

Weekly Summary of Vermont COVID-19 Data

Reflecting cases identified between
March 5 – November 4, 2020



Date published: November 6, 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 October 28 through November 4.

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.

Please Note:

- On October 1, the denominators used to calculate rates by race and ethnicity were switched over from 2018 American Community Survey estimates to 2019 Vermont Department of Health estimates based on Census data. This change was made to be more consistent with how the Health Department typically calculates rates. The relatively large change in rates for some racial groups in the October 2, 2020 Weekly Summary is due to this change in methodology.

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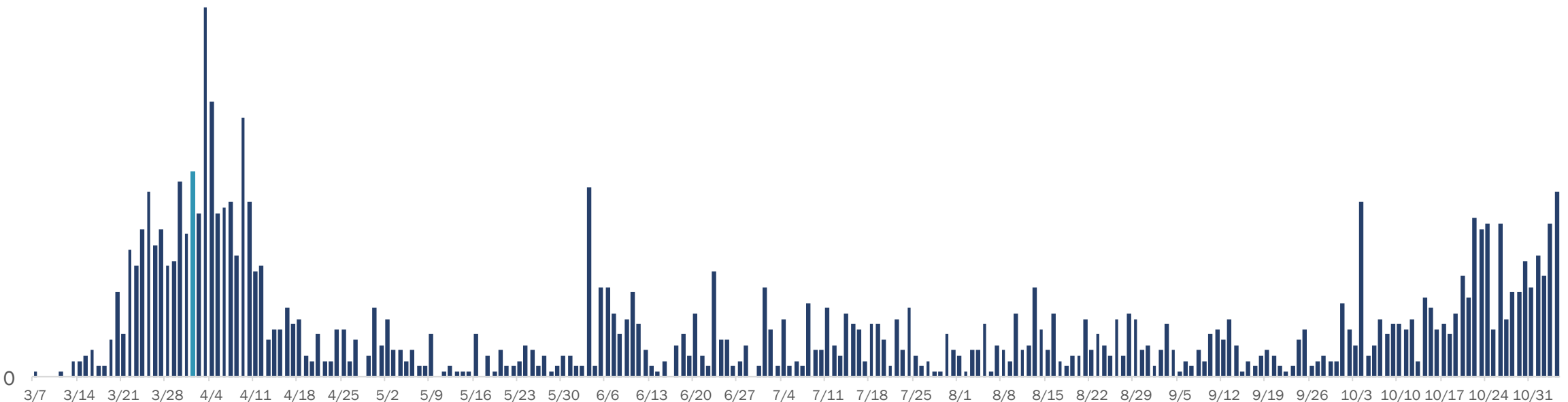
COVID-19 in Vermont

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

Total Number of Cases in Vermont: 2,303

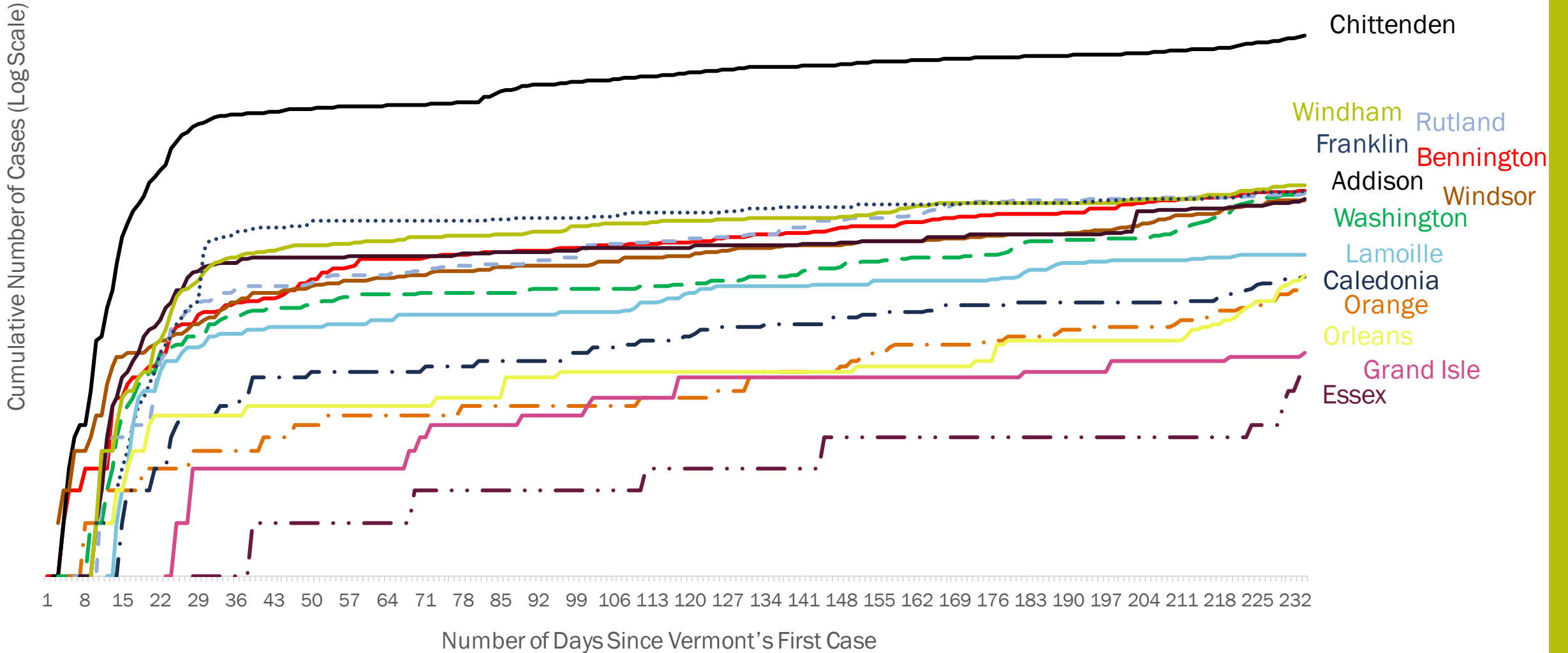
80

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

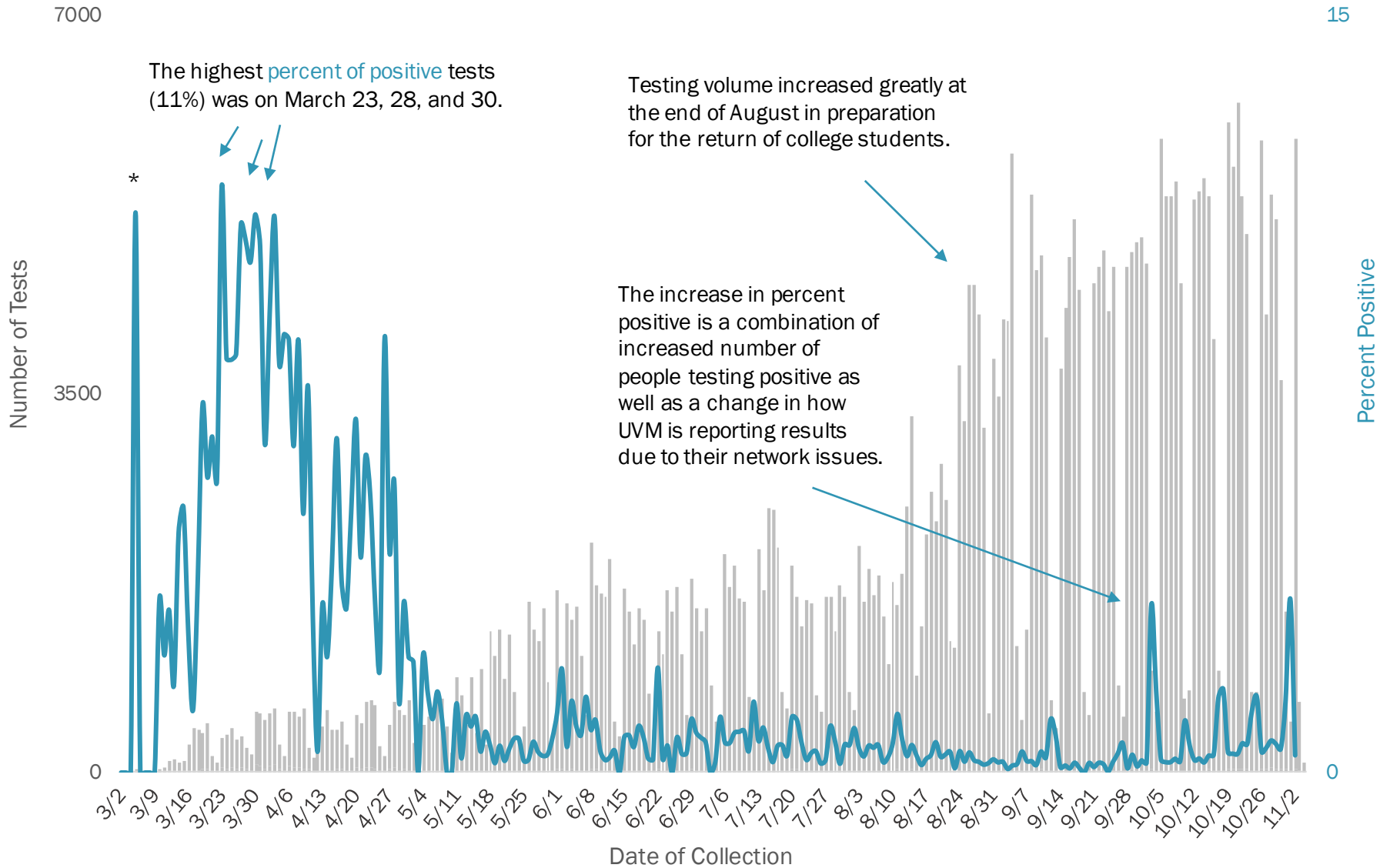


Most counties continue to see new cases.

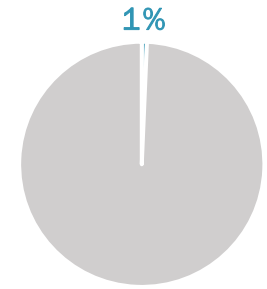
Growth over time by county (n=2,294)



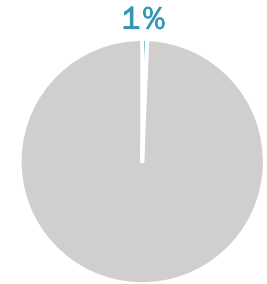
Percent of positive COVID-19 tests may indicate how prevalent the disease is in the population.



