

Weekly Summary of Vermont COVID-19 Data

Reflecting cases identified between
March 5 – May 7, 2020



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



Common Terms and Data Sources

You will find data presented in a few different ways throughout this document:

- **Count:** the number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 (overall or in a particular group)
- **Rate:** the number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in a particular group, divided by the total number of people in that group. Using rates allows for more direct comparisons between groups.
- **Growth rate:** a measure of the percent change in COVID-19 cases over time; this tells us how quickly or slowly the disease is spreading in Vermont

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

Table of Contents

Click on a box below to jump to that section

[Overview of COVID-19 in Vermont](#)

[Case Demographics](#)

[Clinical Course](#)

[Outbreaks](#)

[Syndromic Surveillance](#)

[Weekly Spotlight](#)

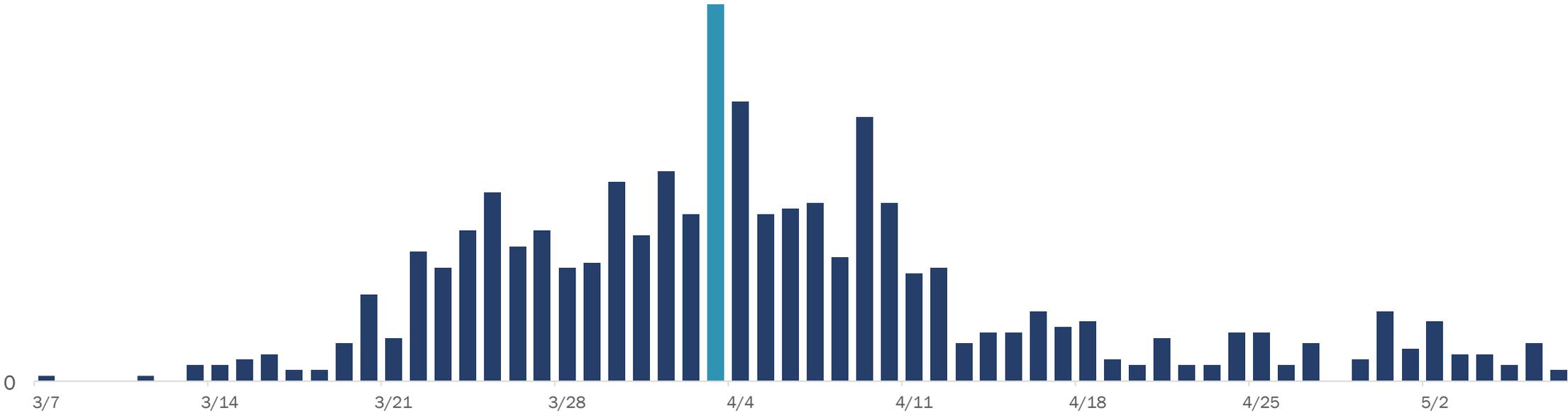
COVID-19 in Vermont

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

Total Number of Cases in Vermont: 918

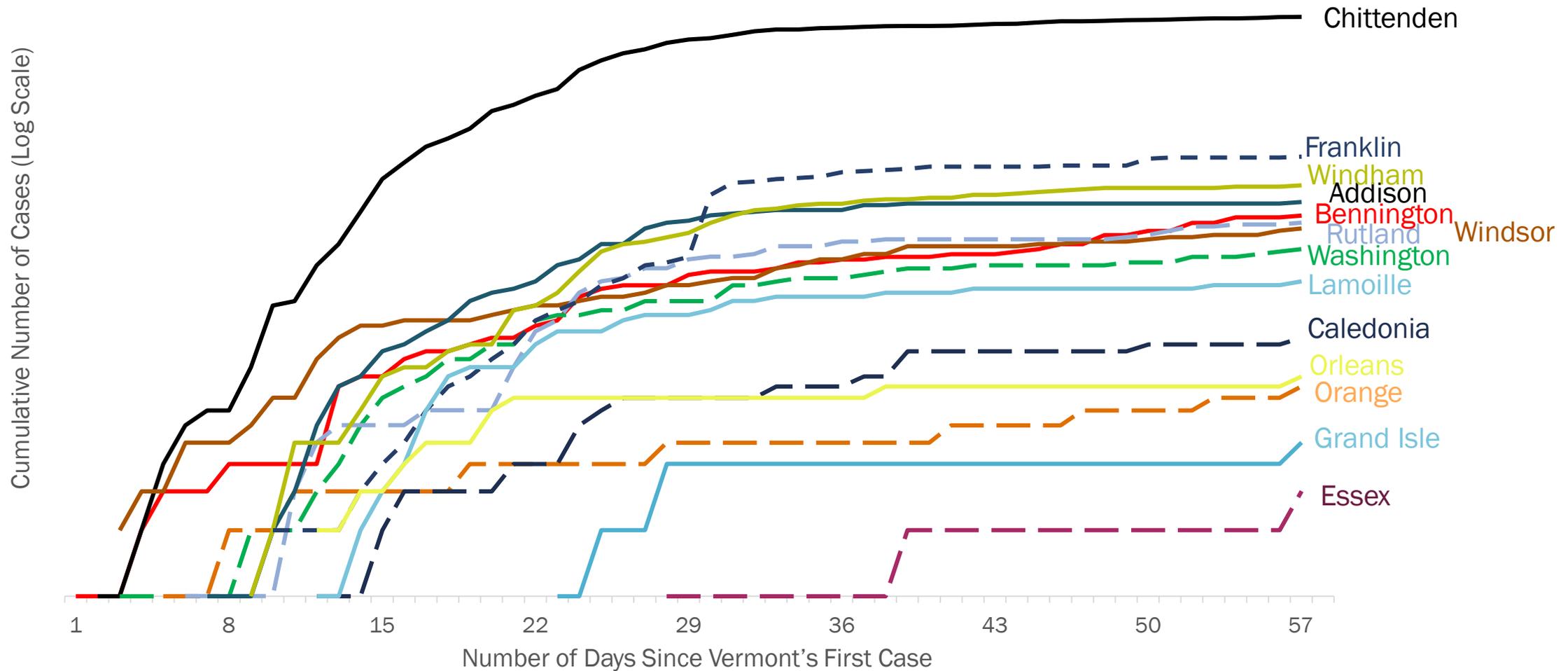
80

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

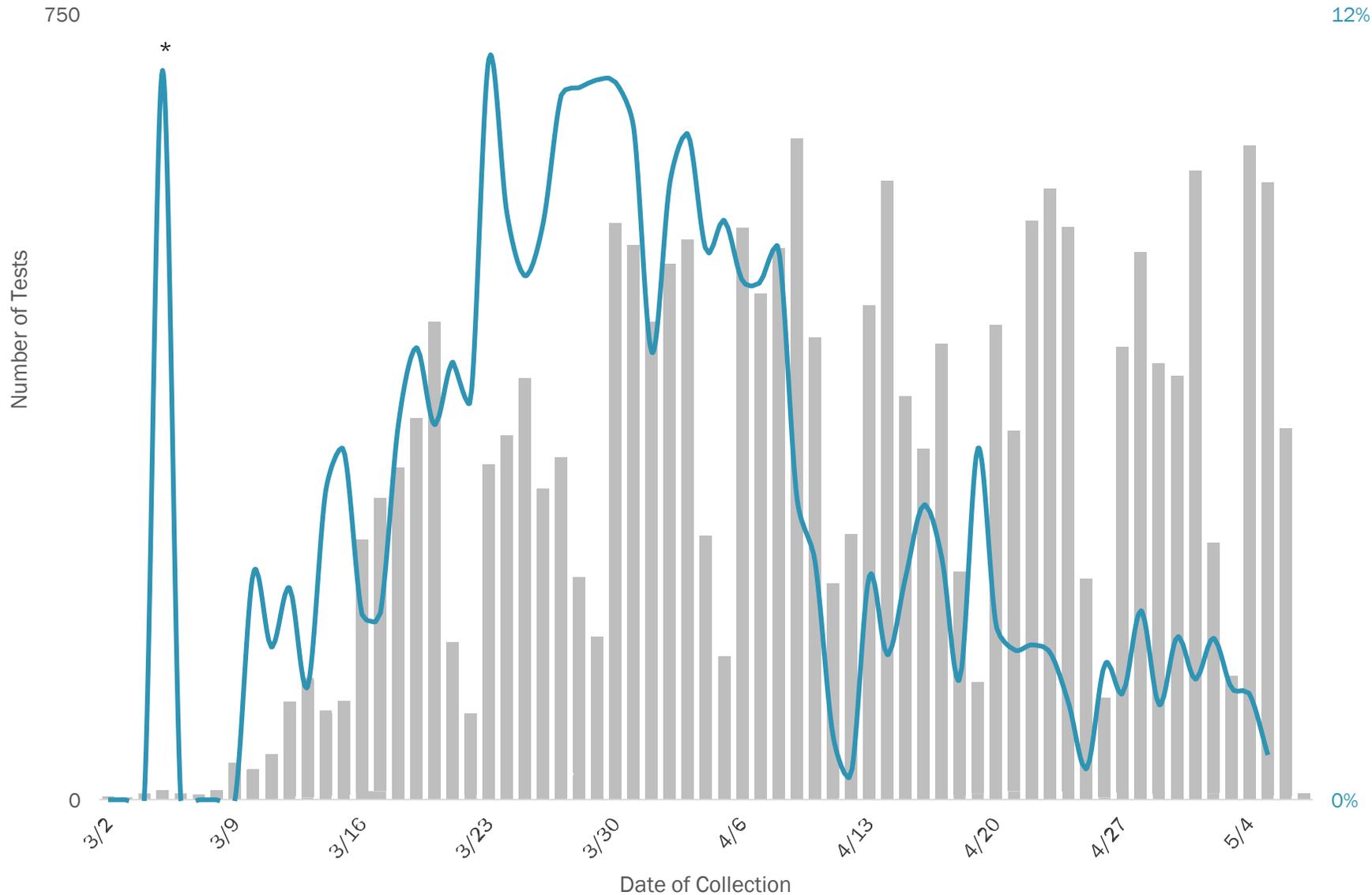


Most counties have reached a plateau in the number of new cases.

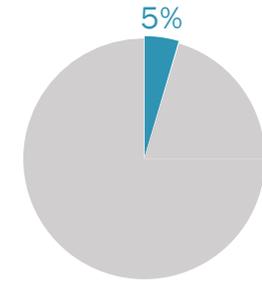
Growth over time by county (n=915)



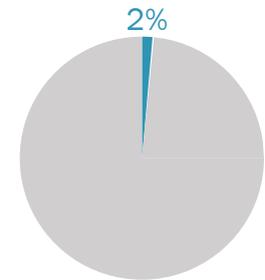
Percent of positive COVID-19 tests may indicate how prevalent the disease is in the population.



Percent Positive to Date



Percent Positive This Week



2,934
People Tested this Week

21,162
People Tested to Date

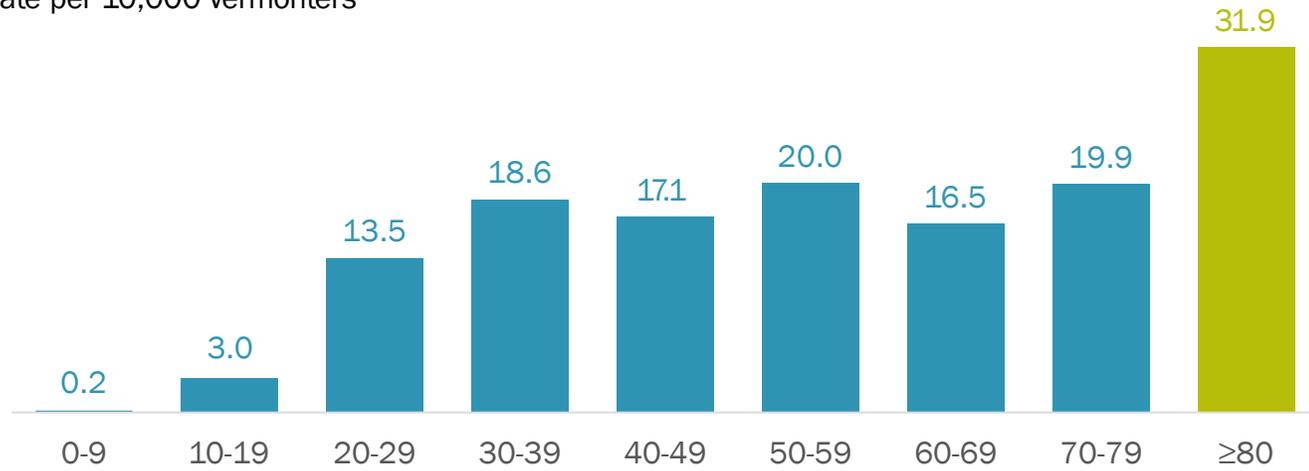
*Not a stable estimate due to small numbers. There were 9 total tests and 1 was positive.

