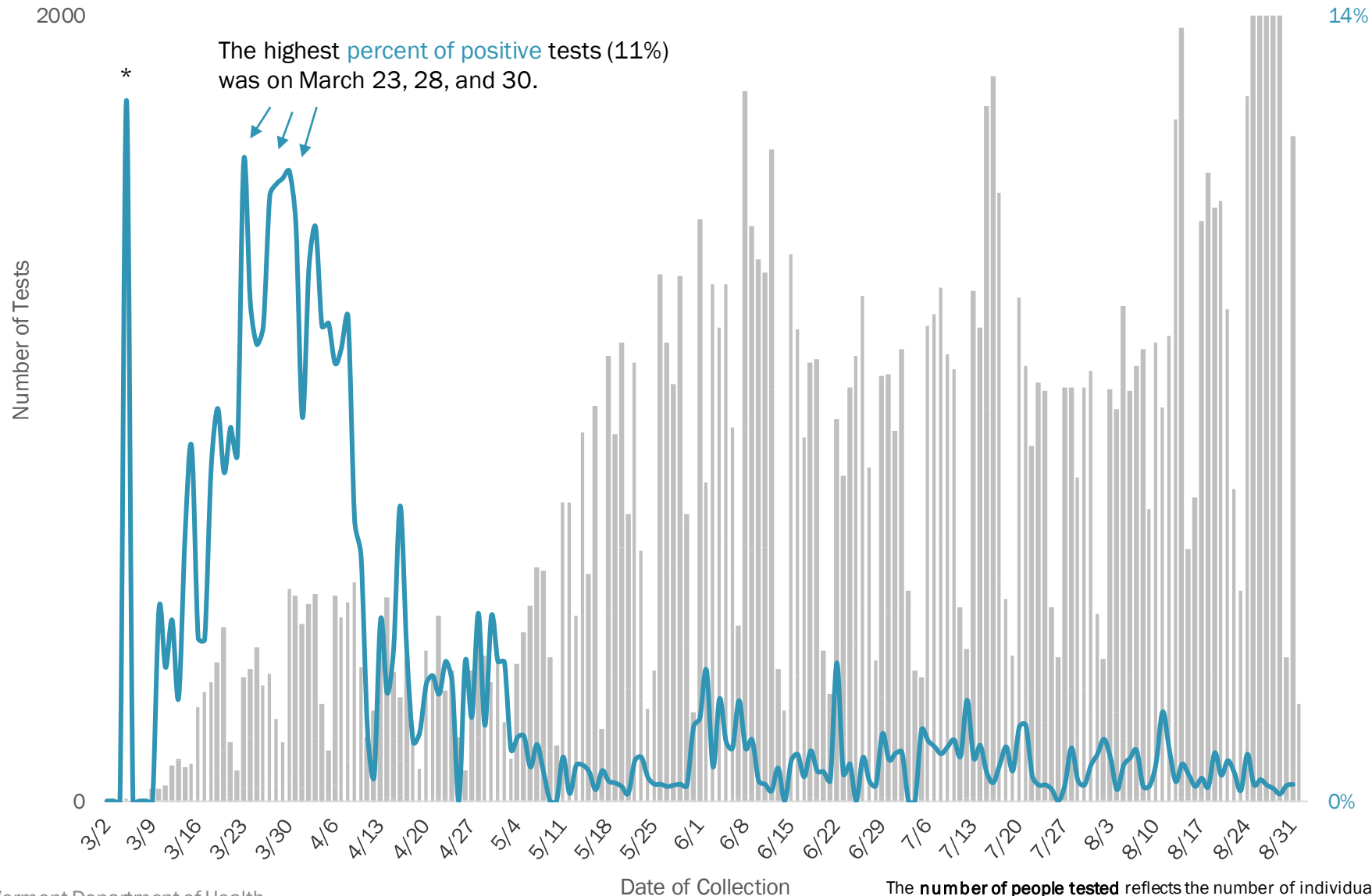**The daily number of COVID-19 cases in Vermont peaked on April 3.**

COVID-19 in Vermont

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

Growth over time by county (n=1,628)

Cumulative cases are presented using a log scale to help compare the large number of cases in Chittenden County (n=800, roughly 49% 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.

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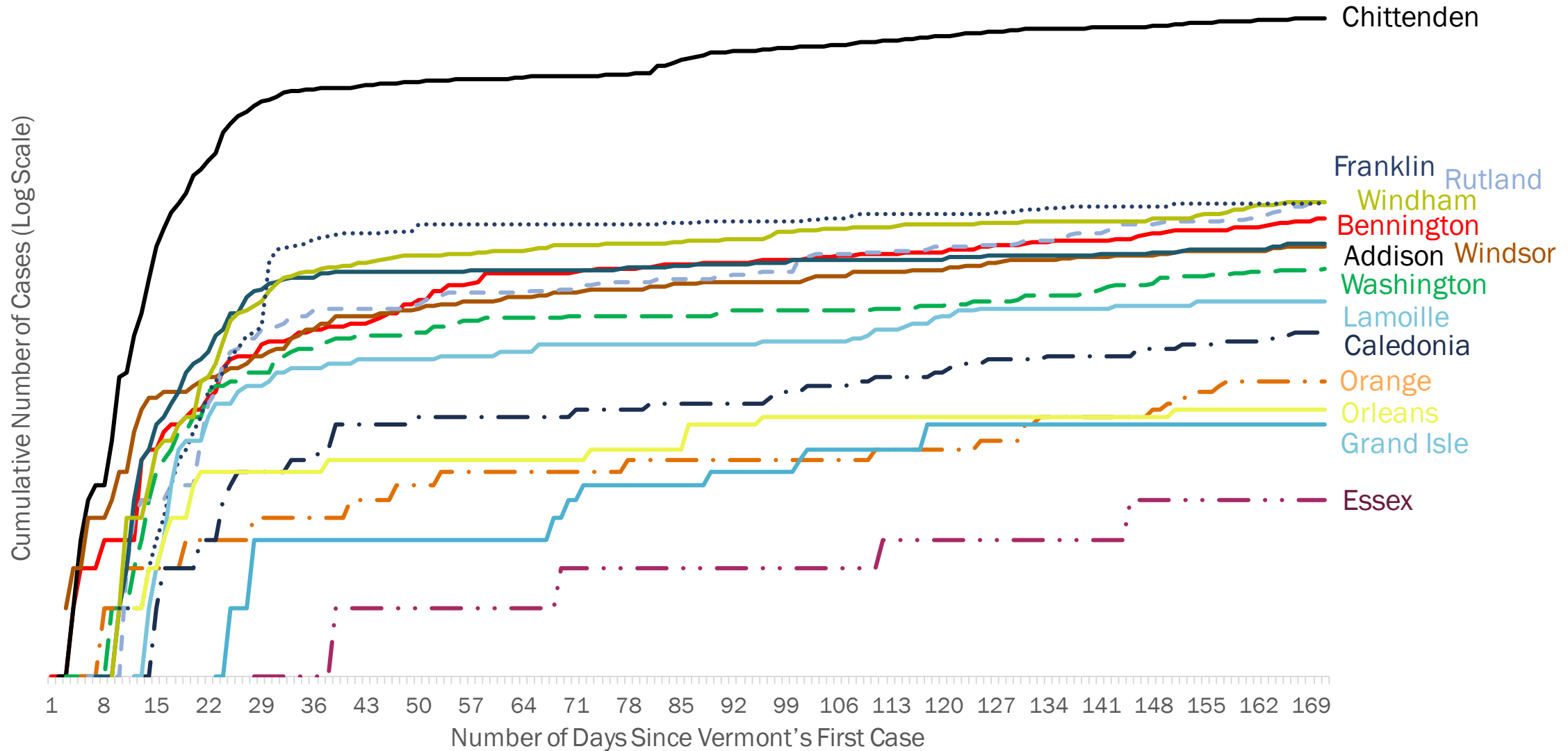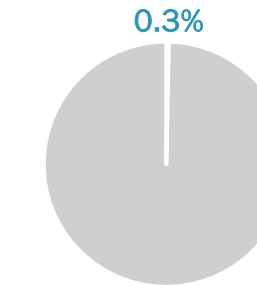
Percent of positive COVID-19 tests may indicate how prevalent the disease is in the population.

