

Weekly Summary of Vermont COVID-19 Data

Reflecting cases identified between
March 5 – August 26, 2020



Date published: August 28, 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 August 19 through August 26.

For geographic information, please see the [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) or [Town Map](#). For more information on data sources, please see our [Data Notes](#) document.

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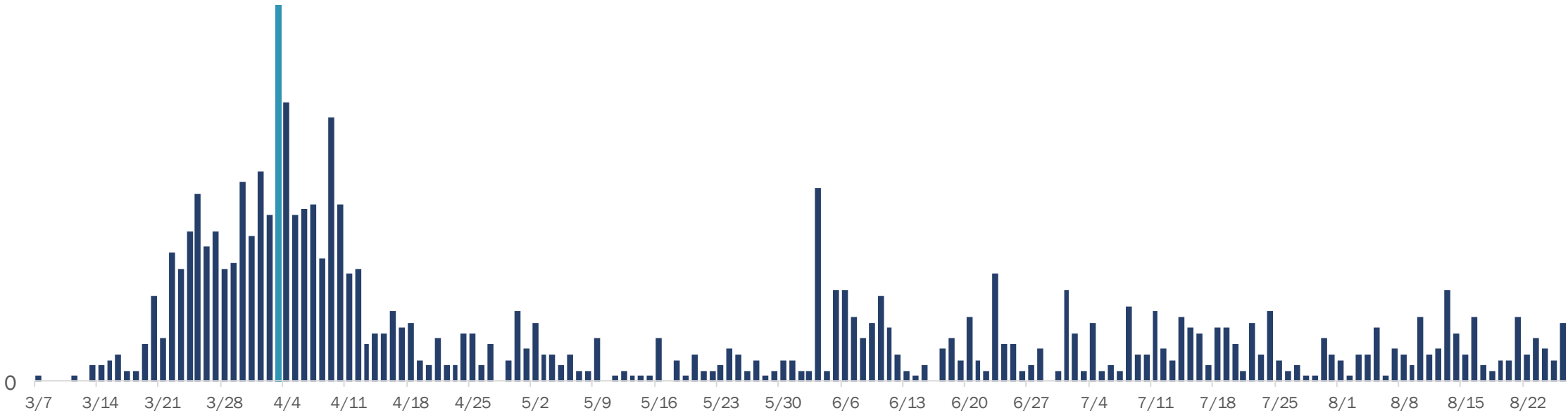
Weekly Spotlight

COVID-19 in Vermont

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

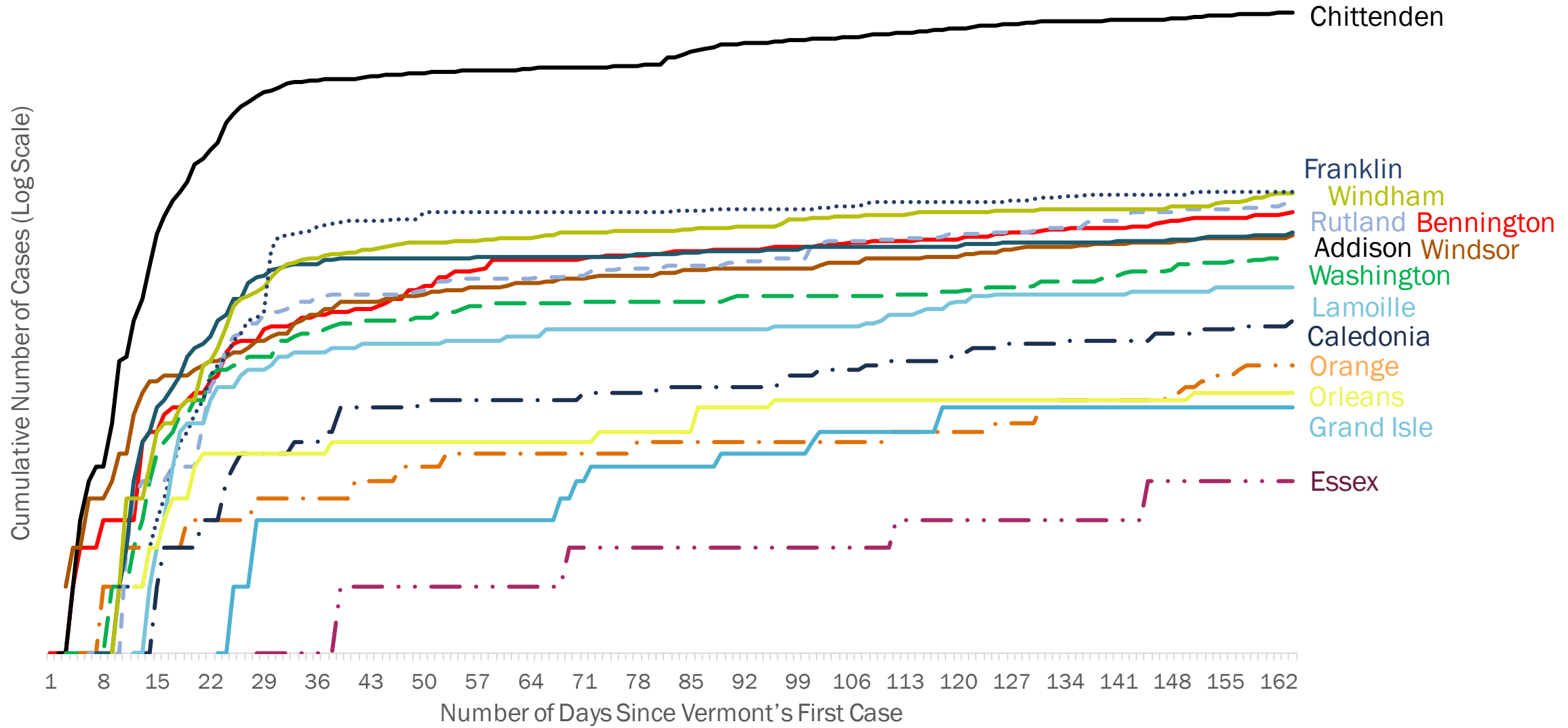
Total Number of Cases in Vermont: 1,586

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

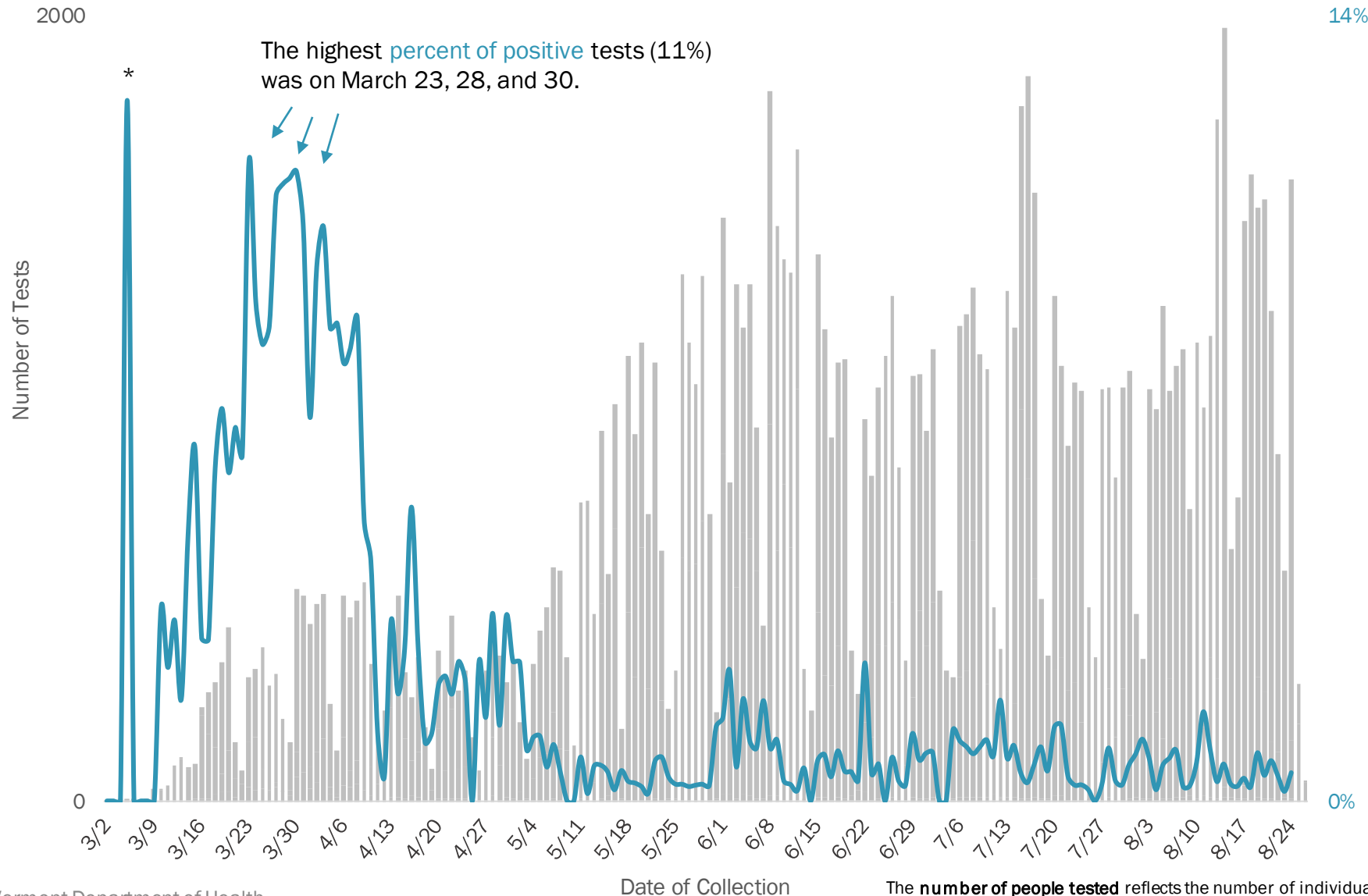


Most counties have reached a plateau in the number of new cases.

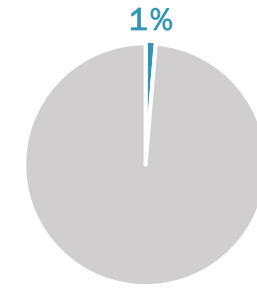
Growth over time by county (n=1,5586)



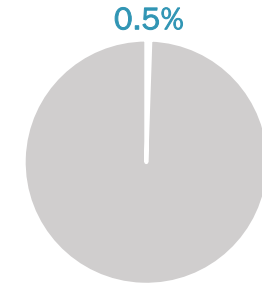
Percent of positive COVID-19 tests may indicate how prevalent the disease is in the population.