Case Demographics

Who has been impacted by COVID-19 in Vermont?

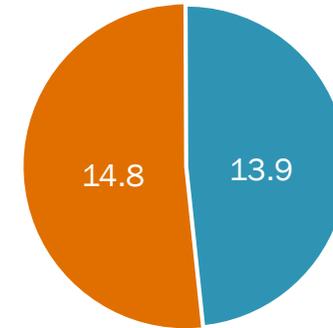
Rates of COVID-19 are disproportionately high among Vermonters 80 years and older.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



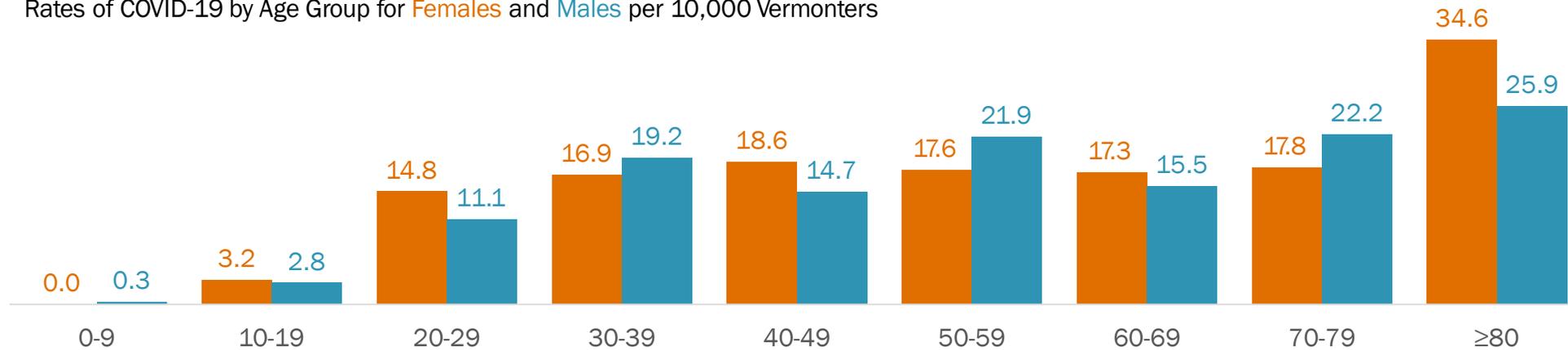
Females and males have similar rates of COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



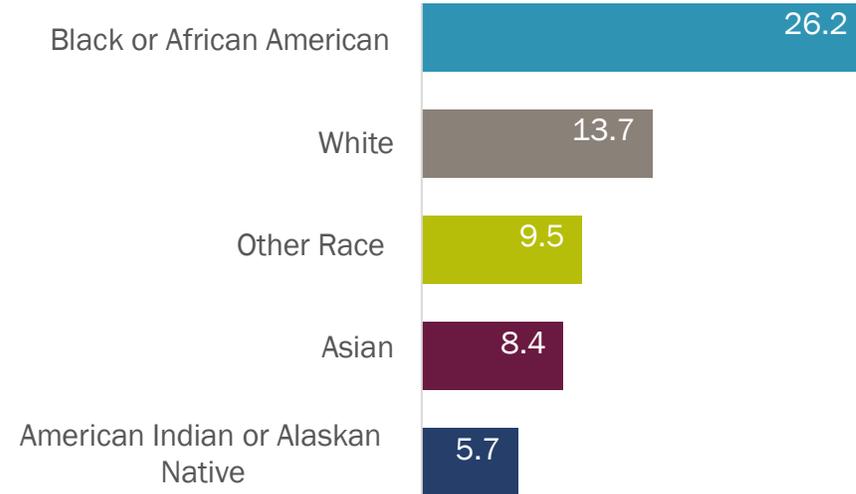
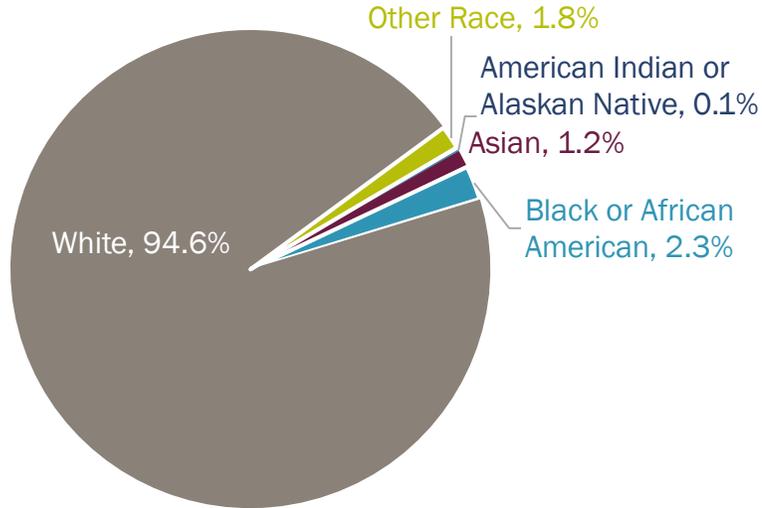
There are differences in age and sex of Vermonters with COVID-19.

