



# BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION (BPHC)

Communicable Disease Control Division

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## Boston COVID-19 Report - For the Week Ending 8/26/2021

1/3/2020 - 8/26/2021

COVID-19 Cases <sup>§</sup> (Boston Residents)	#
Active Cases	2,292
Recovered Cases	71,691
Deaths	1,405
<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>75,388</b>

COVID-19 Confirmed Hospitalizations (through 8/26/2021)	
Hospitalizations	2,919

Boston ED CLI <sup>§§</sup> Syndromic Surveillance (All Visits)	
This Week Overall %CLI (8/20-8/26/2021)	4.8%
Last Week Overall %CLI (8/13-8/19/2021)	4.7%

**Summary:** As of 9:34 am on 8/26/2021, a total of 75,388 cases of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 among Boston residents have been reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). Of reported cases, two thousand nine hundred and nineteen (3.9%) required hospitalization. One thousand four hundred and five (1.9%) residents have died. Seventy one thousand six hundred and ninety one (95.1%) residents have recovered. Four thousand six hundred and ninety eight (6.2%) were healthcare workers.

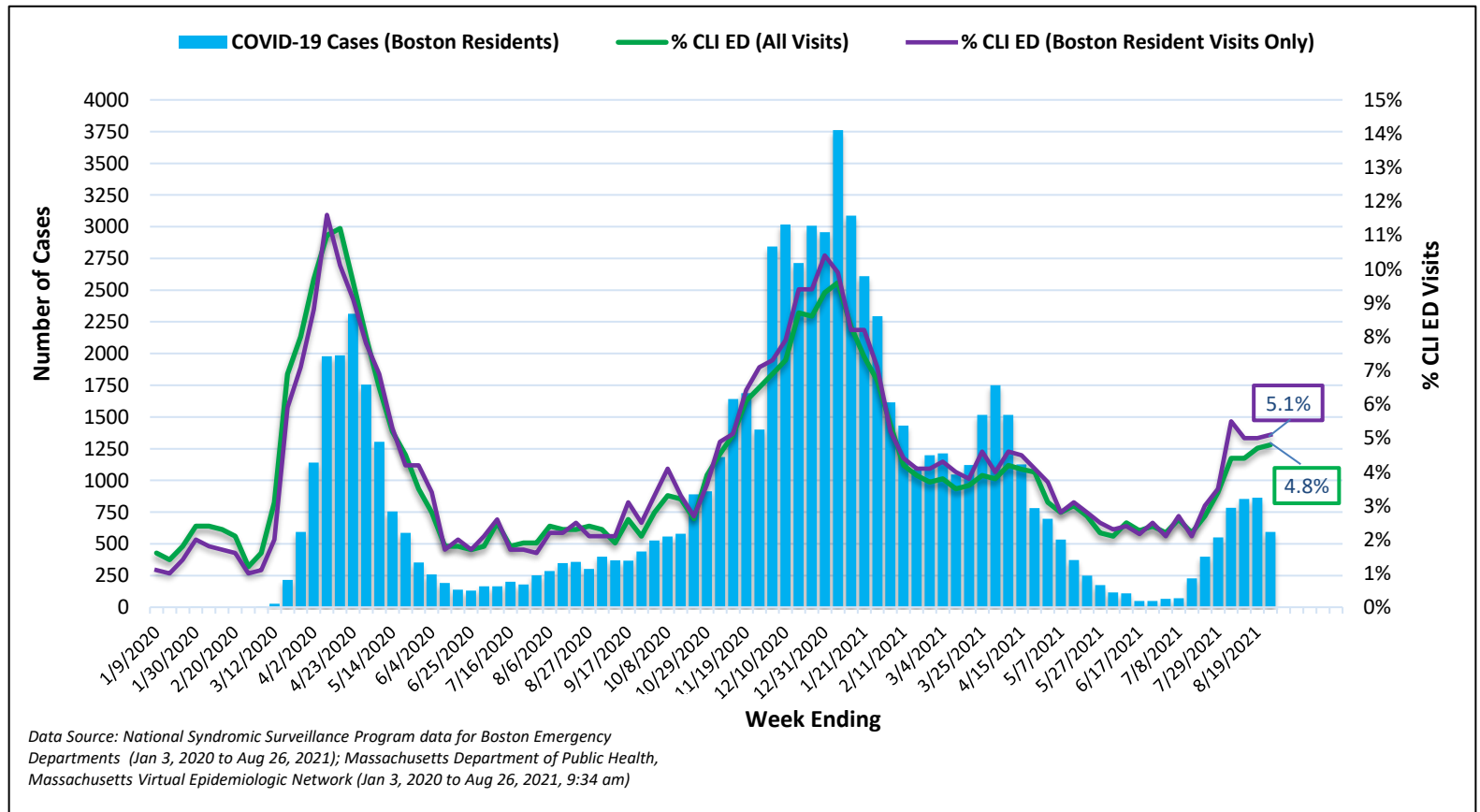
Emergency Department (ED) visits for COVID-19-like illness (CLI) comprised 4.8% of all ED visits between (8/20 - 8/26/2021), up from 4.7% the prior week.

Please note, the data presented in this report (and more) are now available via BPHC's [Boston COVID-19 Dashboard](#). You can find the Boston COVID-19 Report in the COVID-19 Cases tab. If you have any questions about how to access COVID-19 data in the dashboard, please contact [msarangocancel@bphc.org](mailto:msarangocancel@bphc.org).

<sup>§</sup>New daily cases are defined by the date of their first reported positive test. Prior to October 8, 2020, new cases were reported using the event date. An event date is the earliest associated date corresponding to each disease event and is hierarchical based on available information (e.g., symptom onset date, test date, report date).

