



County and City Level COVID-19 Trends

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sonoma county
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Overview

- Understanding the State Tier System
- Sonoma County Status
 - Case Trends and Drivers
- City of Petaluma COVID-19 Trends
- COVID-19 Enhanced Response
- Vaccine planning
- Recommendations

Blueprint for a Safer Economy

- The State's *Blueprint for a Safer Economy* is a four tier structure for reducing COVID-19 with revised criteria for loosening and tightening restrictions on activities based on level of virus transmission in the community.

		Entire county	Healthy equity quartile
WIDESPREAD Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed	More than 7 Daily new cases (per 100k)	More than 8% Positive tests	
SUBSTANTIAL Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed	4-7 Daily new cases (per 100k)	5 – 8% Positive tests	5.3 – 8% Positive tests
MODERATE Some indoor business operations are open with modifications	1 – 3.9 Daily new cases (per 100k)	2 – 4.9% Positive tests	2.2 – 5.2% Positive tests
MINIMAL Most indoor business operations are open with modifications	Less than 1 Daily new cases (per 100k)	Less than 2% Positive tests	Less than 2.2% Positive tests

Tier Assignment Process

- Every county in California is assigned to a tier based on its rate of new cases and testing positivity.
- To move forward, a county must meet the next tier's criteria for two consecutive weeks. If a county's metrics worsen for two consecutive weeks, it will be assigned a more restrictive tier.
- Residents can visit covid19.ca.gov to see the county's current status and activities open at each tier level.
- Current Blueprint metrics and local data trends can also be found on Sonoma County's [Roadmap to Reopening](#) dashboard.

How does the State Decide When it is Safe for a County to Begin to Reopen?

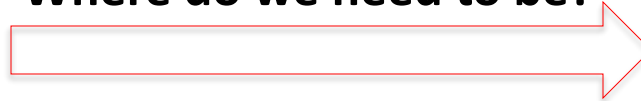
- **Three questions:**
 - 1. How many new people are infected by COVID-19 each day?**
 - Measure: New Cases per Day per 100,000 population
 - 2. What percentage of tests are positive for COVID-19?**
 - Measure: Testing Positivity
 - 3. Is COVID-19 harming some parts of the community more than others?**
 - Measure: Health Equity

How many new people are infected by COVID-19 each day?

8.8 in 100,000 Sonoma County residents are infected each day



Where do we need to be?



We need **7** or fewer new cases per 100,000 residents per day to move to **red**



What percentage of tests are positive for COVID-19?



Where we are:

3.3% of COVID-19 tests in Sonoma County are positive

What this means:

We meet State criteria to move into **red** in terms of overall test positivity



Is COVID-19 harming some parts of the community more than others?

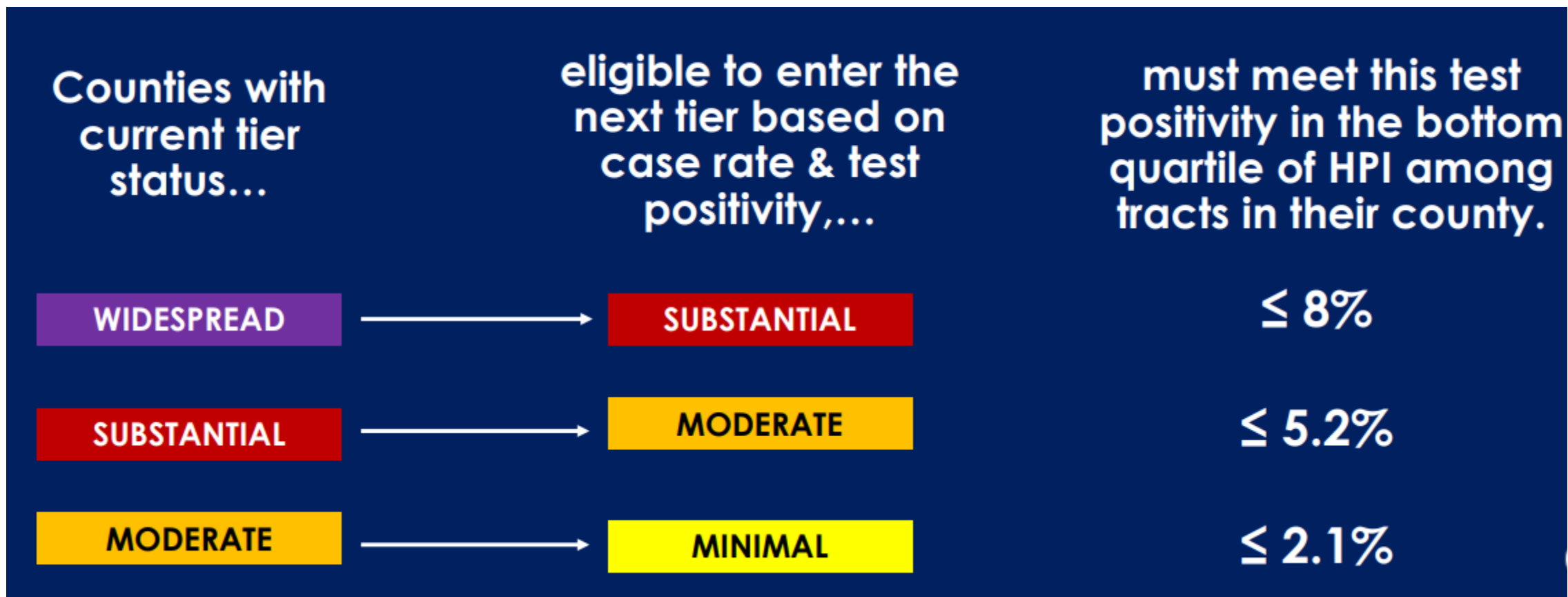
- COVID-19 has impacted some communities more than others
- These include our Latinx, low income, and essential worker communities
- Counties must address COVID-19 in **all** communities to open further, including making sure the positivity rate in certain neighborhoods does not significantly lag behind overall county positivity rates

Healthy Places Index

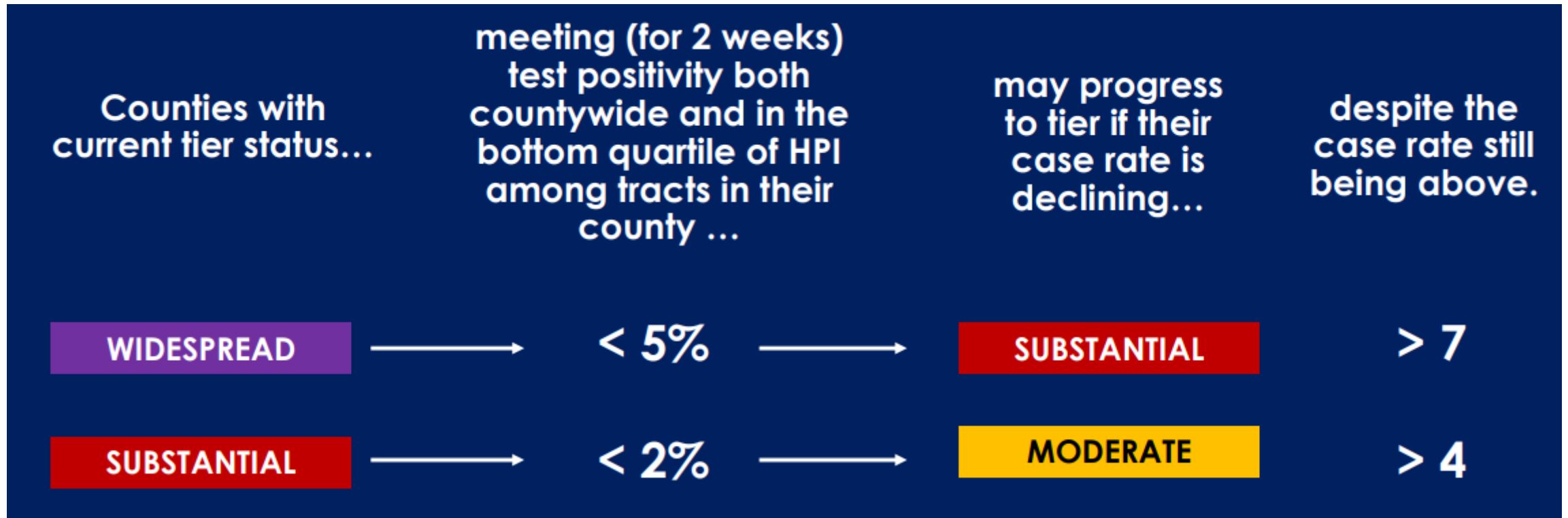
- Healthy Places Index (HPI)
 - measures factors that predict life expectancy (ex: income, housing, etc)
 - Each census tract is assigned a HPI score, with higher scores indicating greater access to resources
- To move tiers, testing positivity among the neighborhoods that fall in the bottom 25% of the HPI must meet the criteria of the new tier to which the county hopes to advance