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



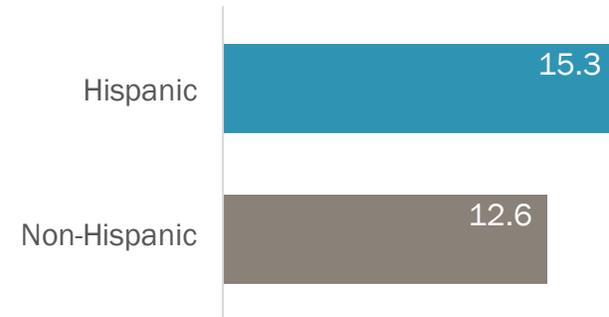
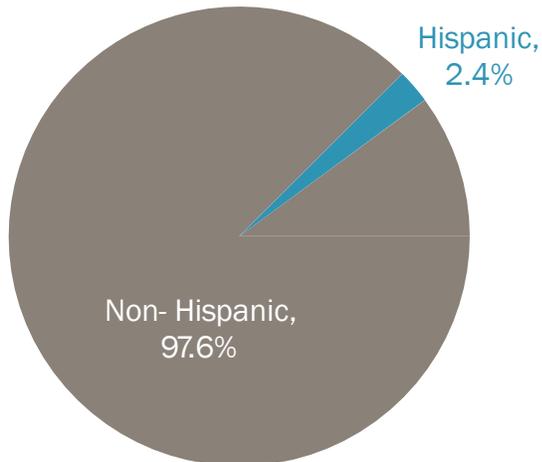
White Vermonters represent the majority of COVID-19 cases. African American Vermonters have the highest rate.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



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

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

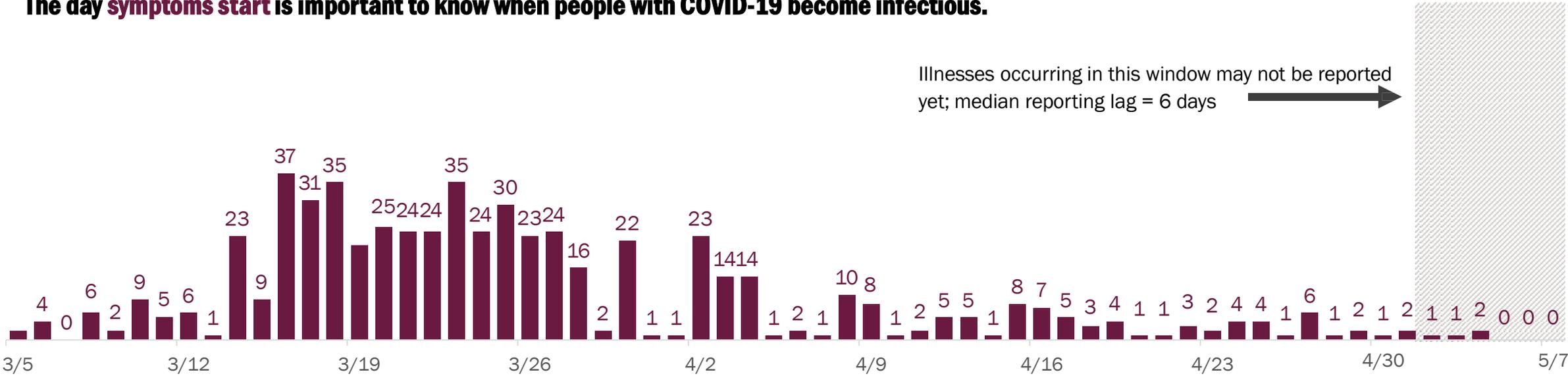


Clinical Course

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 

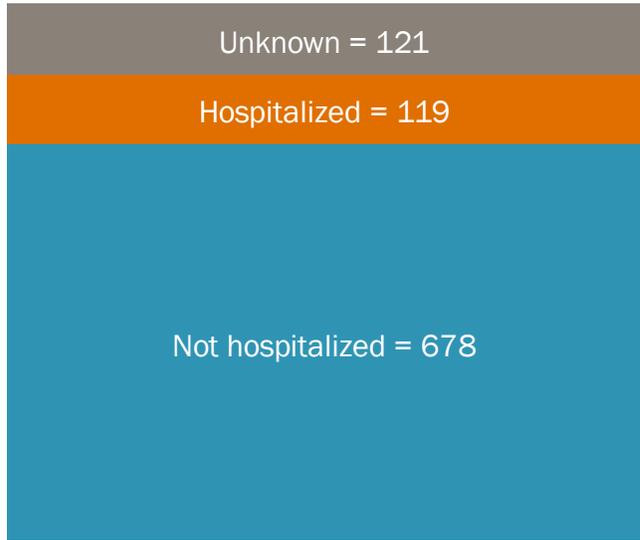


Note: Date of symptom onset is not always known.

15 days
Average illness duration

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

Most Vermonters with COVID-19 are not hospitalized.