Percent Positive to Date



Percent Positive This Week (October 28 – November 4)



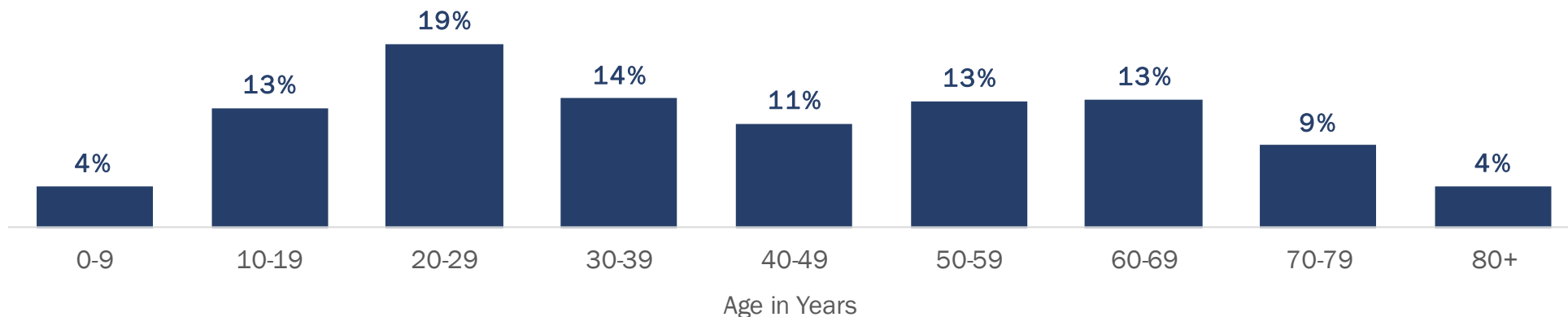
5,504 People Tested this Week	22,638 Tests this Week
192,027 People Tested to Date	424,412 Tests to Date

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 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 proportion of people tested for COVID-19 in Vermont varies across age groups.



More females are tested than males for COVID-19.



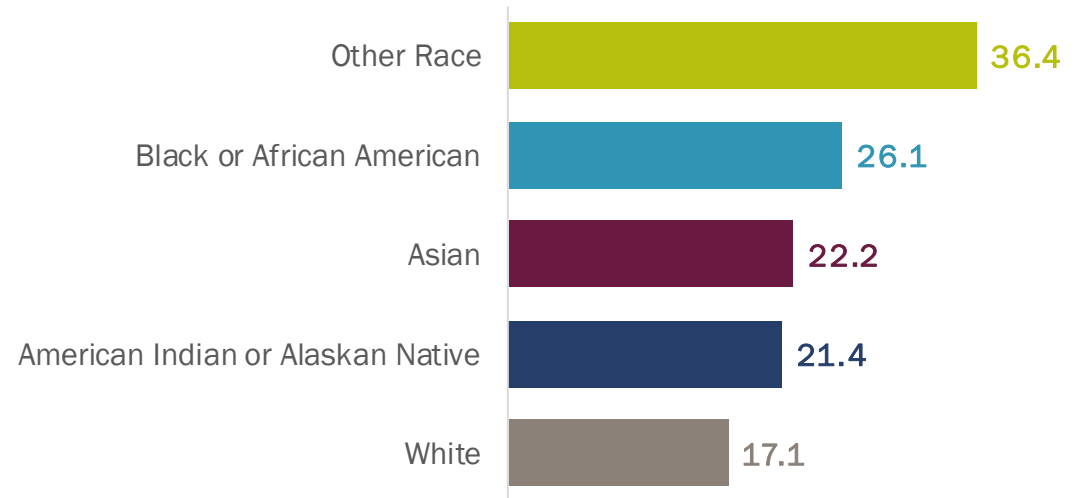
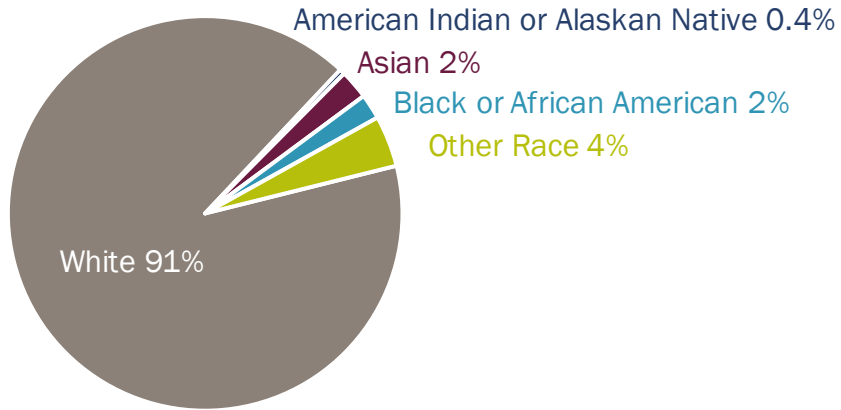
56% of people tested for COVID-19 are female.



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

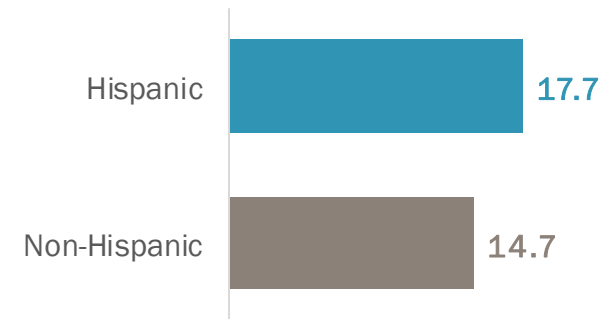
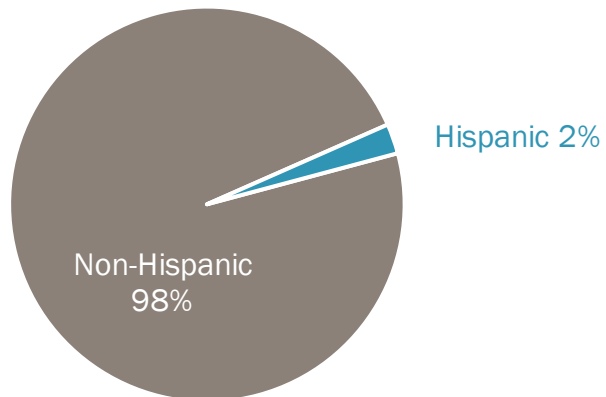
White Vermonters represent the majority of people tested in Vermont for COVID-19. Vermonters with other race have the highest rate of testing.

Rates per 100 Vermonters

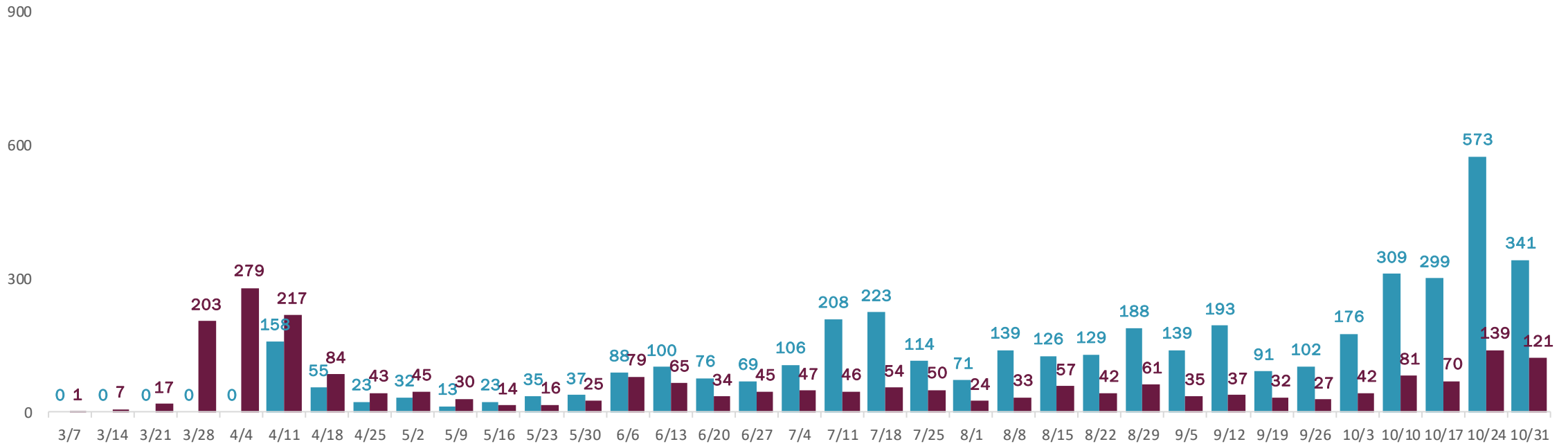


Non-Hispanic Vermonters represent the majority of people tested in Vermont for COVID-19. Hispanic Vermonters have the higher rate of testing.

Rates per 100 Vermonters



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



65

Number of contact tracers trained

111

Cases interviewed last week

October 25 – October 31

341

Contacts named last week

October 25 – October 31

3

Average number of contacts per case*

*Since April 1

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).

In the last two weeks (from October 18 to October 31):



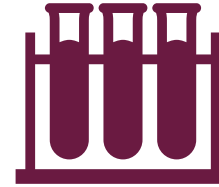
97%

Of cases were interviewed within 24 hours



88%

Of cases provided their close contacts



48%

Of contacts were tested within 14 days of exposure



16%

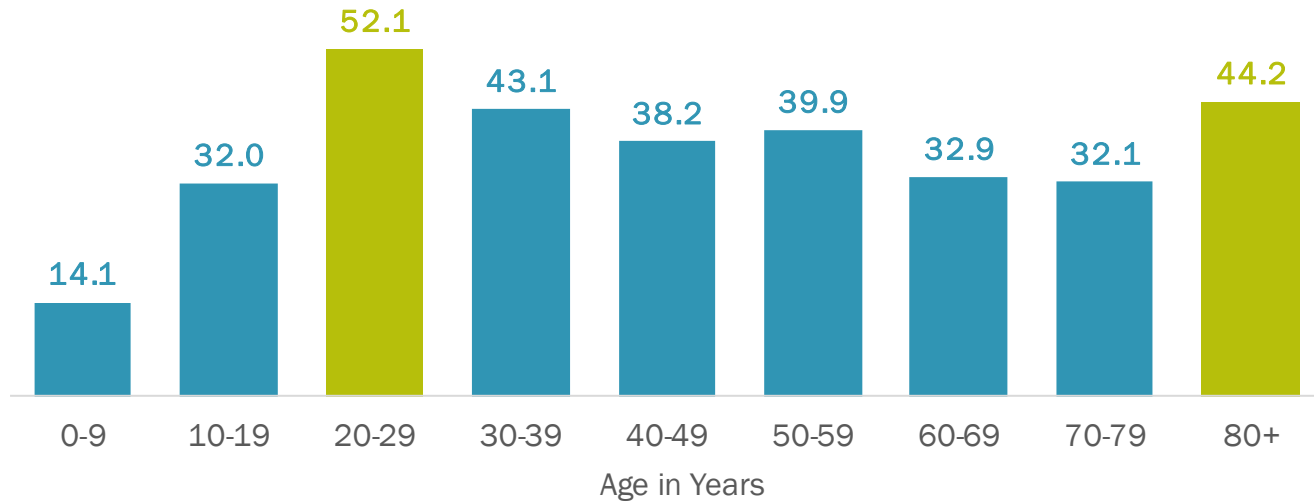
Of contacts became a case

Case Demographics

Who has been impacted by COVID-19 in Vermont?