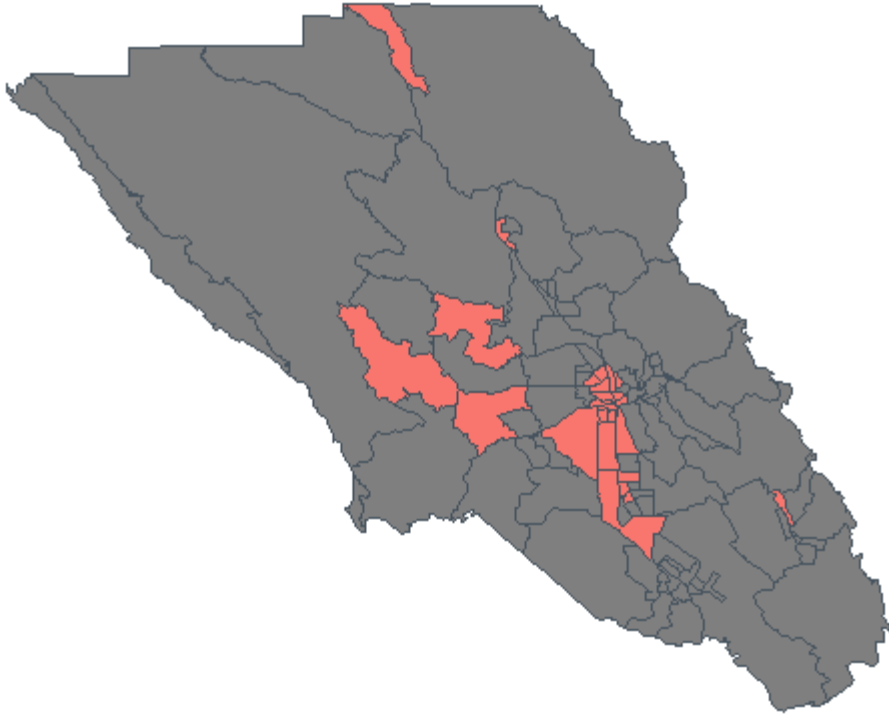
How Does the Health Equity Measure Impact Tier Placement?



How the Health Equity Measure Supports Reopening



Lowest 25% Healthy Places Index (HPI) Census Tracts

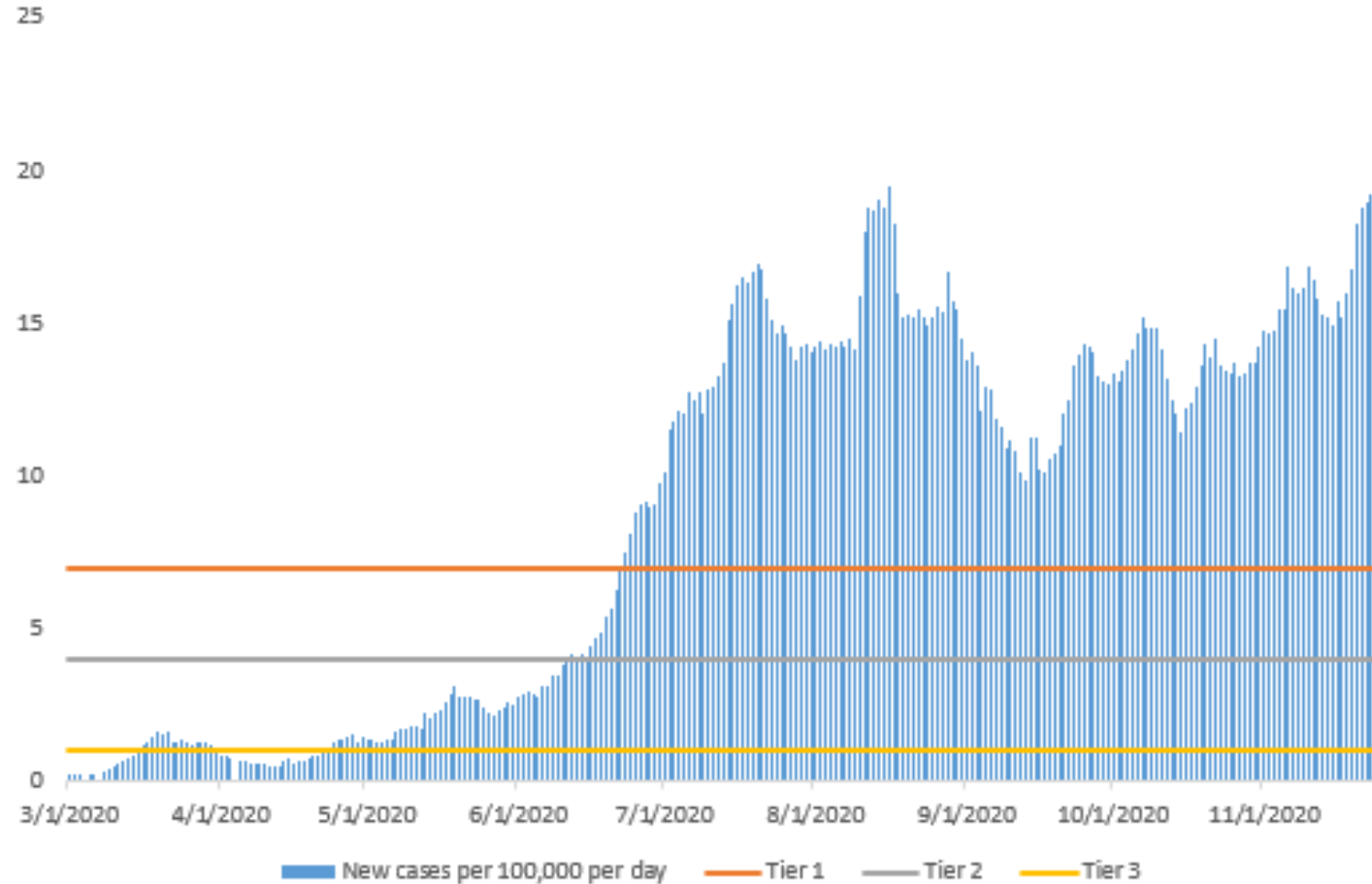


- Testing positivity among Sonoma County's residents who have access to the fewest socioeconomic resources: **7% (red tier)**
 - While both testing positivity measures (overall and HPI) meet criteria for **red**, our case rate is keeping the County in the **purple**.
 - If both testing positivity measures drop below 5% (to the **orange tier**) for two weeks, we will be eligible to move to **red** even if our case rate remains higher than 7 as long as it is stable or declining
 - Metric is currently on hold by State due to a case surge

Current Situation

- California is experiencing an unprecedented rate of increase of new cases of COVID-19 statewide.
- On November 16, 2020 Governor Newsom announced the utilization of the state's "emergency brake"
 - Counties may be moved back a tier within one week and may be moved back more than one tier if data show need
- The state's goal is to preserve our health care capacity.