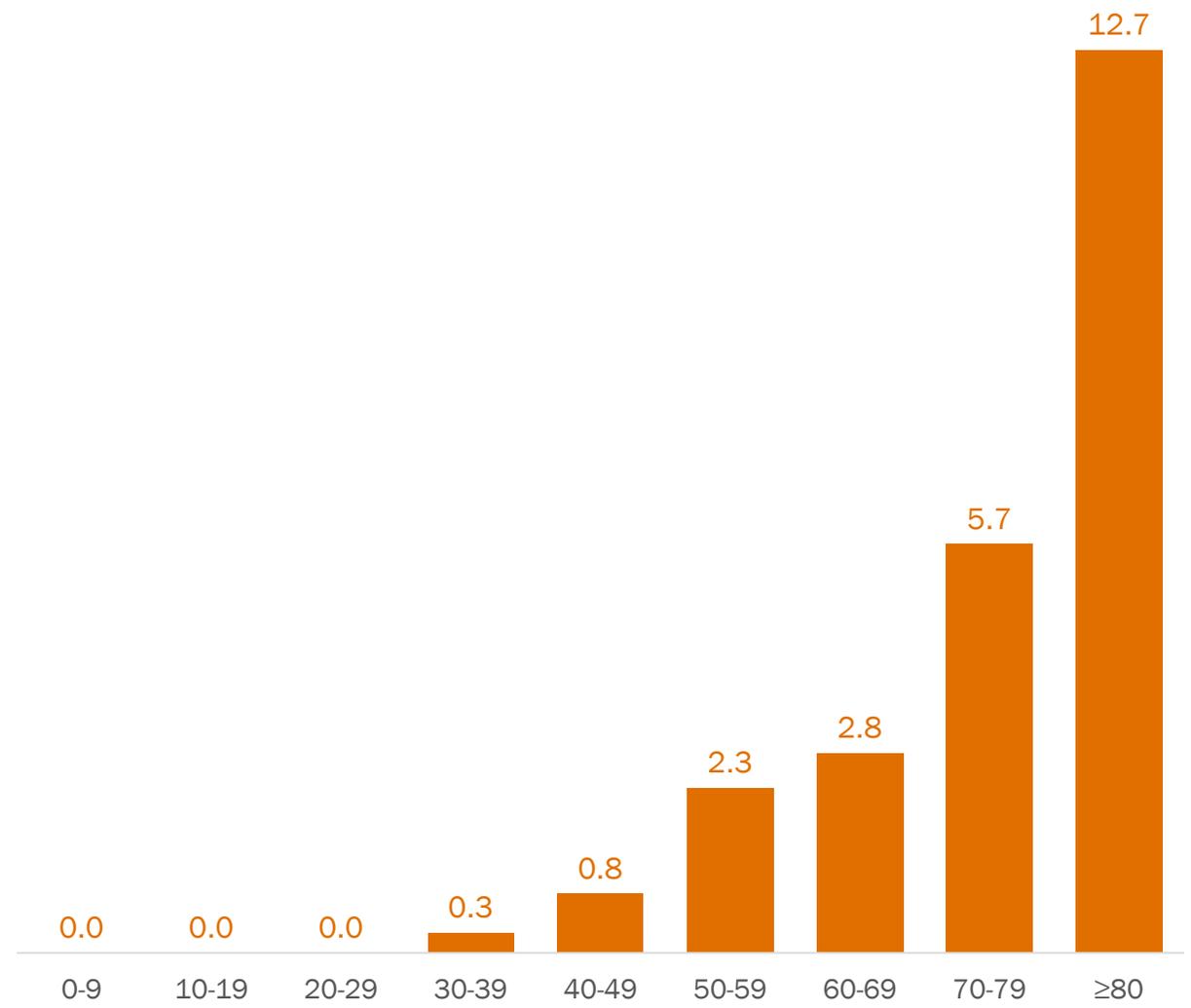
17%
Of those hospitalized who were on a ventilator

37%
Of those hospitalized who were in the ICU

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

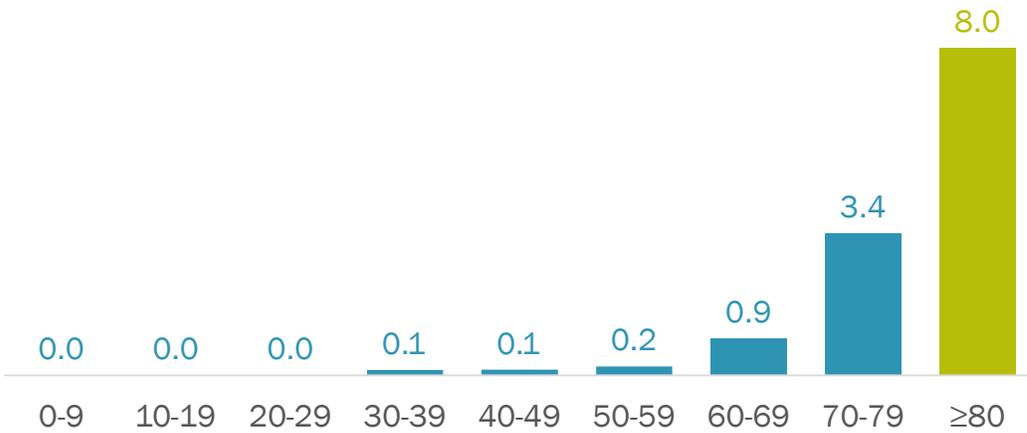
Vermonters 80 years and older are more likely to be hospitalized for COVID-19.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

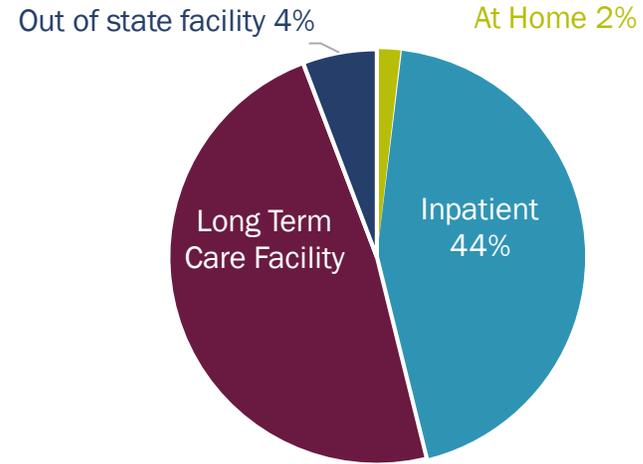


Vermonters 80 years and older have higher rates of COVID-19 death than other age groups.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters

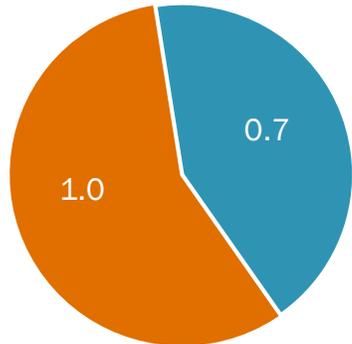


Most COVID-19 deaths occurred in an **inpatient hospital setting** or a **long-term care facility**.



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

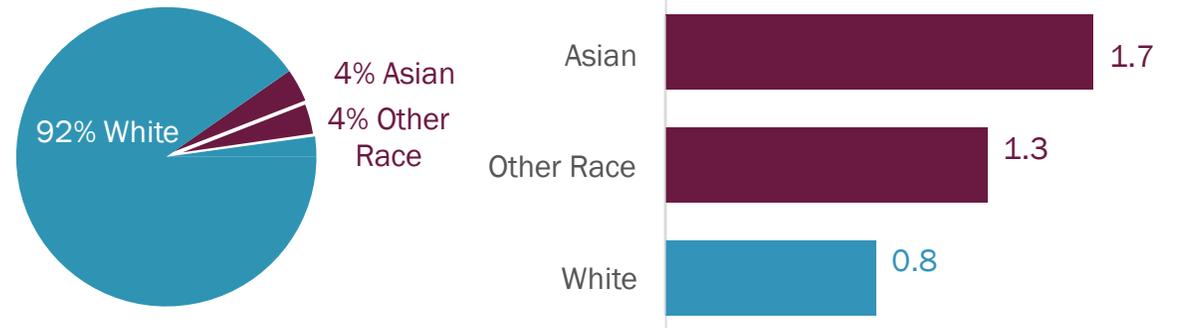
Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



White Vermonters represent a majority of COVID-19 deaths.

