



# BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION (BPHC)

Communicable Disease Control Division

1010 Massachusetts Ave - Boston, MA 02118

Phone: (617) 534-5611 - Fax: (617) 534-5905

## Boston COVID-19 Report - For the Week Ending 9/17/2020

1/3/2020 - 9/17/2020

COVID-19 Cases (Boston Residents)	#
Active Cases	2,626
Recovered Cases	13,045
Deaths	759
<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>16,430</b>

COVID-19 Confirmed Hospitalizations (through 9/17/2020)	
YEAR	# HOSPITALIZED
2020	2,003

Boston ED CLI <sup>§</sup> Syndromic Surveillance (All Visits)	
This Week Overall %CLI (9/11-9/17/2020)	2.6%
Last Week Overall %CLI (9/4-9/10/2020)	1.9%

**Summary:** As of 11:35 am on 9/17/2020, a total of 16,430 cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 among Boston residents have been reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). Of reported cases, two thousand and three (12.2%) required hospitalization. Seven hundred and fifty-nine (4.6%) residents have died. Thirteen thousand and forty five (79.4%) residents have recovered.

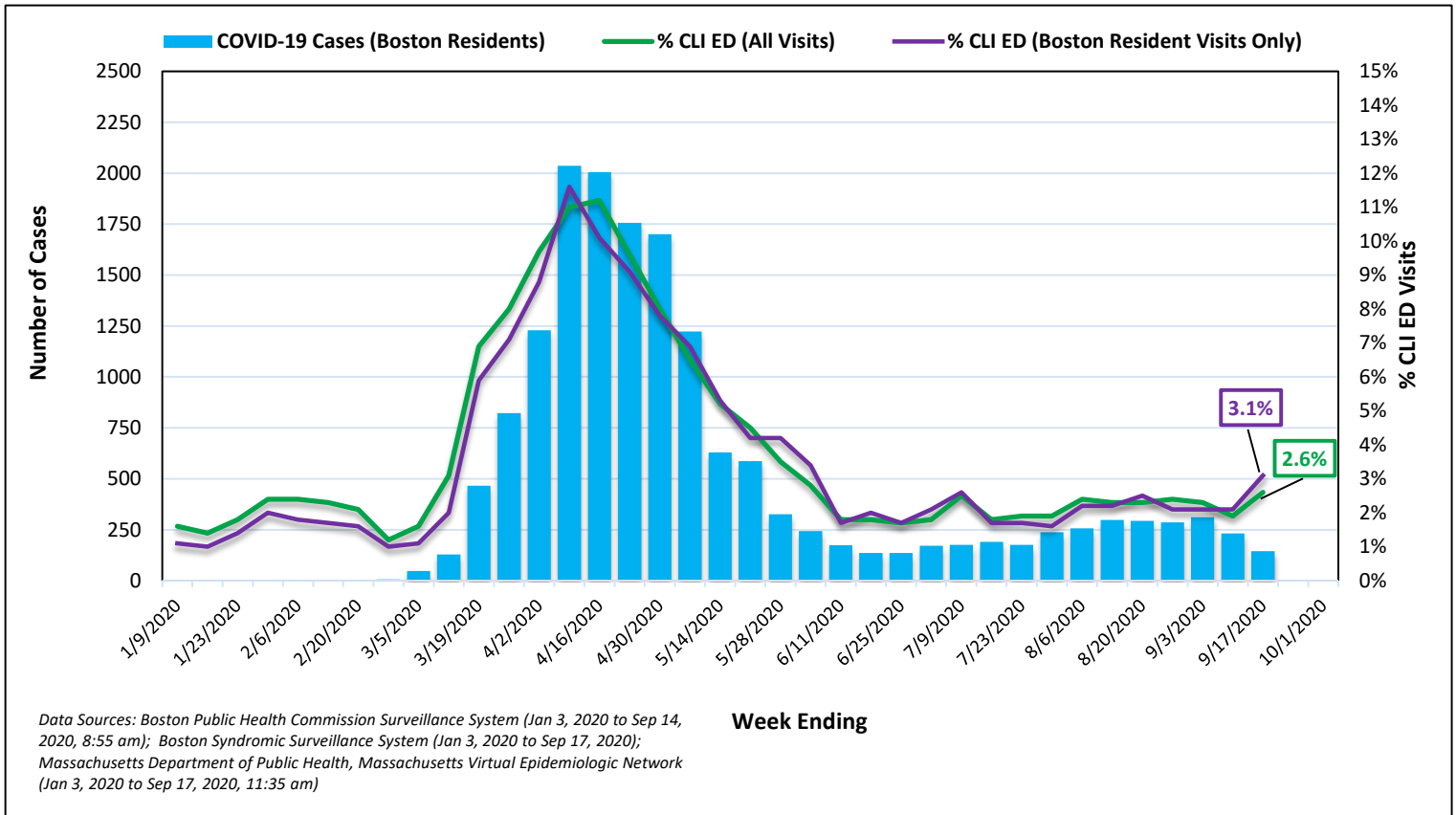
One thousand six hundred and nine (9.8%) were healthcare workers.