Percent Positive to Date



Percent Positive This Week (August 19 - August 26)



11,034 People Tested this Week	18,855 Tests this Week
124,831 People Tested to Date	169,029 Tests to Date

Vermont Department of Health

The **number of people tested** reflects the number of individual people who have had confirmatory testing for COVID-19 in Vermont. Each person is only counted once. The **number of tests** reflects the number of specimens that have had confirmatory for COVID-19 in Vermont. This number may include multiple specimens for one person, the same person tested multiple times, etc. **Percent positive** is the number of people with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 divided by the total number of people tested. None of these numbers include serology or antigen testing.

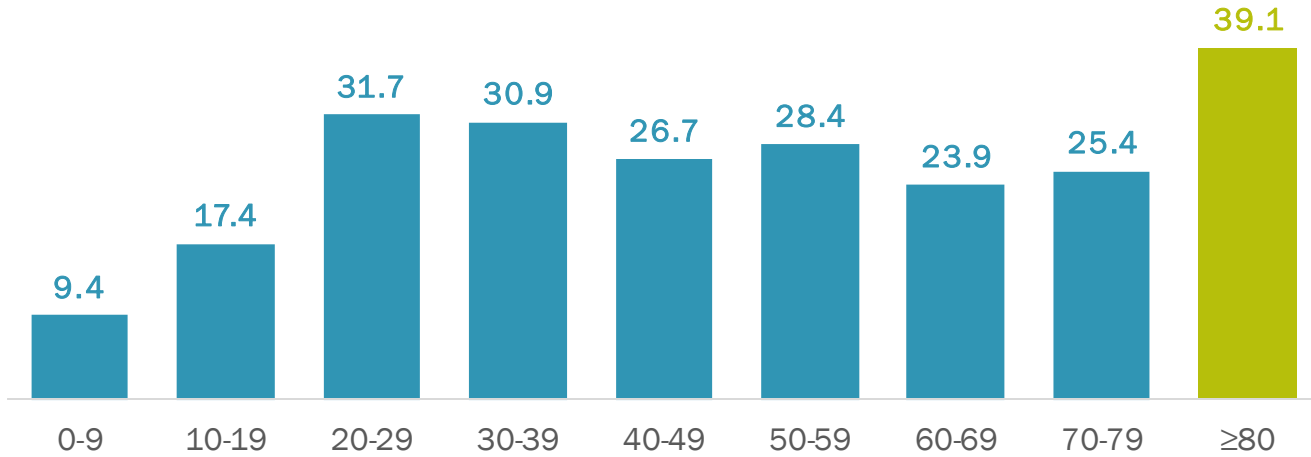
*Not a stable estimate due to small numbers. There were 8 total tests and 1 was positive.

Case Demographics

Who has been impacted by COVID-19 in Vermont?

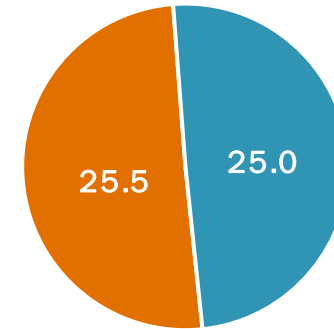
Rates of COVID-19 are disproportionately high among Vermonters 80 years and older.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



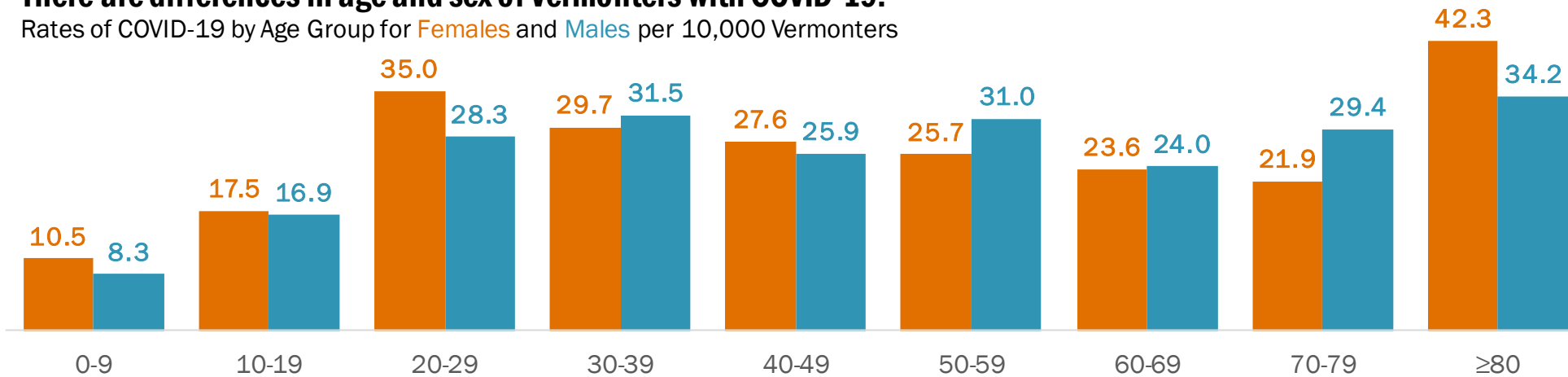
Females and males have similar rates of COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



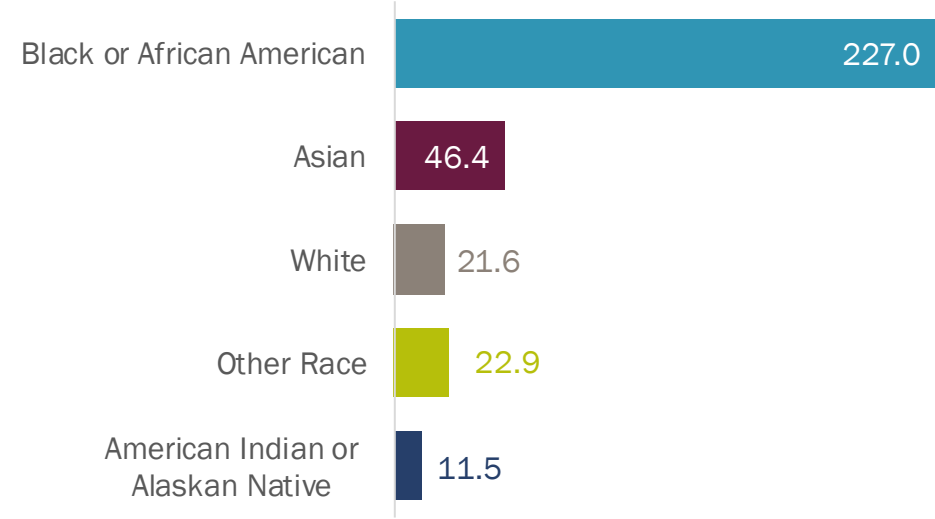
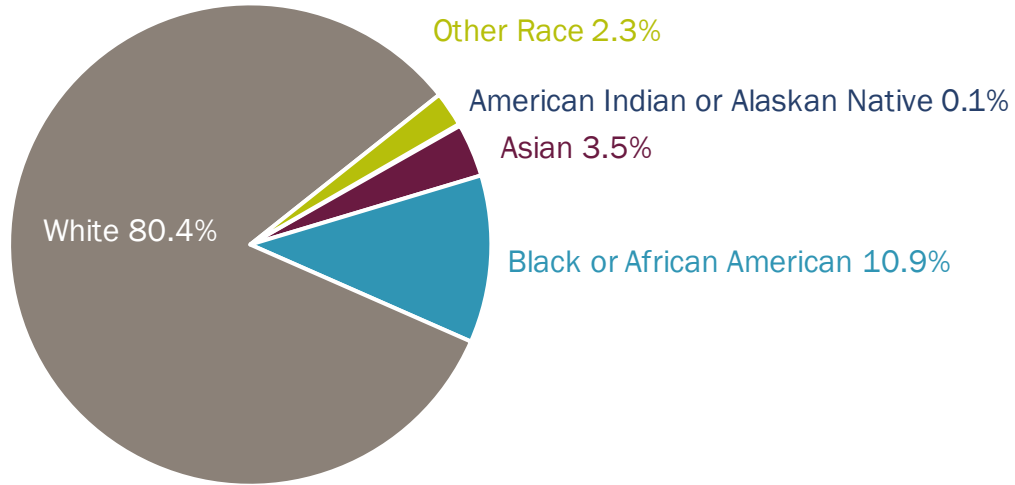
There are differences in age and sex of Vermonters with COVID-19.

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



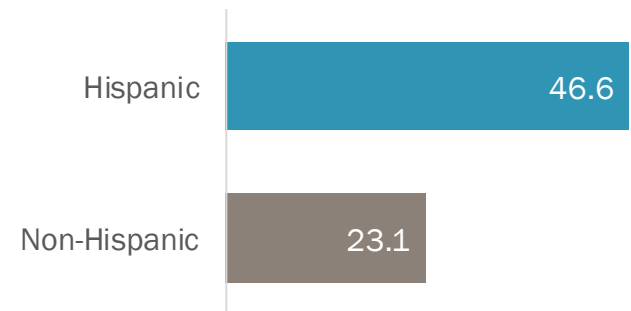
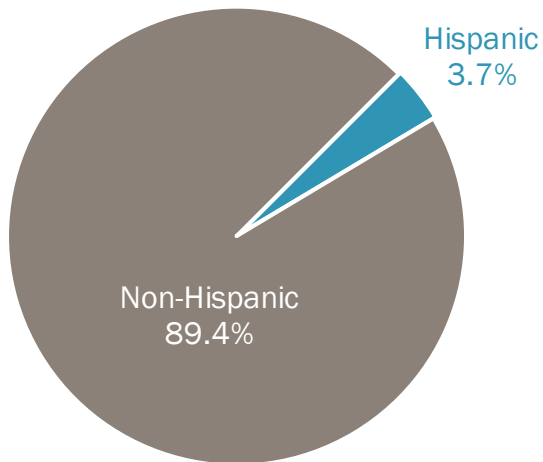
White Vermonters represent the majority of COVID-19 cases. African American Vermonters have the highest rate.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



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

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



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 = 45) and ethnicity is unknown in 7% of cases (n = 110).

Approximately 55% of people* with COVID-19 have a pre-existing condition.

*of the 1,273 people that the Health Department has pre-existing condition data for.