The highest percent of positive tests (11%) was on March 23, 28, and 30.

Number of Tests

2000

*

0

Date of Collection

Percent Positive

14%

0%

3/2 3/9 3/16 3/23 3/30 4/6 4/13 4/20 4/27 5/4 5/11 5/18 5/25 6/1 6/8 6/15 6/22 6/29 7/6 7/13 7/20 7/27 8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31

Vermont Department of Health

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

Percent Positive to Date

1%
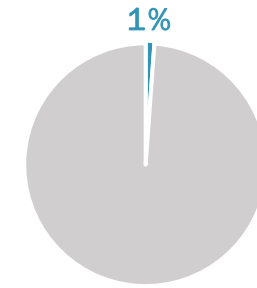
Percent Positive This Week (August 26 – September 2)

0.3%

18,327 People Tested this Week	27,772 Tests this Week
140,881 People Tested to Date	193,369 Tests to Date

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.
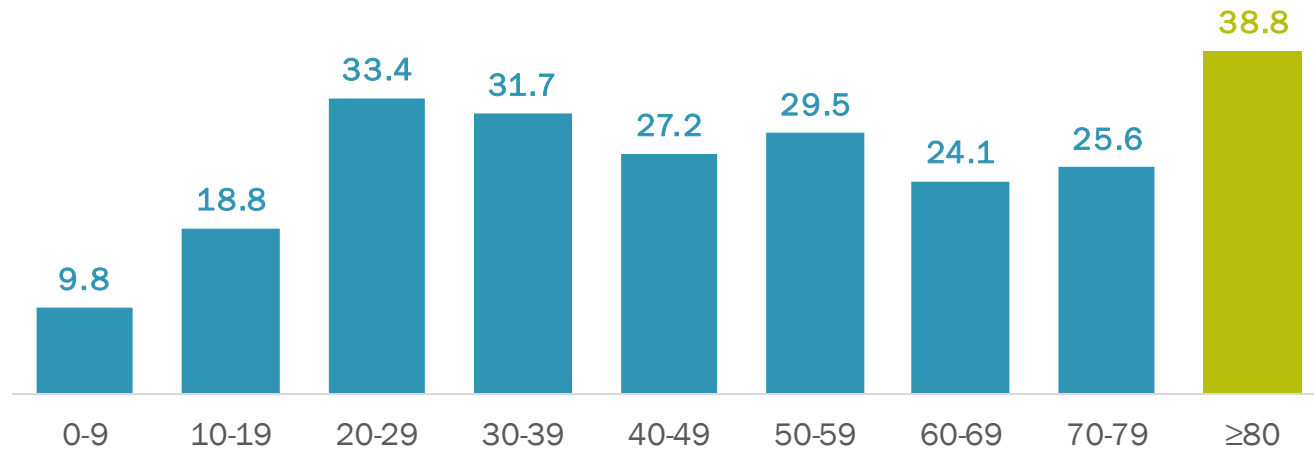
COVID-19 in Vermont
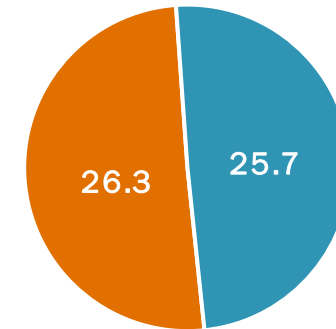
Case Demographics

Who has been impacted by COVID-19 in Vermont?

Rates of COVID-19 are disproportionately high among Vermonters 80 years and older.
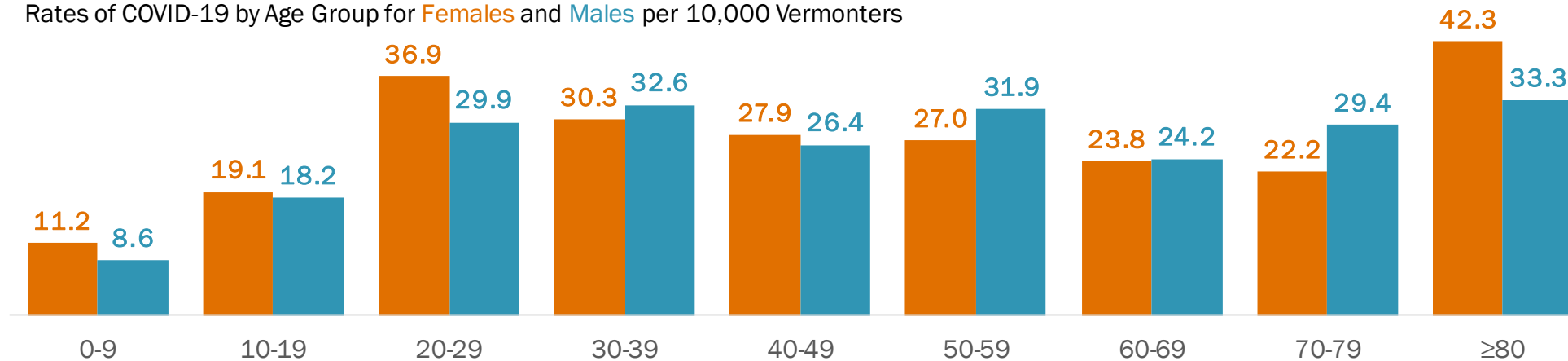
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

Age Group	Rate
0-9	9.8
10-19	18.8
20-29	33.4
30-39	31.7
40-49	27.2
50-59	29.5
60-69	24.1
70-79	25.6
≥80	38.8

Females and males have similar rates of COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters
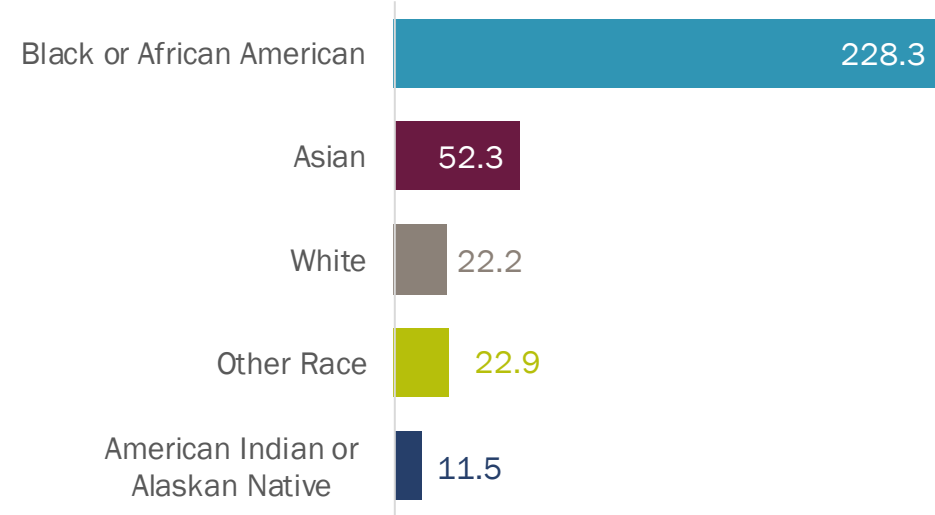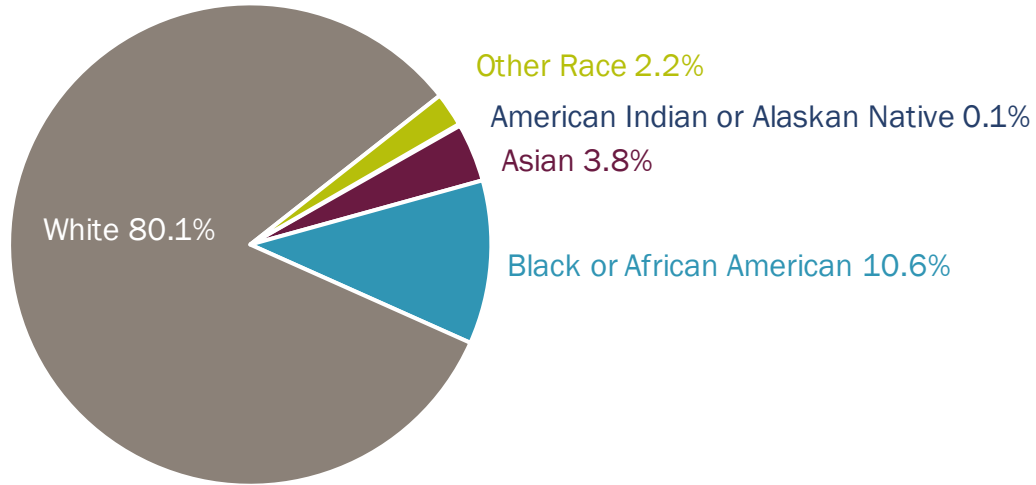
Females: 26.3
Males: 25.7

