

COVID-19 in New Mexico: NMDOH Update

Legislative Health and Human Services Committee

July 31, 2020

DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO COVID EFFORT

- OPA, PHD providing linkages to ECECD, PED, and HED
- IT: Developed an application for sample collection and testing result
- MCP-Added a Covid-19 option for First Responders to the previously existing 24-hour MCP Law Enforcement response line for information on tests results , 2000 calls to date.
- HR: secured positions for SLD, PHD and ERD

DHI

- **1691** off-site tele-video monitoring
- **82** off-site complaint investigations
- **391** on-site visits to LTC
- **111** off-site visits and **53** on-site visits of Non-LTC facilities

DDSD

- **Jackson: 14** of remaining obligations in the Settlement Agreement disengaged
- **CMS** waiver approval to allow critical services to be continued remotely
- **CMS** increase rates to allow provider agencies to absorb the additional cost of PPE

Public Health Division

Epidemiology and Response Division

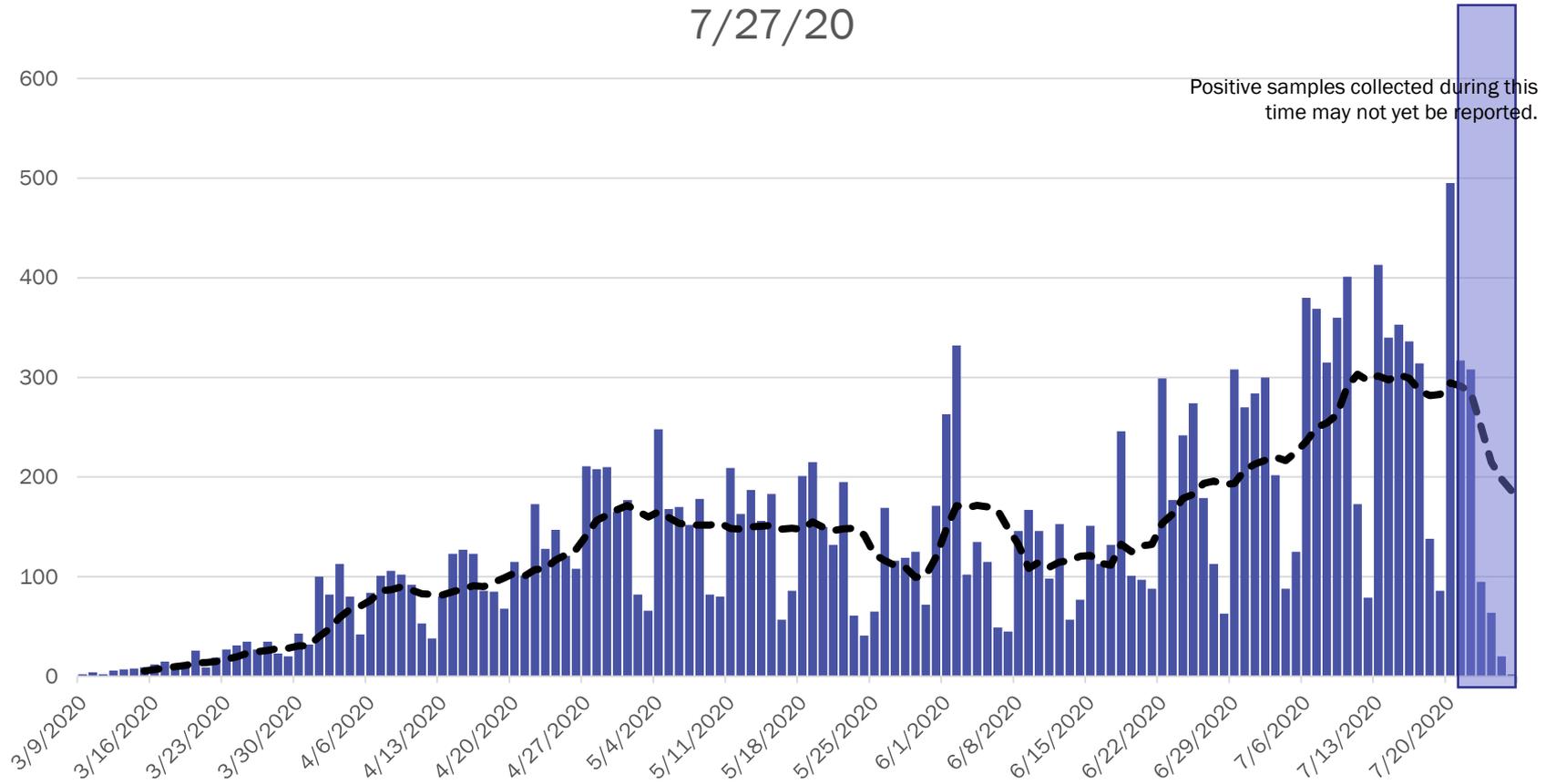
Scientific Laboratory Division

- 3 Divisions working full-time in the COVID-19 response
- PHD performs ~2,000 specimen collections per day-
Average of 34 PHD test sites open throughout the state daily
- Created Rapid Response as State opened to quickly contain positive cases in the workplace.
- SLD increased capacity to test COVID 19 through new instruments and 24 hour shifts, from 300- 2700 daily.
- ERD: case investigation, contact tracing, case monitoring, data production, DOC, MAT, public guidance.

