



BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION (BPHC)

Communicable Disease Control Division

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Boston COVID-19 Report - For the Week Ending 5/21/2020

1/3/2020 - 5/21/2020

COVID-19 Cases (Boston Residents)	#
Active Cases	6,013
Recovered Cases	5,627
Deaths	599
TOTAL CASES	12,239

COVID-19 Confirmed Hospitalizations (through 5/21/2020)	
YEAR	# HOSPITALIZED
2020	1,495

Boston ED CLI ¹ Syndromic Surveillance (All Visits)	
This Week Overall % CLI (5/15-5/21/2020)	4.5%
Last Week Overall % CLI (5/8-5/14/2020)	5.2%

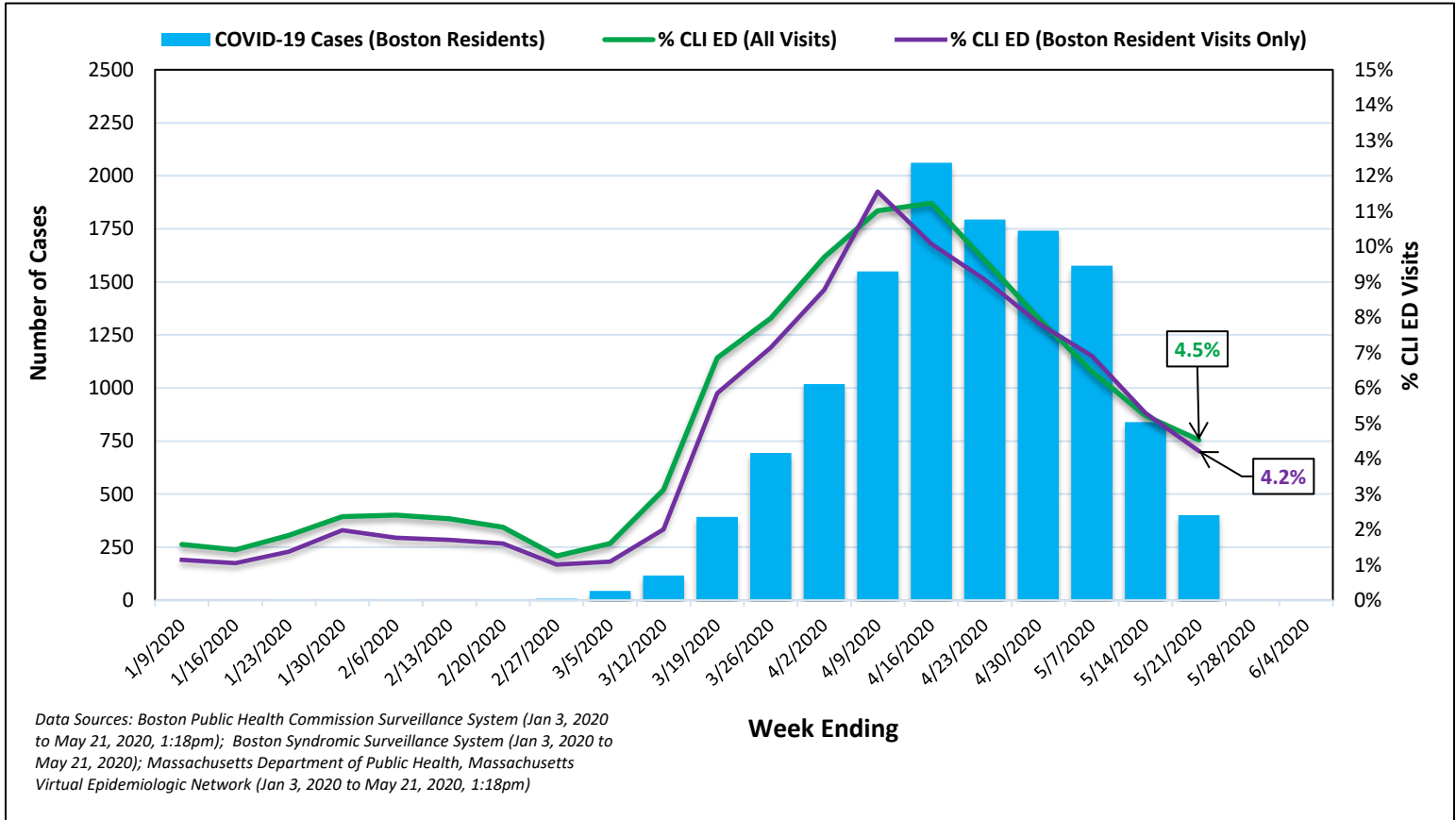
Summary: As of 1:18 pm on 5/21/2020, a total of 12,239 cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 among Boston residents have been reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). Of reported cases, 1,495 required hospitalization. Five hundred and ninety-nine residents have died. Five thousand six hundred and twenty-seven (46.0%) have recovered.