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

| Age Group	Females	Males
0-9	11.2	8.6
10-19	19.1	18.2
20-29	36.9	29.9
30-39	30.3	32.6
40-49	27.9	26.4
50-59	27.0	31.9
60-69	23.8	24.2
70-79	22.2	29.4
≥80	42.3	33.3

Case Demographics

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

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

Other Race 2.2%

American Indian or Alaskan Native 0.1%

Asian 3.8%

White 80.1%

Black or African American 10.6%

Black or African American — 228.3

Asian — 52.3

White — 22.2

Other Race — 22.9

American Indian or Alaskan Native — 11.5

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

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

Hispanic 3.5%

Non-Hispanic 88.9%

Hispanic — 46.6

Non-Hispanic — 23.7
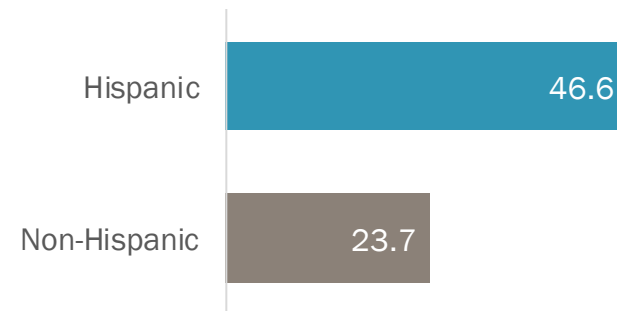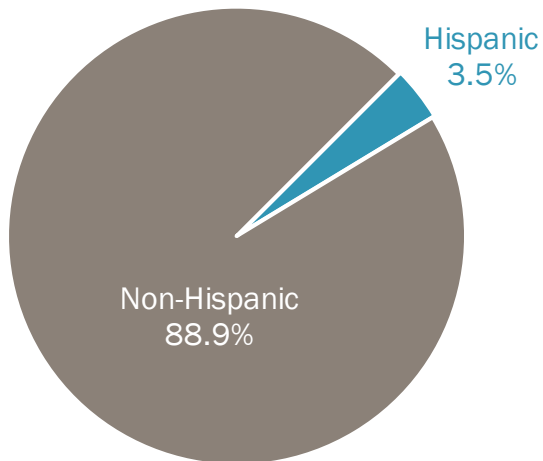
Other Race includes people who identify as two or more races, or a race other than White, Asian, African American or Black, and American Indian or Alaskan Native.
Note: Race is unknown in 3% of cases (n = 51) and ethnicity is unknown in 8% of cases (n = 123).

Vermont Department of Health

Case Demographics

Approximately 54% of people* with COVID-19 have a pre-existing condition.

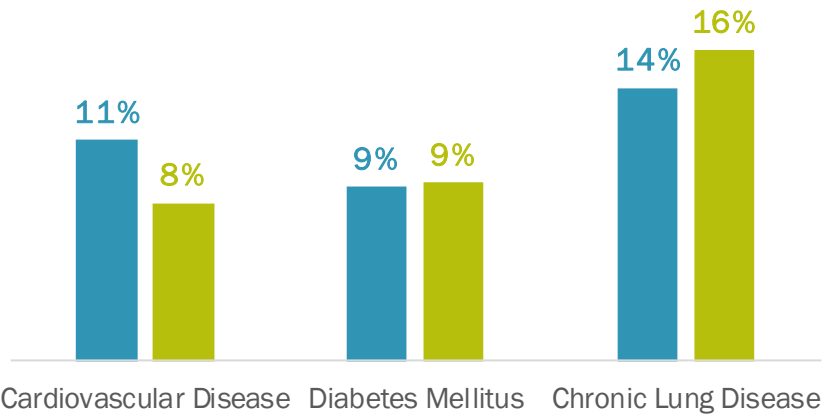*of the 1,319 people that the Health Department has pre-existing condition data for.

Condition	Count	Percentage
Heart Disease	147	11%
Chronic Lung Disease (includes asthma and COPD)	182	14%
Chronic Liver Disease	11	1%
Chronic Kidney Disease	34	3%
Current/Former Smoker	258	20%
Diabetes	116	9%
Immunocompromised Condition	53	4%
Neurologic Condition/Intellectual Disability	37	3%
Other Chronic Condition**	328	25%
Pregnant	13	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.
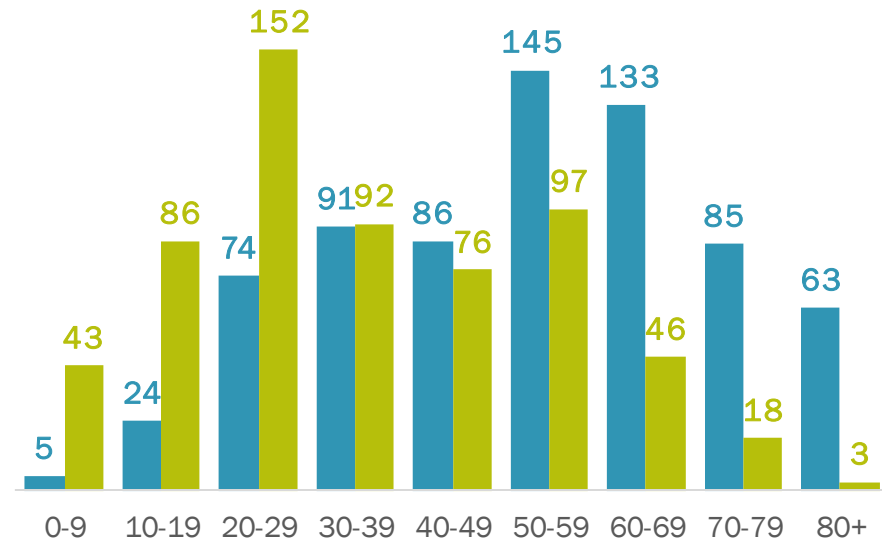
The Health Department has information about pre-existing conditions in 81% (1,319) of 1,636 total COVID-19 cases.

Case Demographics

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

11% Cardiovascular Disease
8%

9% Diabetes Mellitus
9%

14% Chronic Lung Disease
16%

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.
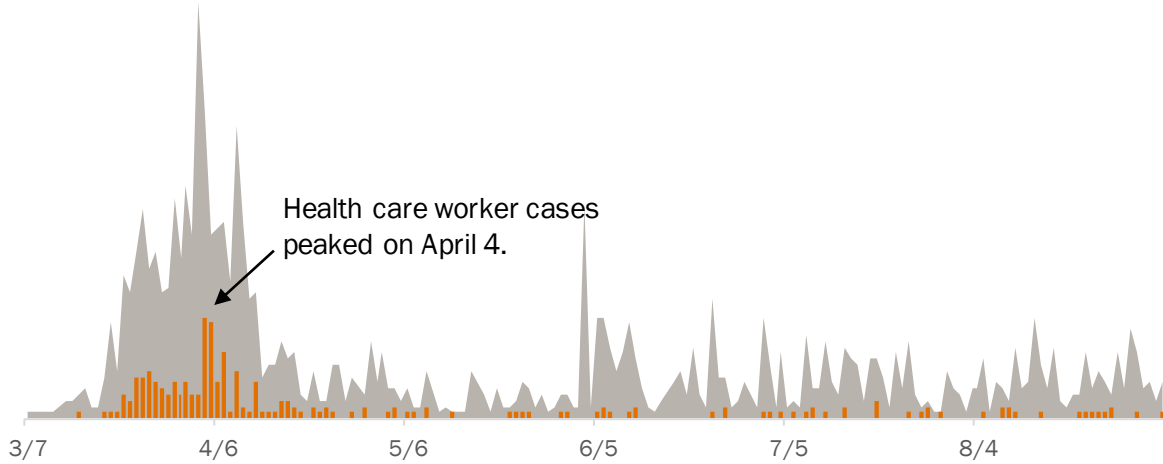

Age	with	without
0-9	5	43
10-19	24	86
20-29	74	152
30-39	91	92
40-49	86	76
50-59	145	97
60-69	133	46
70-79	85	18
80+	63	3

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

52%
48%

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

16%
2%

Vermont Department of Health
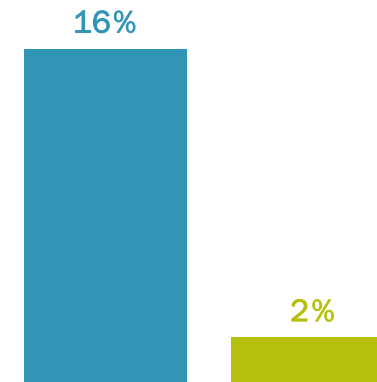
Number of New Health Care Worker and All Cases by Day

Health care worker cases peaked on April 4.