Epidemiology and Response Division (ERD) COVID19 Update

New Mexico case counts increasing since the end of June

New Mexico COVID-19 Cases by Date of Specimen Collection –
7/27/20



Source: Infectious Disease Epidemiology Bureau, Epidemiology and Response Division 7.13.2020, New Mexico Department of Health.

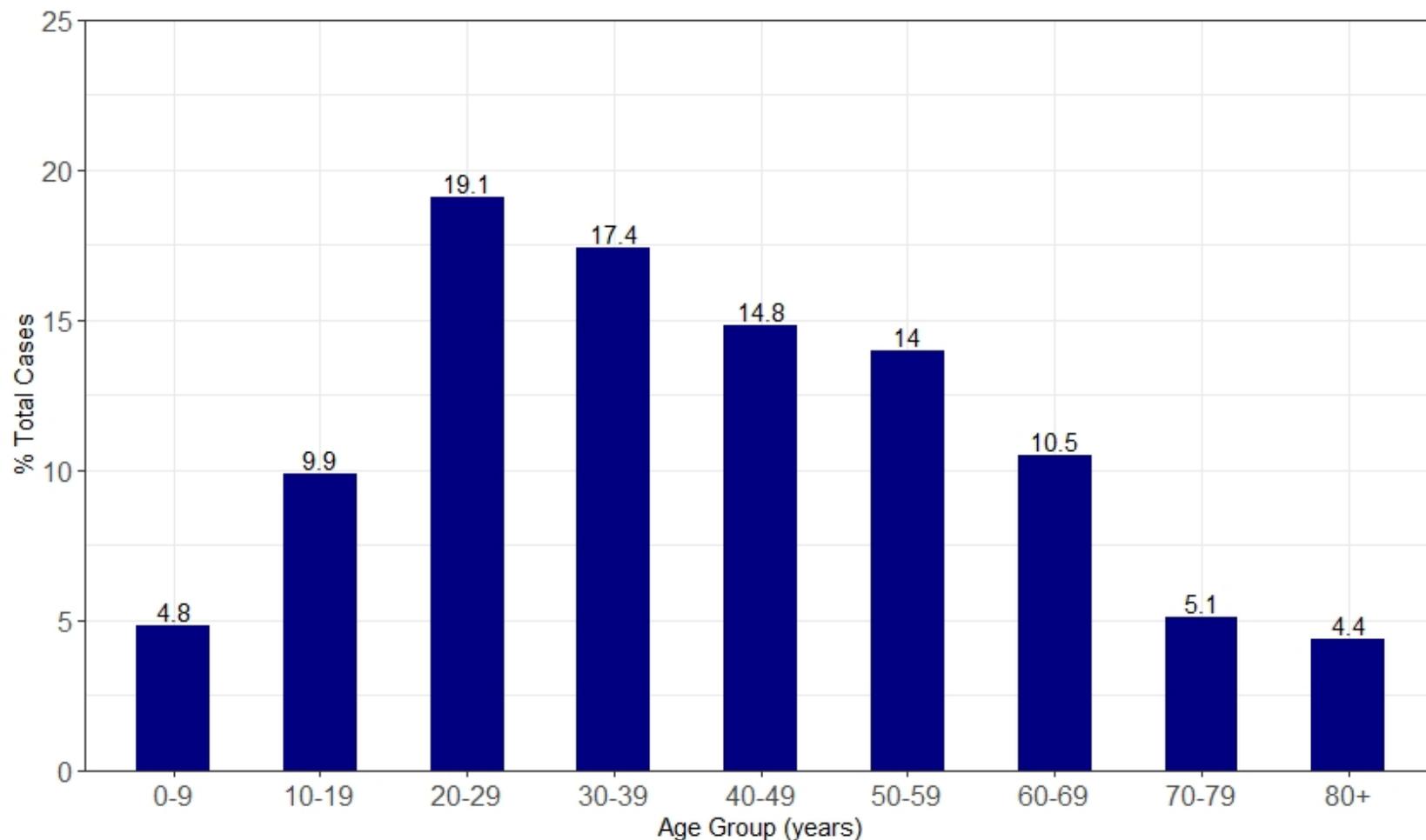


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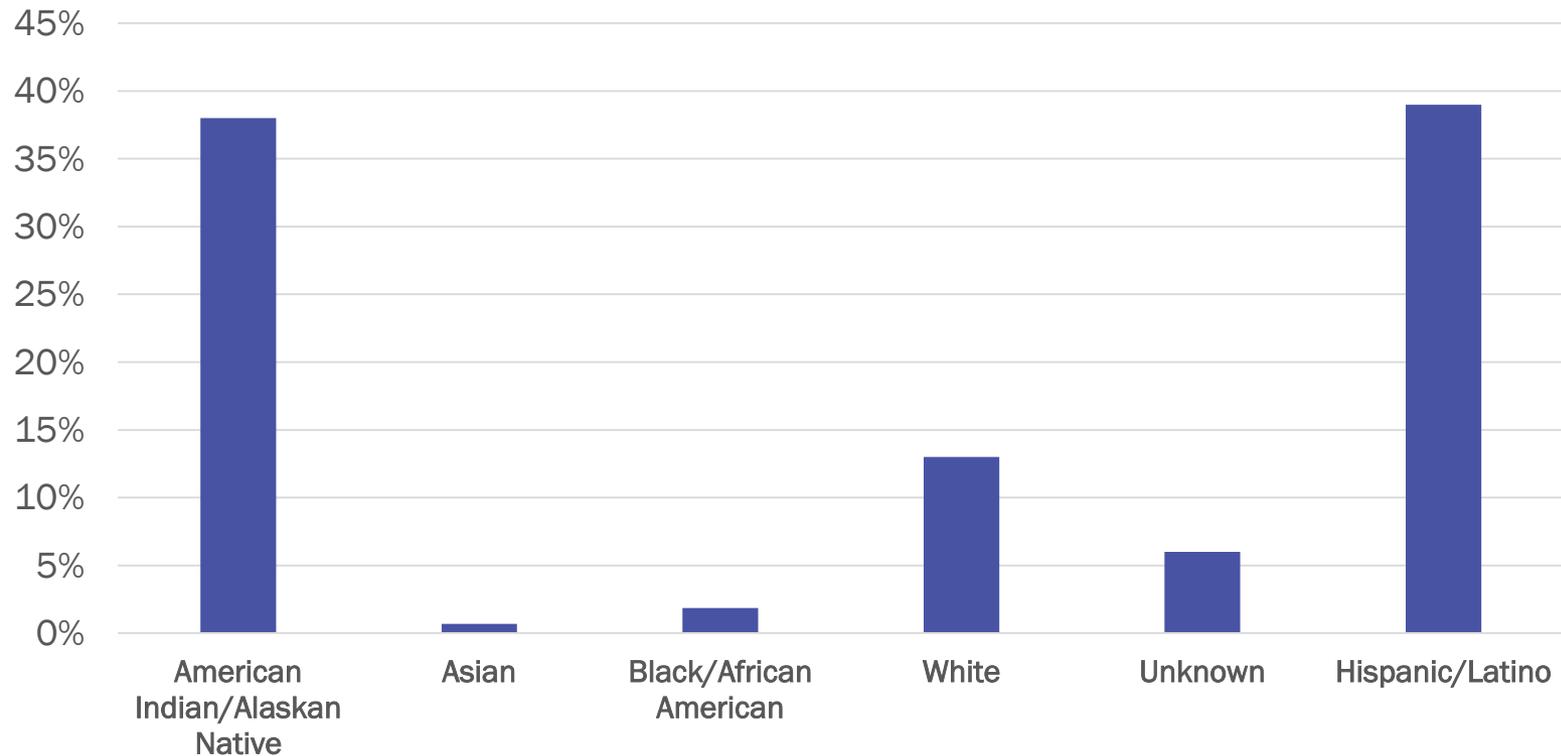