Emergency Department (ED) visits for COVID-19-like illness (CLI) comprised 2.6% of all ED visits between (9/11 - 9/17/2020), up from 1.9% the prior week.

Note: Rates presented in this report are per 100,000, whereas previous reports presented rates per 10,000. This standardization is in line with Massachusetts Department of Public Health published rates for COVID-19.

<sup>§</sup>COVID-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.

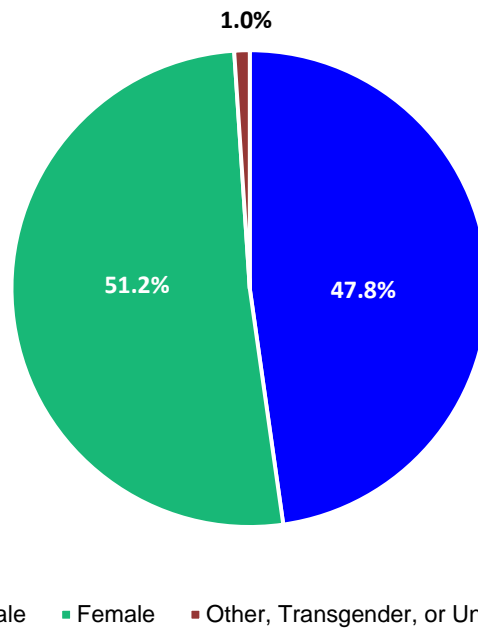
Figure 1. Reported COVID-19 Cases and % CLI Emergency Department Visits, by Week, 2020<sup>§,§§</sup>



<sup>§</sup>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.

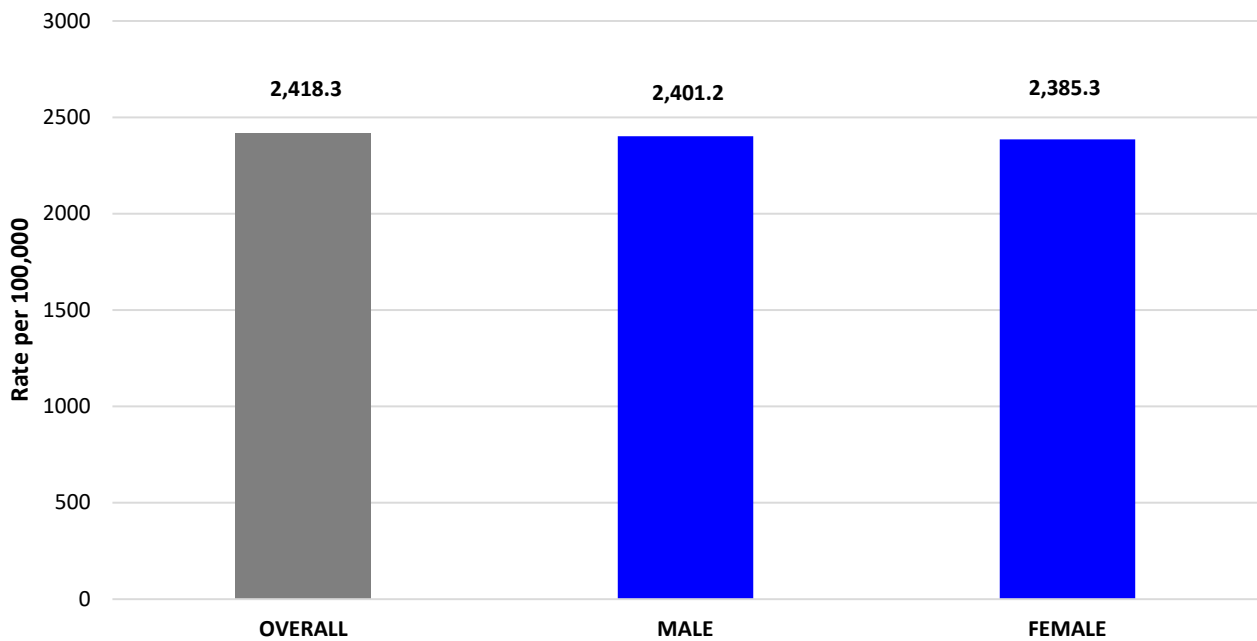
<sup>§§</sup>%CLI ED (All Visits) is a percentage of CLI visits among all ED including irrespective of residence. %CLI ED (Boston Resident Visits Only) is a percentage of CLI visits by Boston residents among all ED visits by Boston residents.