One thousand one hundred and four (9.0%) were healthcare workers.

Emergency Department (ED) visits for COVID-19-like illness (CLI) comprised 4.5% of all ED visits between 5/15/2020-5/21/2020, down from 5.2% the prior week.

¹COVID-19-like illness (CLI) is defined as "Covid or (fever and (cough or respiratory distress))" in ED chief complaint data from Boston acute care hospitals, captured by BPHC Syndromic Surveillance System.

Figure 1. Reported COVID-19 Cases and % CLI Emergency Department Visits, by Week, 2020^{§,§§}

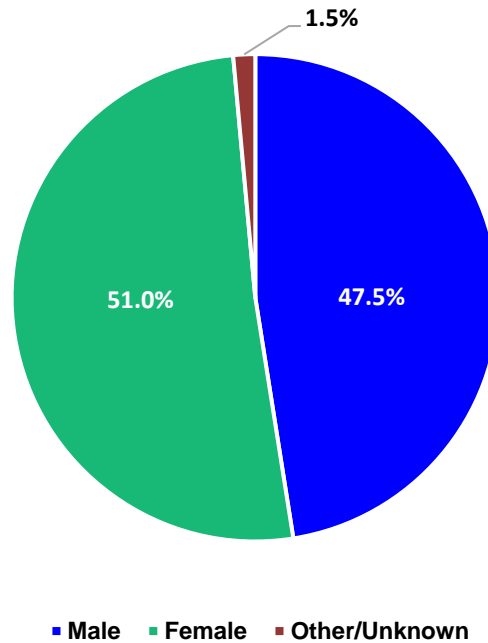


Data Sources: Boston Public Health Commission Surveillance System (Jan 3, 2020 to May 21, 2020, 1:18pm); Boston Syndromic Surveillance System (Jan 3, 2020 to May 21, 2020); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan 3, 2020 to May 21, 2020, 1:18pm)

[§]Dates associated with cases are "event dates." An event date is the earliest associated date corresponding to each disease event and is hierarchical based on available information. When available, symptom onset date serves as the earliest associated date. In the absence of an onset date, the test date is used. As additional information becomes available (e.g., reporting of symptom onset date), event dates may shift for reported cases. These numbers are rolling and subject to weekly variations based on case data availability.

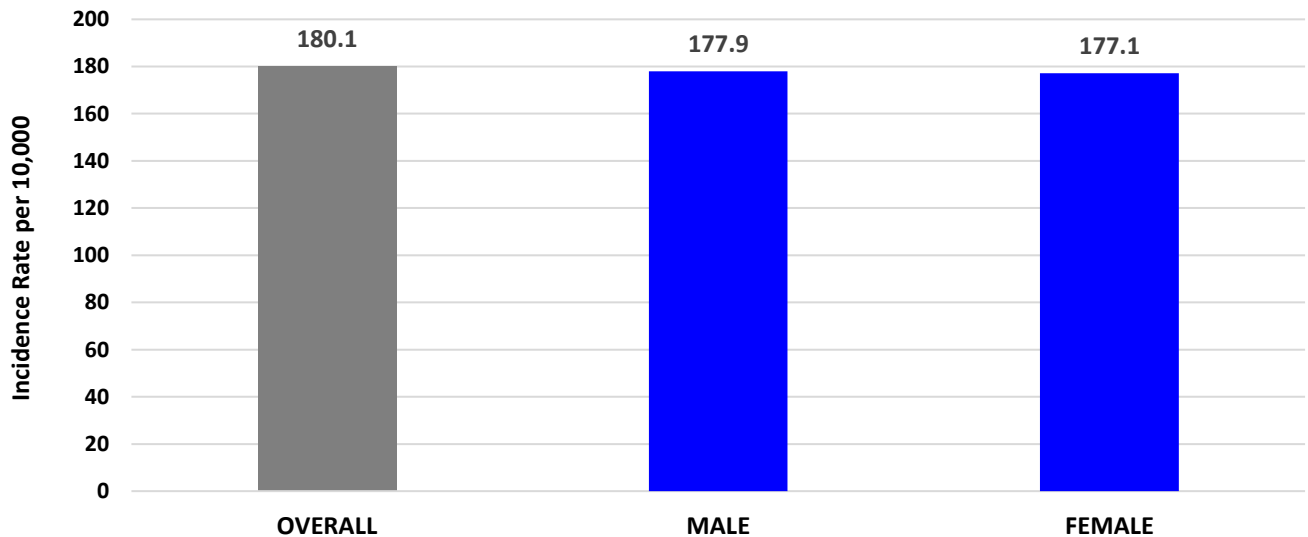
^{§§}%CLI ED (All Visits) is a percentage of CLI visits among all ED including irrespective of residence. %CLI ED (Boston Resident Visits Only) is a percentage of CLI visits by Boston residents among all ED visits by Boston residents.