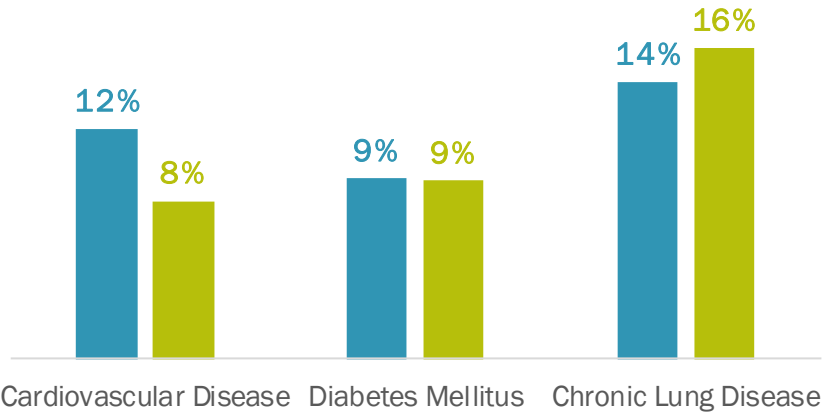
Condition	Count	Percentage
Heart Disease	148	12%
Chronic Lung Disease (includes asthma and COPD)	178	14%
Chronic Liver Disease	11	1%
Chronic Kidney Disease	34	3%
Current/Former Smoker	271	21%
Diabetes	116	9%
Immunocompromised Condition	52	4%
Neurologic Condition/Intellectual Disability	36	3%
Other Chronic Condition**	324	26%
Pregnant	12	1%

45% 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.

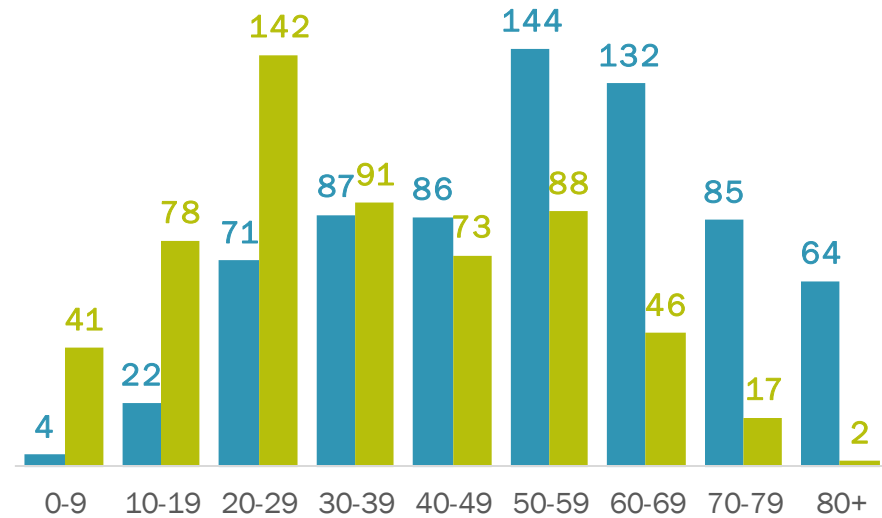
The Health Department has information about pre-existing conditions in 81% (1,273) of 1,586 total COVID-19 cases.

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).

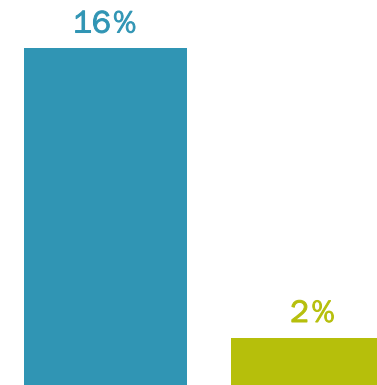
COVID-19 patients with pre-existing conditions tend to be older than those without pre-existing conditions.



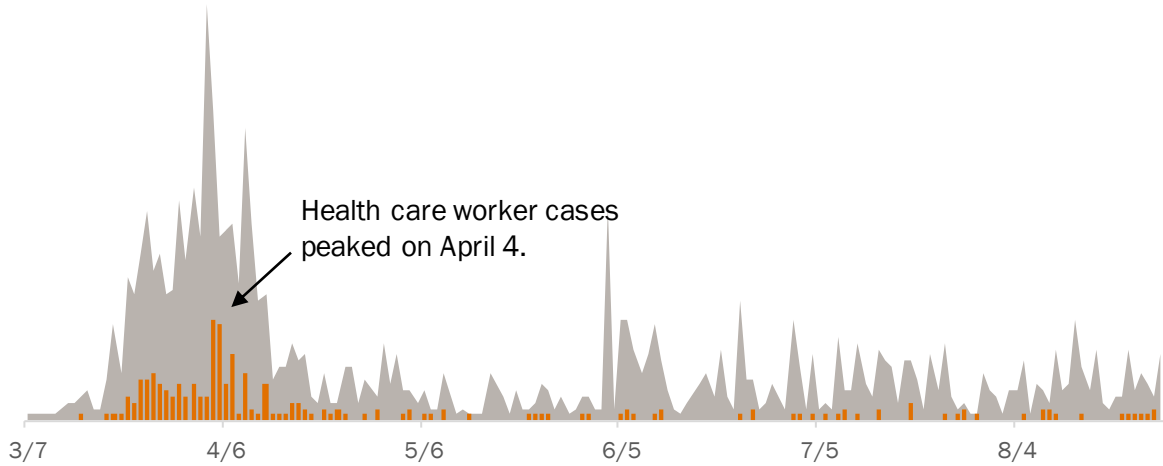
Prevalence of pre-existing conditions is approximately equal between female and male COVID-19 patients.



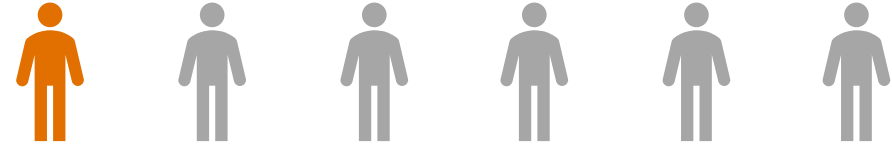
A higher percentage of COVID-19 patients with pre-existing conditions have been hospitalized than those without pre-existing conditions.



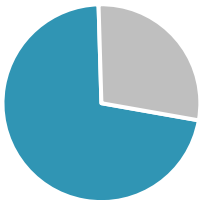
Number of **New Health Care Worker** and **All Cases** by Day



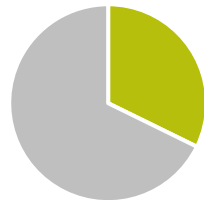
1 in 6 Vermonters with COVID-19 are health care workers.



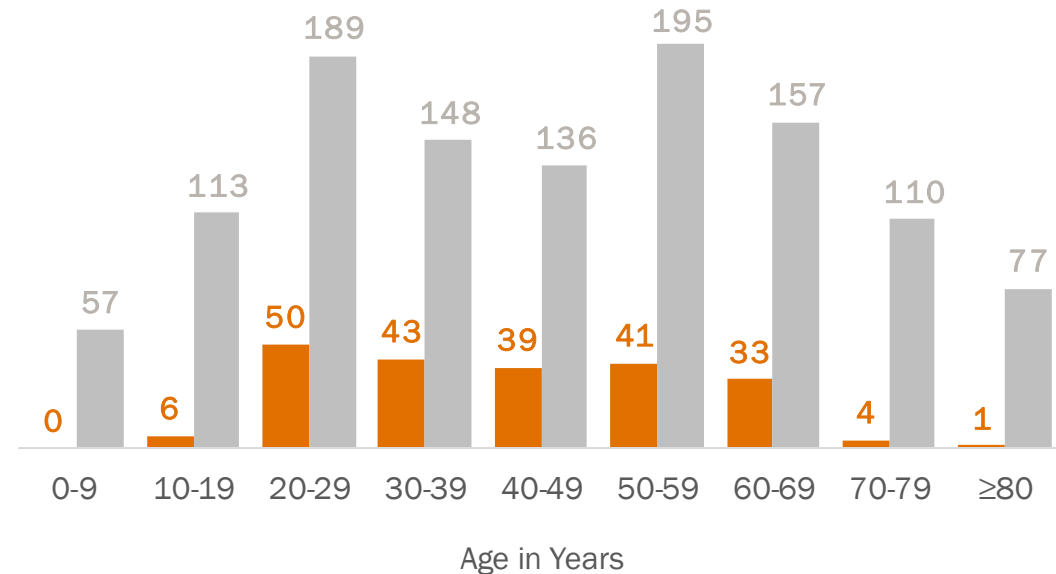
7 in 10 health care workers with COVID-19 are **female**.



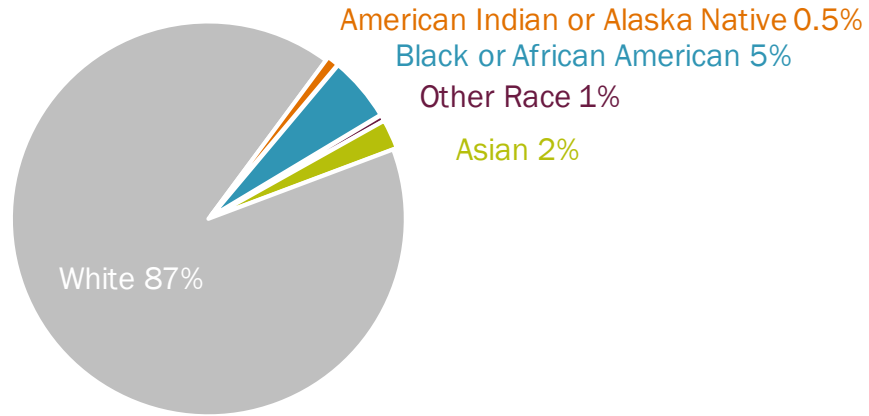
32% of health care workers with COVID-19 are associated with an **outbreak**.



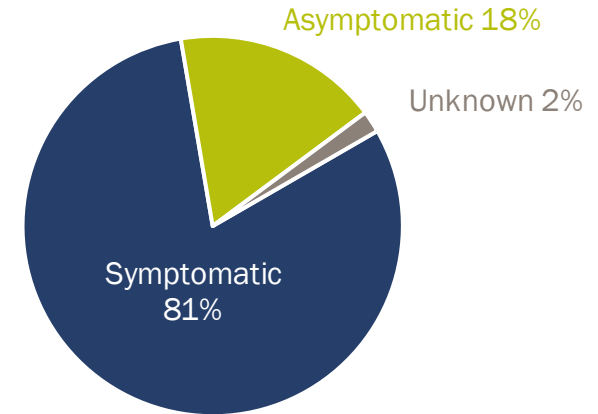
Health care workers with COVID-19 tend to be younger than non-health care workers with COVID-19.



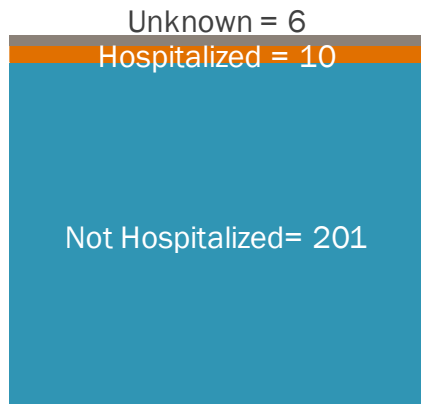
White Vermonters represent the majority of health care workers with COVID-19 .



Most health care workers with COVID-19 have symptoms.