However the rate is higher among racial minorities.

Rate per 10,000 Vermonters



Outbreaks

How is COVID-19 impacting group settings?

What is an outbreak?

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

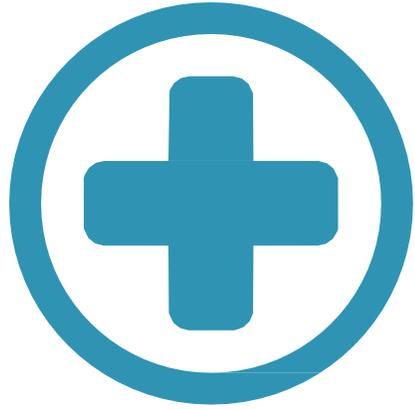
-A single resident with a positive COVID-19 laboratory test and one or more additional residents with respiratory illness

OR

-Two or more residents with at least two of the following symptoms: fever (temp $\geq 100^\circ\text{F}$), cough, difficulty breathing/shortness of breath

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

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



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



154 cases among residents



79 cases among staff



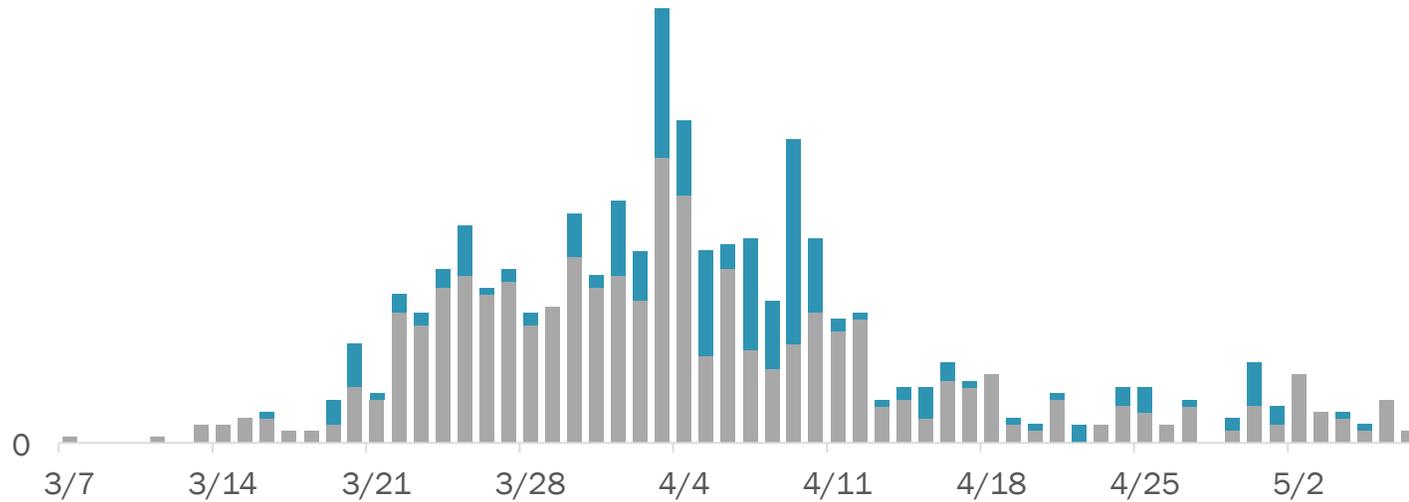
Outbreaks

5 Active

2 Resolved

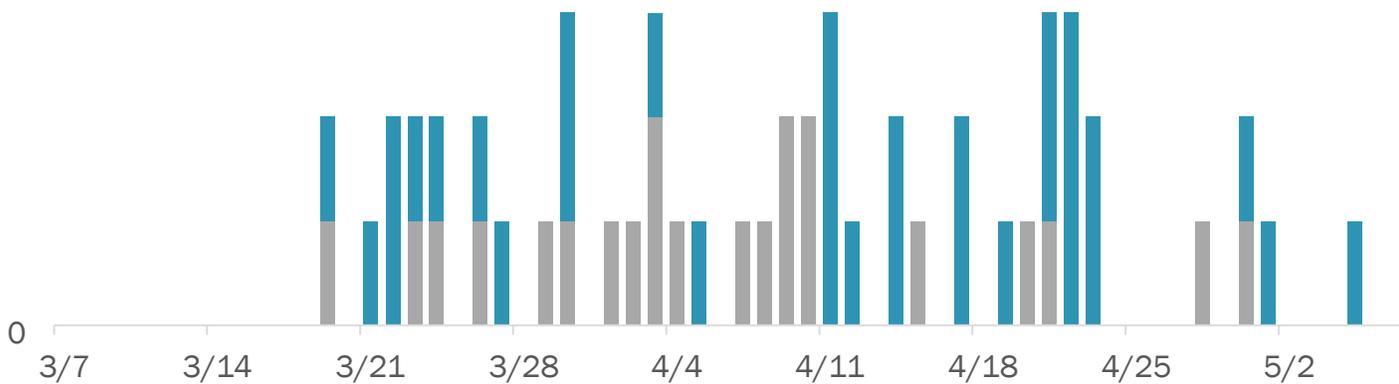
Vermont COVID-19 Cases Associated with an Outbreak Over Time