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 Sep 14, 2020, 8:55 am); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan 1, 2020 to Sep 17, 2020, 11:35 am)

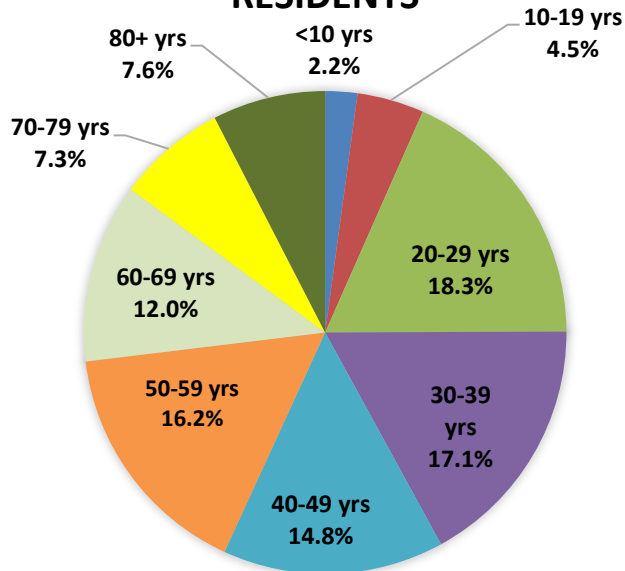
Figure 3. Rates of Reported COVID-19 Cases by Sex Among Boston Residents



DATA SOURCES: Boston Public Health Commission Surveillance System (Jan 1, 2020 to Sep 14, 2020, 8:55 am); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan 1, 2020 to Sep 17, 2020, 11:35 am); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 5-yr estimates (2014-2018)