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



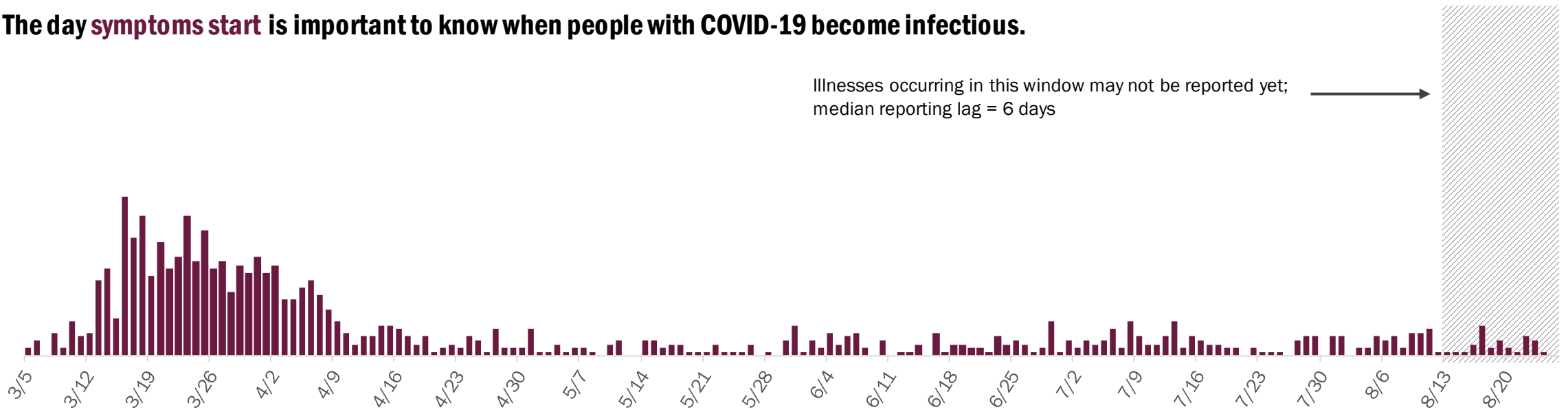
There are no reported deaths among health care workers.

Sign or Symptom among Health Care Workers with COVID-19	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	70%
Fatigue	63%
Headache	61%
Loss of Smell or Taste	53%
Muscle Pain	51%
Runny nose	46%
Chills	42%
Fever	40%

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.

13 days
Average illness duration

73%
Cases with symptoms

Sign or Symptom	Percent of Symptomatic Cases
Cough	67%
Fatigue	65%
Headache	53%
Muscle Pain	50%
Fever	46%

Most Vermonters with COVID-19 are not hospitalized.



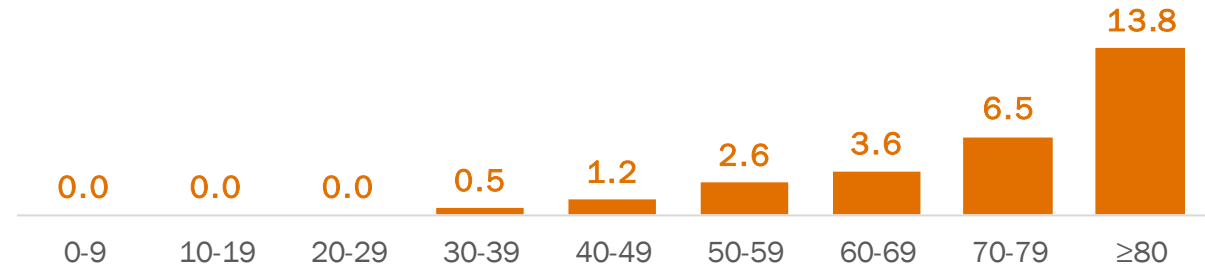
15%
Of those hospitalized were on a ventilator

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.

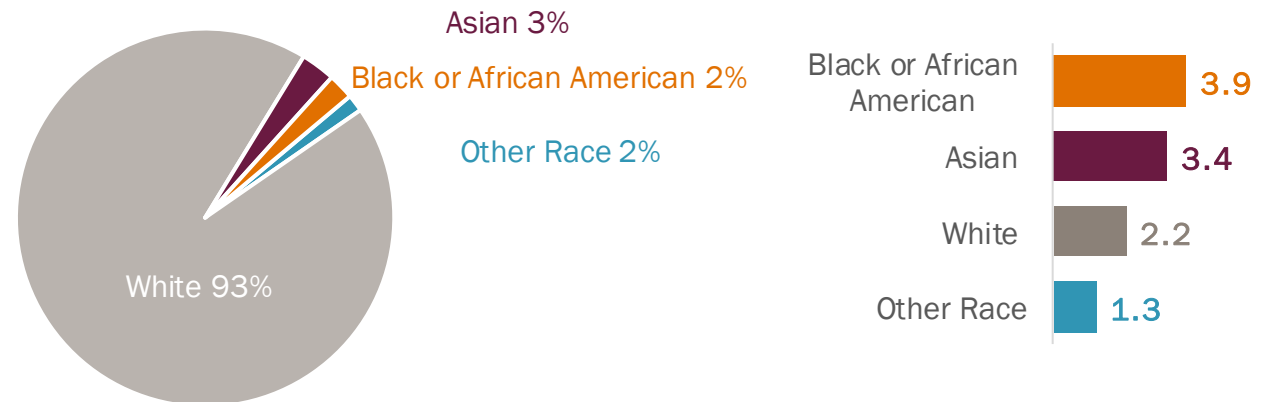
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



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

Hospitalization rates by race are similar.

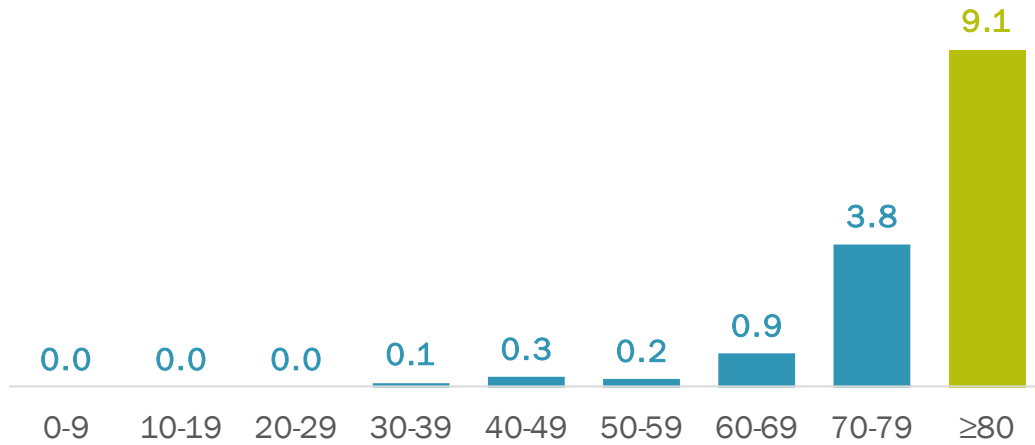
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



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

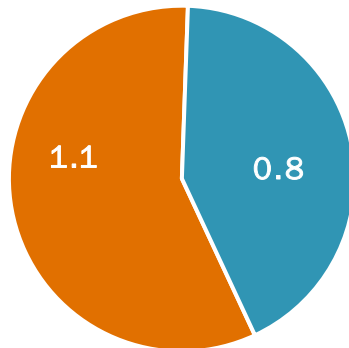
Vermonters 80 years and older have higher rates of COVID-19 death than other age groups.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

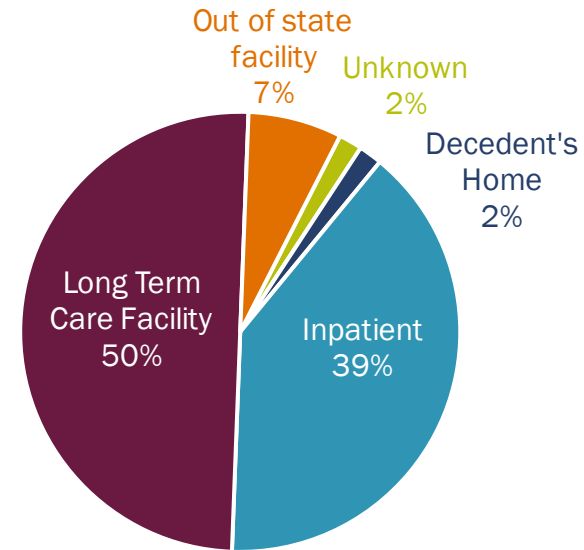


Males and females have similar rates of COVID-19 death.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

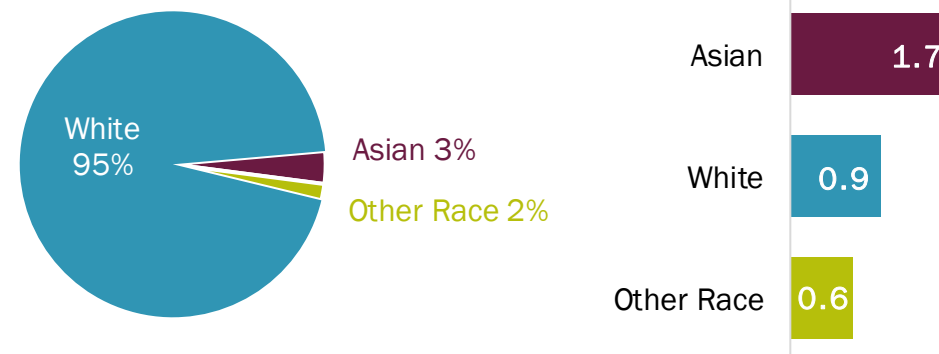


Most COVID-19 deaths occurred in an inpatient hospital setting or a long-term care facility.



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

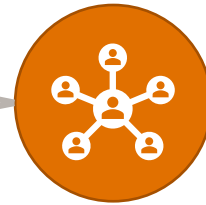
3 or more COVID-19 cases involving more than one family or household where the cases:

- have an illness start date or positive test 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.