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The highest percentage of total cases are in the 20-29 years old age group, followed by the 30-39 years old age group.

(excludes out-of-state, federal and state detention and correctional facilities)



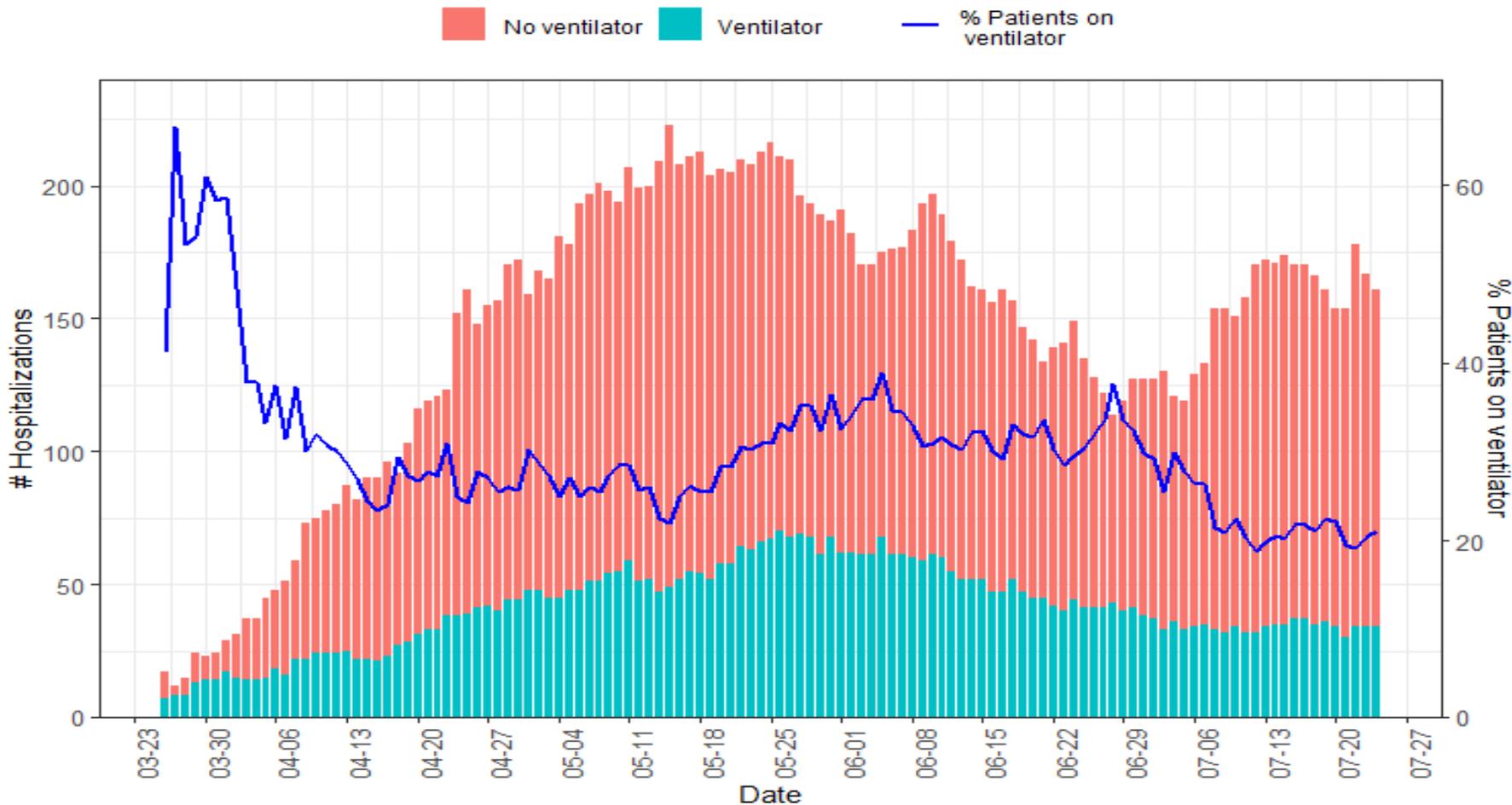
Statewide Race/Ethnicity Breakdown of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases



American Indian and Hispanic make up almost 80% of the total cases.

From: <https://cvprovider.nmhealth.org/public-dashboard.html>. Accessed July 27, 2020

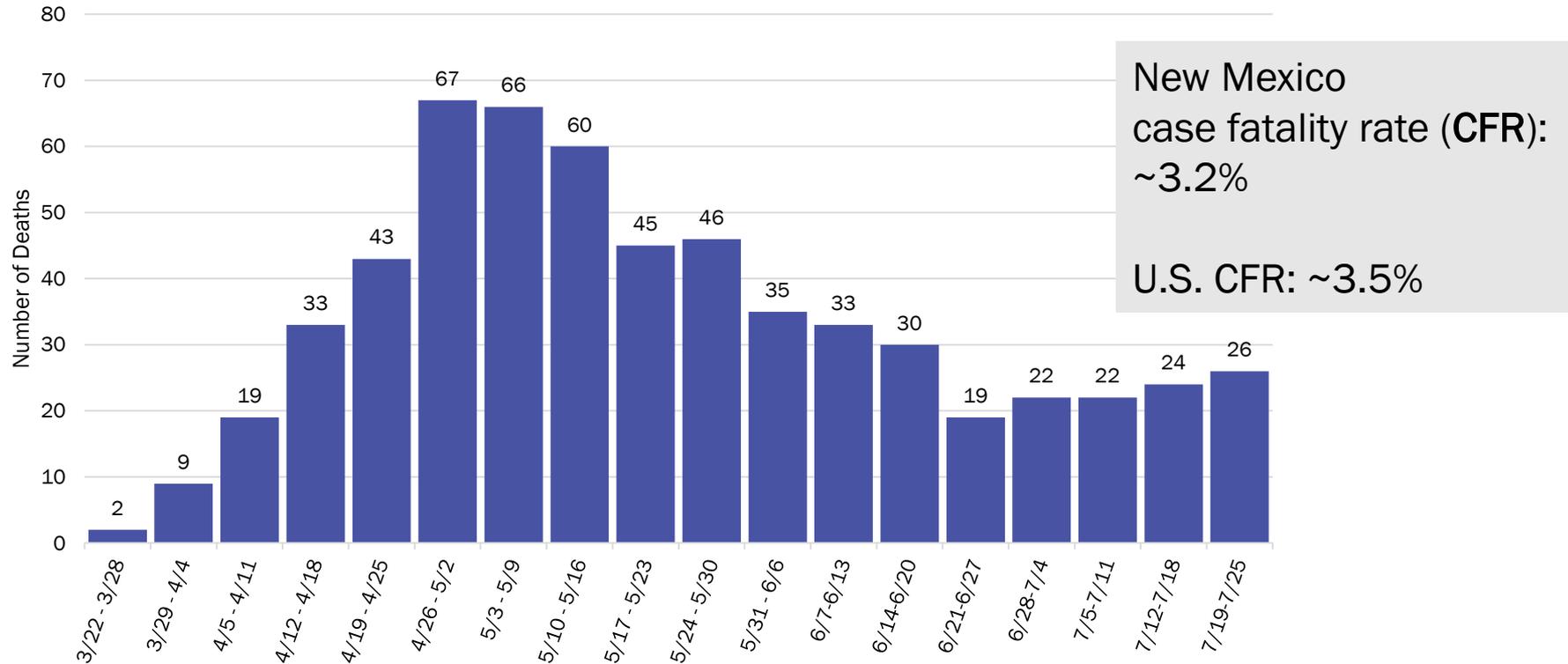
Hospitalizations have increased since early July. Ventilator use has been steady over the last couple of weeks and is currently at 23%