Figure 2: Percent of All COVID-19 Cases (Boston Residents), by Sex, 2020



Data Sources: Boston Public Health Commission Surveillance System (Jan 1, 2020 to May 21, 2020, 1:18pm); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan 1, 2020 to May 21, 2020, 1:18pm)

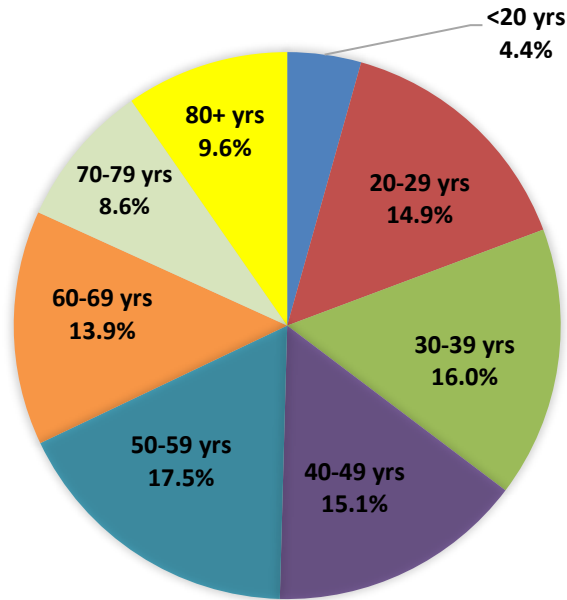
Figure 3. Incidence Rates of Reported COVID-19 Cases by Sex Among Boston Residents, 2020



DATA SOURCE: Boston Public Health Commission Surveillance System (Jan 1, 2020 to May 21, 2020, 1:18pm); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan 1, 2020 to May 21, 2020, 1:18pm); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 5-yr estimates (2014-2018)