3/7   4/6   5/6   6/5   7/5   8/4

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

7 in 10 health care workers with COVID-19 are female.
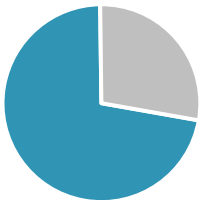
32% of health care workers with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.

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

Age in Years	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	≥80
Health care workers	0	7	51	43	39	41	33	4	1
Non-health care workers	60	122	200	154	139	204	158	111	77
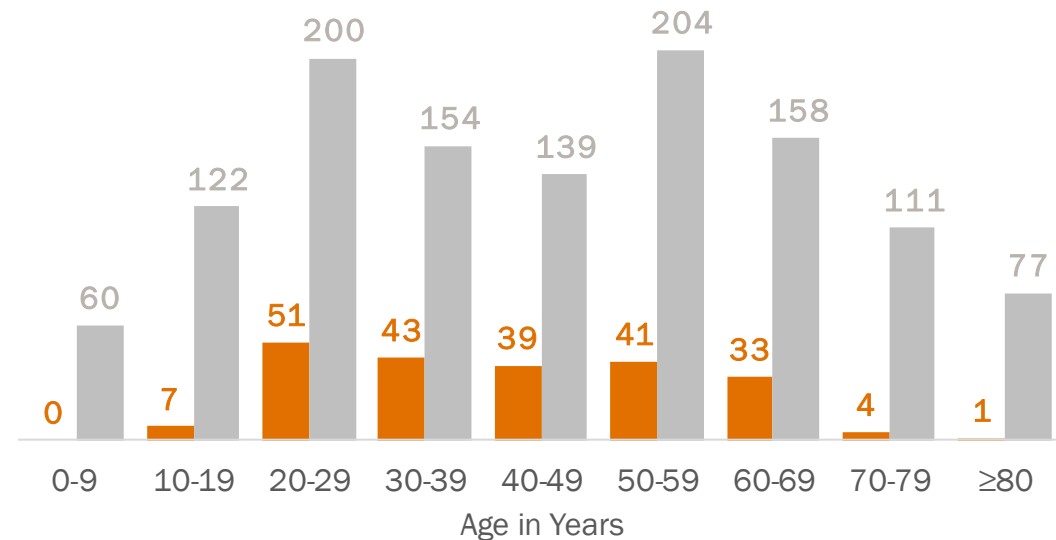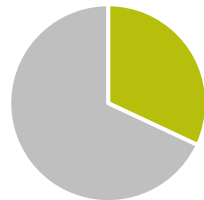
White Vermonters represent the majority of health care workers with COVID-19 .

American Indian or Alaska Native 0.5%
Black or African American 5%
Other Race 1%
Asian 2%
White 87%
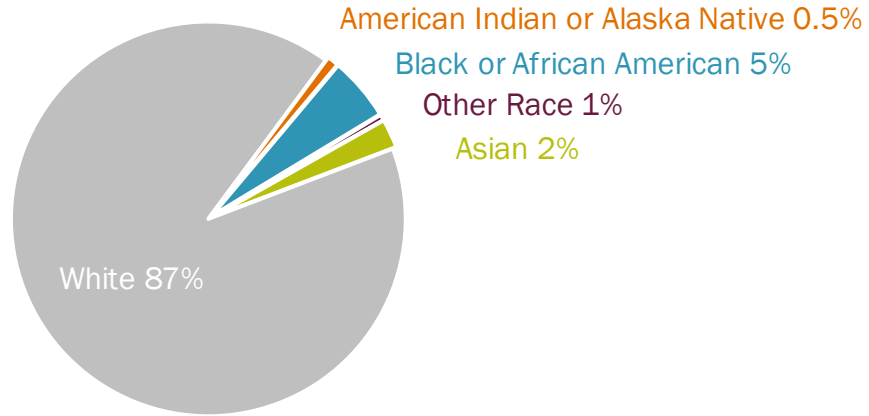
Most health care workers with COVID-19 have symptoms.

Asymptomatic 18%
Unknown 2%
Symptomatic 80%

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

Unknown = 6
Hospitalized = 10
Not Hospitalized= 203
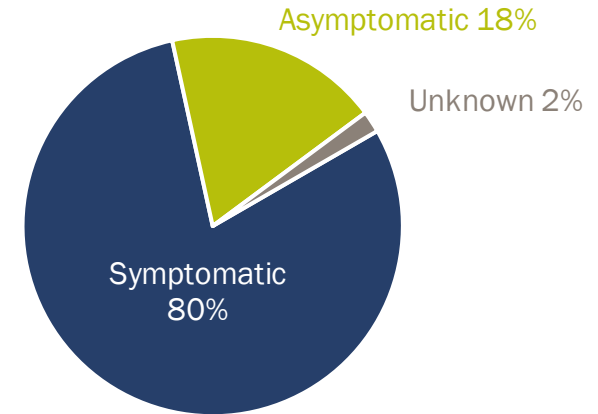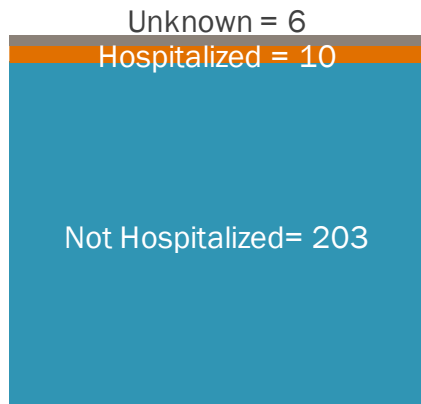
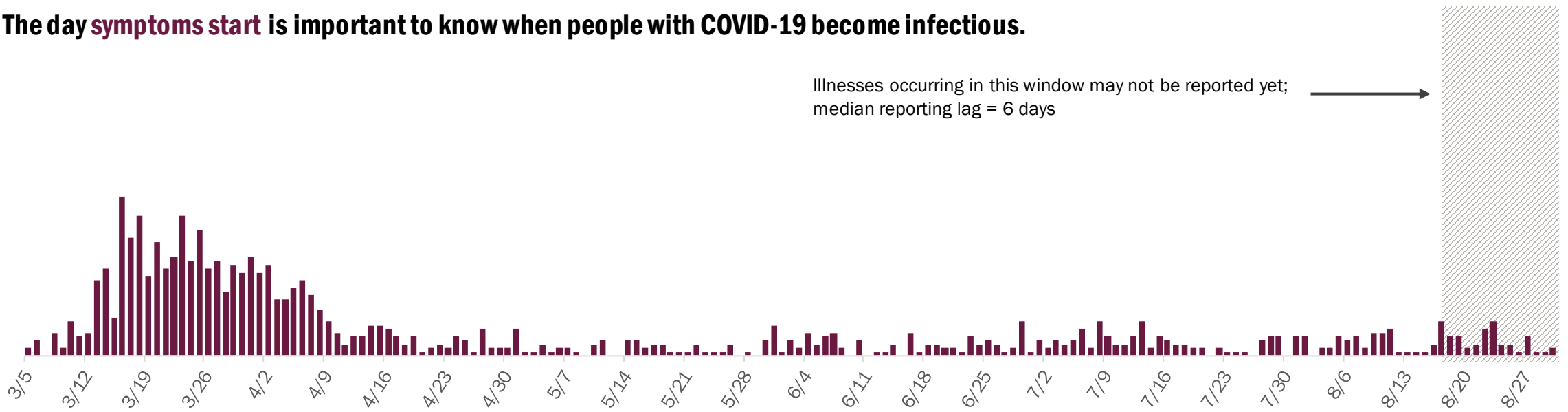There are no reported deaths among health care workers.