90

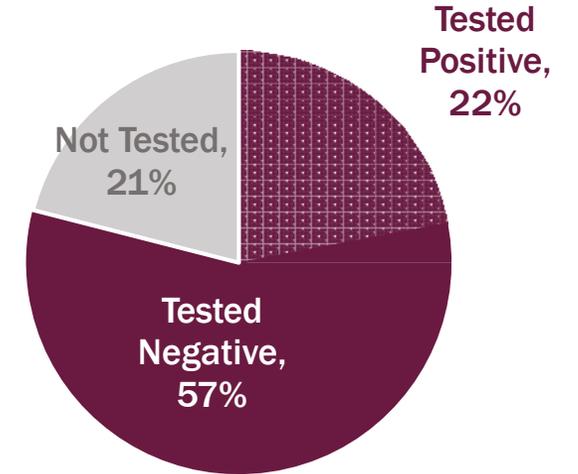


Vermont COVID-19 Deaths Associated with an Outbreak Over Time

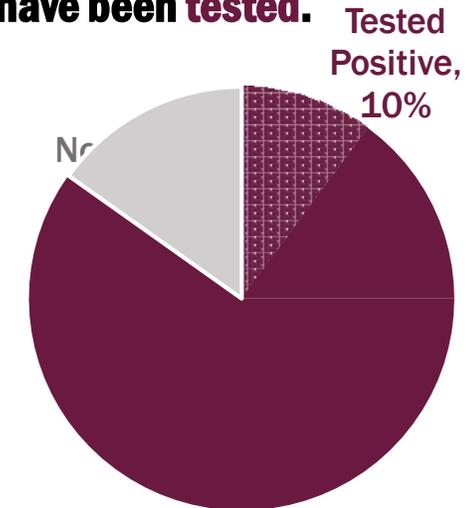
4



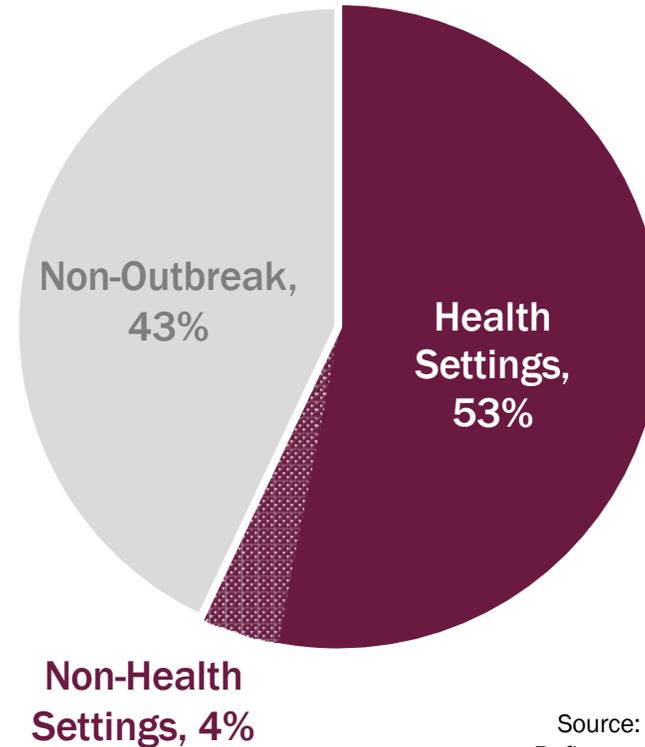
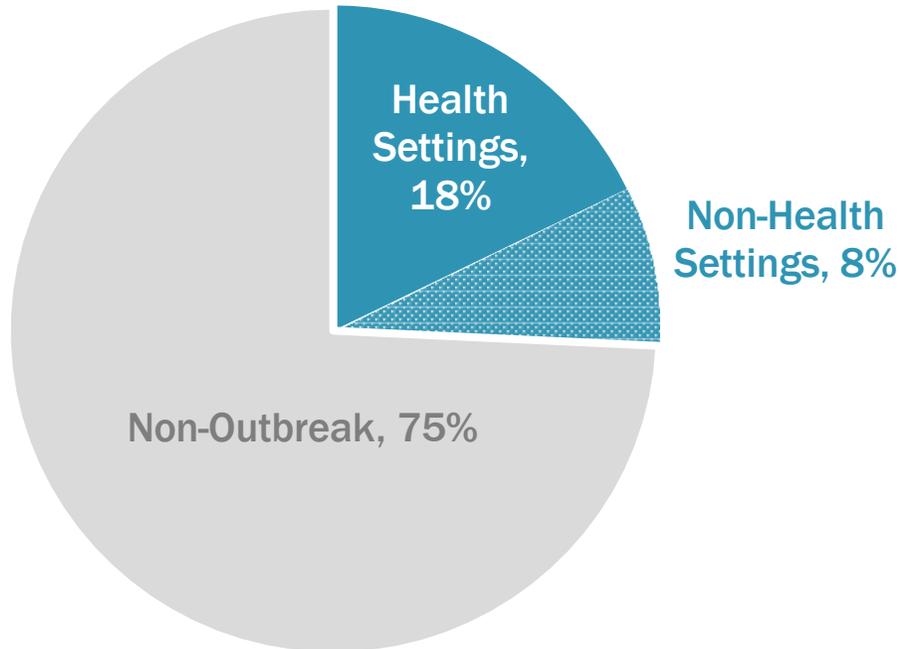
In facilities with an outbreak, 79% of residents have been tested.