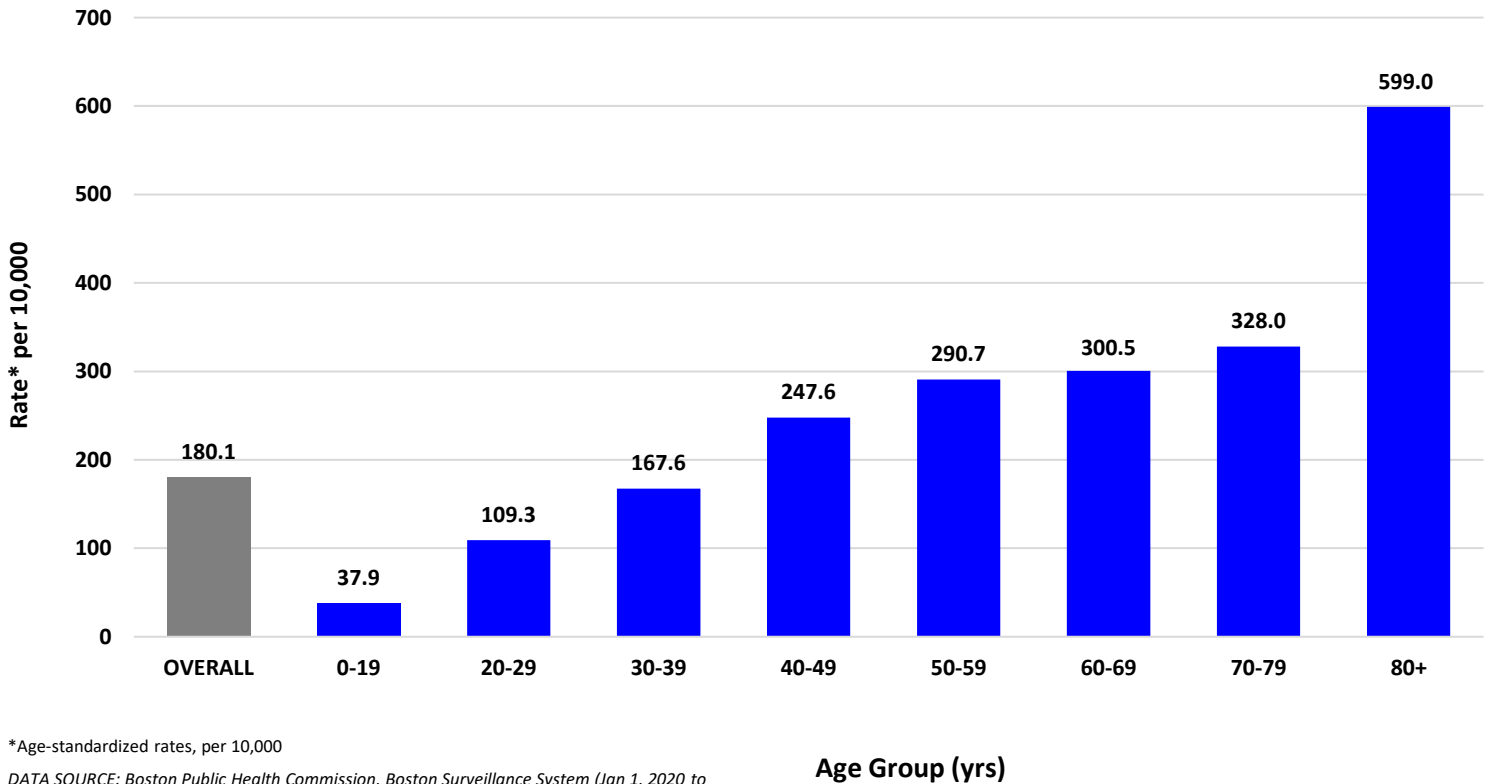
There was a similar distribution of male cases and female cases (Figure 2). The incidence rate of COVID-19 among female residents was similar compared to male residents (Figure 3). Note: The overall rate is higher than rates by sex due to the 1.5% of cases with other/unknown sex.

FIGURE 4. PERCENT OF ALL COVID-19 CASES BY AGE AMONG BOSTON RESIDENTS



DATA SOURCE: Boston Public Health Commission Surveillance System (Jan 1, 2020 to May 21, 2020, 1:18pm); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan 1, 2020 to May 21, 2020, 1:18pm)