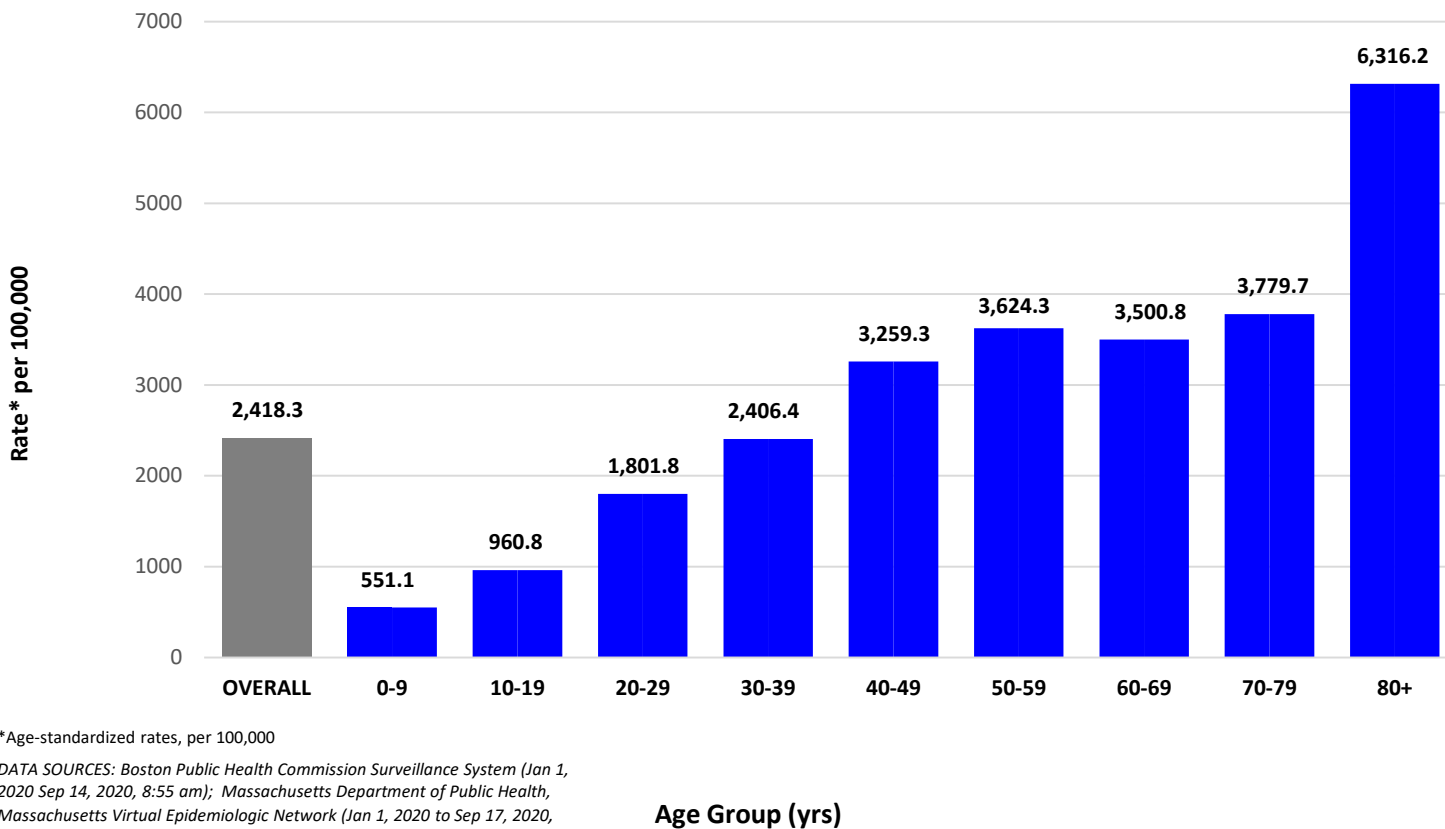
There was a similar distribution of male cases and female cases (Figure 2). The incidence rate of COVID-19 among female residents was similar compared to male residents (Figure 3). Note: The overall rate was higher than rates by sex due to the 1.0% of cases with other/unknown sex or who identify as transgender.

**FIGURE 4. REPORTED COVID-19 CASES BY AGE AMONG BOSTON RESIDENTS**



DATA SOURCES: Boston Public Health Commission Surveillance System (Jan 1, 2020 to Sep 14, 2020, 8:55 am); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan 1, 2020 to Sep 17, 2020, 11:35 am)