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



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



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

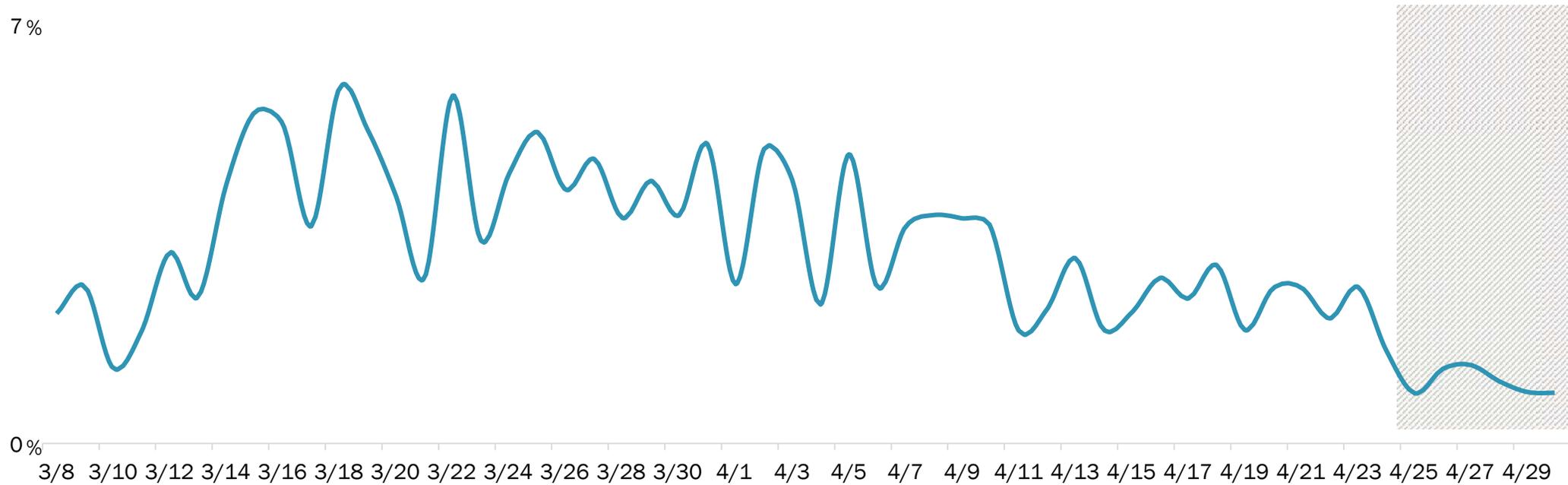
Note: Examples of a health setting include long-term care or assisted living facilities, therapeutic treatment centers, and behavioral health institutions. Examples of a non-health setting include correctional facilities, senior housing communities, businesses, and homeless shelters. Vermont has not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

Syndromic Surveillance

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Weekly Spotlight: Pre-existing Conditions

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

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

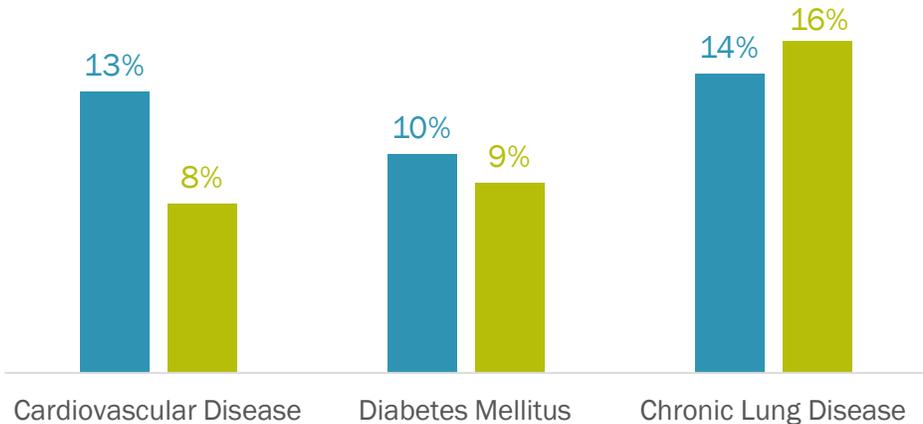
*of the 706 people that the Health Department has pre-existing condition data.

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

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

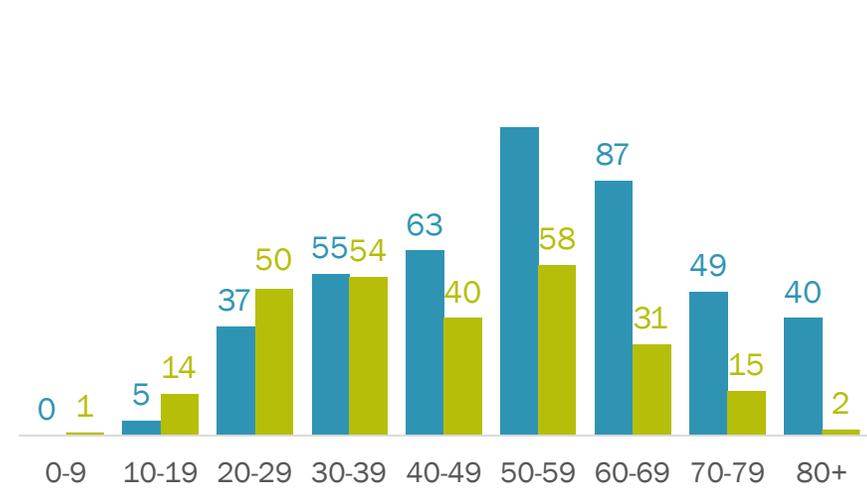
**Not mutually exclusive, includes things like arthritis, thyroid conditions, multiple free text entries.

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

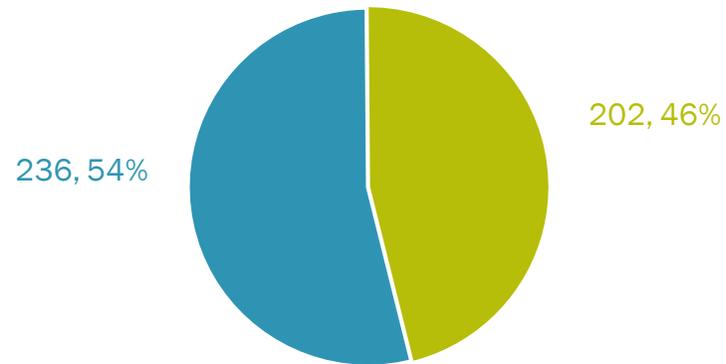


Data Source: Cardiovascular disease and diabetes, BRFSS 2018 annual report. Chronic lung disease, 3-4-50 Community profile (2016-2017 BRFSS).

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

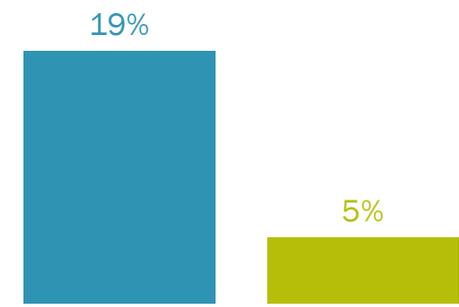


Prevalence of pre-existing conditions is approximately equal between female and male COVID-19 patients.



Vermont Department of Health

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





Learn more about COVID-19 in Vermont:

Web: www.healthvermont.gov/COVID-19

Email: AHS.VDHPublicCommunication@vermont.gov