Figure 5. Rates* of Reported COVID-19 Cases by Age Among Boston Residents

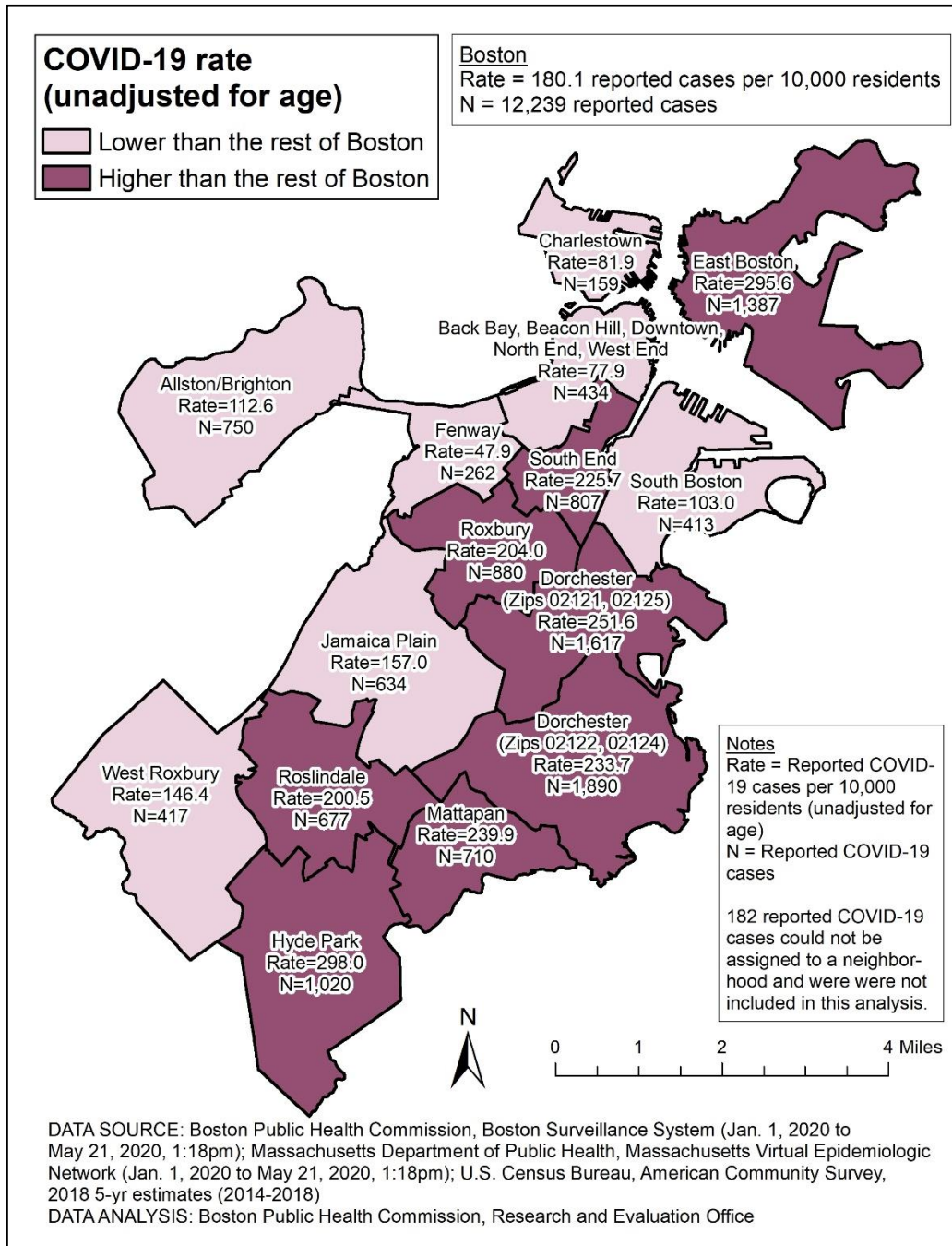


*Age-standardized rates, per 10,000

DATA SOURCE: Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Surveillance System (Jan 1, 2020 to May 21, 2020, 1:18pm); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan 1, 2020 to May 21, 2020, 1:18pm); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 5-yr estimates (2014-2018)

There continues to be a low percentage of Boston resident COVID-19 cases under 20 years of age; nearly 1 in 3 COVID-19 cases were in persons age 60 years and above (Figure 4). In general, COVID-19 rates increase with age (Figure 5).

Figure 6: Incidence Rates of Reported COVID-19 Cases by Neighborhood Among Boston Residents



The incidence rate of COVID-19 was higher for Dorchester (02121, 02125), Dorchester (02122, 02124), East Boston, Hyde Park, Mattapan, Roslindale, Roxbury, and the South End compared with the rest of Boston. The incidence rate of COVID-19 was lower for Allston/Brighton, Back Bay (including Beacon Hill, Downtown, the North End, and the West End), Charlestown, Fenway, Jamaica Plain, South Boston, and West Roxbury compared with the rest of Boston (Figure 6). To test neighborhood differences, an individual neighborhood is compared with the rest of Boston (i.e., all other neighborhoods combined), rather than to Boston overall so that individual neighborhood's contribution to the Boston overall rate does not mask a difference from the rest of Boston.

Table 1: Race/Ethnicity Distribution of COVID-19 Cases, Boston Residents, 2020			
Race/Ethnicity ¹	# of Cases	% of All Cases	% of Cases with Known Race/Ethnicity ²
Asian, nL/nH	354	2.9%	3.5%
Black, nL/nH	3,825	31.3%	38.3%
Latinx/Hispanic	2,445	20.0%	24.5%
Other, nL/nH ³	849	6.9%	8.5%
White, nL/nH	2,511	20.5%	25.2%
Unknown/Missing Data	2,255	18.4%	

¹nL/nH=non-Latinx/non-Hispanic

² Total with Known Race/Ethnicity=9,984 cases (81.6%) of all reported COVID-19 cases

³ Other, nL/nH includes American Indian/Alaska Native and multiracial

DATA SOURCE: Boston Public Health Commission Surveillance System (Jan 1, 2020 to May 21, 2020, 1:18pm); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan 1, 2020 to May 21, 2020, 1:18pm)

Of cases where race/ethnicity is known, 3.5% were Asian, 38.3% were Black, 24.5% were Latinx or Hispanic, 25.2% were White, and 8.5% identified as multi-racial, another racial/ethnic group or Other race. When the percent of information that is missing or unknown is greater than 20%, percentages are calculated among the known cases, but both are presented here. Due to the high percentage of missing information, population-based rates for race/ethnicity are not presented in this report. Interpret these data with caution.