Sign or Symptom among Health Care Workers with COVID-19	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	71%
Fatigue	63%
Headache	61%
Loss of Smell or Taste	53%
Muscle Pain	50%
Runny nose	46%
Chills	43%
Fever	40%

Case Demographics

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.

Illnesses occurring in this window may not be reported yet;
median reporting lag = 6 days

Dates: 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 6/25, 7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27

Note: Date of symptom onset is not always known.

12 days
Average illness duration

72%
Cases with symptoms

Sign or Symptom	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	67%
Fatigue	66%
Headache	54%
Muscle Pain	50%
Fever	46%

Clinical Course

Most Vermonters with COVID-19 are not hospitalized.

Unknown = 87
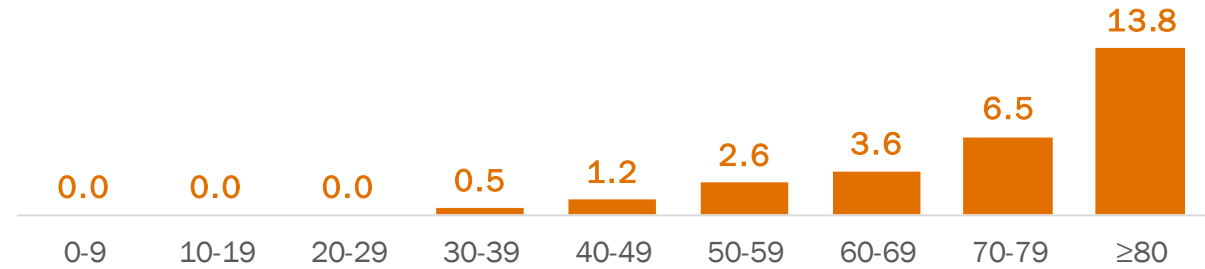Hospitalized = 141
Not hospitalized = 1,408
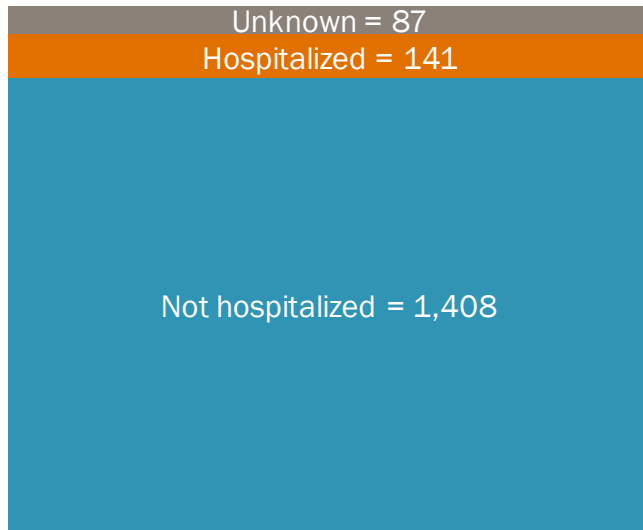
15%
Of those hospitalized were on a ventilator

35%
Of those hospitalized were in the ICU

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

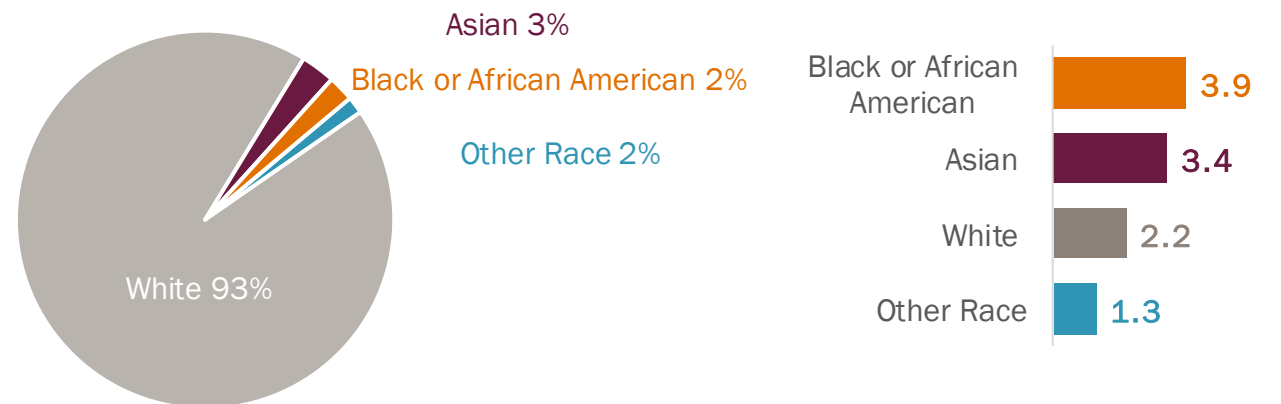**Vermonters 80 years and older are more likely to be hospitalized for COVID-19.**

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	≥80
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.2	2.6	3.6	6.5	13.8

White Vermonters represent a majority of hospitalized COVID-19 cases. Hospitalization rates by race are similar.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

Asian 3%
Black or African American 2%
Other Race 2%
White 93%

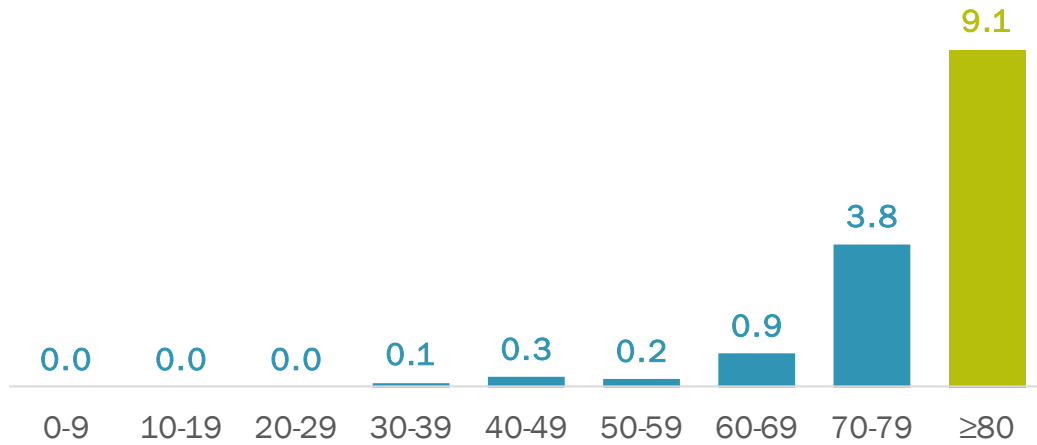| Black or African American | 3.9 |
Asian	3.4
White	2.2
Other Race	1.3

Please note 5 hospitalized persons are missing race information.
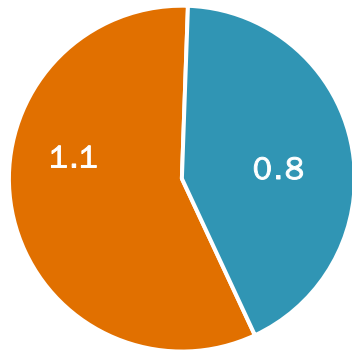*The number of Asian, Black, and persons in the other race category is less than 5.