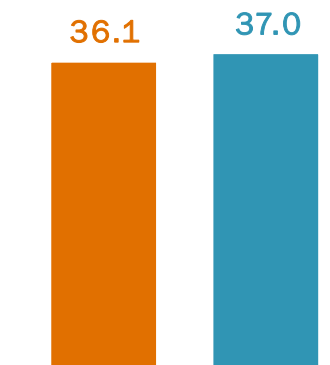
Rates of COVID-19 are highest among Vermonters 20-29 and 80 years and older.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



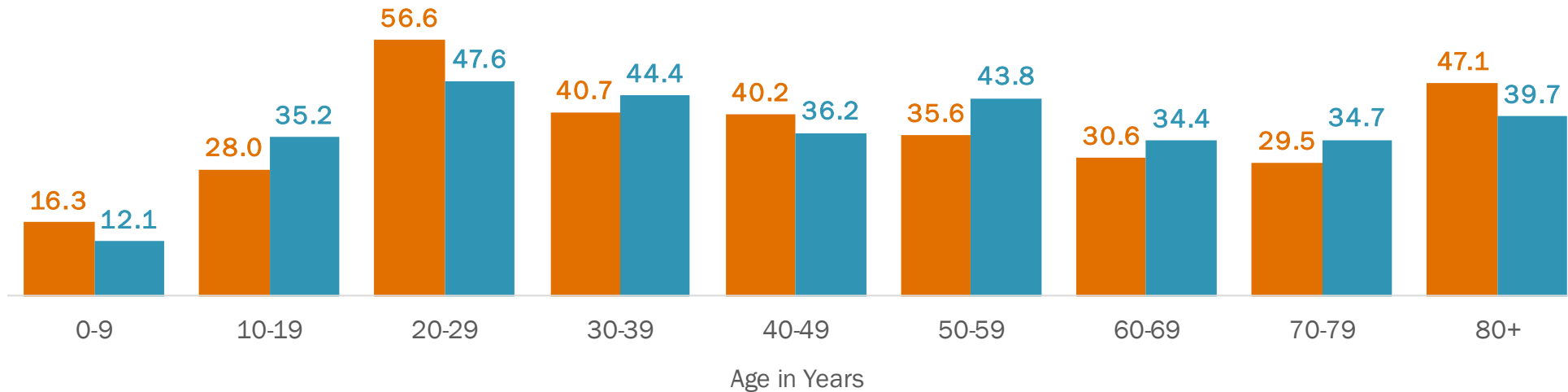
Females and males have similar rates of COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



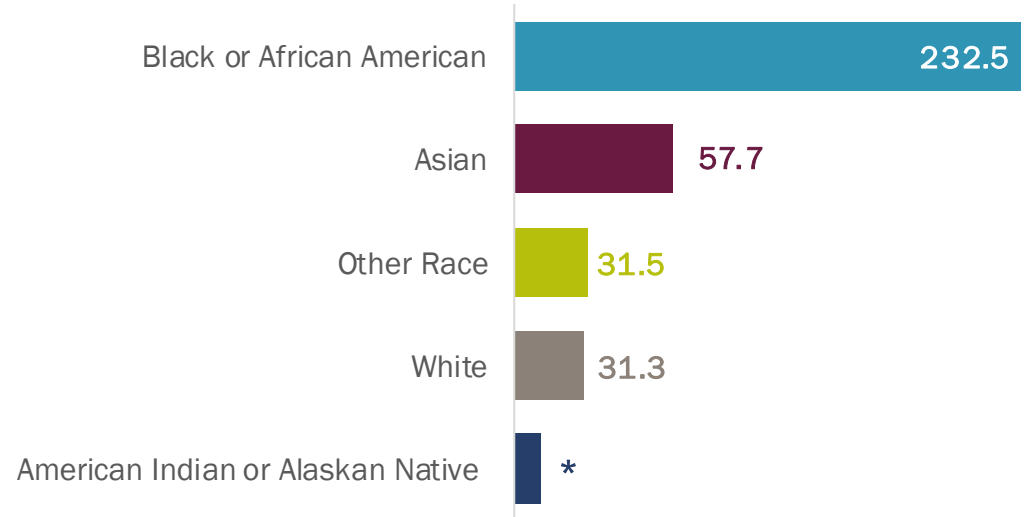
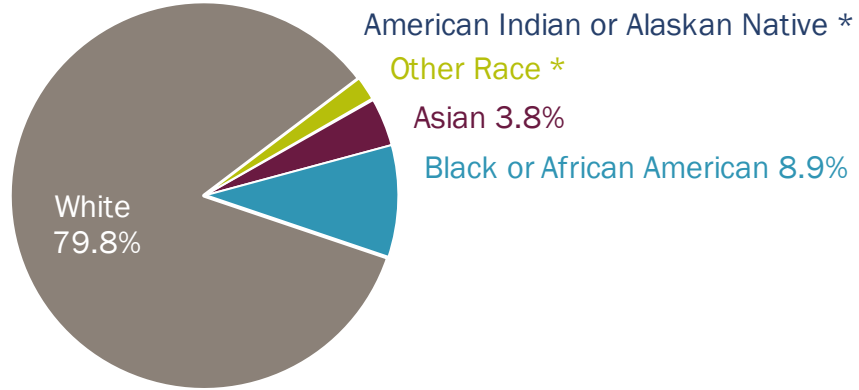
There are differences in age and sex of Vermonters with COVID-19.

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



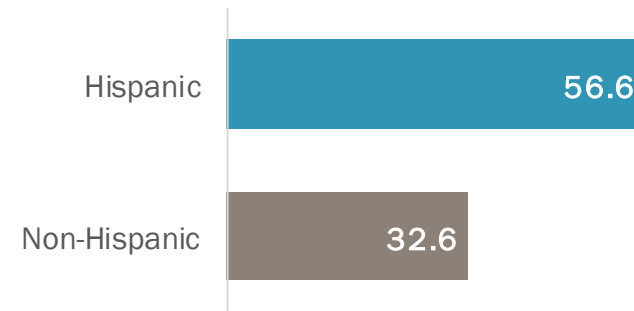
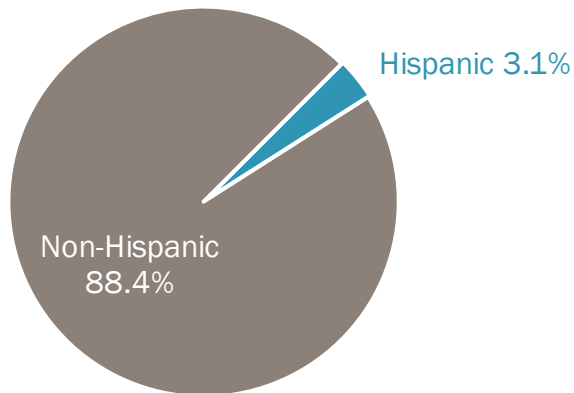
White Vermonters represent the majority of COVID-19 cases. African American Vermonters have the highest rate.

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. Race is unknown in 6% of cases (n = 128) and ethnicity is unknown in 10% of cases (n = 236). * Value suppressed due to small numbers.

Approximately 48% of people* with COVID-19 have a pre-existing condition.

*of the 1,911 people that the Health Department has pre-existing condition data for.

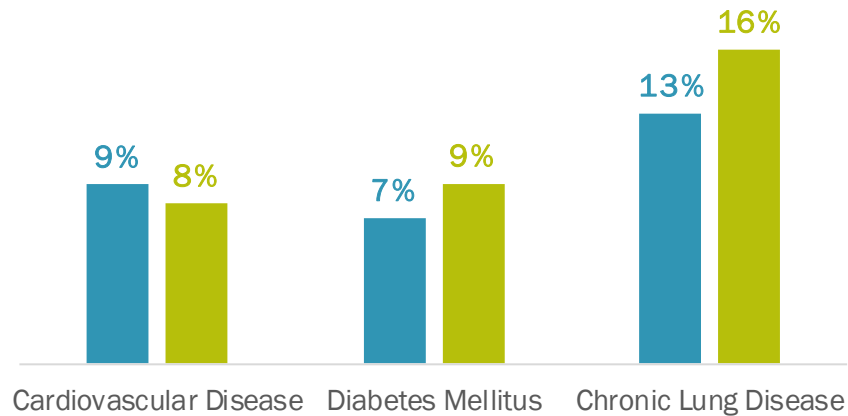
Condition	Count	Percentage
Heart Disease	171	9%
Chronic Lung Disease (includes asthma and COPD)	239	13%
Chronic Liver Disease	11	1%
Chronic Kidney Disease	41	2%
Current/Former Smoker	317	17%
Diabetes	139	7%
Immunocompromised Condition	56	3%
Neurologic Condition/Intellectual Disability	44	2%
Other Chronic Condition**	375	20%
Pregnant	18	1%

40% 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.

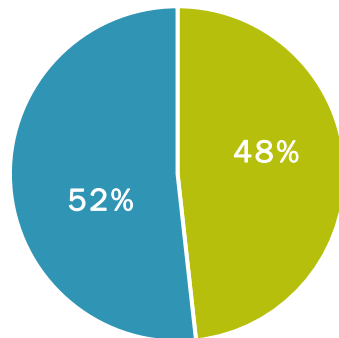
The Health Department has information about pre-existing conditions in 83% (1,911) of 2,303 total COVID-19 cases.

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

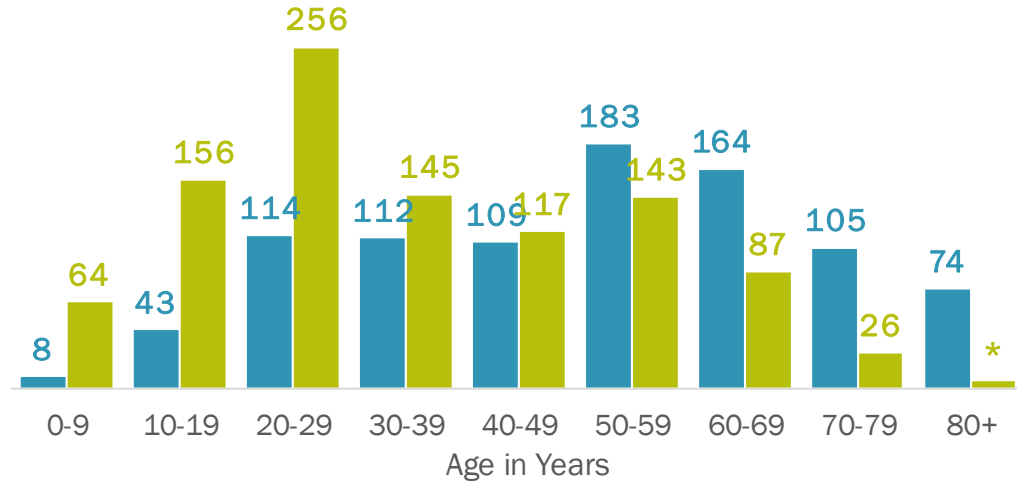


Data Source: Cardiovascular disease and diabetes, BRFSS 2018 annual report. Chronic lung disease, 3-4-50 Community profile (2016-2017 BRFSS).

Likelihood of having a pre-existing condition is approximately equal between female and male COVID-19 patients.