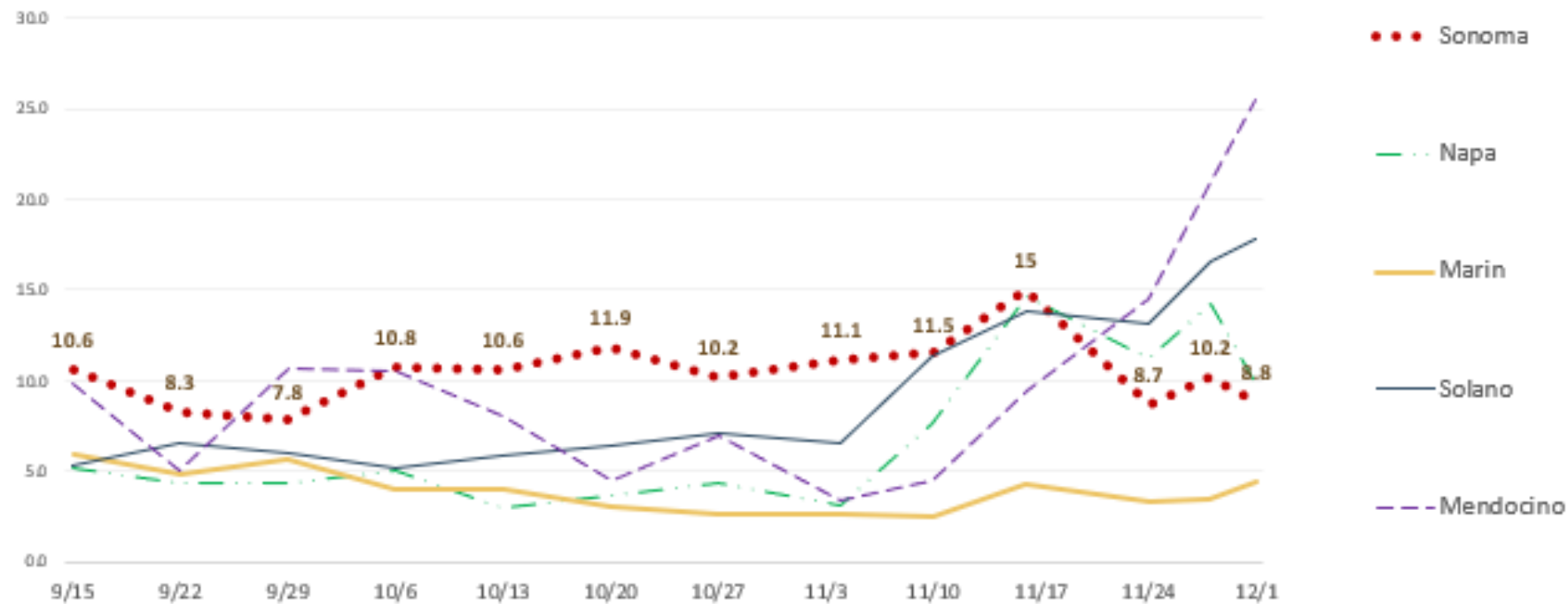
Surge in Cases



Like most of California, Sonoma County is experiencing a surge in new COVID-19 cases, with **21.4 new cases per 100,000 residents per day (unadjusted)**