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

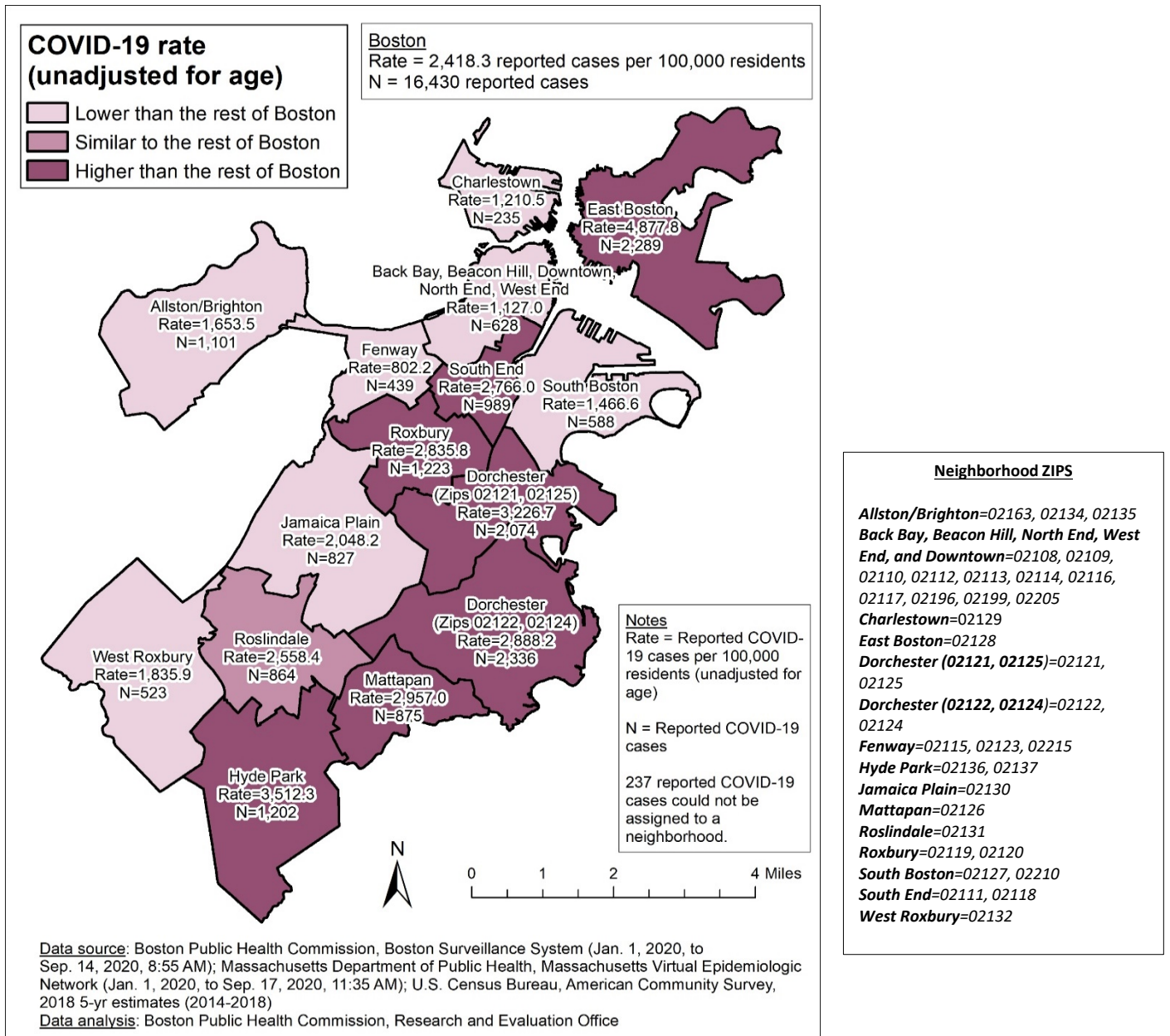


\*Age-standardized rates, per 100,000

DATA SOURCES: Boston Public Health Commission Surveillance System (Jan 1, 2020 Sep 14, 2020, 8:55 am); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan 1, 2020 to Sep 17, 2020, 11:35 am); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 5-yr estimates (2014-2018)

There continued to be a low percentage of Boston resident COVID-19 cases under 20 years of age (Figure 4). In general, COVID-19 rates increased 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, Roxbury, and the South End compared with the rest of Boston. The incidence rate of COVID-19 was similar for Rosindale 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 <sup>1</sup>	# of Cases	% of All Cases	% of Cases with Known Race/Ethnicity <sup>2</sup>
Asian, nL/nH	551	3.4%	3.8%
Black, nL/nH	4806	29.3%	33.1%
Latinx/Hispanic	4491	27.3%	30.9%
Other, nL/nH <sup>3</sup>	980	6.0%	6.8%
White, nL/nH	3690	22.5%	25.4%
Unknown/Missing Data	1912	11.6%	