As of July 24, 2020

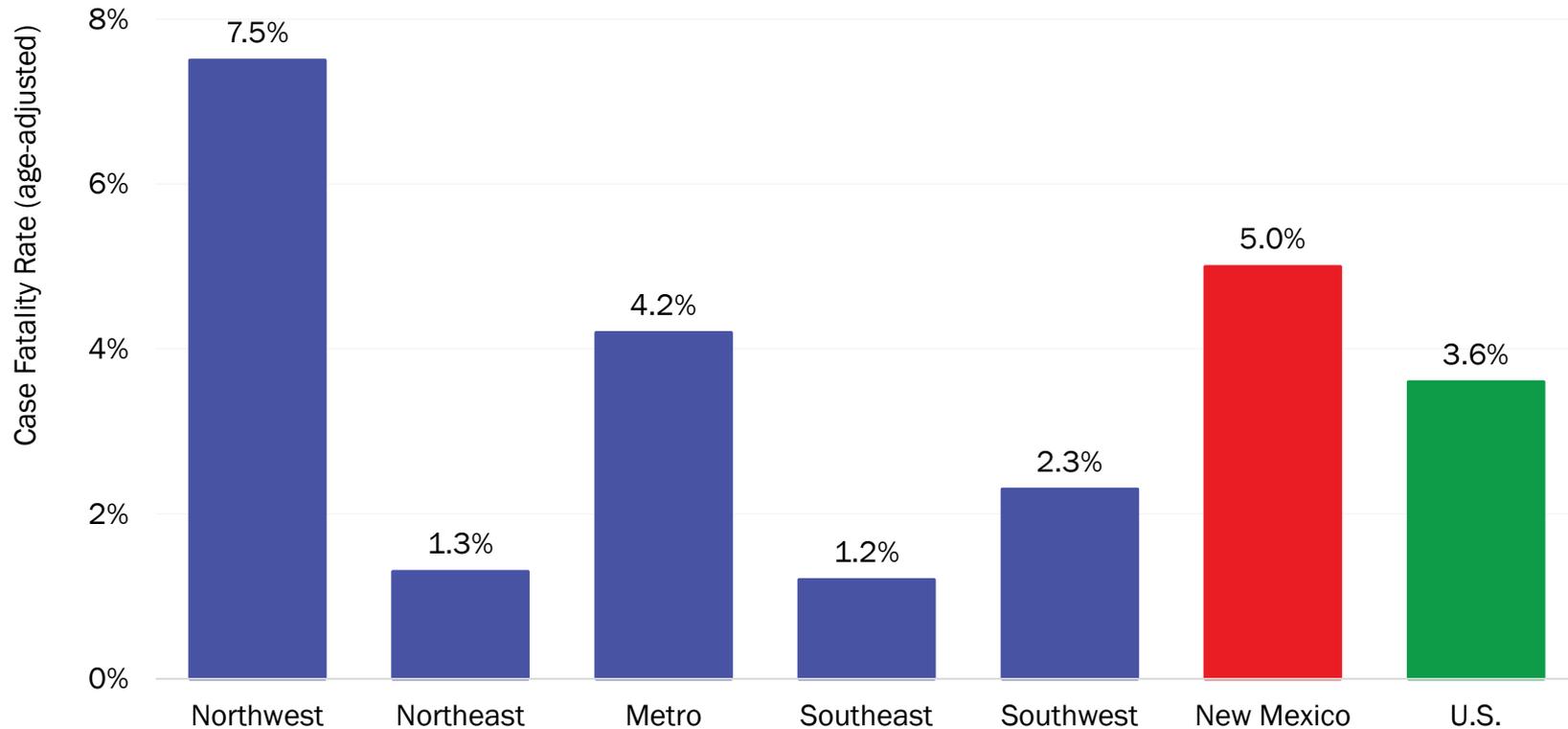
COVID-19 deaths have been decreasing since May, but may be beginning to increase