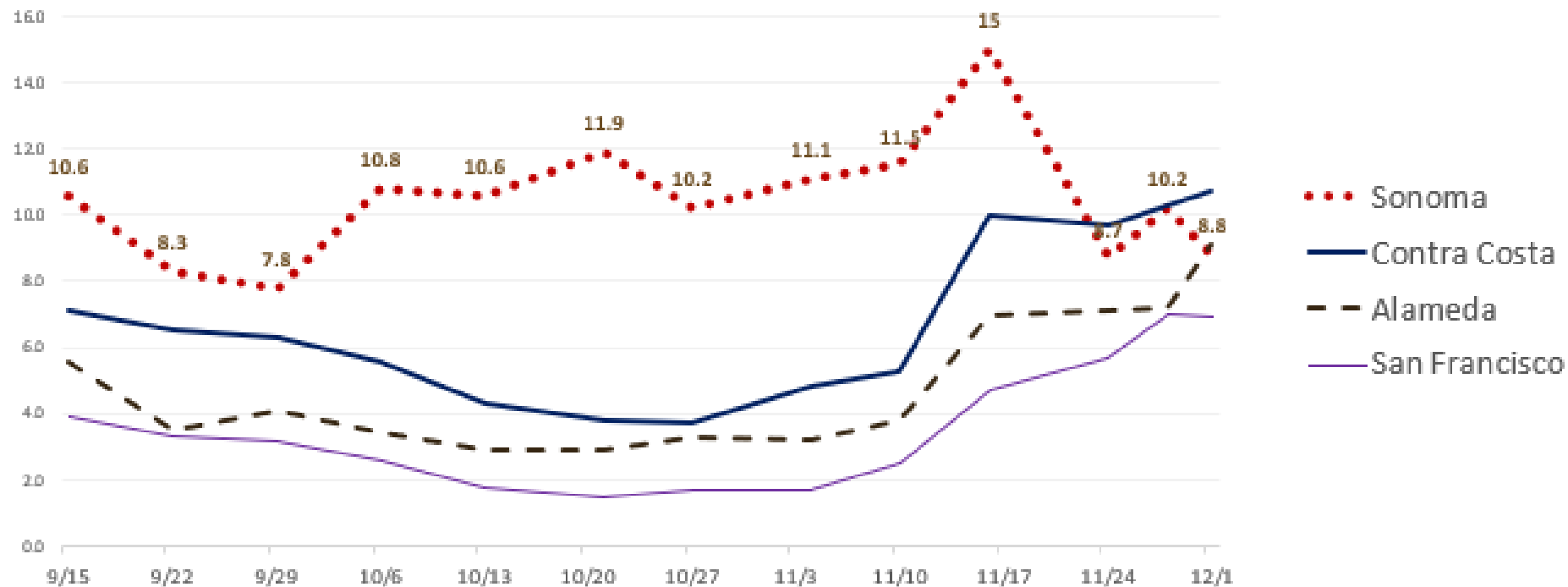
Regional Comparison—North Bay

North Bay - Adjusted 7 day case rate with 7 day lag



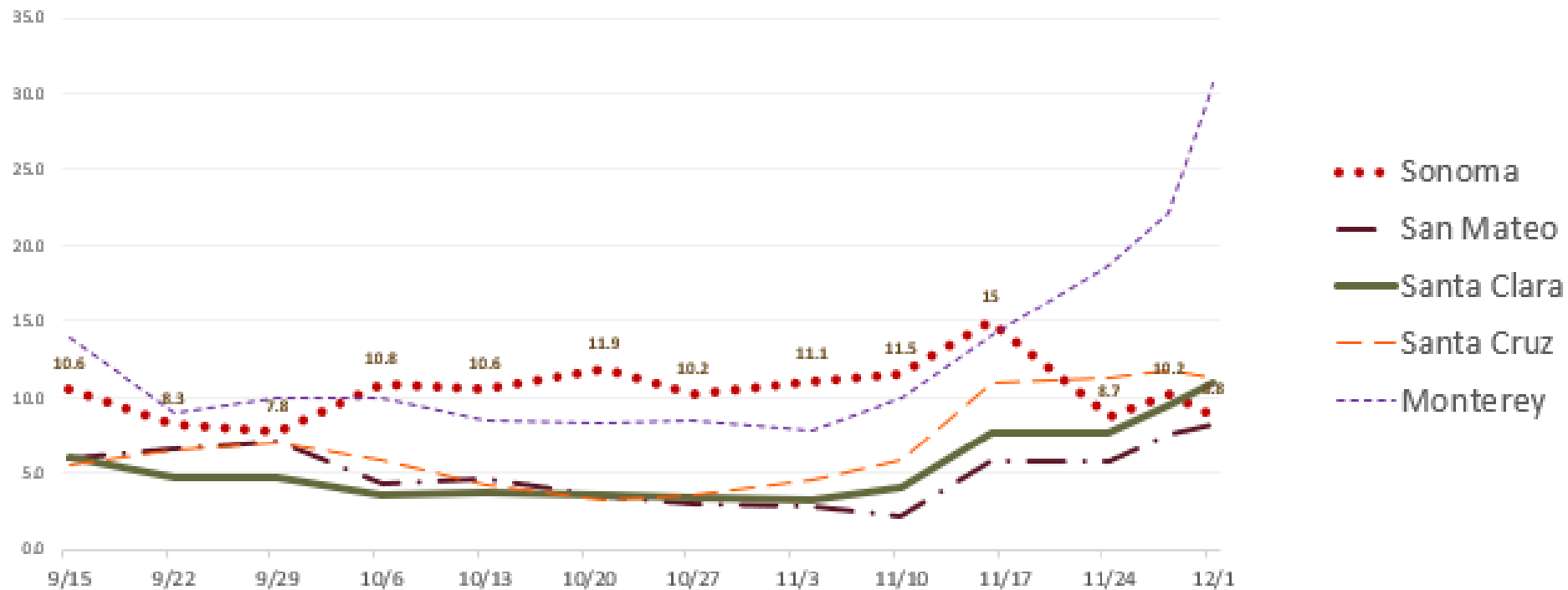
Regional Comparison—Central/East Bay

Central/East Bay - Adjusted 7 day case rate with 7 day lag



Regional Comparison—South Bay

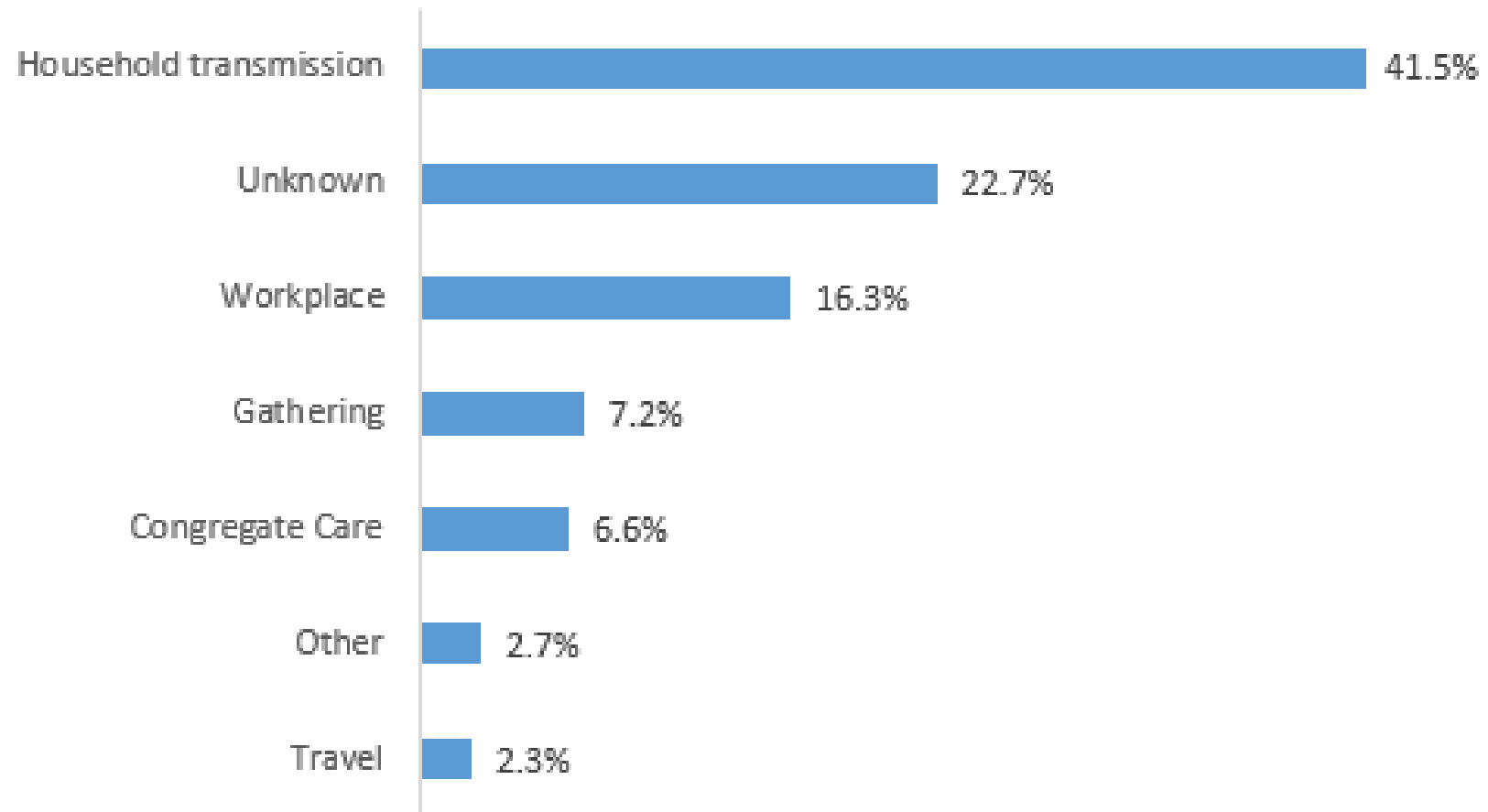
South Bay - Adjusted 7 day case rate with 7 day lag



Testing Capacity

- Sonoma County now conducts an average of 2,570 tests per day (or 517 tests per 100,000 residents per day)
 - Capacity will be further enhanced through Optum Serve expansion
- Our testing volume is now double that of the State average
 - State uses factor of .5 to adjust for this additional testing in our case rate (meaning they cut our case rate in half)