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

Congregate Care & Living



159
cases among residents



82
cases among facility staff

Workplace

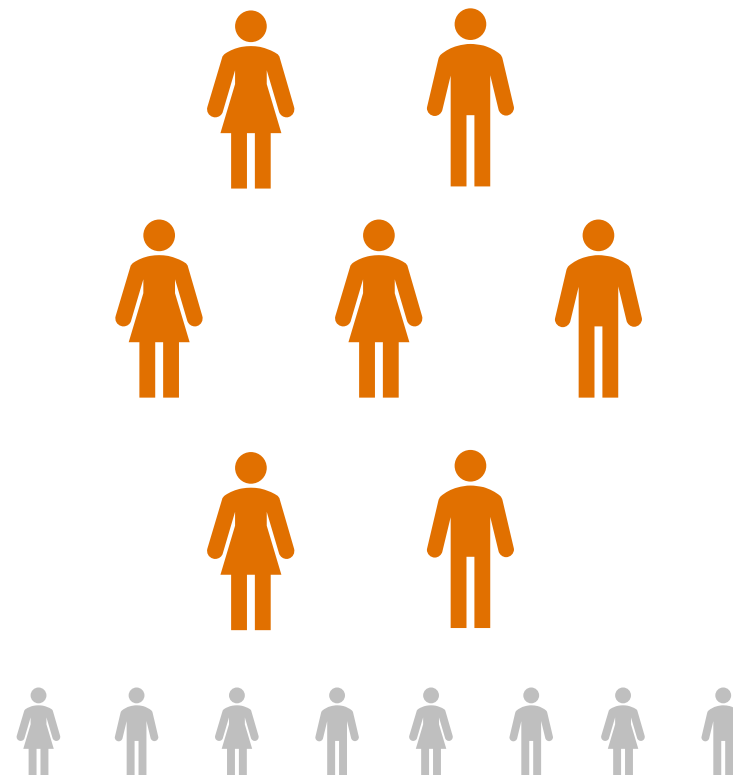


37
cases among employees

Community/Other



153
cases



Outbreaks

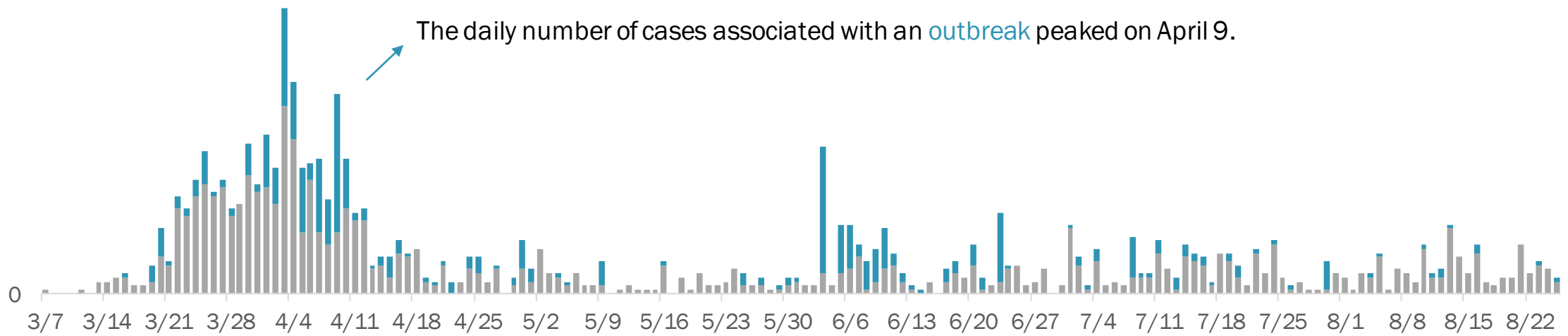
6 Active

19 Resolved*

*Resolved outbreaks are those where it has been >28 days since the last known case of COVID-19.

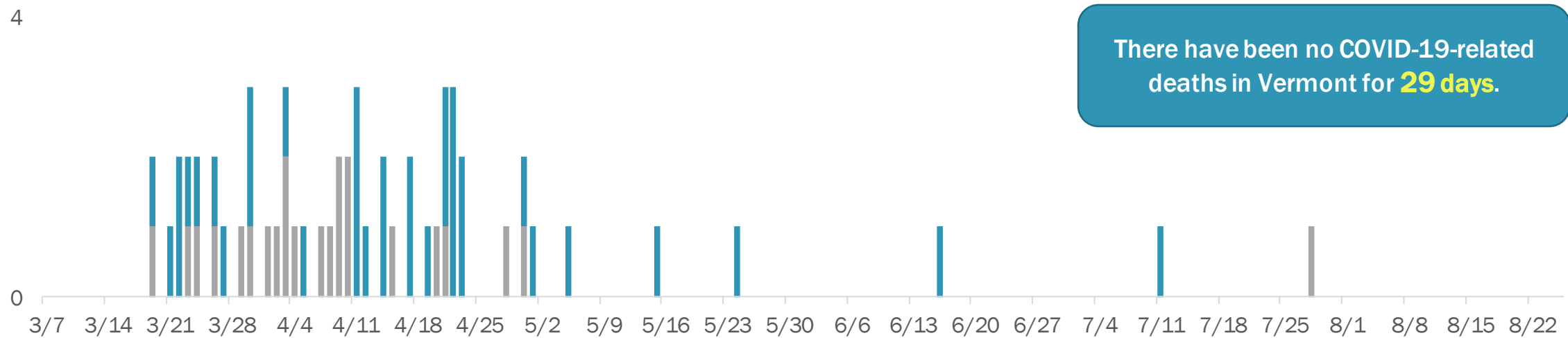
Vermont COVID-19 Cases Associated with an **Outbreak** Over Time

90



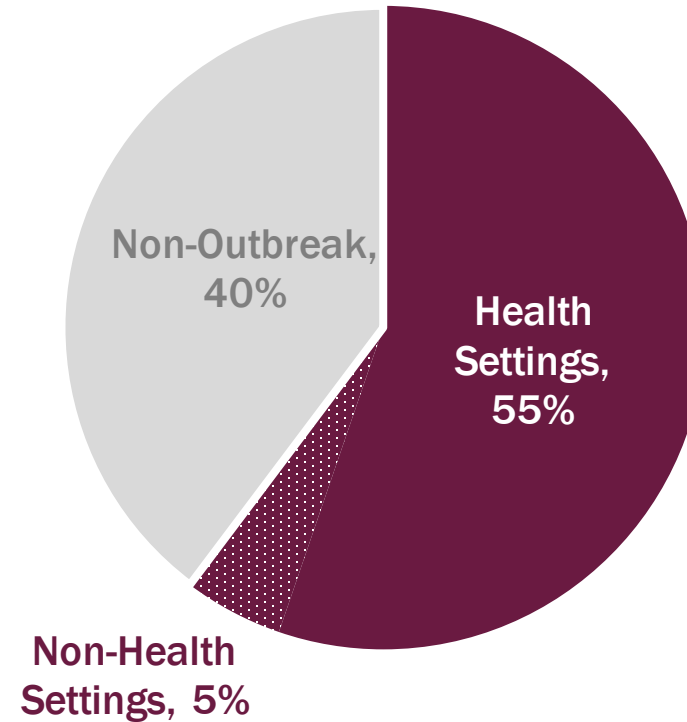
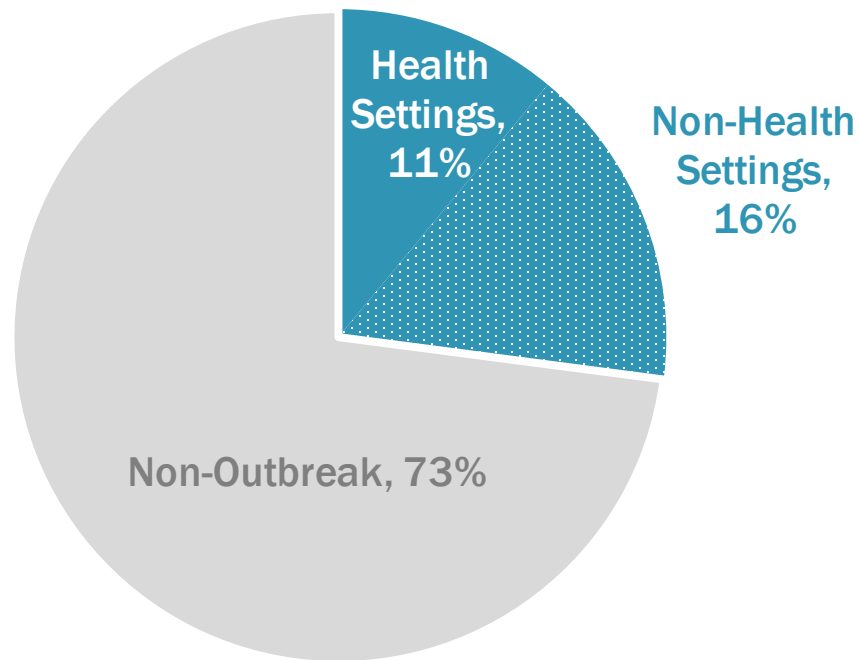
Vermont COVID-19 Deaths Associated with an **Outbreak** Over Time

4



Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 8/19/2020.

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



Values in these charts are rounded to the nearest whole number and therefore may not always add to 100% due to error introduced in rounding.

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects confirmed data as of 8/26/2020.

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

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

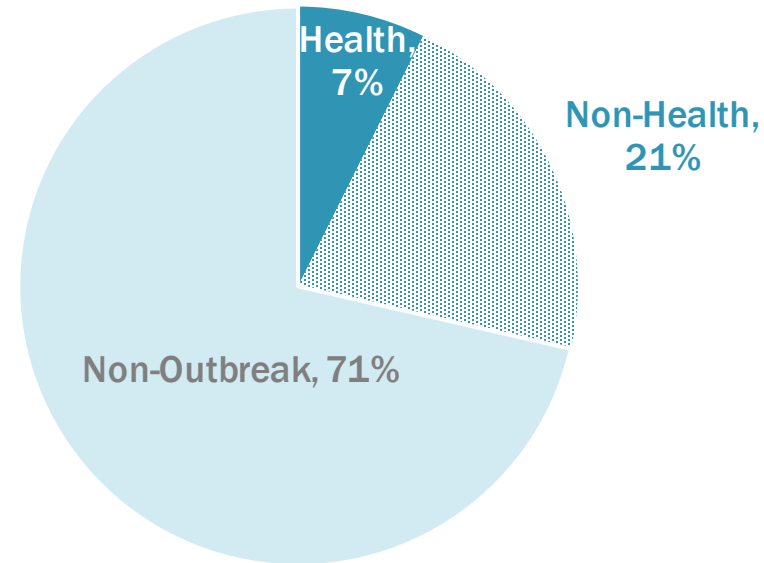
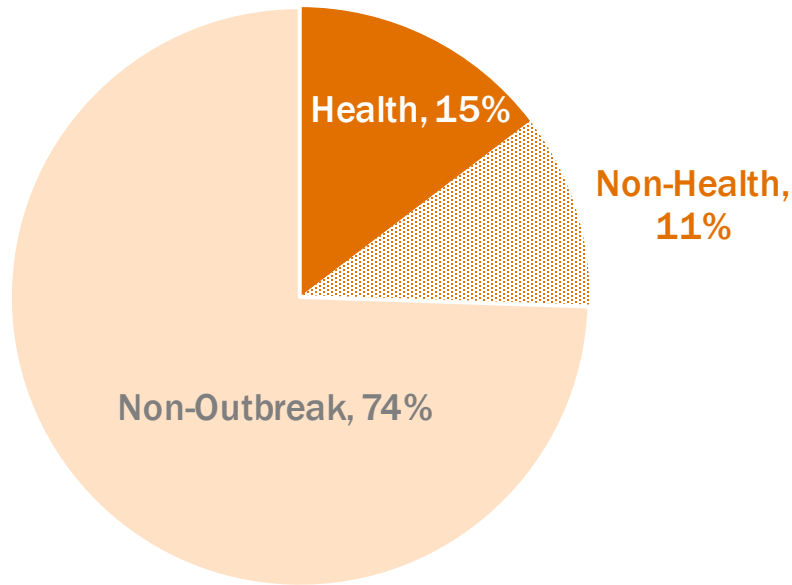


26% of **females** with COVID-19 are associated with an outbreak.