COVID-19 Deaths by Week of Death, New Mexico



Reporting through 7/24/2020

COVID-19 age-adjusted case fatality rates



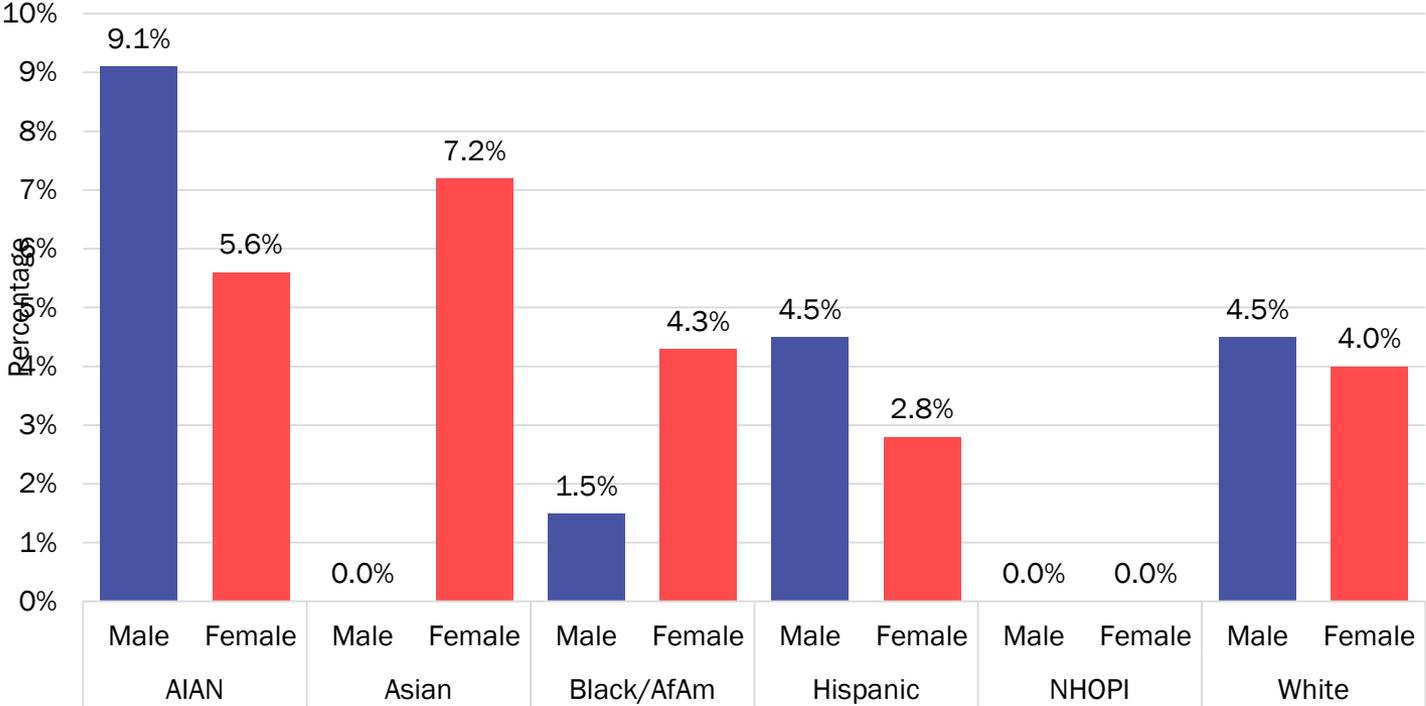
Rates have been age-adjusted to U.S. COVID-19 cases.

Source: Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics and Infectious Disease Epidemiology Bureau, Epidemiology and Response Division, reporting through 7.26.2020, New Mexico Department of Health.



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Higher rate of mortality due to COVID-19 in males compared to females across most race/ethnicity groups



COVID-19 Age-Adjusted* Case Fatality Rate by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, New Mexico

Reporting through 7/24/2020; *Adjusted to U.S. COVID-19 cases.



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COVID-19 Response in New Mexico