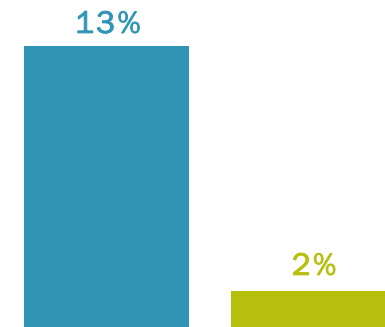


COVID-19 patients with pre-existing conditions tend to be older than those without pre-existing conditions.

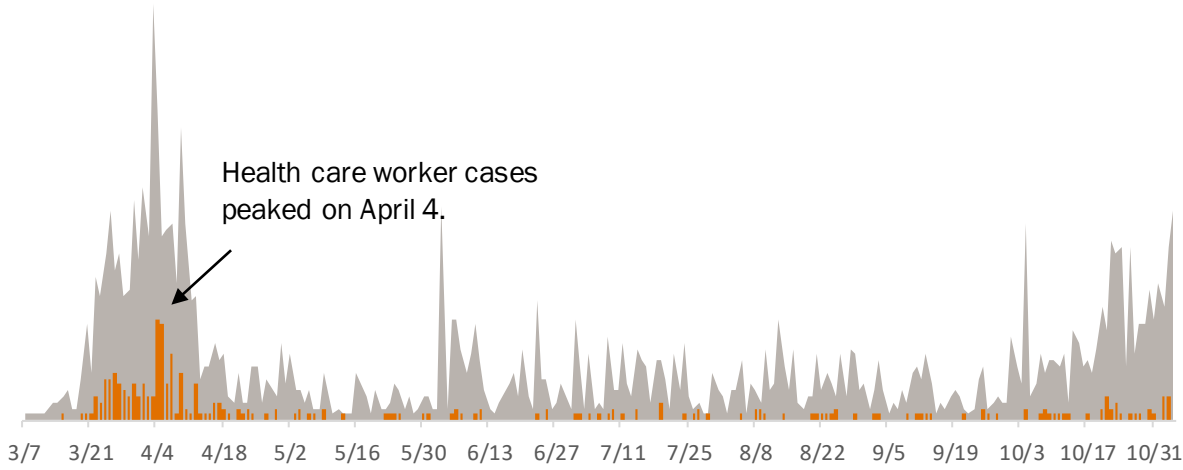


* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

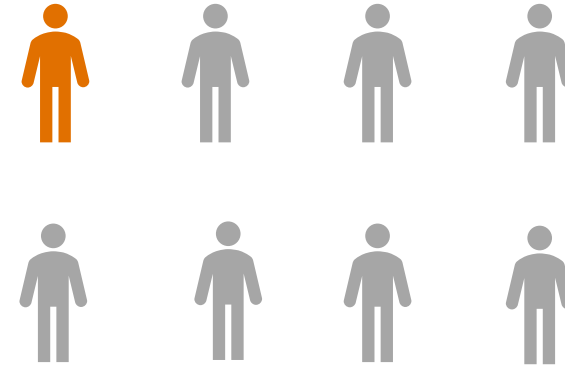
A higher percentage of COVID-19 patients with pre-existing conditions have been hospitalized than those without pre-existing conditions.



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

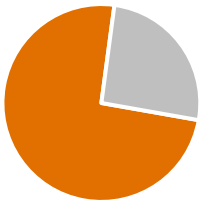


1 in 8 Vermonters with COVID-19 are health care workers.

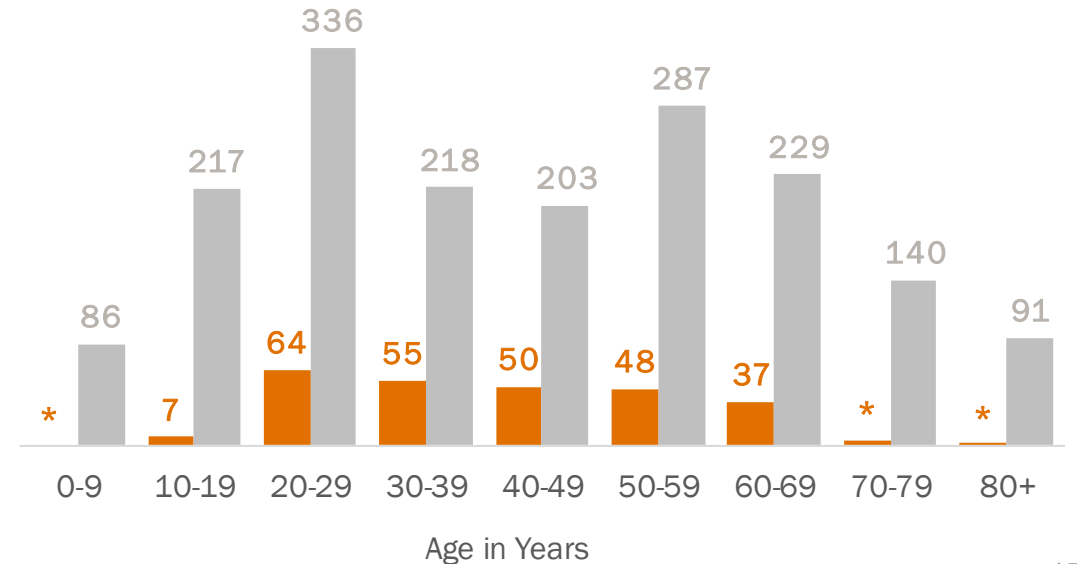
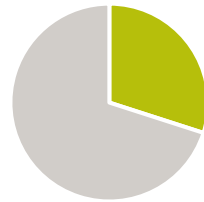


Health care workers with COVID-19 tend to be younger than non-health care workers with COVID-19.

74% of health care workers with COVID-19 are **female**.

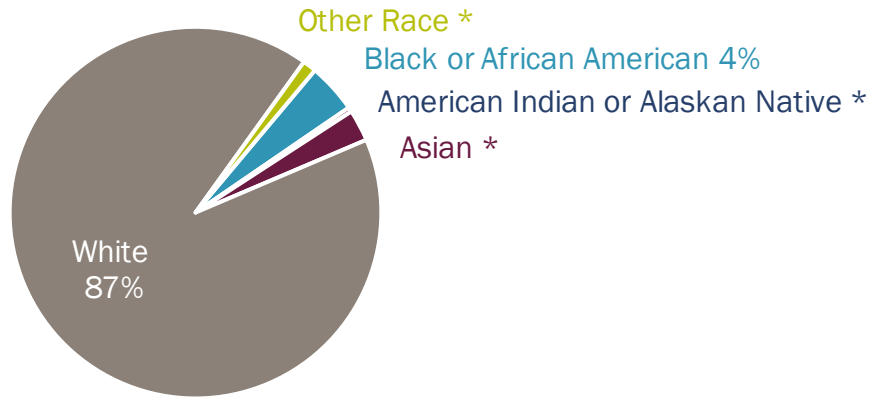


30% of health care workers with COVID-19 are associated with an **outbreak**.



* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

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



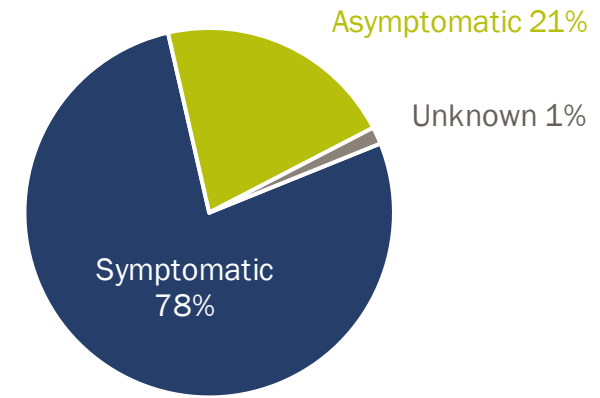
* Value suppressed due to small numbers.

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



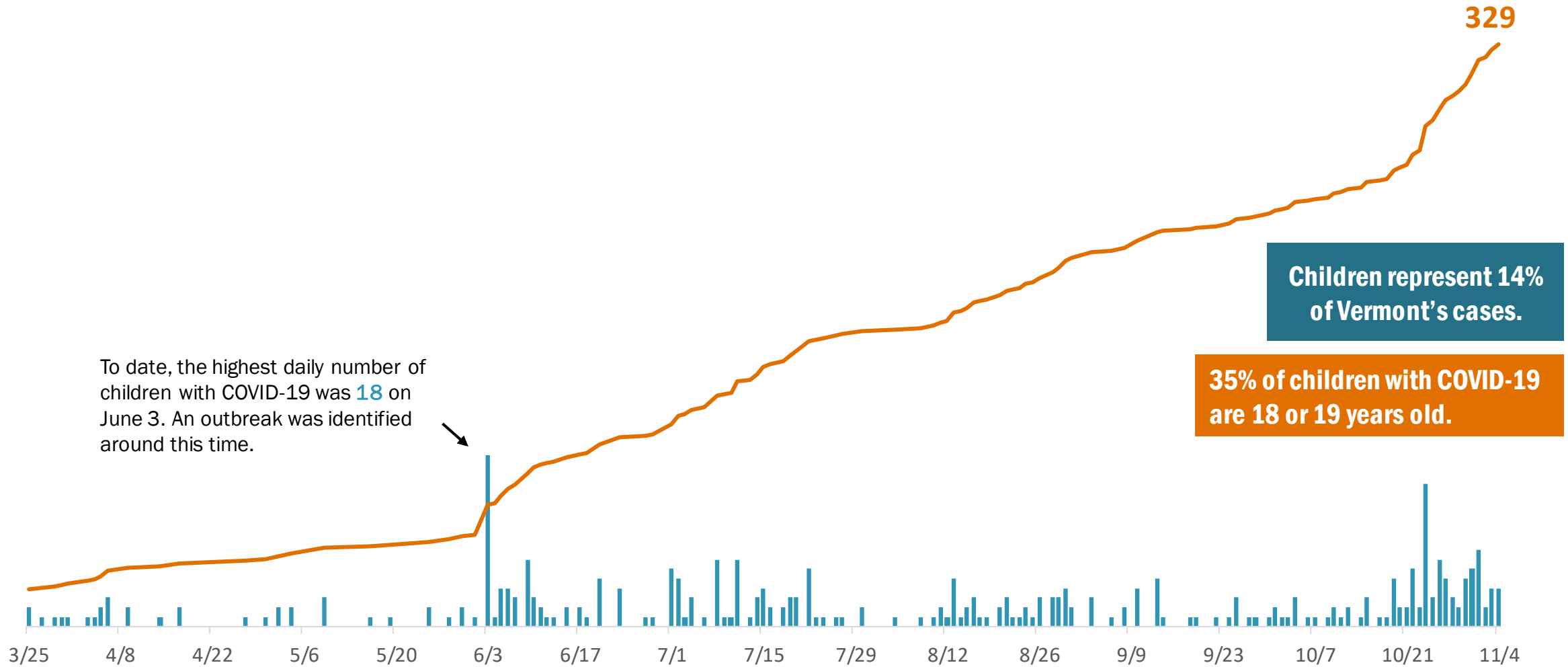
There are no reported deaths among health care workers.