Clinical Course

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

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

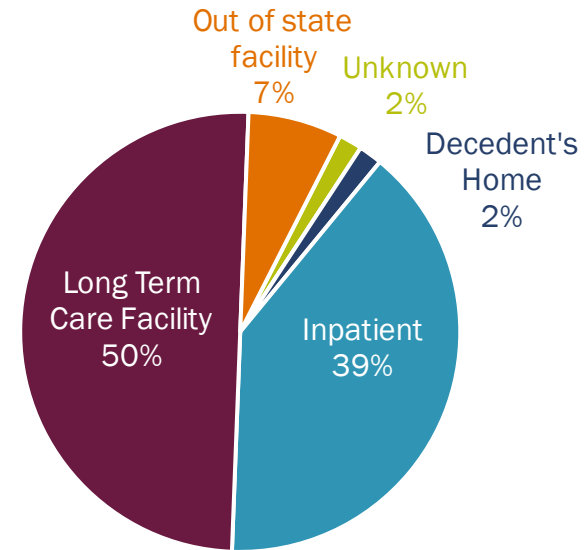| Age	Rate
0-9	0.0
10-19	0.0
20-29	0.0
30-39	0.1
40-49	0.3
50-59	0.2
60-69	0.9
70-79	3.8
≥80	9.1

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

Out of state facility 7%
Unknown 2%
Decedent's Home 2%
Long Term Care Facility 50%
Inpatient 39%

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

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

1.1   0.8

White Vermonters represent a majority of COVID-19 deaths. Death rates by race are similar.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

White 95%
Asian 3%
Other Race 2%

Race	Rate
Asian	1.7
White	0.9
Other Race	0.6
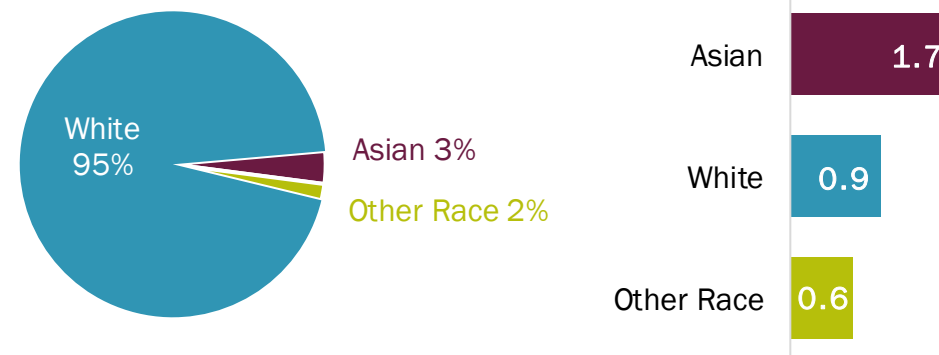
Note: No deaths have identified as Hispanic or Latino.

Clinical Course

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.
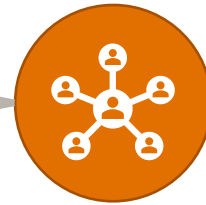
Congregate Care or Living Settings*

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.

Outbreaks

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

Outbreaks
8 Active
19 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

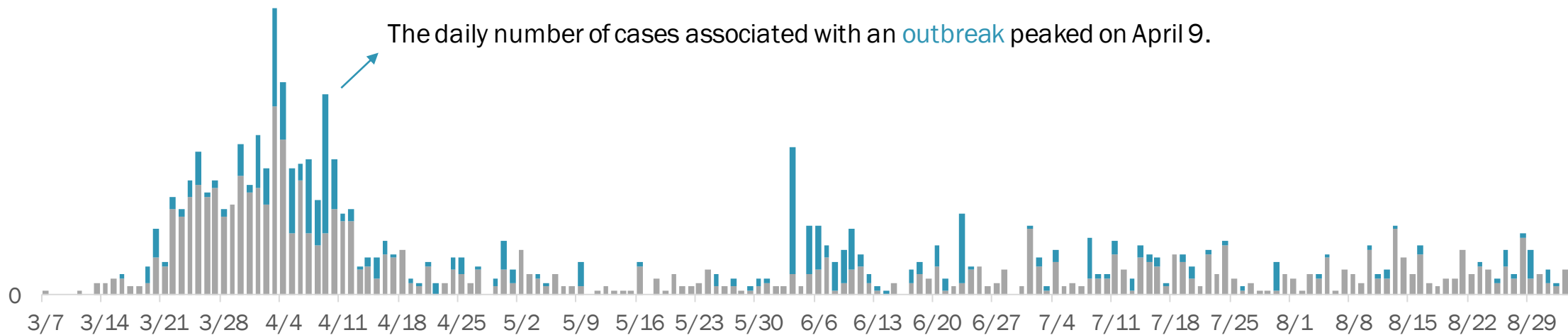**7** cases among children and staff

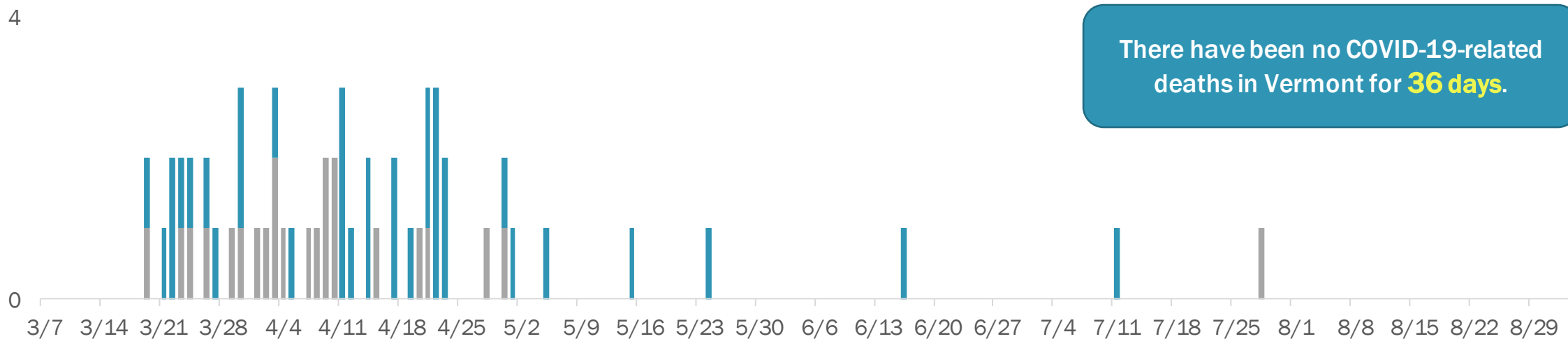## Workplace

37 cases among employees

Community

163 cases

Vermont COVID-19 Cases Associated with an Outbreak Over Time
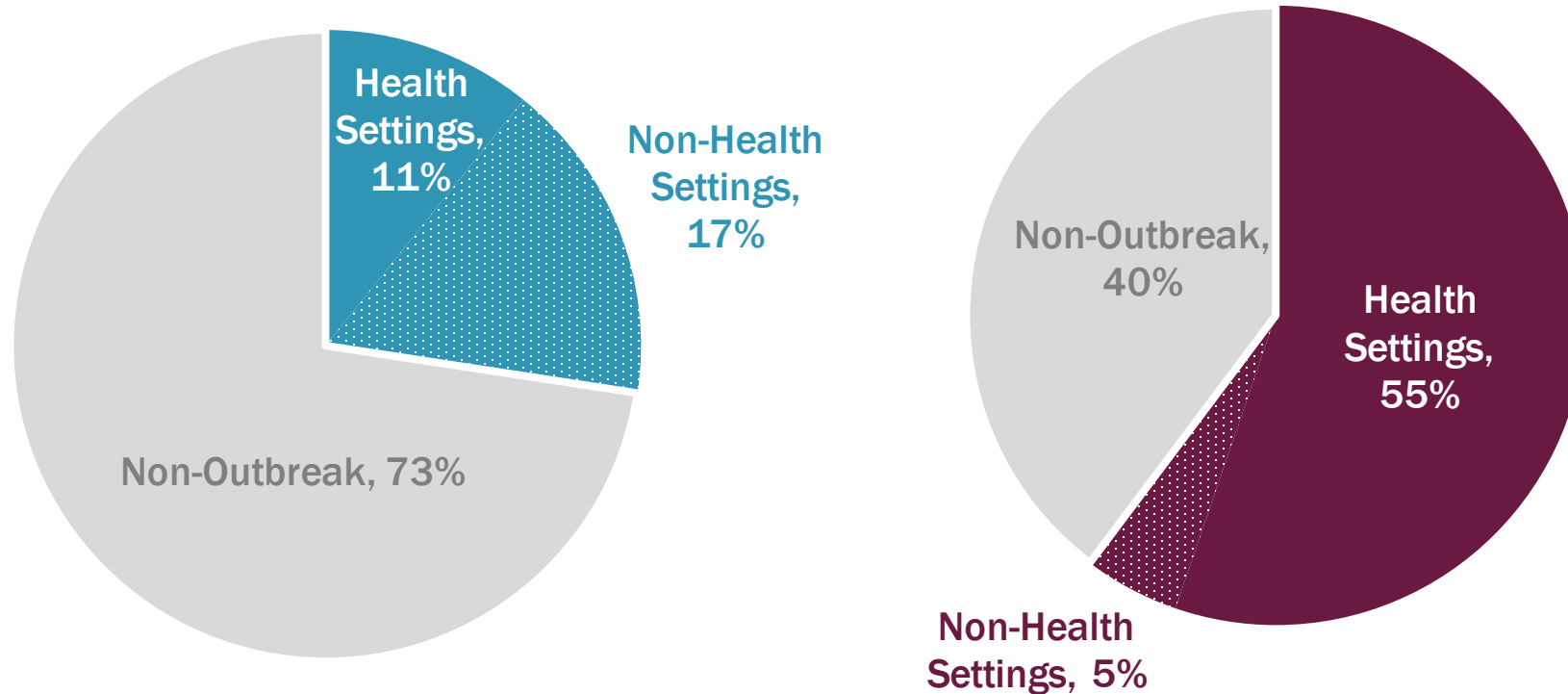
The daily number of cases associated with an outbreak peaked on April 9.