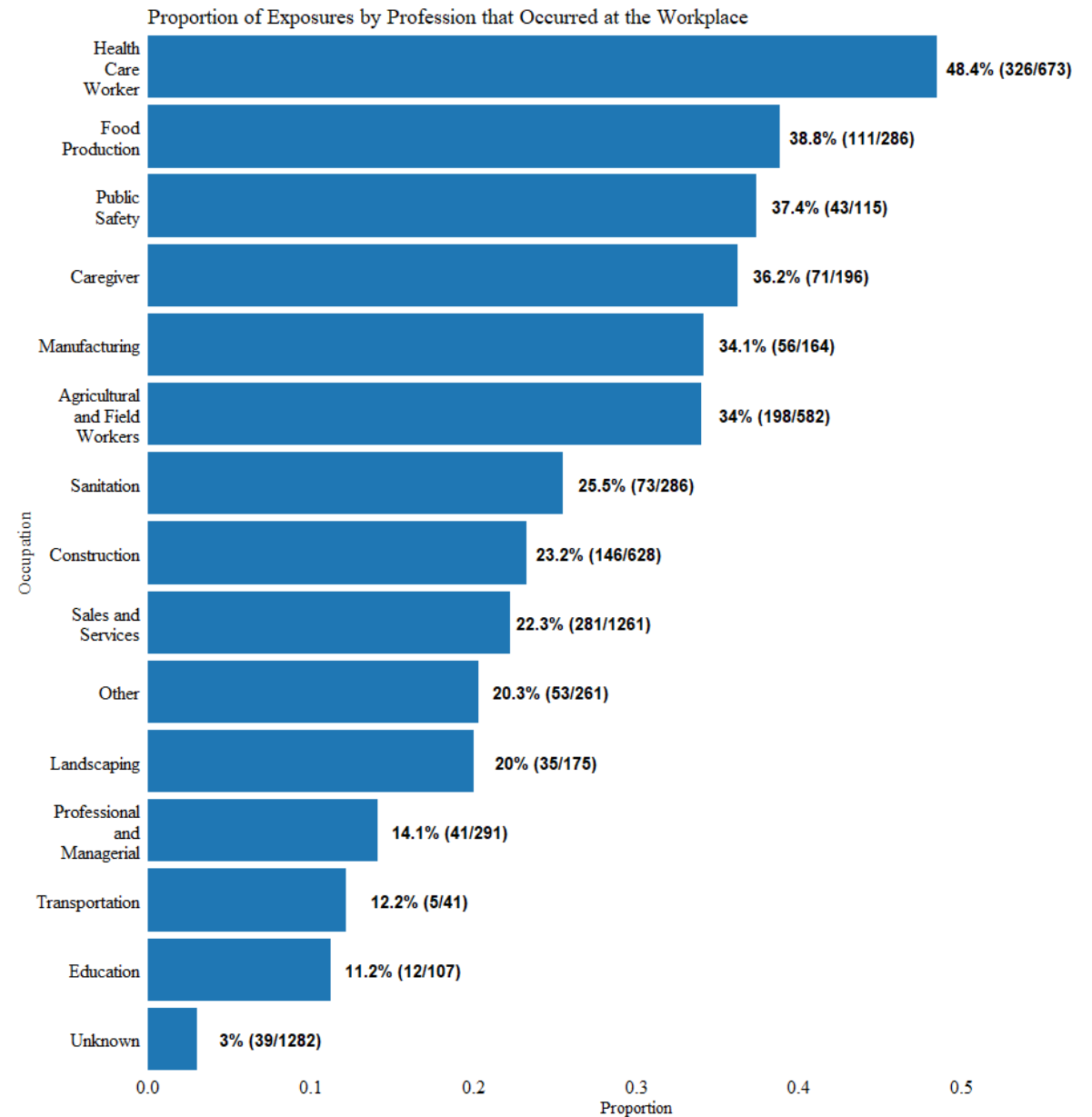
Primary Sources of Infection



Worksite Transmission by Occupation

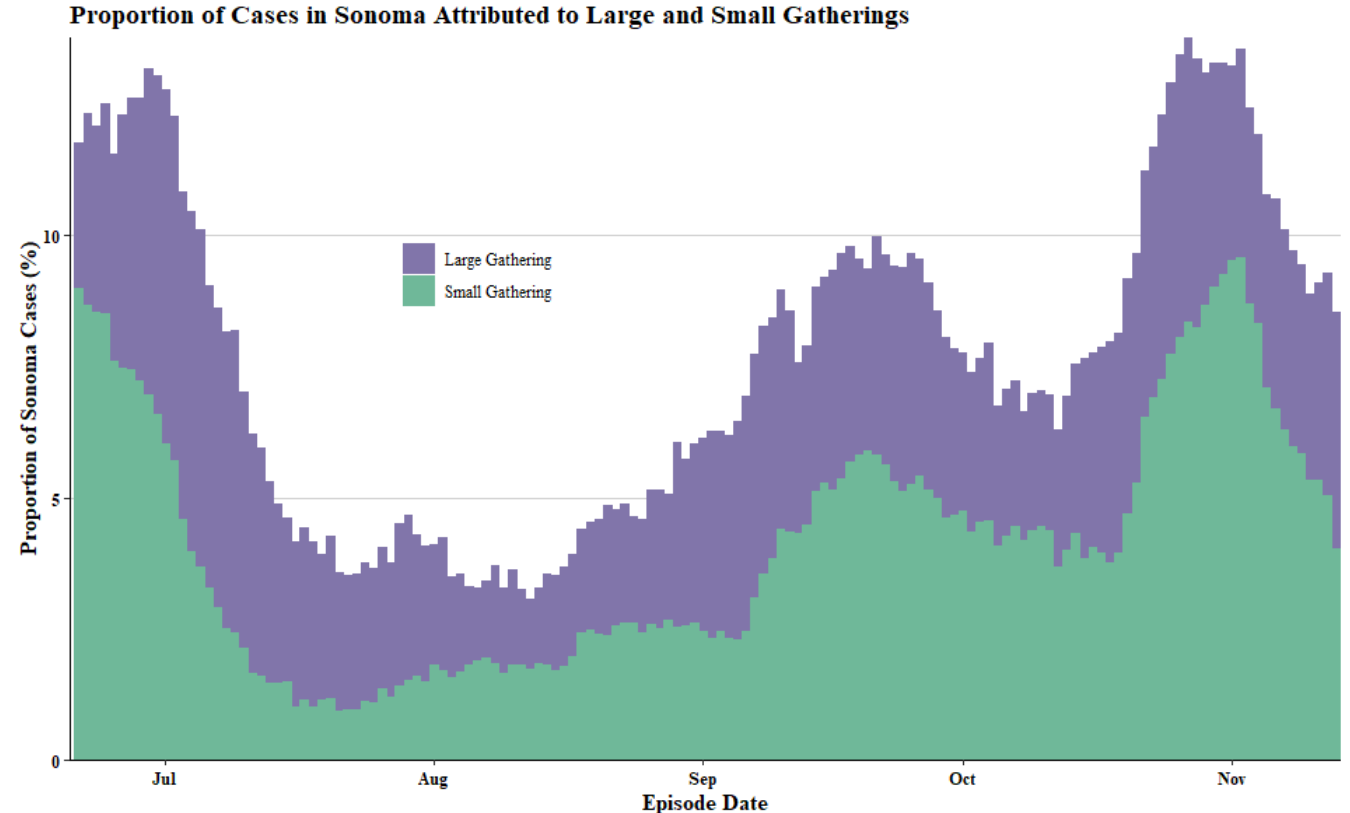
Occupations with the most cases of worksite transmission:

- Healthcare
- Food Production
- Caregiver
- Manufacturing
- Agriculture
- Sanitation
- Construction
- Sales and Services