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

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

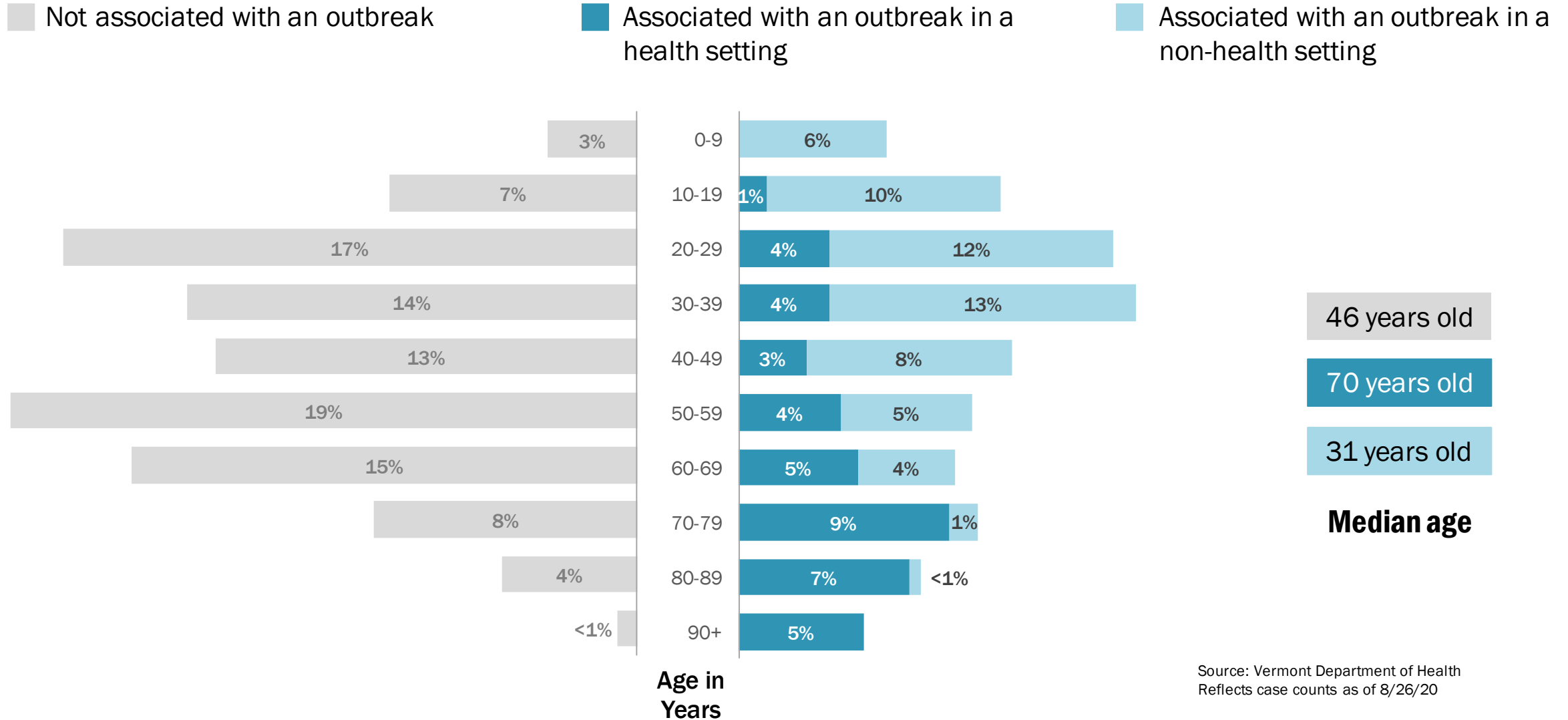


Values in these charts are rounded to the nearest whole number and therefore may not always add to 100% due to error introduced in rounding. Percentages by outbreak type are rounded to the whole number, but combined totals take into account the full percentages.

Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects case counts as of 8/26/20

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

Percent of Cases by Outbreak Status and Age



Source: Vermont Department of Health
Reflects case counts as of 8/26/20

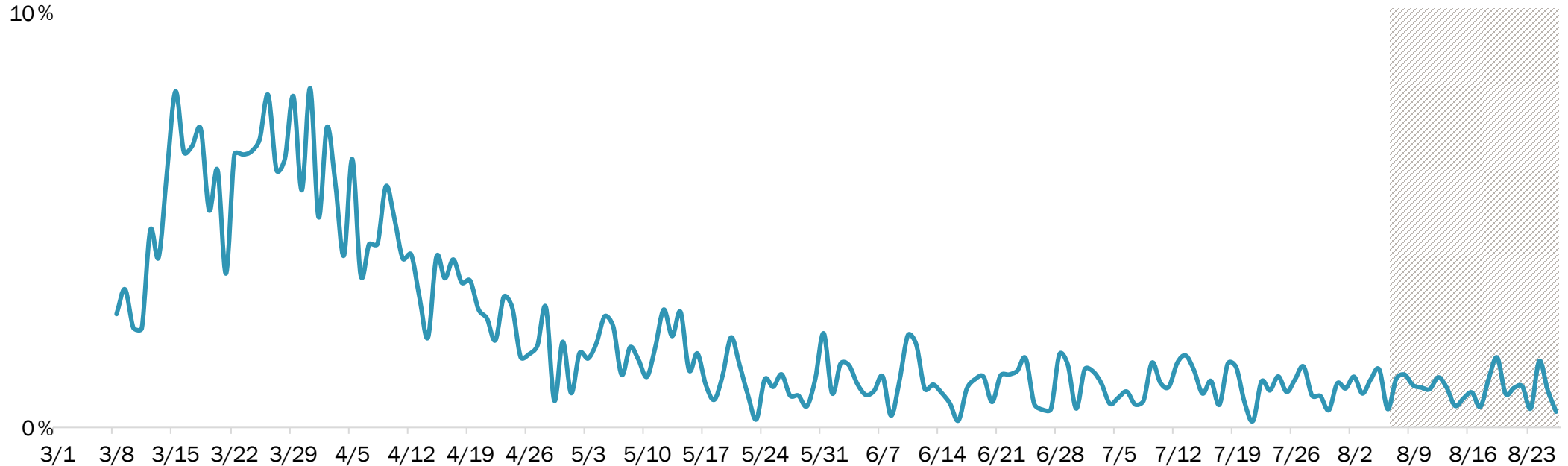
Note: Examples of a health setting include long-term care or assisted living facilities, therapeutic treatment centers, and behavioral health institutions. Examples of a non-health setting include correctional facilities, senior housing communities, businesses, and homeless shelters. Vermont has not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

Syndromic Surveillance

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

The percent of emergent care visits for COVID-19-like illness remains steady.

Syndromic surveillance from 13 of 14 Vermont hospitals and 2 urgent care centers. Monitoring this data acts as an early indicator of potential spikes of COVID-19 in the community.



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

COVID-19-like illness diagnosis is determined using the patient's chief complaint and/or discharge diagnosis.

COVID-19-like illness is the presence of a fever with the addition of shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or cough.

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

*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.

Weekly Spotlight: COVID-19 Source of Exposure, Part 2

This section focuses on how people with COVID-19 may have been exposed to the virus.

[Click here for Source of Exposure, Part 1](#)

How are people getting COVID-19?

We categorize how someone with COVID-19 may have gotten it in three main ways: known source of exposure, potential source of exposure, or the source of their exposure is unknown.

Known source

- Associated with an outbreak
- Contact with a confirmed case

Potential source (examples)

- Travel
- Mass gathering
- Type of job

Unknown source

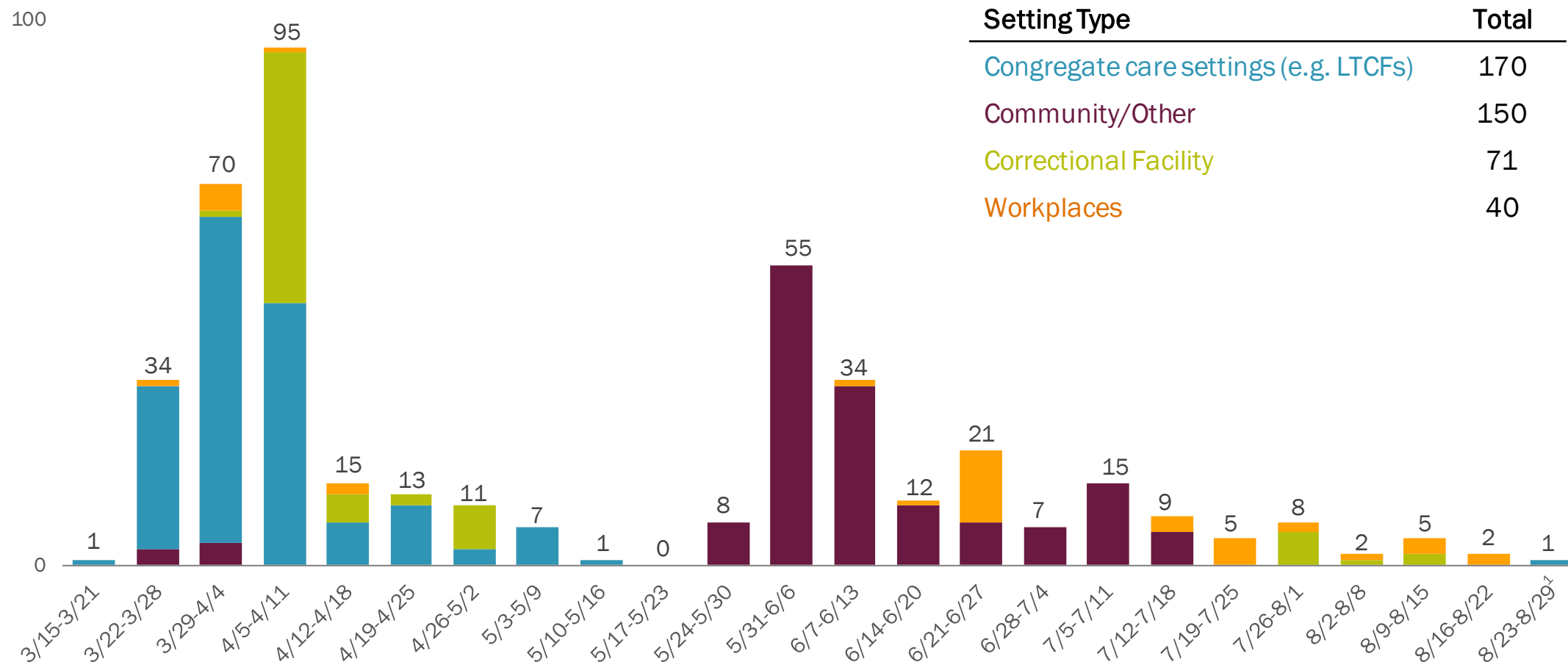
- No source was identified

Source: Vermont Department of Health. 2020

Known Sources

Cases with a **known source** of exposure include those associated with an **outbreak** or those who had **contact with a confirmed case**.