Most health care workers with COVID-19 have symptoms.



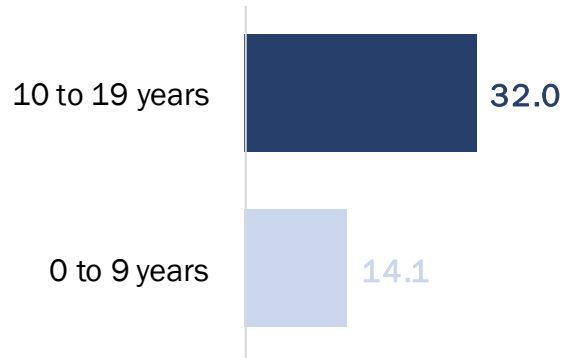
Sign or Symptom among Health Care Workers with COVID-19	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	70%
Fatigue	65%
Headache	61%
Loss of Smell or Taste	51%
Muscle Pain	50%
Runny nose	45%
Chills	43%
Fever	39%

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



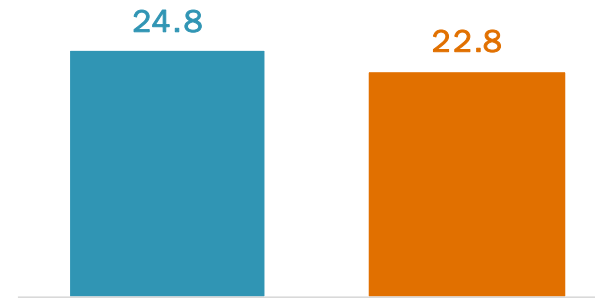
Older children have a higher rate of COVID-19 compared to younger children.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters 0-19 years old

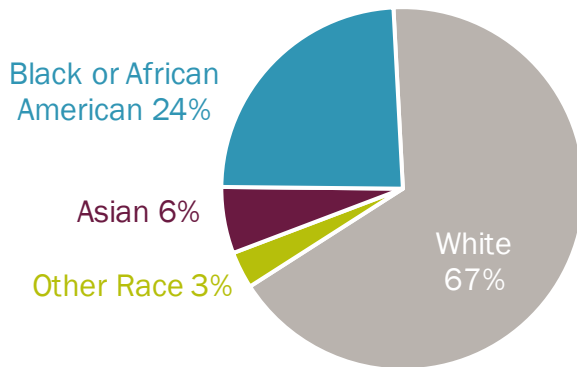


Male and female children have similar rates of COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters 0 to 19 years old

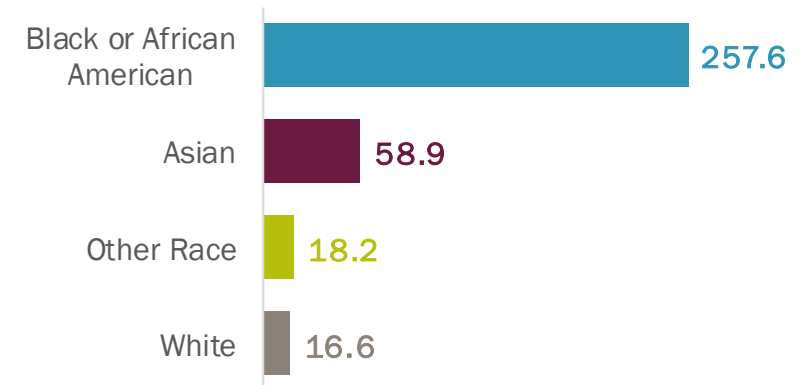


Among children with COVID-19, Black, Indigenous and people of color represent 33% of cases.



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

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters 0 to 19 years.

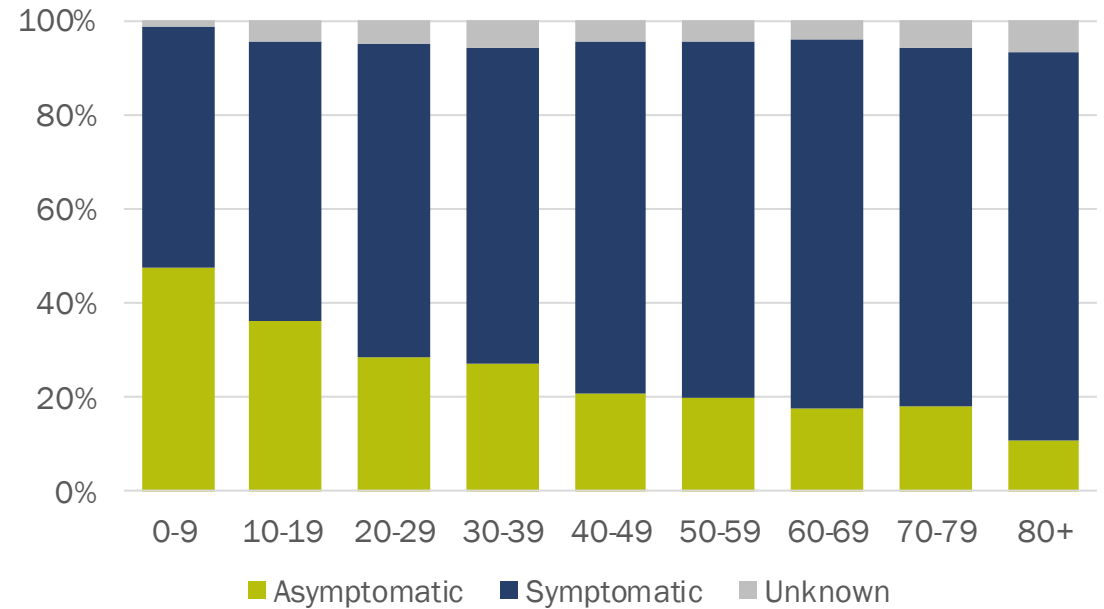


Sign or Symptom	Percent of Children with Symptom
Headache	48%
Fatigue	44%
Cough	42%
Loss of smell or taste	31%
Sore throat	31%
Fever	26%
Muscle pain	28%

5 days
Average illness duration among children

There are no currently reported cases of multi-system inflammatory syndrome, hospitalizations, or deaths among Vermont's children with COVID-19.

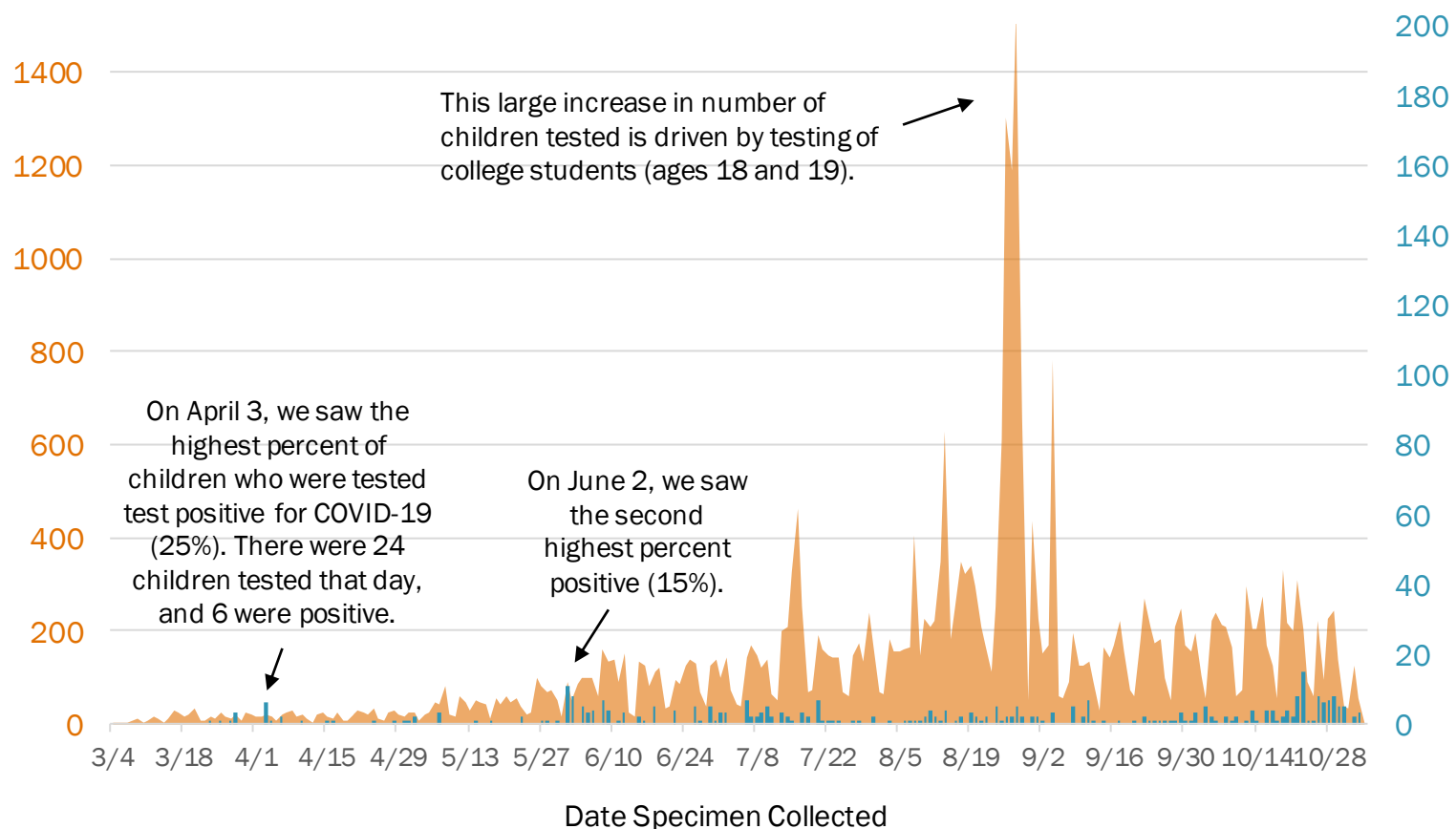
The percent of COVID-19 cases with no symptoms is higher among children. Less than half (39%) of cases among children had no symptoms reported.



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

41% of children with COVID-19 were part of an outbreak.

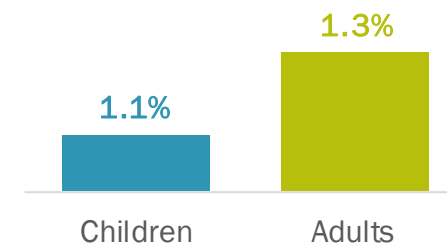
The number of **children tested** for COVID-19 and the number of **children who tested positive** have increased over time.



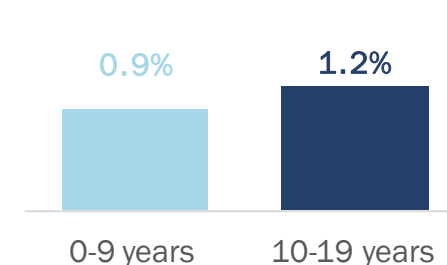
Total tests represents the total number of children tested.
Please note that <1% individuals tested are missing age. They are excluded from these analyses.

31,689 children have been tested for COVID-19.

Percent of tests positive among children is similar to adults.