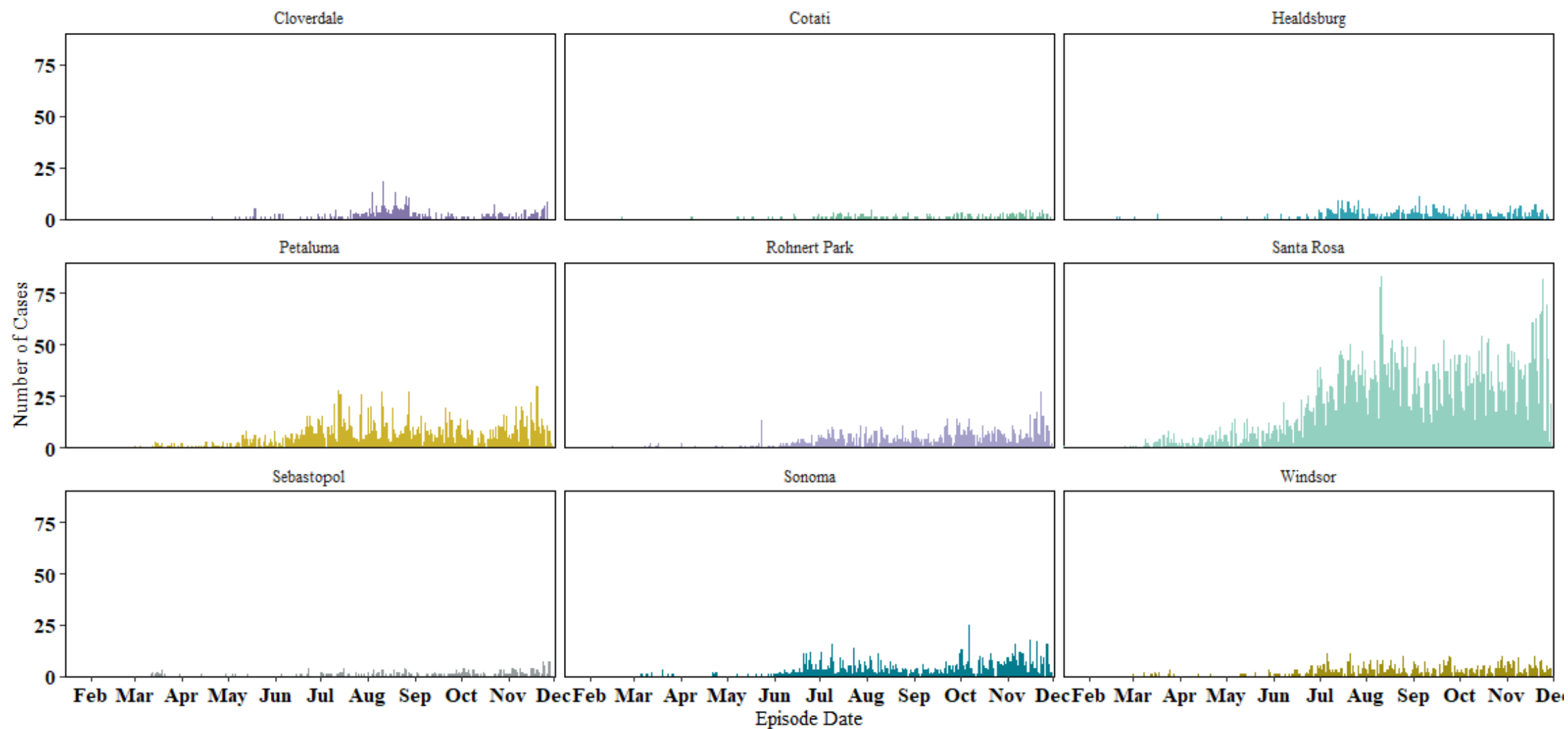


Gatherings

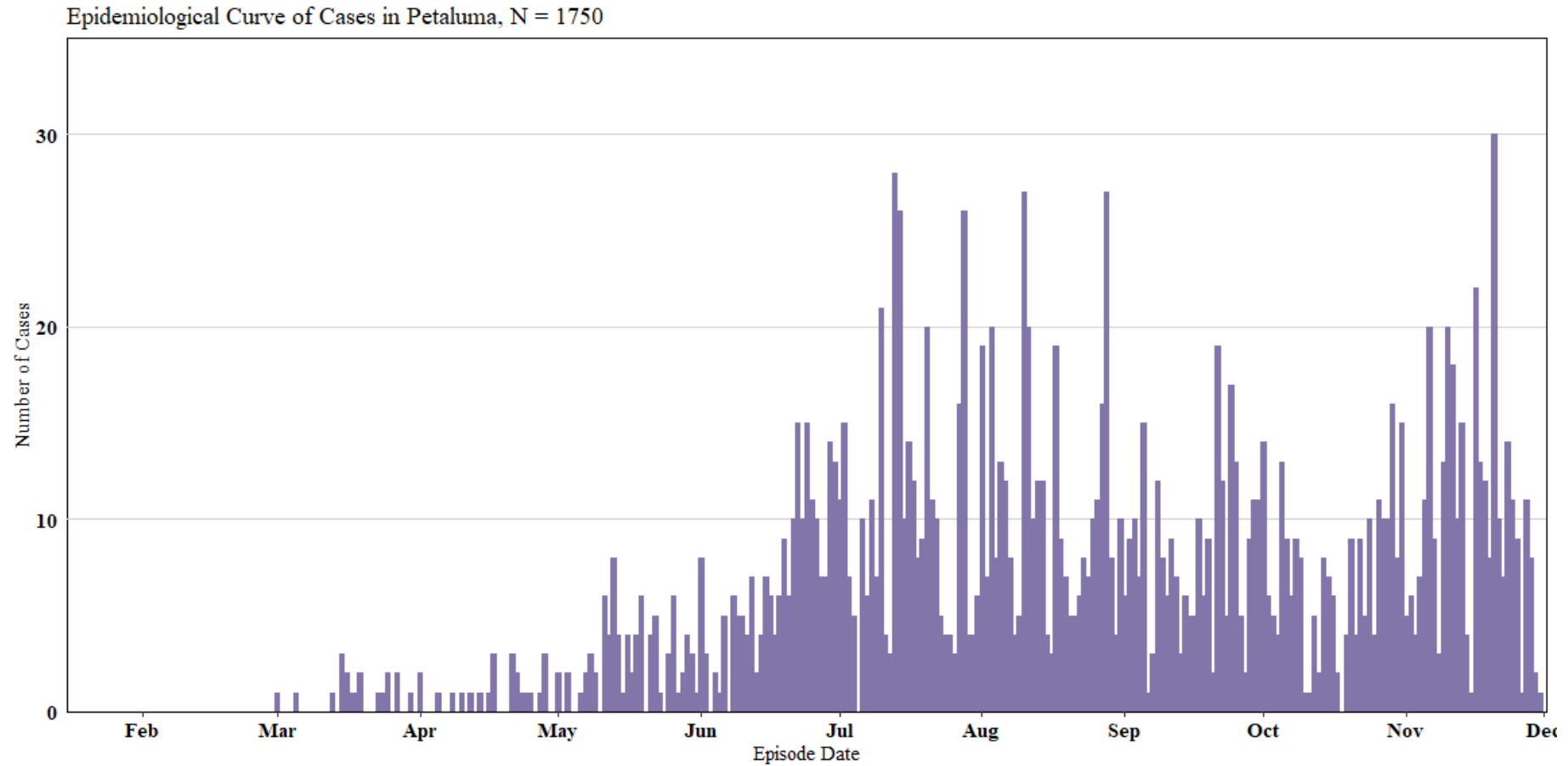
- Gatherings accounted for over 15% of cases in early November
 - Halloween parties and gatherings, including parties without masks, resulted in 12 confirmed cases of transmission
 - Observing increase in cases associated with family/friend gatherings and parties
 - Will monitor Thanksgiving related cases