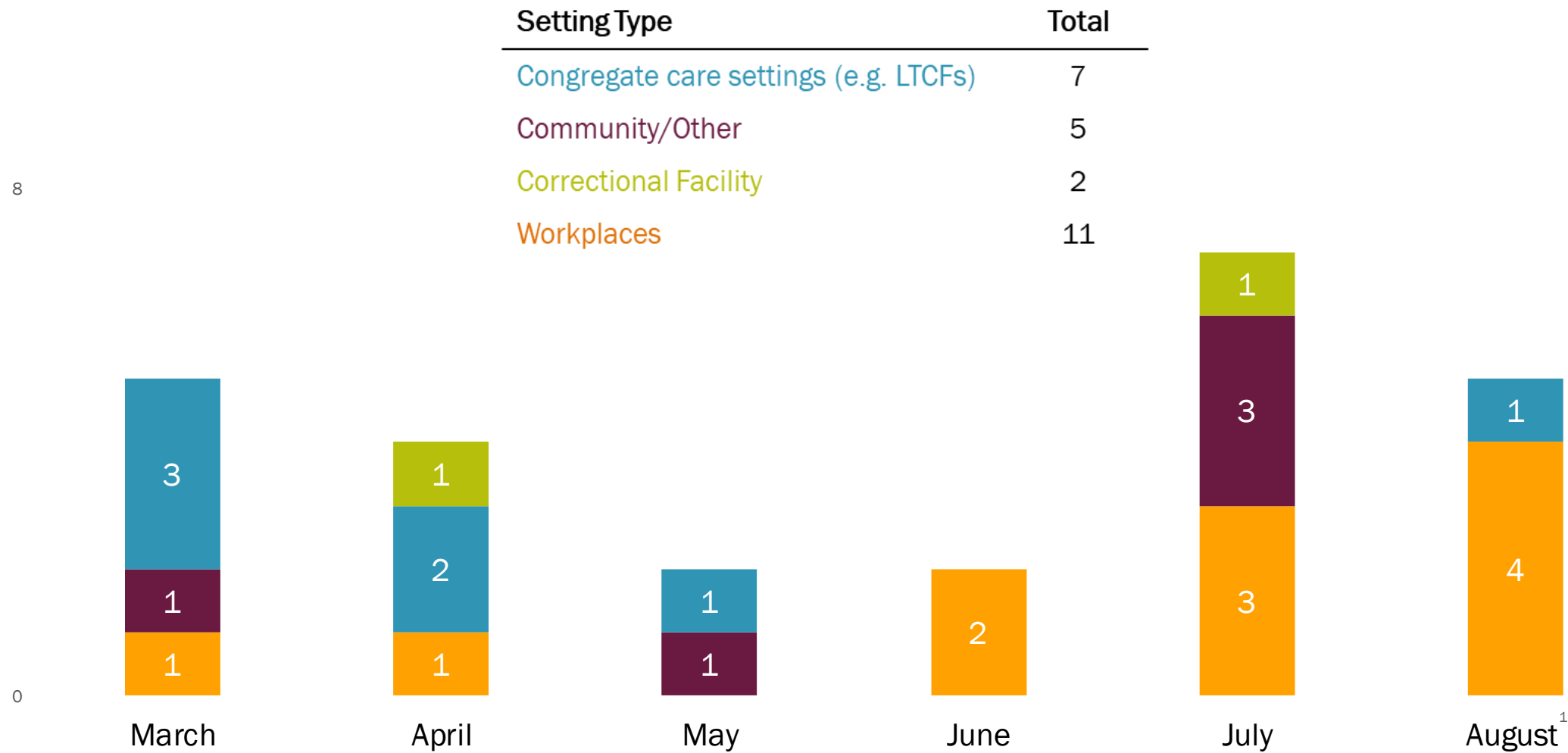
Vermont COVID-19 Cases Associated with an Outbreak by Setting Type and Week of Report to Public Health



¹ Includes data through August 26, 2020.

Data Source: Vermont Department of Health, 2020

Number of Vermont COVID-19 Outbreaks by Setting by the Month the Outbreak Began

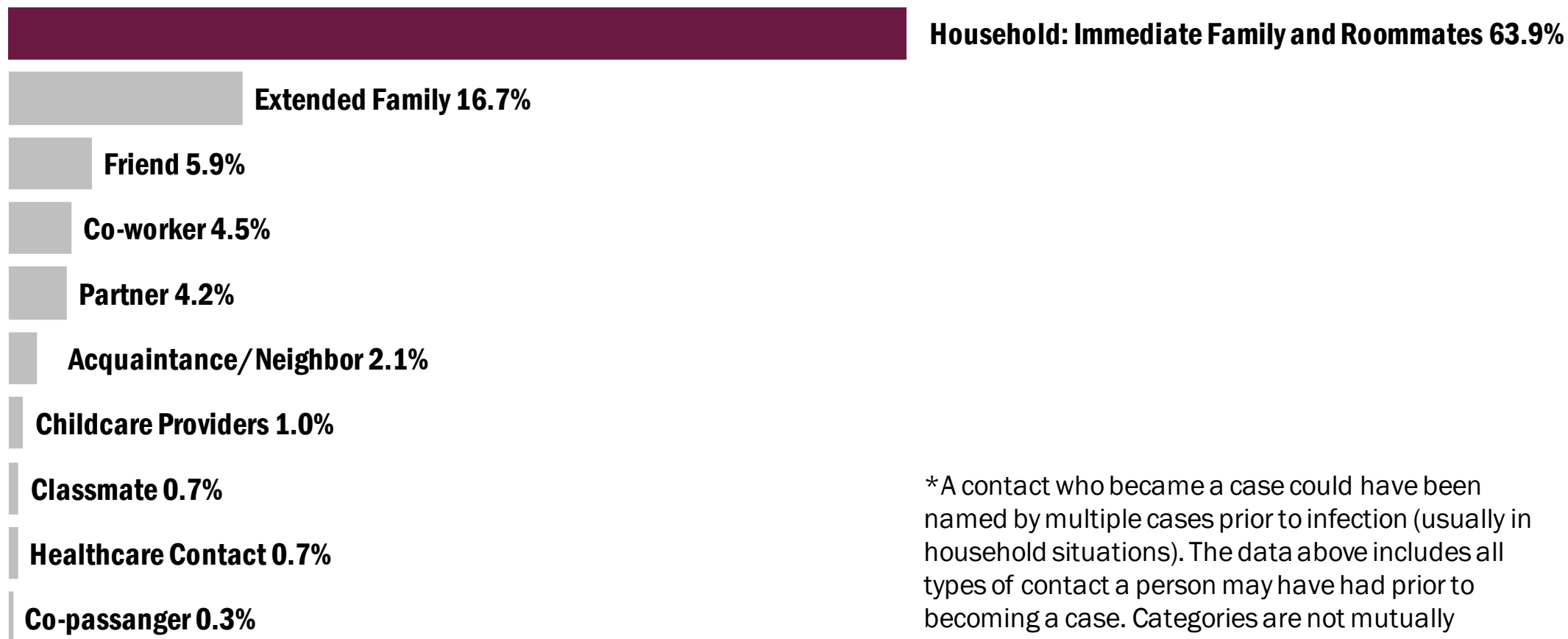


¹ Includes data through August 26, 2020.

Data Source: Vermont Department of Health, 2020

When contact tracers interview a person who tests positive for COVID-19, they ask questions about who they may have been in close contact with. Those close contacts have a **known exposure** to the virus. 198 cases have been identified as close contacts of one or more Vermont cases.*

64% of the relationships between cases and their close contacts were immediate family or roommates.

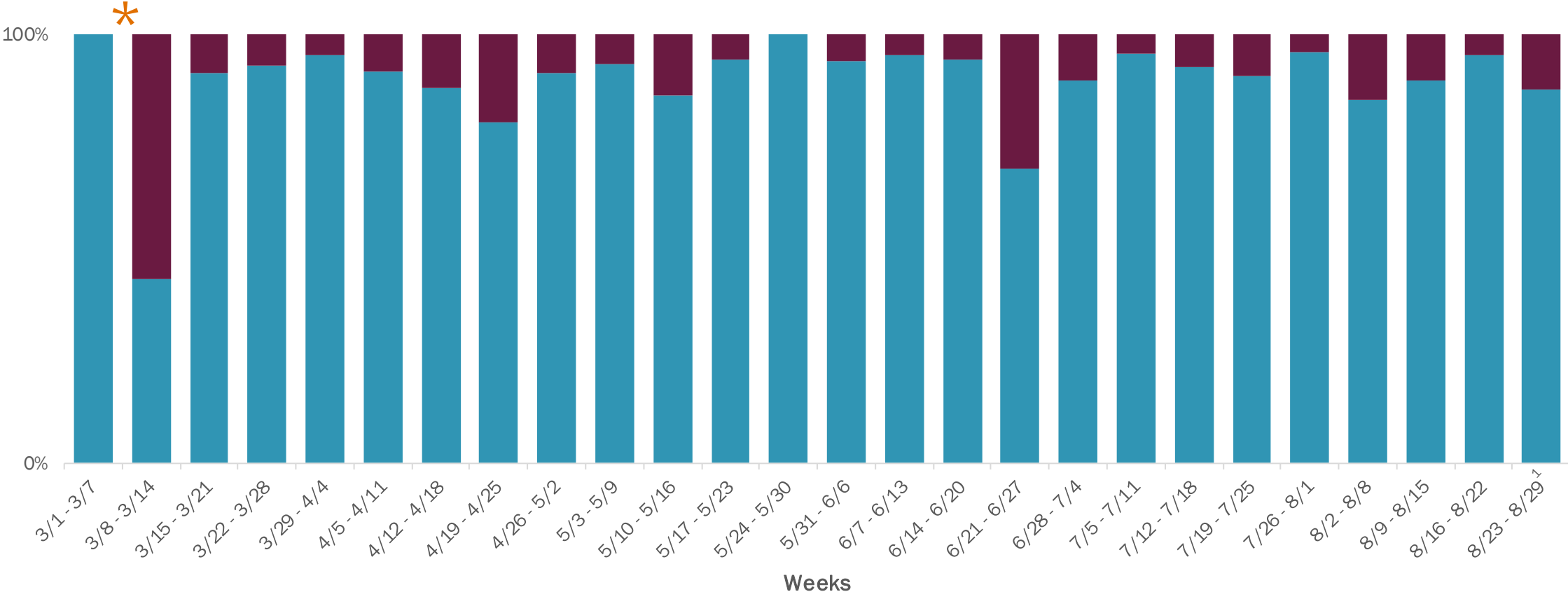


*A contact who became a case could have been named by multiple cases prior to infection (usually in household situations). The data above includes all types of contact a person may have had prior to becoming a case. Categories are not mutually exclusive.