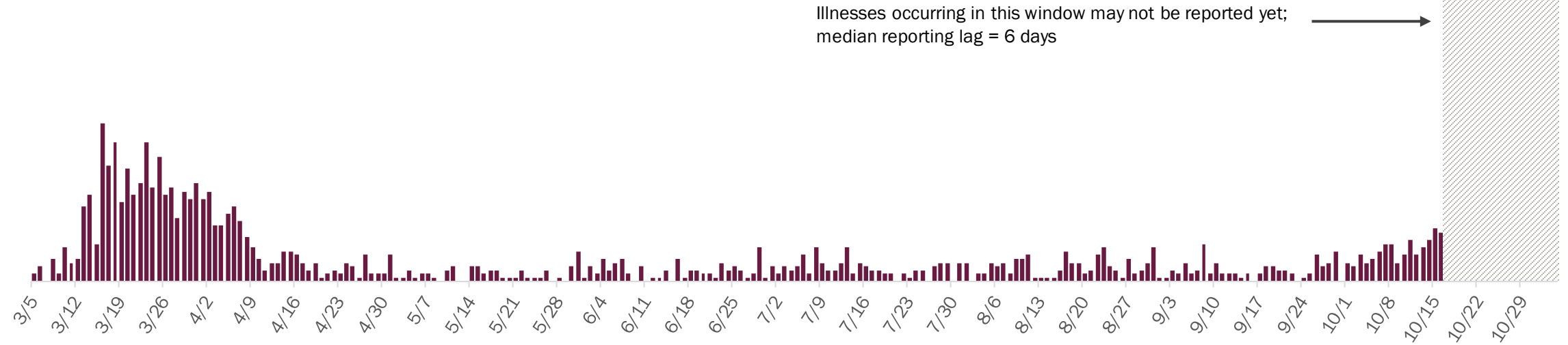
Percent of tests positive among younger children is similar to older children.



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.



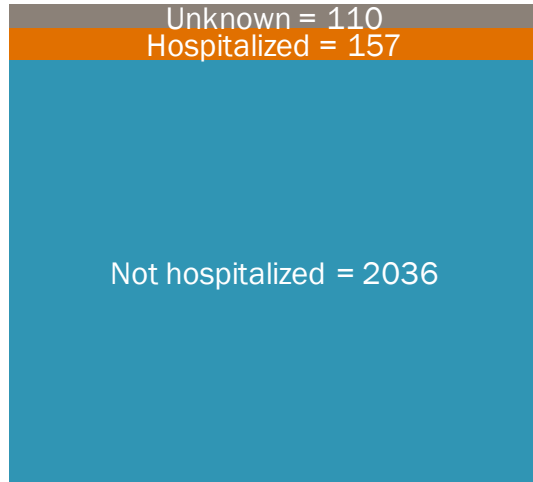
Note: Date of symptom onset is not always known.

11 days
Average illness duration

72%
Cases with symptoms

Sign or Symptom	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	64%
Fatigue	65%
Headache	54%
Muscle Pain	49%
Felt Feverish	44%
Loss of Smell/Taste	44%
Fever	40%

Most Vermonters with COVID-19 are not hospitalized.



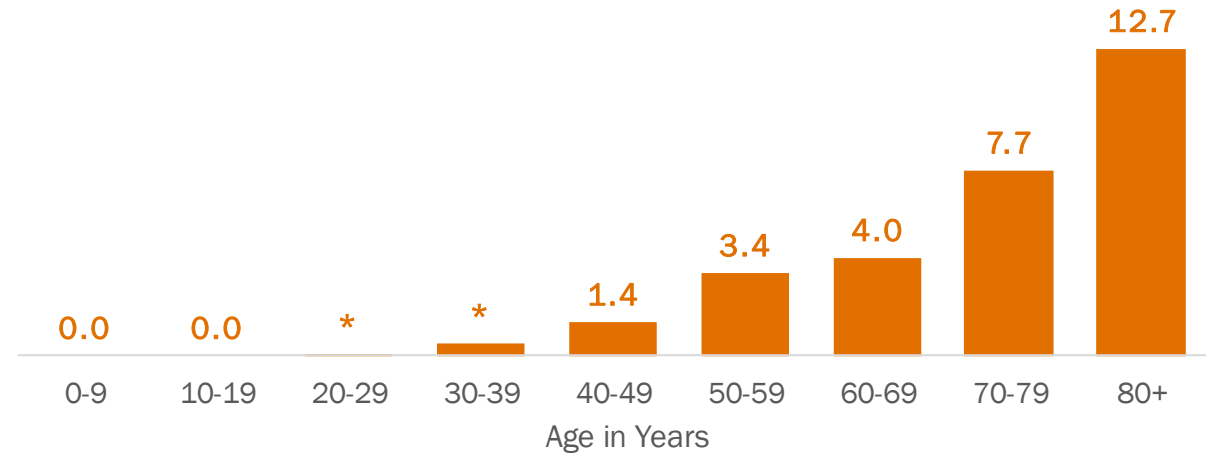
13%
Of those hospitalized
were on a ventilator

34%
Of those hospitalized
were in the ICU

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

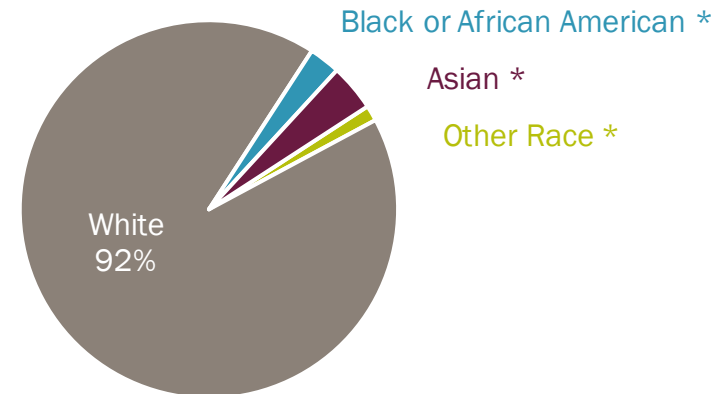
Vermonters 80 years and older are more likely to be hospitalized for COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



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

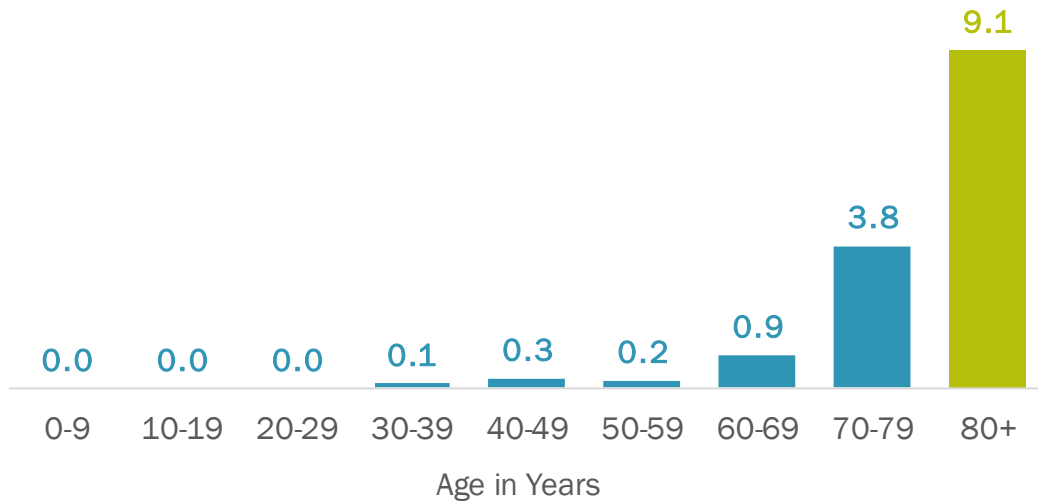
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



Please note 7 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

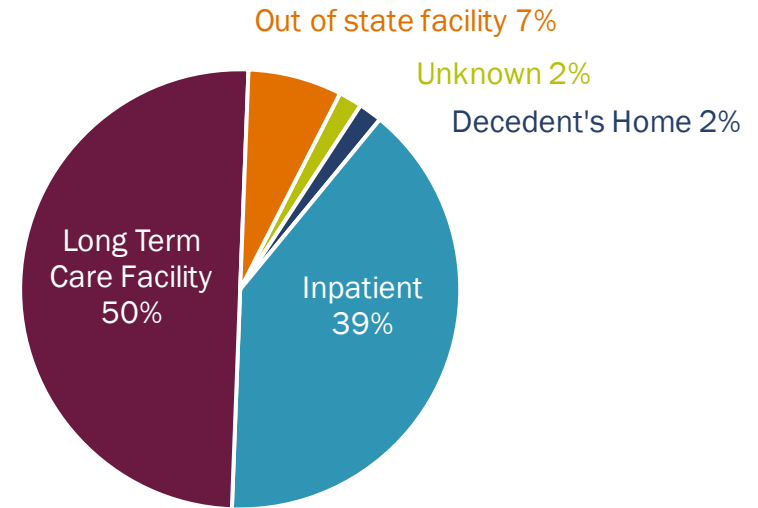


Males and females have similar rates of COVID-19 death.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

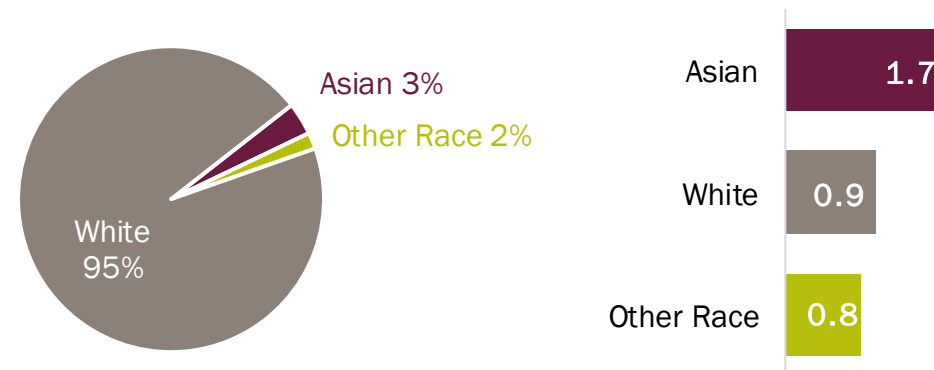


Most COVID-19 deaths occurred in an inpatient hospital setting or a long-term care facility.



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.

Resolved when no new COVID-19 positive tests or people with COVID-like illness occur after 28 days from the last positive test or illness start date (whichever is later).

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.

Resolved when no new COVID-19 positive tests or people with COVID-like illness occur after 28 days from the last known exposure to the school.

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.

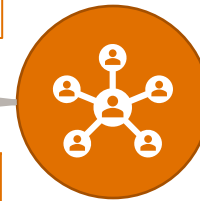
Resolved when no new COVID-19 positive tests occur after 28 days from the last positive test or illness start date (whichever is later).

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.

Resolved when no new COVID-19 positive tests or people with COVID-like illness occur after 28 days from the last known exposure to the workplace.