Epidemiological Curves of Cases by City, N = 11631



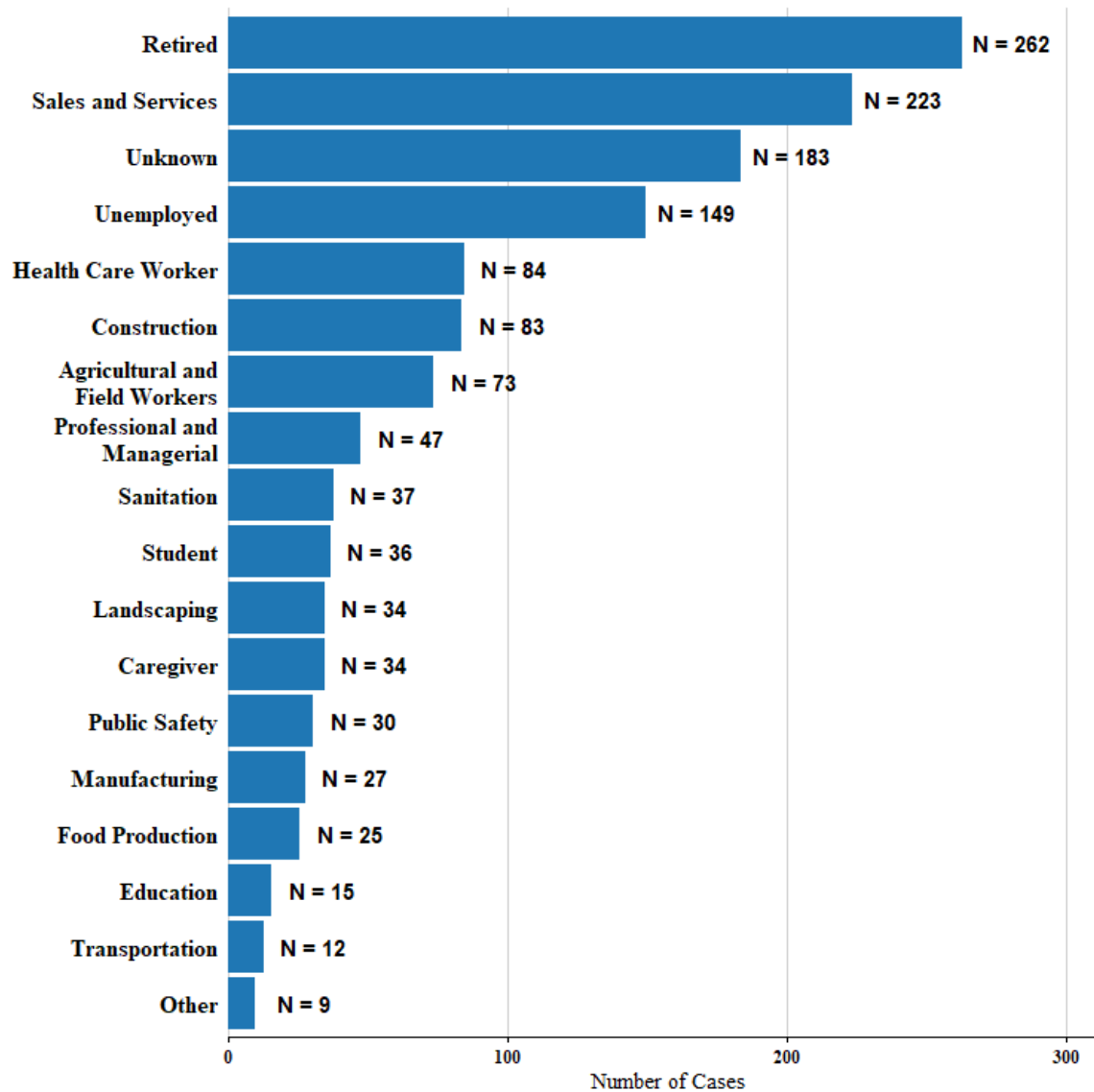
Petaluma Cases Over Time



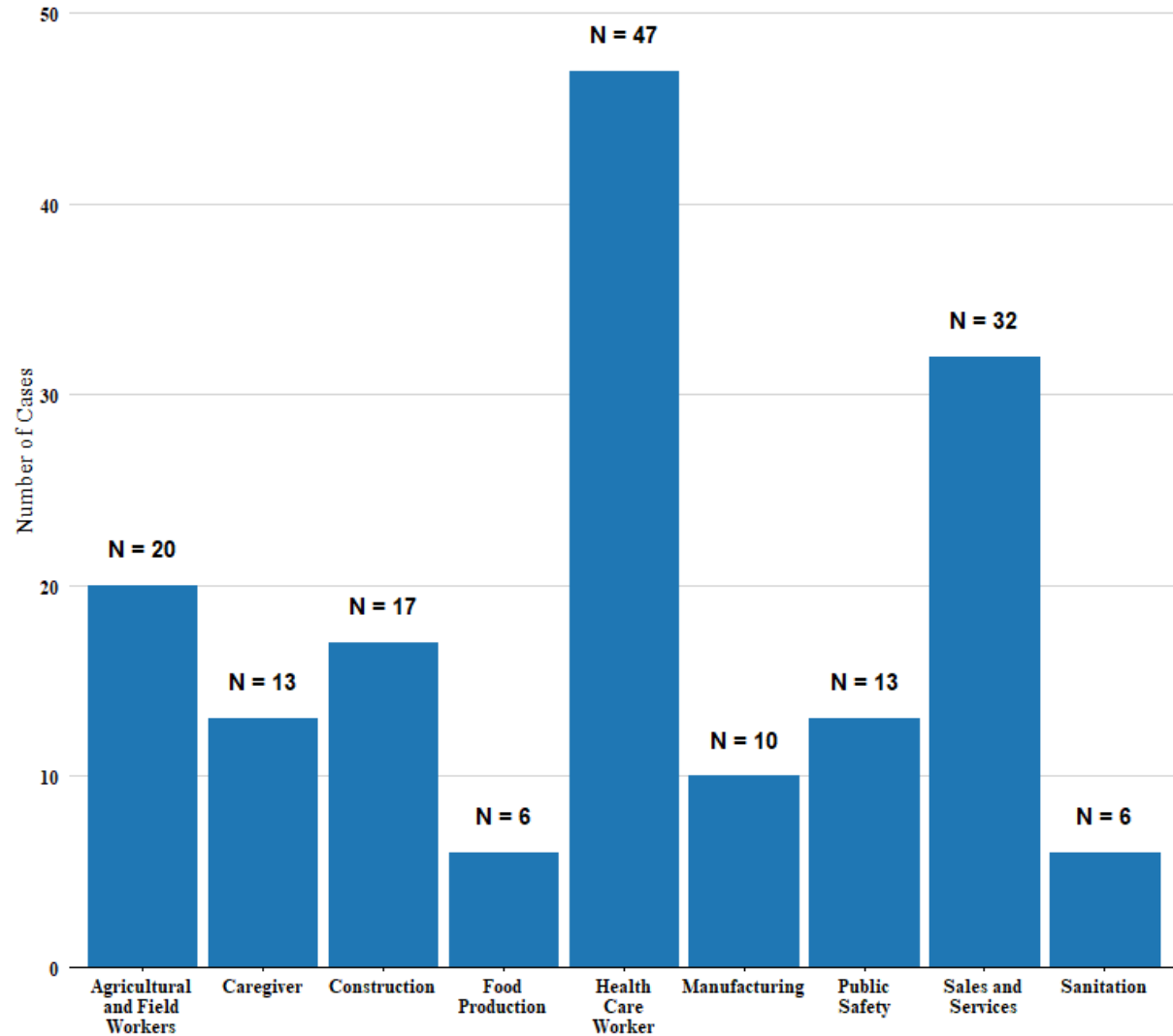
Petaluma Cases, N = 1760



Occupations of All Petaluma Resident Cases

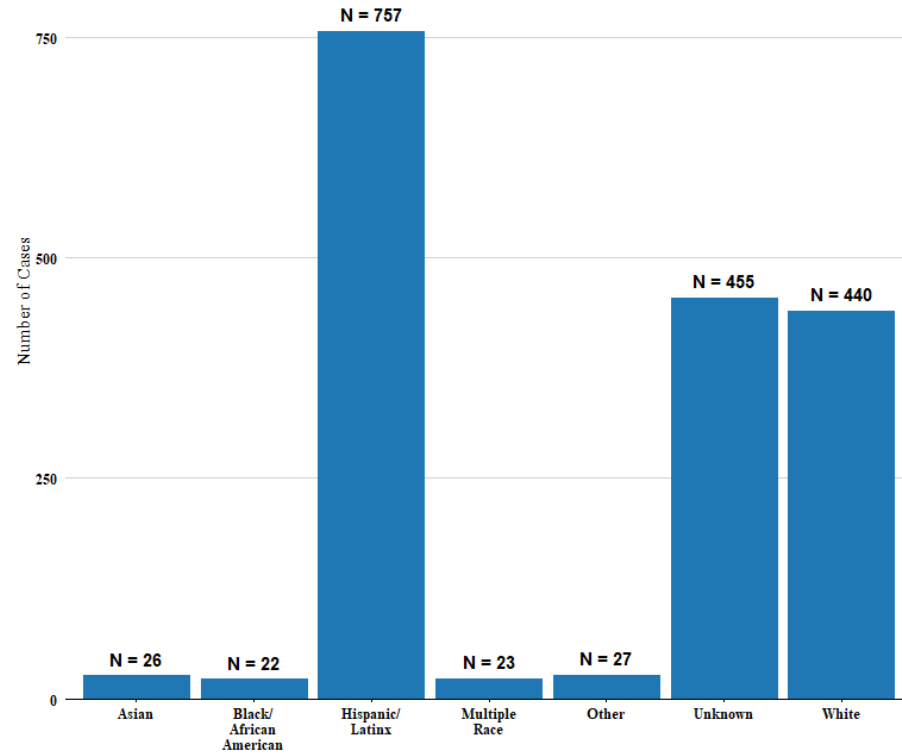


- Occupation is not necessarily where cases were infected

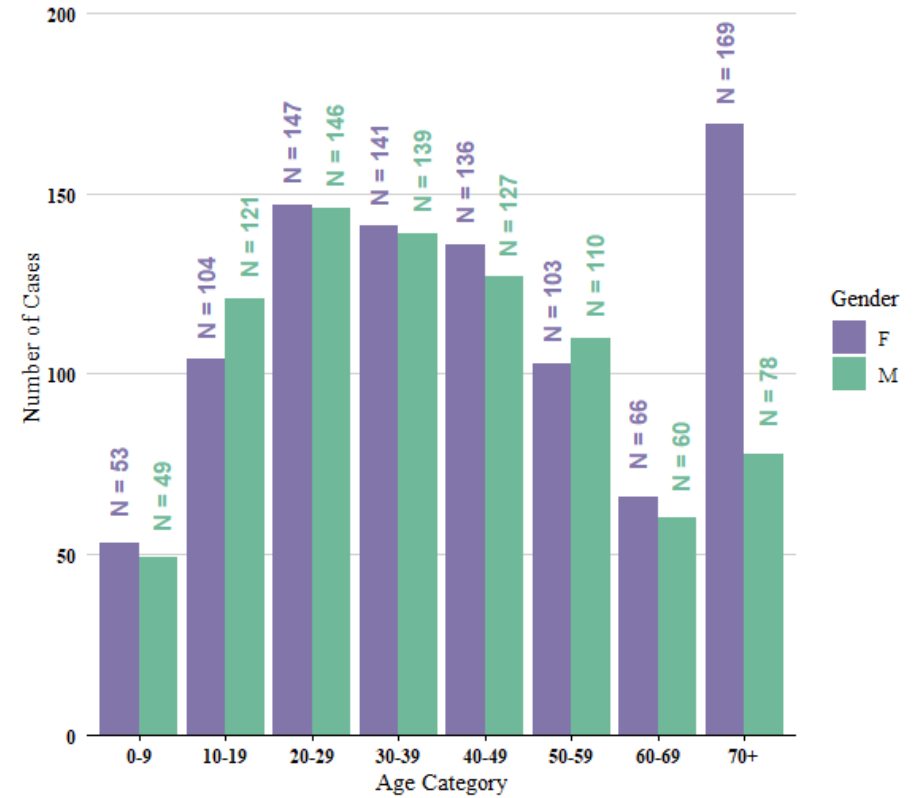


- **Health Care Workers:** majority were employed in Skilled Nursing Facilities or Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly
- **Sales and Services** cases included transmission in restaurant, bakery, clerical and grocery settings
- **Agriculture workers** worked at vineyards, cellars, dairy farms and creameries

Race and Ethnicity of Cases in Petaluma



Age Categories and Genders of Cases in Petaluma



Summary of Petaluma Cases

- Peak of cases in late November
- Greatest number of cases in:
 - Retirees
 - Sales and services
 - Unemployed
 - Healthcare
- Greatest number of workplace exposures in:
 - Health care workers
 - Sales and services
- Greatest number of cases in 18-49 age group
 - Pronounced number of cases in the 70+ population due to SNF/RCFE populations
- Greatest number of cases in Hispanic/Latinx community

Enhanced Response Updates

- **Strategy 1: Increase Targeted Testing**
 - Targeted Pop-up testing has increased from average of 143 to over 400 tests/day
- **Strategy 2: Latinx Enhanced Outreach**
 - CURA connected with 1750 individuals; conducted 32 outreach events
- **Strategy 3: Incentives and Financial Assistance**
 - \$530,500 distributed in financial assistance; 5,037 \$30 gift cards distributed
- **Strategy 4: Foster Partnerships with the Business Community**
 - EDB partnership; Community Foundation, The Engine is Red is donating marketing services
- **Strategy 5: Isolation and Quarantine Support**
 - Securing block of 25 rooms in Sonoma and investigating options in other cities
- **Strategy 6: Communications and Education Campaign**
 - Launched PSAs, print ads, partnership with The Engine is Red

Vaccine Planning and Distribution

Vaccine distribution plan was submitted to the CDPH on Dec 1. Major areas of action include:

- Follow an equitable vaccine allocation framework according to ethical considerations based on national guidelines