Vermont COVID-19 Deaths Associated with an Outbreak Over Time

There have been no COVID-19-related deaths in Vermont for **36 days**.

Outbreaks

While only 27% of all COVID-19 cases are associated with outbreaks, more than half of COVID-19-related deaths occur in outbreak settings.

Health Settings, 11%

Non-Health Settings, 17%

Non-Outbreak, 73%

Non-Outbreak, 40%

Health Settings, 55%

Non-Health Settings, 5%

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 9/2/2020.

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.

Outbreaks

The percentages of **females** and **males** with COVID-19 that are associated with an outbreak is about even.
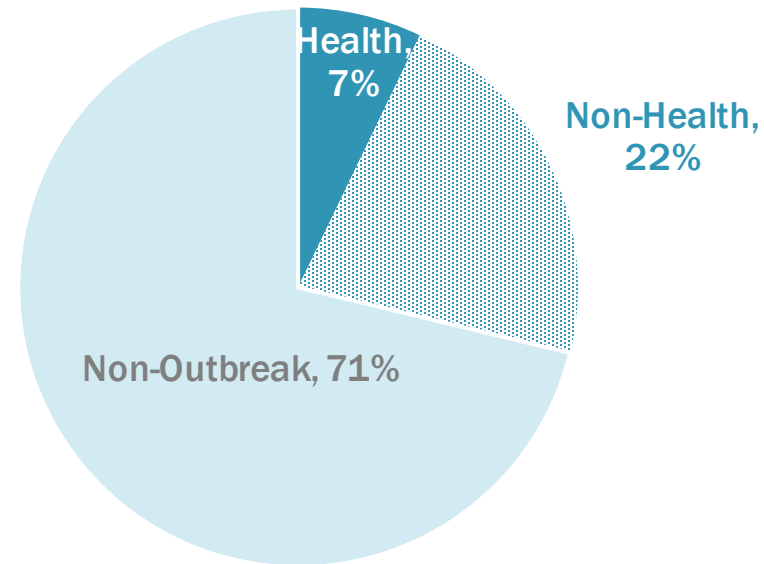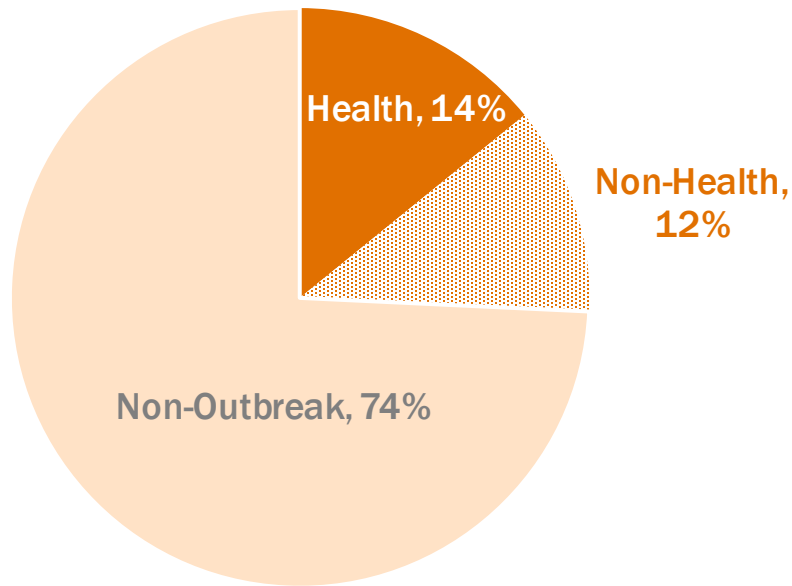
26% of females with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.

29% of males with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.

But in <u>outbreak settings</u>, **males** with COVID-19 are more likely to be associated with non-health settings than health settings.

Health, 14%

Non-Health, 12%

Non-Outbreak, 74%

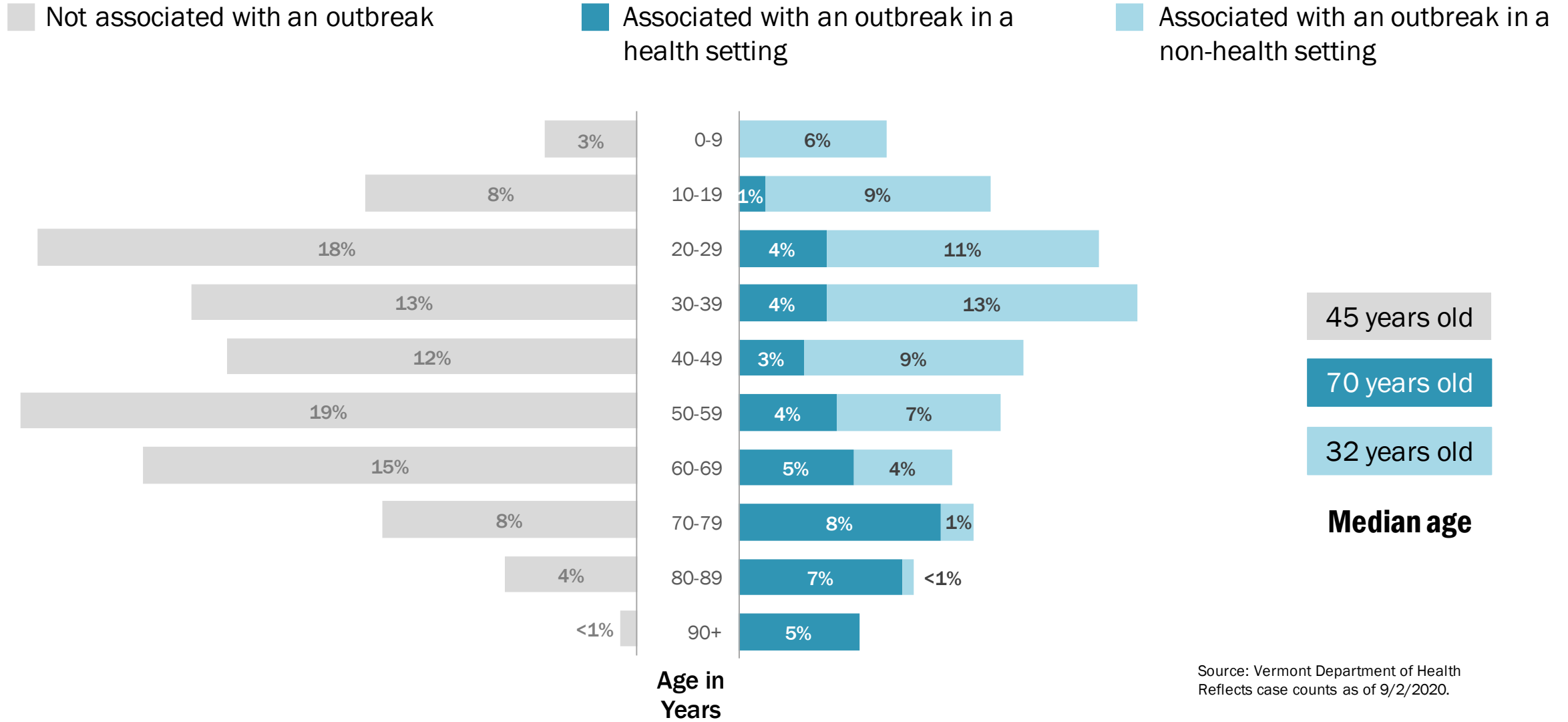Health, 7%

Non-Health, 22%

Non-Outbreak, 71%

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.