29% of people testing positive for COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak



Outbreaks

8 Active

30 Resolved*

*See previous page for definitions of resolved outbreaks.

Congregate Care & Living



160
cases among residents



84
cases among facility staff

Schools and Child Care



16
cases among children and staff

Workplace



83
cases among employees

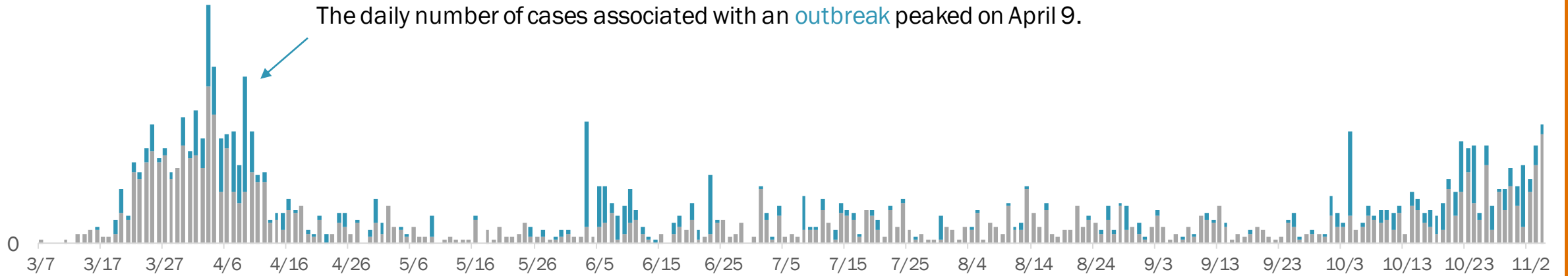
Community



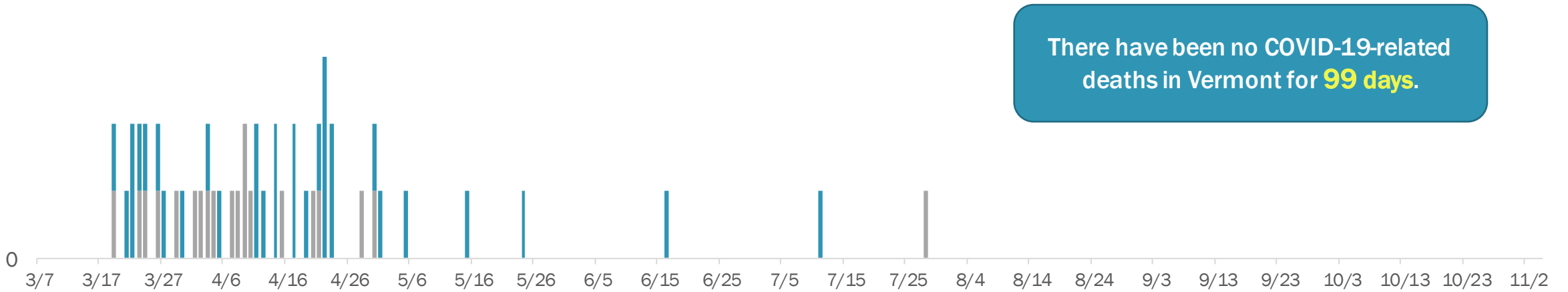
314
cases

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 11/04/2020

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

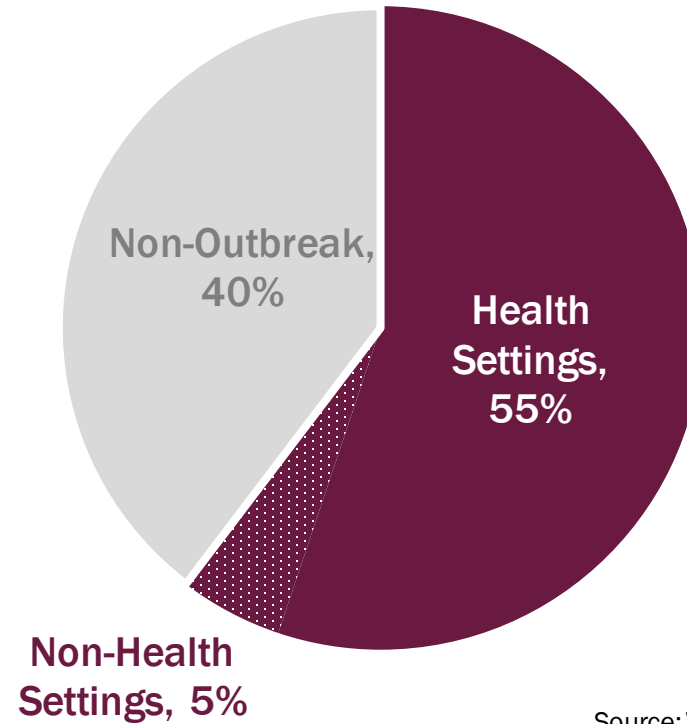
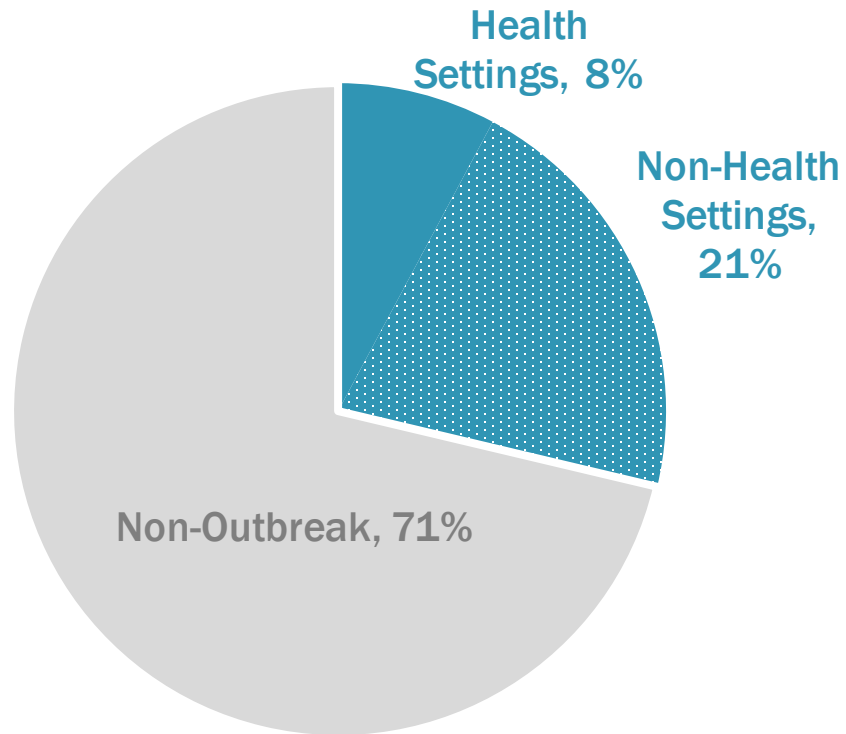


Vermont COVID-19 Deaths Associated with an **Outbreak** Over Time



Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 11/04/2020

While only 29% of all people testing positive for COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak, 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 11/04/2020

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 percentage of **males** with COVID-19 that are associated with an outbreak is slightly higher than the percentage of **females** with COVID-19 that are associated with an outbreak.

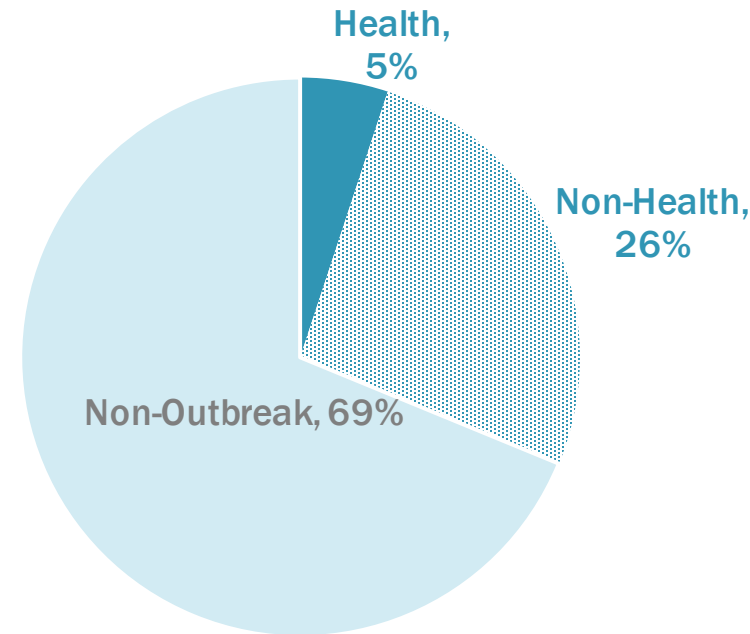
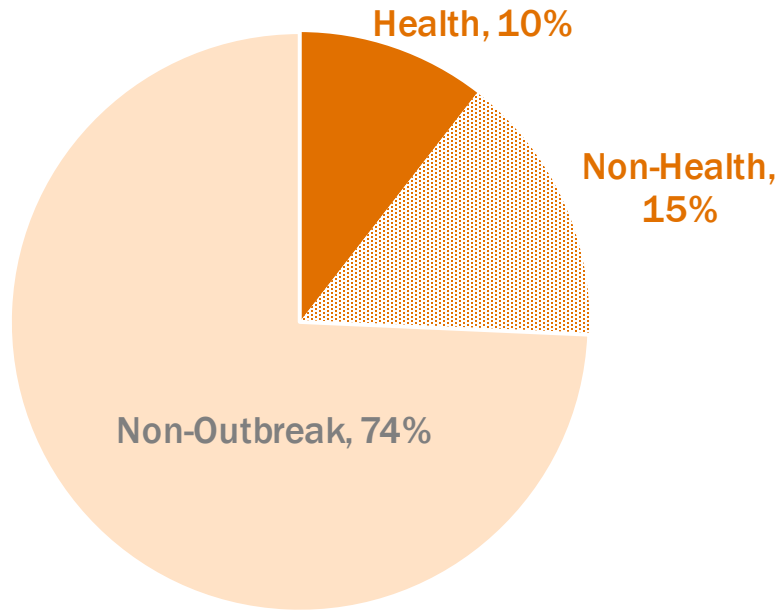


26% of **females** with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.



31% of **males** with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.