 - CDC recommends prioritizing health care workers and long-term care facility residents first
- Identify and recruit COVID-19 vaccination providers
- Support distribution of the vaccine in phases according to the allocation framework
- Conduct outreach and education in an equitable way
- Train enrolled providers on proper vaccine storage, handling, and administration
- Build vaccine confidence and trust within Sonoma County communities
- Gather and monitor vaccine administration data and provider enrollment data

Recommendations

- Mitigation strategies
 - Continue to promote masks, hygiene, and social distancing
- Testing
 - Employers are encouraged to regularly test 25% of employees
 - Individuals should test right away when experiencing symptoms
- Outreach to Petaluma industries impacted
 - Consider outreach to restaurants to ensure safety protocols are in place to protect kitchen staff, servers, cashiers, and patrons
 - Grocery stores are a place of transmission. Encourage public to order their groceries online and for stores to sanitize carts and monitor and limit store occupancy
 - Encourage Agriculture and all businesses to engage in testing and support workers to stay home when ill or exposed to COVID-19.

Reducing Household Transmission

- Household transmission accounts for 42% of cases
 - Transmission can be reduced by 79% when at least one person wears a mask in the household, and by 77% with daily use of disinfectants (Wang et al, 2020)
 - If an individual thinks they have been exposed or may have COVID, they should wear a mask, disinfect, try to distance from family members right away, even before symptoms develop and before they test or receive results.
 - If individuals live with a medically vulnerable household member, they should consider consistently wearing a mask when around them
 - Financial assistance and support is available to help income-eligible individuals quarantine/isolate

Holiday Gatherings and Travel

- Nonessential travel, including holiday travel, is not recommended.
 - If travel, recommend self-quarantine for 14 days after return
- Avoid gathering in person, but if do, keep gatherings small, short, stable, and outdoors (no more than 12 people, 3 households).
- Consider alternate ways to celebrate this year, such as a virtual celebrations with friends/extended family

Questions