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.

Outbreaks

Percent of Cases by Outbreak Status and Age

- Not associated with an outbreak
- Associated with an outbreak in a health setting
- Associated with an outbreak in a non-health setting

Age in Years	Not associated with an outbreak	Associated with an outbreak in a health setting	Associated with an outbreak in a non-health setting
0-9	3%		6%
10-19	8%	1%	9%
20-29	18%	4%	11%
30-39	13%	4%	13%
40-49	12%	3%	9%
50-59	19%	4%	7%
60-69	15%	5%	4%
70-79	8%	8%	1%
80-89	4%	7%	<1%
90+	<1%	5%	

45 years old

70 years old

32 years old

Median age

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects case counts as of 9/2/2020.

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.

Outbreaks

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.
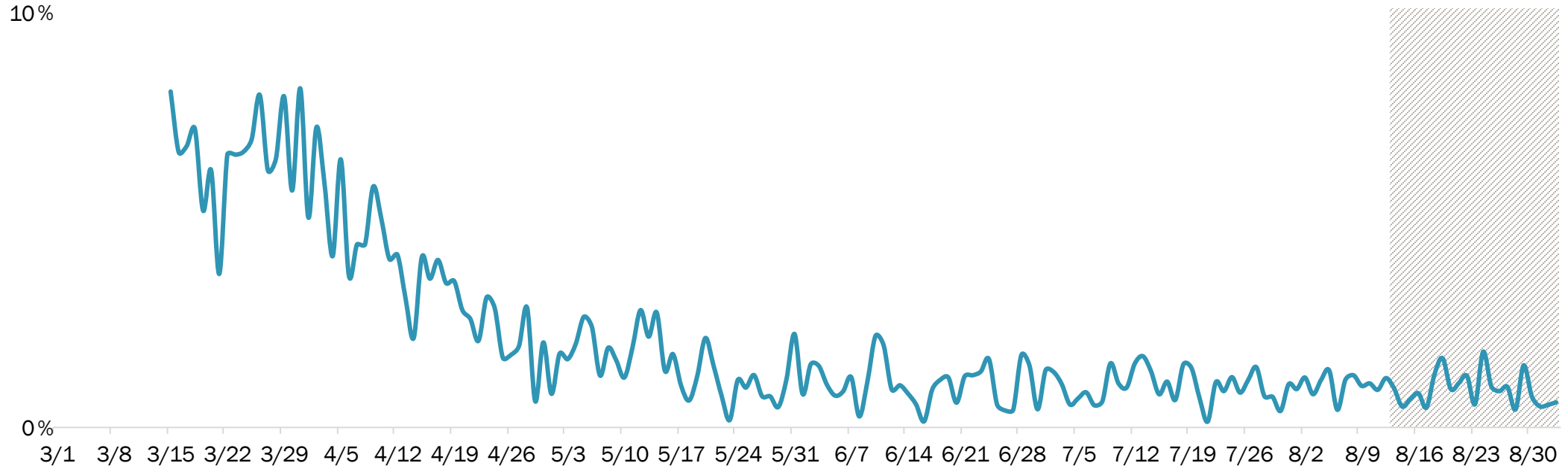
Interpret with caution, there is a chance for over or underestimation given the lag in reporting.

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.

Syndromic Surveillance

Weekly Spotlight: COVID-19 Contact Tracing

How do we measure Vermont's contact tracing efforts?

Contact tracers speak with both confirmed cases and their close contacts each week.
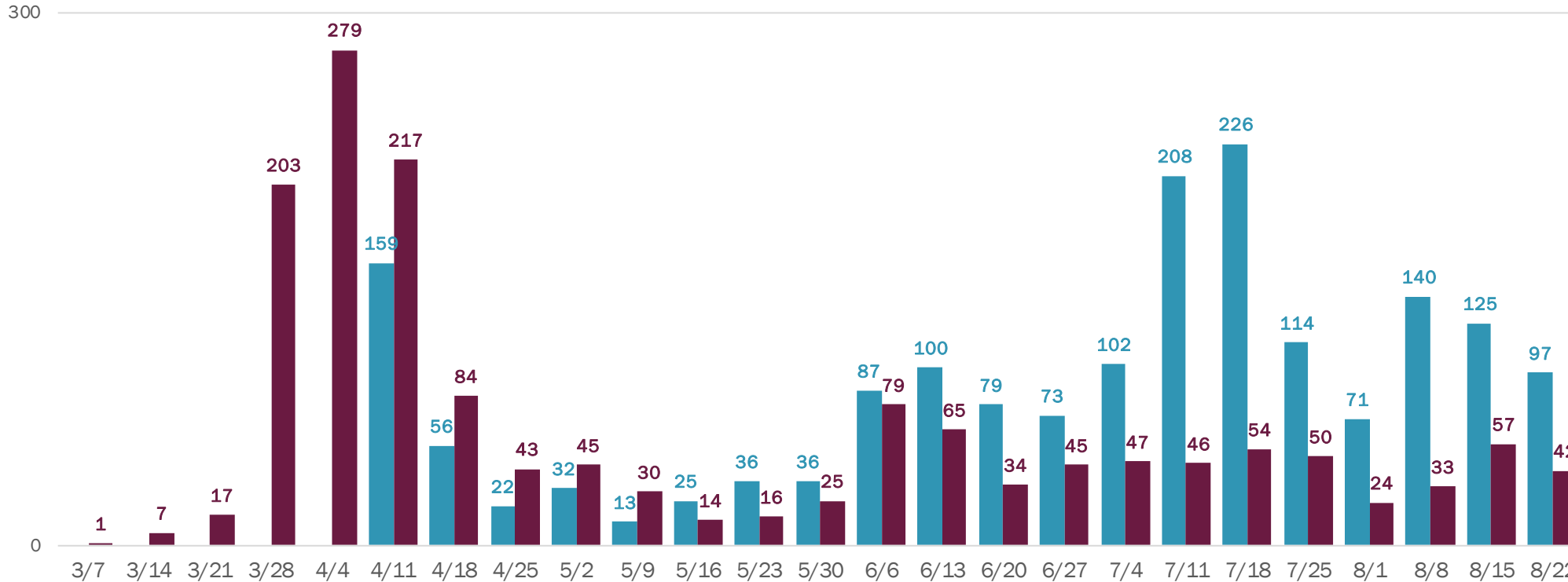
65	**59**	**175**	**3**
Number of contact tracers trained	Cases interviewed last week	Contacts named last week	Average number of contacts per case*
	August 23 –August 29	August 23 –August 29	*Since March 7

Vermont Department of Health

In the last two weeks (from August 16 to August 29):
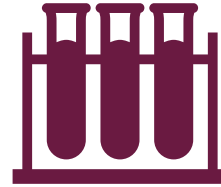
96% Of cases were interviewed within 24 hours	**87%** Of cases provided their close contacts	**35%** Of contacts were tested within 14 days of exposure	**5%** Of contacts became a case

Weekly Spotlight

VERMONT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Learn more about COVID-19 in Vermont:

Web: www.healthvermont.gov/COVID-19

Email: AHS.VDHPublicCommunication@vermont.gov