<sup>1</sup>nL/nH=non-Latinx/non-Hispanic

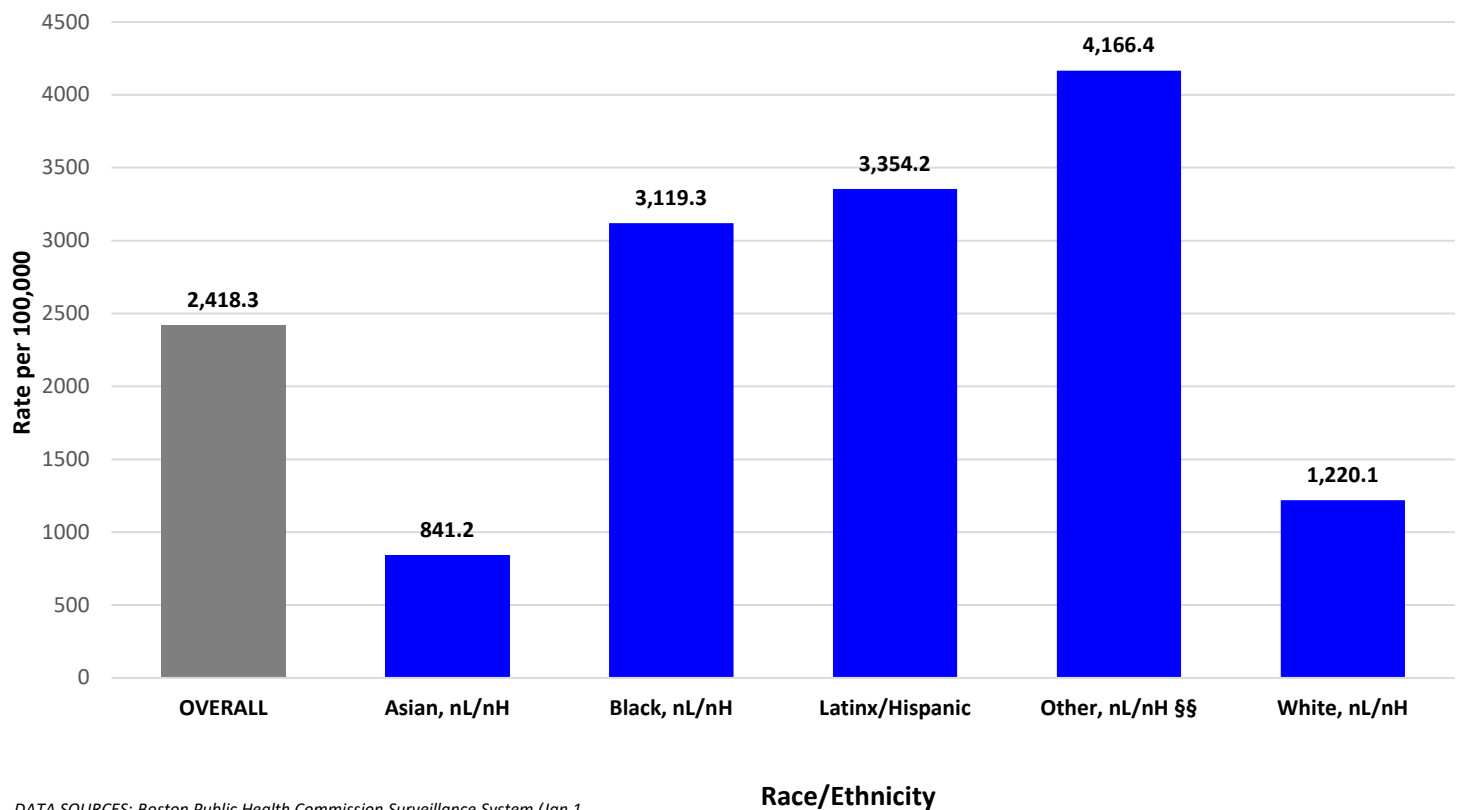
<sup>2</sup> Total with Known Race/Ethnicity=14,518 cases (88.4%) of all reported COVID-19 cases

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

DATA SOURCES: Boston Public Health Commission Surveillance System (Jan 1, 2020 to Sep 14, 2020, 8:55 am); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan 1, 2020 to Sep 17, 2020, 11:35 am)

Of cases where race/ethnicity was known, 3.8% were Asian, 33.1% were Black, 30.9% were Latinx or Hispanic, 25.4% were White, and 6.0% 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.

Figure 7. Rates of Reported COVID-19 Cases by Race/Ethnicity<sup>§</sup> Among Boston Residents



DATA SOURCES: Boston Public Health Commission Surveillance System (Jan 1, 2020 Sep 14, 2020, 8:55 am); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan 1, 2020 to Sep 17, 2020, 11:35 am); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 5-yr estimates (2014-2018)

<sup>§</sup>nL/nH=non-Latinx/non-Hispanic  
<sup>§§</sup>Other, nL/nH includes American Indian/Alaska Native and multiracial

The incidence rate of COVID-19 was higher for Black and Latinx/Hispanic residents and residents of other races/ethnicities (including multiple races and individuals that did not specify a given race or ethnicity category) compared with the rate for White residents (Figure 7). The incidence rate was lower for Asian residents compared with White residents (Figure 7). Interpret these rates with caution due to the high percentage of missing race/ethnicity data (Table 1).