Public health interventions

- Case investigation
- Contact Tracing
- Case Monitoring
- Testing

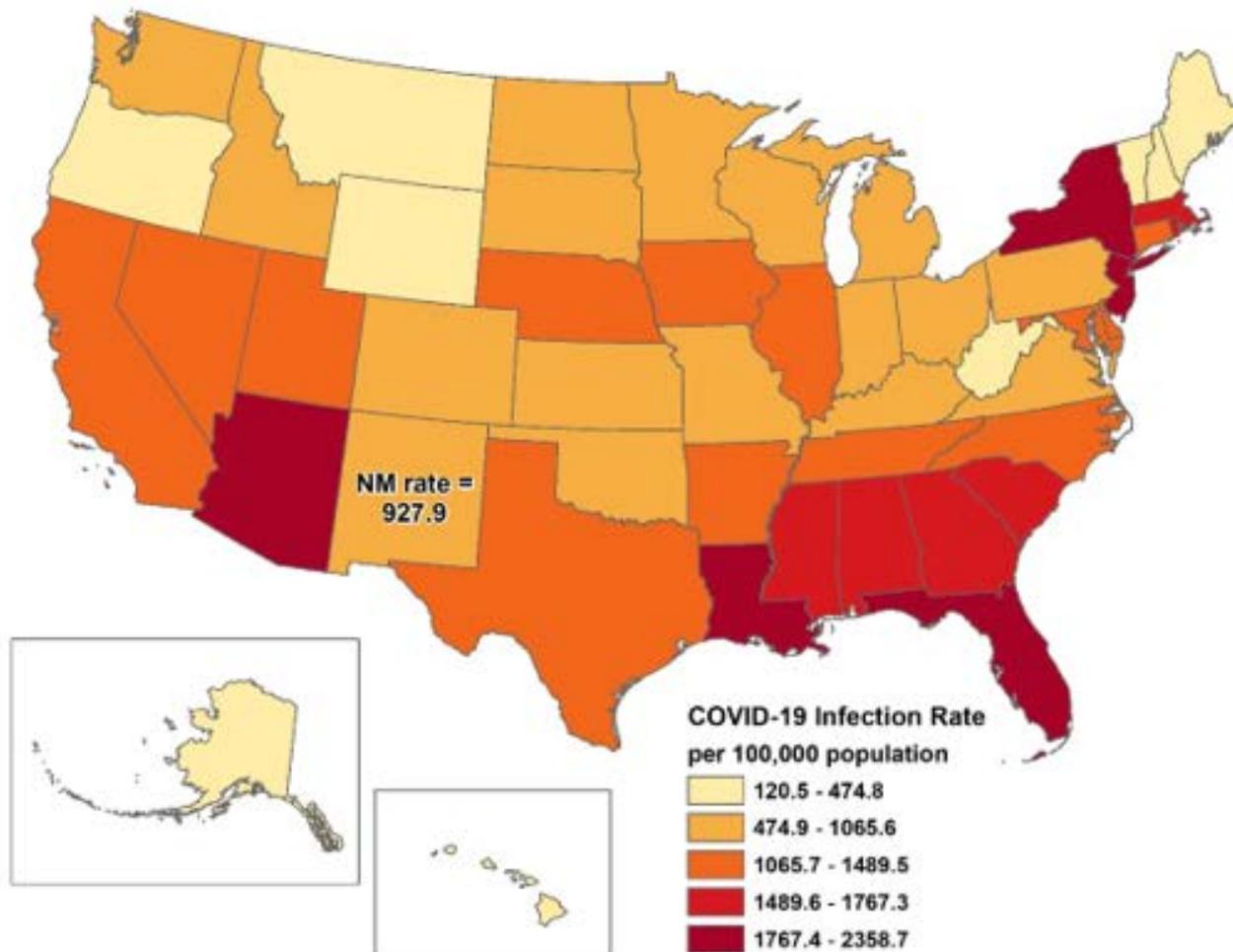
Statewide decisions

- Executive and Public Health Orders initiated shortly after the first cases were identified
- Re-opening based on current epidemiology and modeling
- Mass gatherings prohibited
- Masks or cloth-face coverings must be worn in public

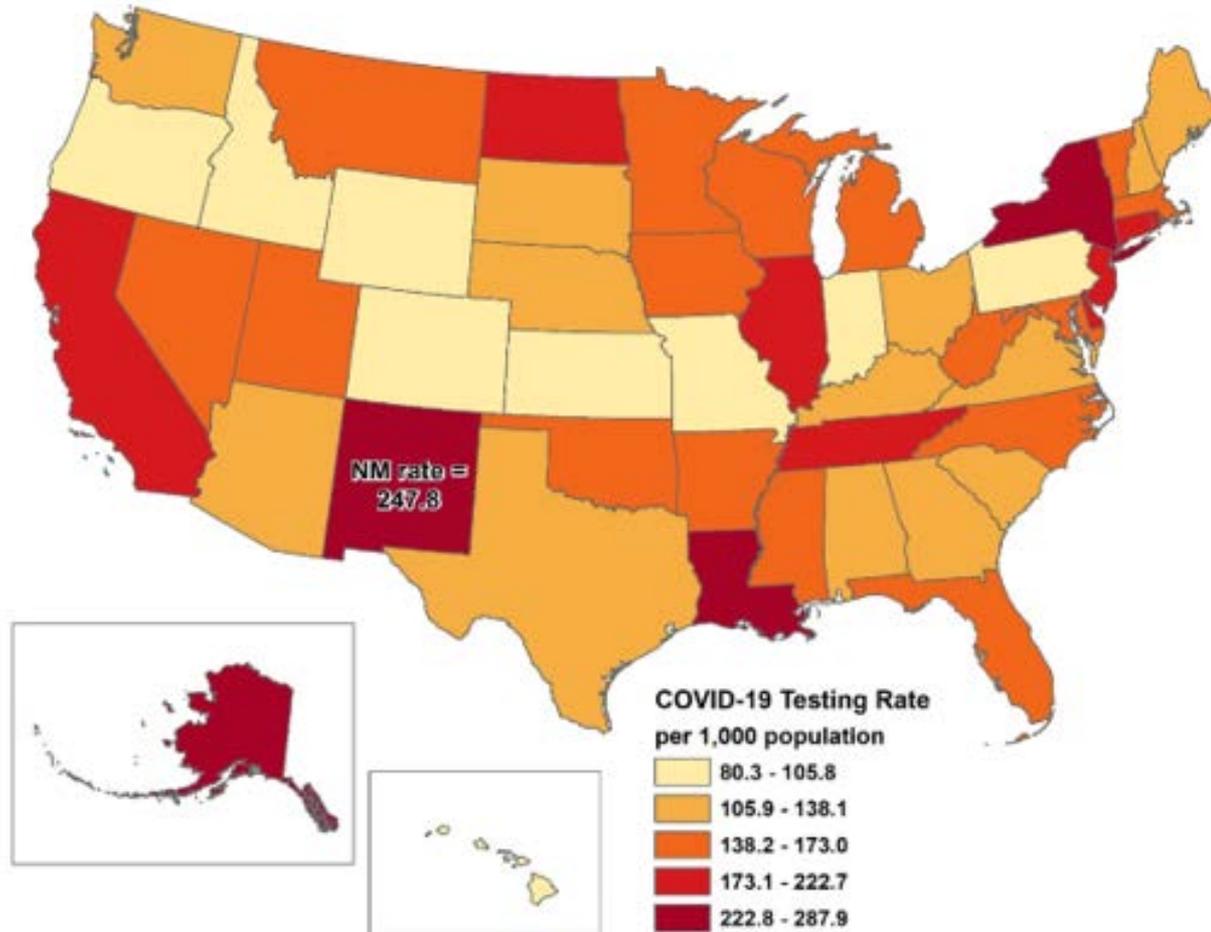
COVID-19 Response Accomplishments

- NM DOH & HSD through a public private partnership established the Medical Advisory Team
 - Over 200 participants
 - Multiple workgroups to address a wide range of pandemic issues
- Reaching approximately 80% total confirmed cases
 - Excellent compared to other jurisdictions/states
- New Mexico has the 3rd highest testing rate (199.1 tests per 100,000 population) in the U.S.
 - 8th lowest test positive rate (3.6%)