Potential Sources

A **history of travel** is one **potential source** of exposure that epidemiologists investigate and use to connect the dots among cases.

There has not been a significant shift in the proportion of **non-Vermont resident cases and **Vermont resident cases** over time.**

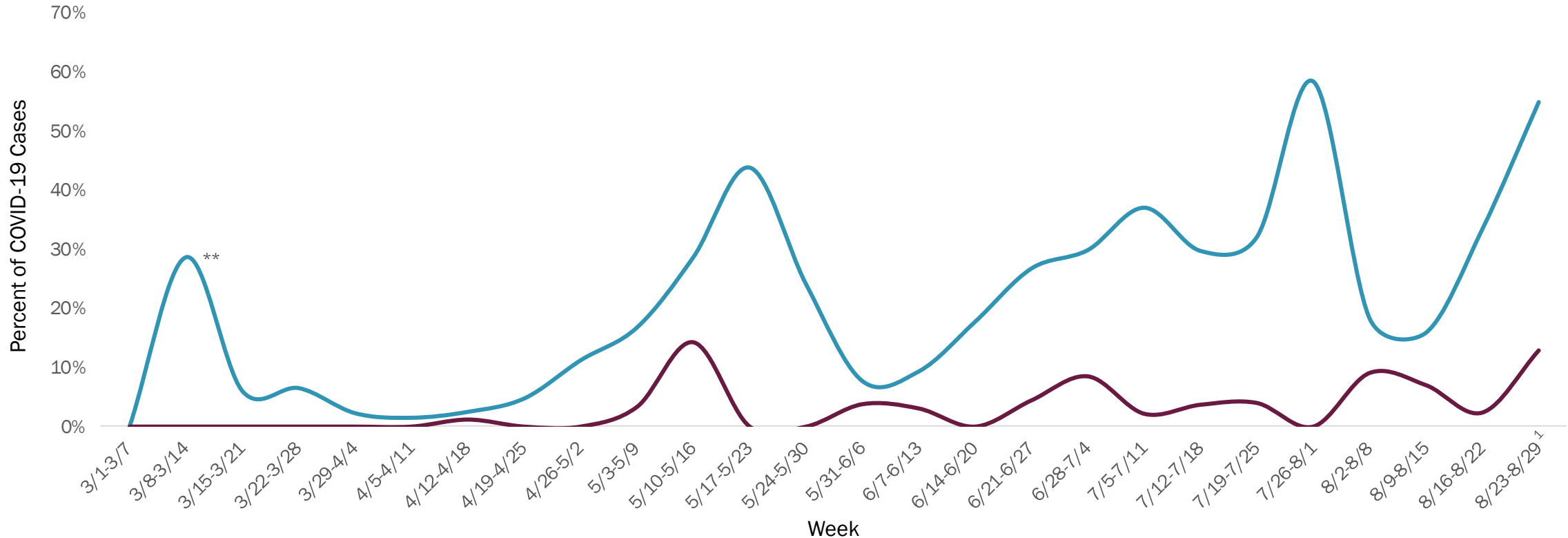


¹ Includes data through August 26, 2020.

*Interpret with caution, based on small numbers

Among COVID-19 cases, a history of travel in the 14 days before symptoms started has increased over time.

Percent of COVID-19 Cases that traveled among Vermont and Non-Vermont Residents



¹ Includes data through August 26, 2020.

*Current week. Actual percent may be underestimated due to ongoing case investigation.

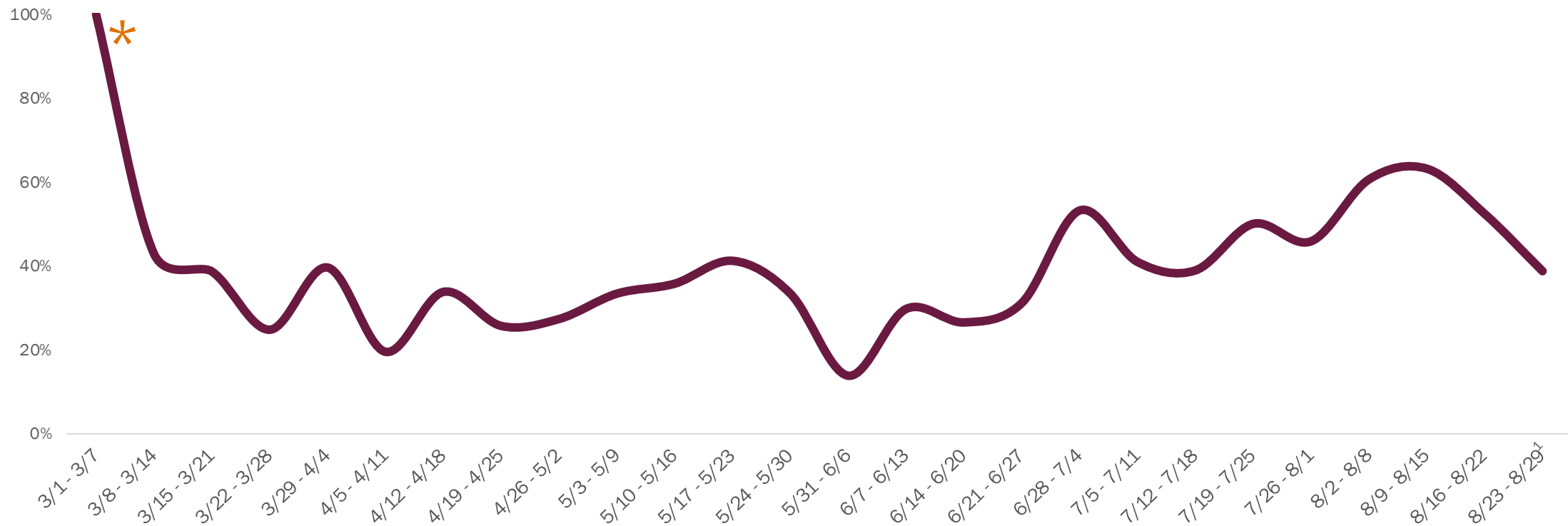
**Unstable estimate due to small numbers. There were 7 cases during week 11, 2 of which had indication of travel.

Unknown Sources

Cases with an **unknown source** of exposure are those whom epidemiologists were unable to identify either a known or potential source of exposure.

The percent of cases with an **unknown source** of exposure has decreased over time. These are cases that are not associated with an outbreak, have no known contact with a case, and have no history of travel.

Percent of Cases with an Unknown Source of Exposure

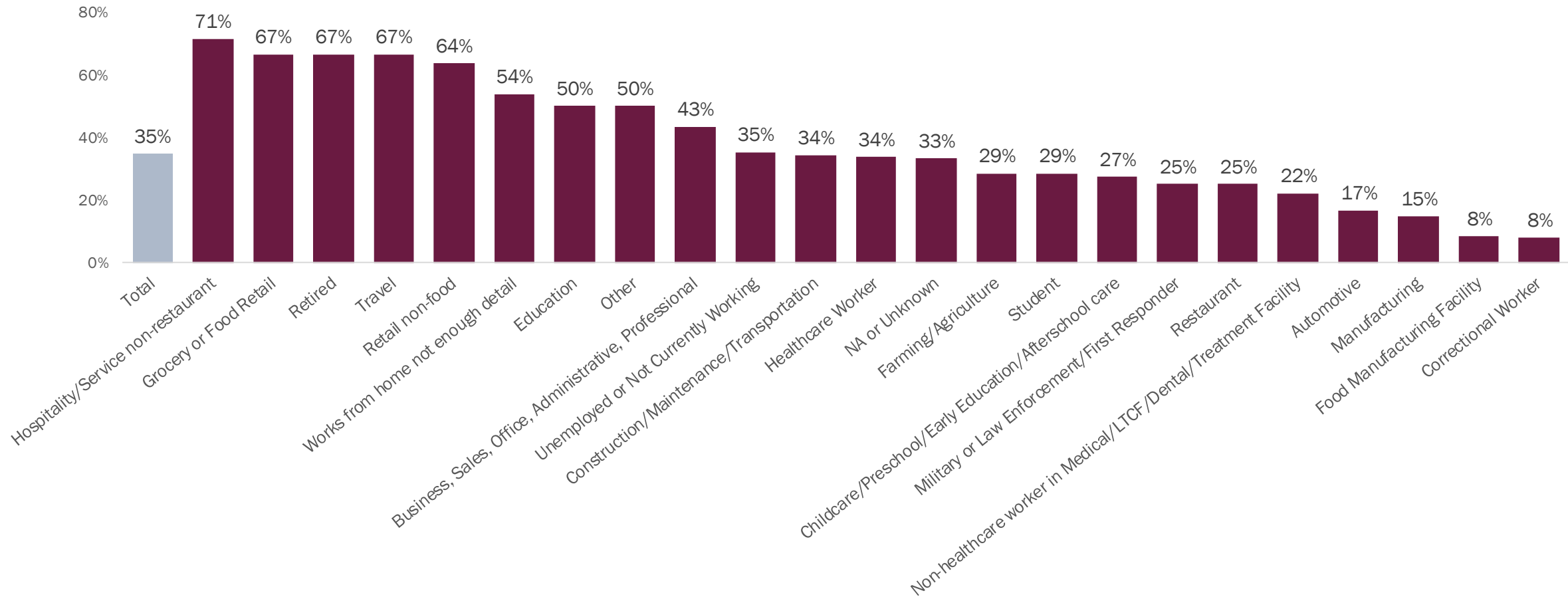


¹ Includes data through August 26, 2020.

*Interpret with caution, based on small numbers

People with **unknown source** of exposure are more likely to work in essential jobs, like markets, hospitality, retail, and travel.

Distribution of COVID-19 Cases with an Unknown Source of Exposure by Occupation



N=193, adults only



Learn more about COVID-19 in Vermont:

Web: www.healthvermont.gov/COVID-19

Email: AHS.VDHPublicCommunication@vermont.gov