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 11/04/2020

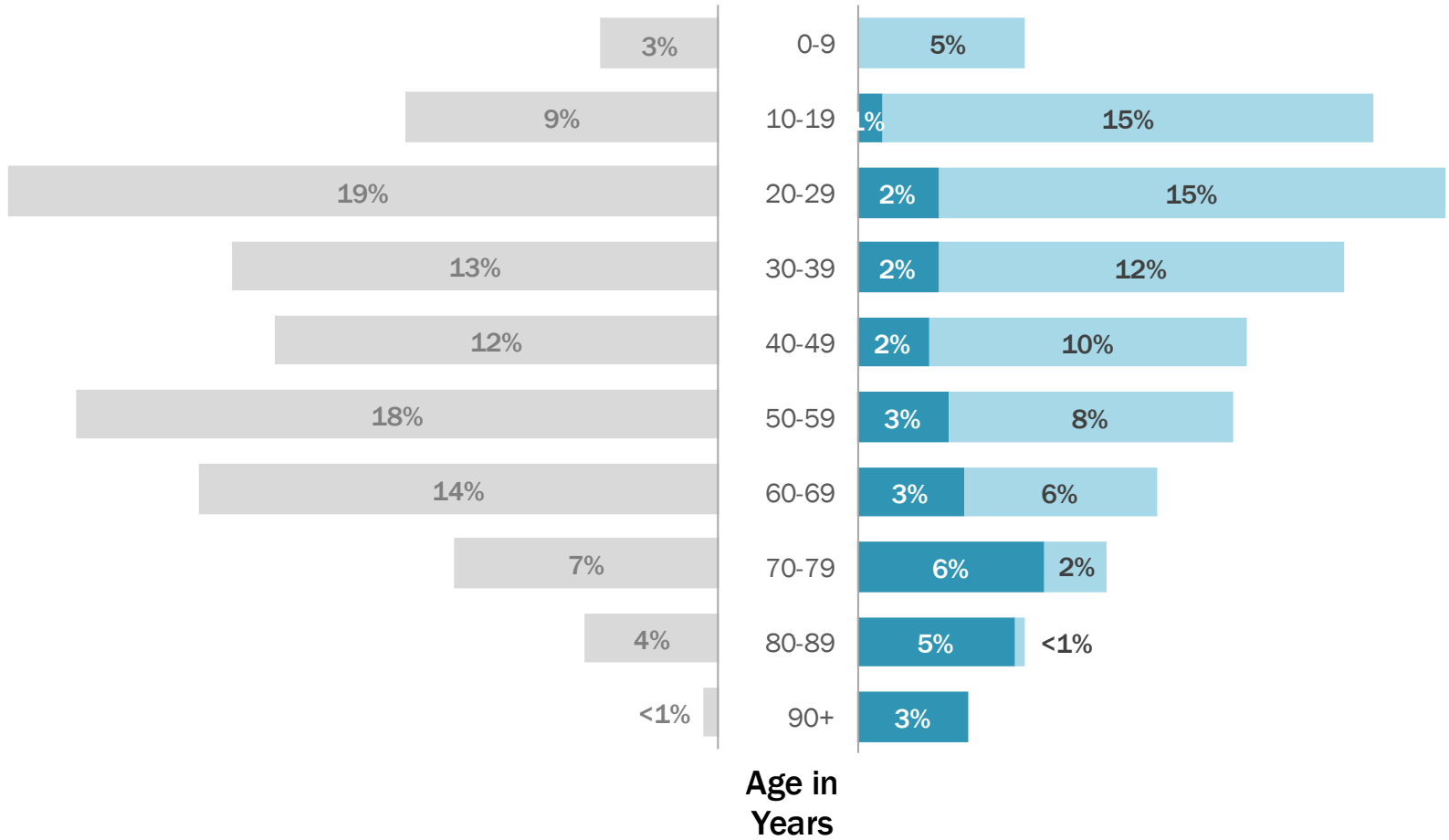
Note: Examples of a health setting include long-term care or assisted living facilities, therapeutic treatment centers, and behavioral health institutions. Examples of a non-health setting include correctional facilities, senior housing communities, businesses, and homeless shelters. Vermont has not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

Percent of People Testing Positive for COVID-19 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



44 years old

70 years old

31 years old

Median age

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects case counts as of 11/04/2020

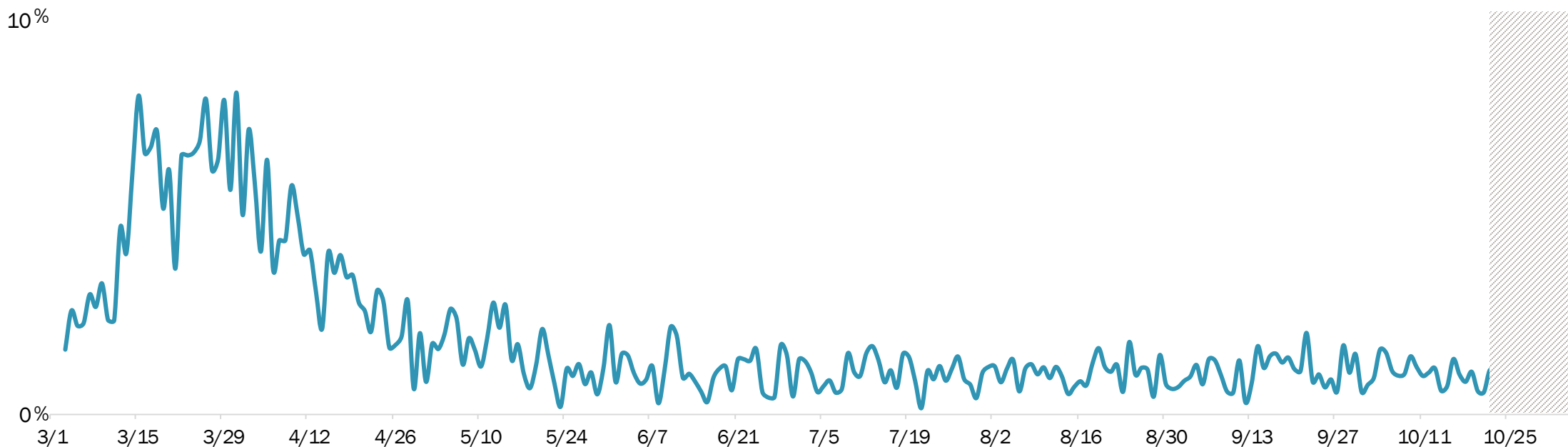
Note: Examples of a health setting include long-term care or assisted living facilities, therapeutic treatment centers, and behavioral health institutions. Examples of a non-health setting include correctional facilities, senior housing communities, businesses, and homeless shelters. Vermont has not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

This section focuses on the 44 COVID-19 cases who have a neurological condition or intellectual disability.



What are examples of a neurological condition or intellectual disability?

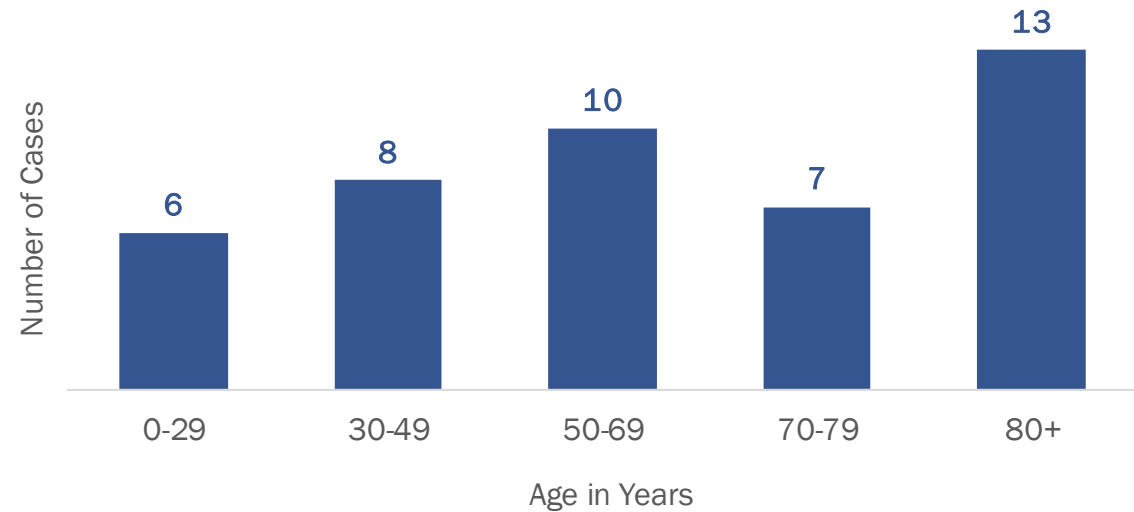
- Autoimmune disorders
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Alzheimer's
- Charcot Marie-Tooth Disease
- Cognitive impairment
- Dementia
- Epilepsy
- Fibromyalgia
- Multiple sclerosis
- Narcolepsy
- Neuropathy
- Parkinson's Disease
- Seizures
- Tremors

2% of people with COVID-19* have a neurological condition or intellectual disability.

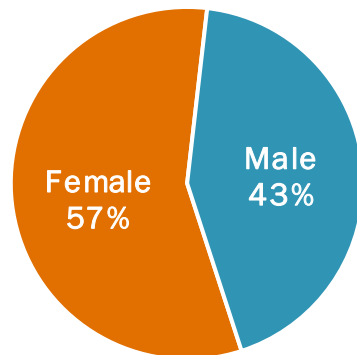
*Of the 1,911 people (83% of cases) that the Health Department has pre-existing condition data for.

44
people with COVID-19 have a neurological condition or intellectual disability.

The majority of people with COVID-19 that have a neurological condition or intellectual disability tend to be older.

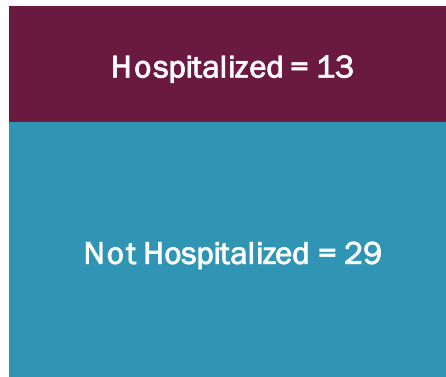


More females than males with COVID-19 have a neurological condition or intellectual disability.



The majority of COVID-19 cases with a neurological condition or intellectual disability are white non-Hispanic, compared to those that are Black, Indigenous or people of color.

66% of COVID-19 cases with a neurological condition or intellectual disability are **not hospitalized.**



The majority of COVID-19 cases with a neurological condition or intellectual disability experience **symptoms, compared to those who **do not experience symptoms**.**



12 COVID-19 cases with a neurological condition or intellectual disability are residents of a **long-term care or assisted living facility.**



Almost 1 in 4 deaths due to COVID-19* had a neurological condition or intellectual disability.

*Of the 54 deaths (93% of total deaths) that the Health Department has pre-existing condition data for.

Note: Conditions for these 13 deaths include Alzheimer's, dementia, cognitive impairment, multiple sclerosis and underlying neurological disorders.

What are some contributing factors that lead to the disparities we see for people with neurological conditions and intellectual disabilities?

People with disabilities are marginalized in health care and often deal with systemic deficiencies.

Compared to those without disabilities, **people with disabilities** may be:

- Less likely to have private or employer-funded health insurance and access to preventive services.
- More likely to report unmet health care needs.
- Unable to receive immediate or consistent accessible information about COVID-19.
- More likely to live in long-term, congregate care settings that place them at greater risk.

Source: Sabatello, M. Landres, S.D., McDonald, KE. (2020, July 27). *People with Disabilities in COVID-19: Fixing Our Priorities*. 20(7), 187-190. Retrieved from <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15265161.2020.1779396>.



Learn more about COVID-19 in Vermont:

Web: www.healthvermont.gov/COVID-19

Email: AHS.VDHPublicCommunication@vermont.gov

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