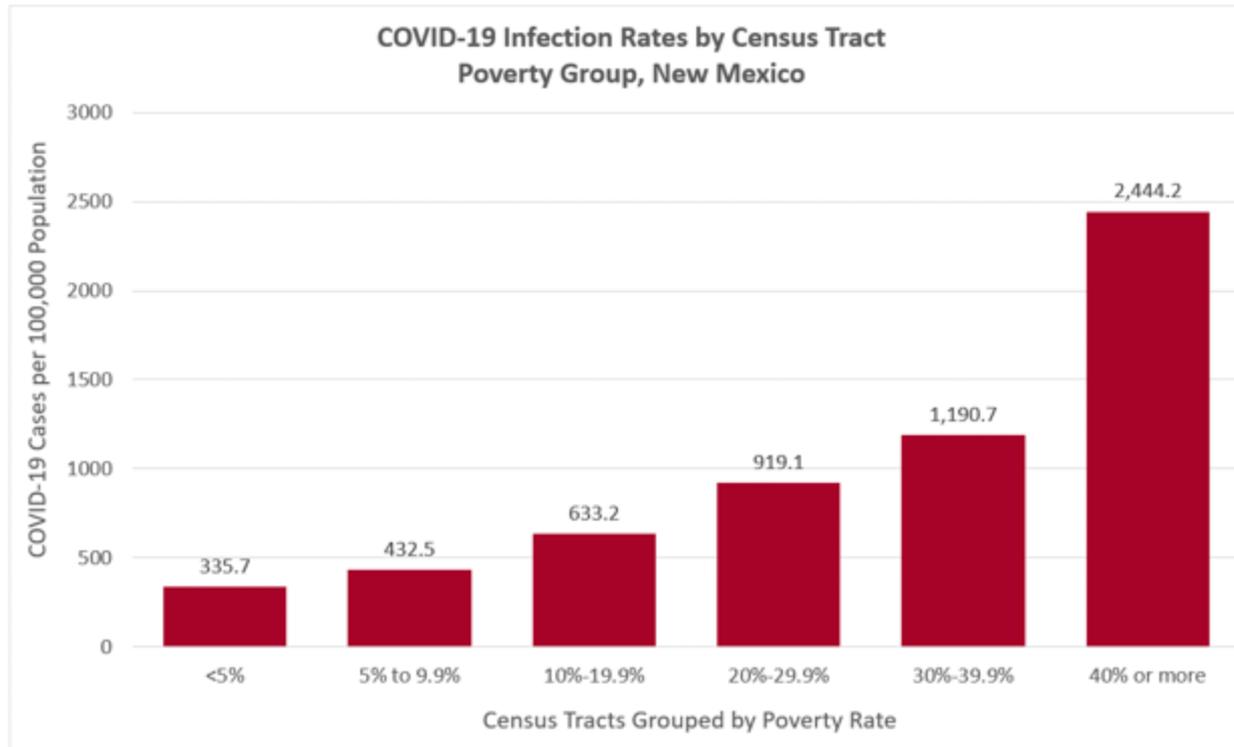
Infection Rate: COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 by U.S. States



Testing Rate: Total COVID-19 Tests Conducted, Year to Date, per 1,000 Population by U.S. States



New Mexico COVID-19 Infection by Poverty Rate: COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 Population by Census Tract Poverty Rate



Sources: COVID-19 Cases, New Mexico Department of Health, Epidemiology and Response Division, New Mexico Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NMEDSS), 7/27/2020. Poverty Rates, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2018 5-yr. estimates.

A data issue caused the U.S. Census Bureau to omit data for Rio Arriba County census tracts in the ACS 2018 5-yr. estimates. Data from the 2017 5-yr. estimates were used in this analysis as proxy poverty data for those census tracts.

COVID-19 Response Challenges

- Limited staffing to conduct the wide range of activities to limit the spread of COVID-19:
 - Case investigations
 - Contact tracing
 - Case monitoring
 - Hospitalizations
 - Mortality tracking
- Older data systems require substantial upgrades
- Poorly integrated healthcare data systems in the state
- **“Pandemic fatigue”** - public is less patient/tolerant with COVID Safe Practices and cooperation with investigation and contact tracing

Summary of COVID-19 in New Mexico

- Recent increase in daily case counts statewide
- Majority of cases 15-44 years of age & are American Indian, or Hispanic
- Hospitalizations decreased throughout June, but recently started to increase - likely related to the increased case counts
 - Ventilator use has dropped from about 30% to 20%
- Deaths have been decreasing since May, but may be increasing, following the recent increased case counts
- There are several opportunities to improve our efforts to control COVID-19 spread in New Mexico