<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 National Syndromic Surveillance Program for Boston Emergency Departments.

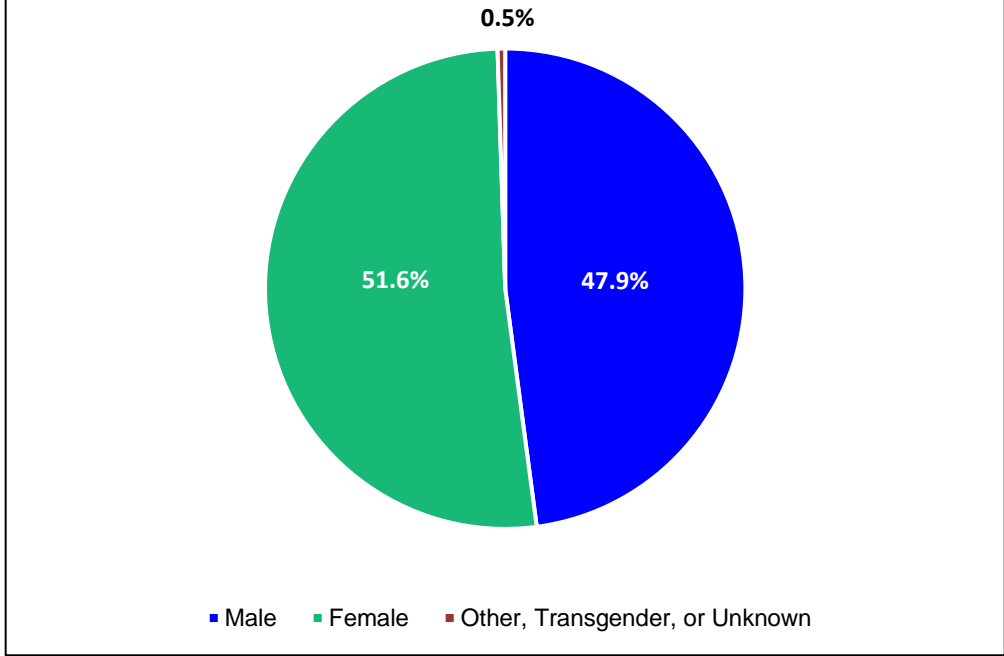
Figure 1. Reported COVID-19 Cases and % CLI Emergency Department Visits, by Week, 2020-2021<sup>§,§§</sup>



<sup>§</sup> New daily cases are defined by the date of their first reported positive test. Prior to October 8, 2020, new cases were reported using the event date. An event date is the earliest associated date corresponding to each disease event and is hierarchical based on available information (e.g., symptom onset date, test date, report date).

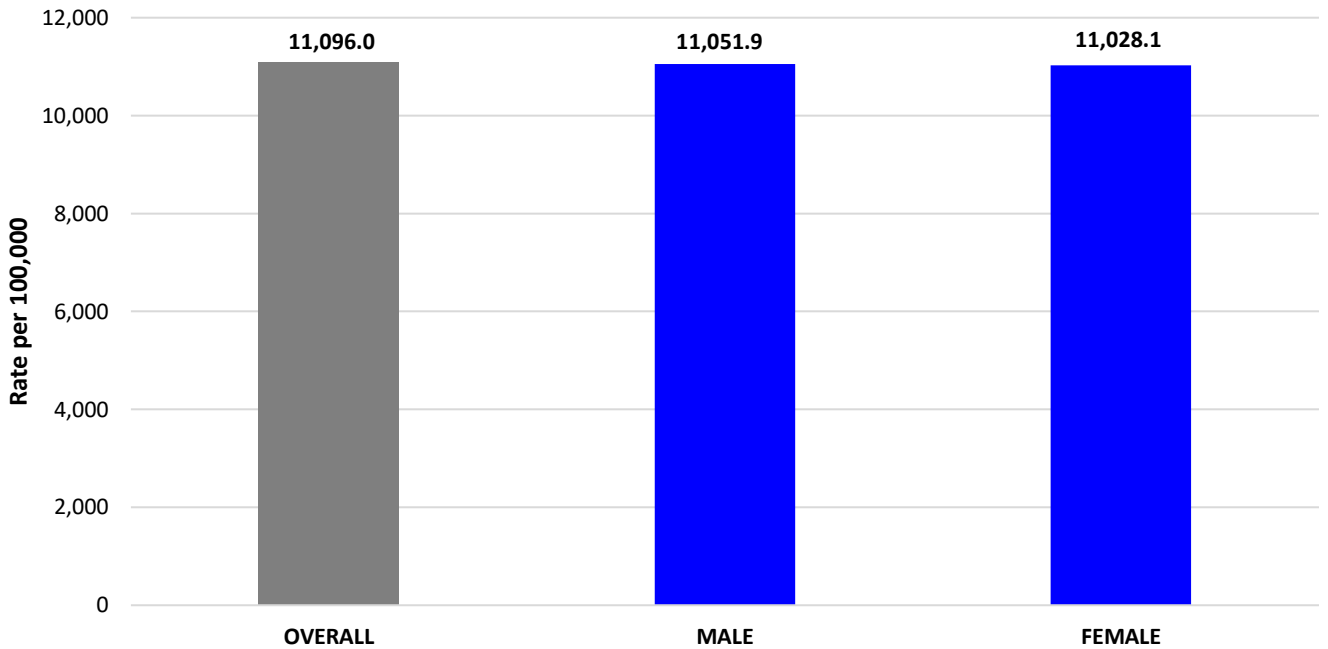
<sup>§§</sup> %CLI ED (All Visits) is a percentage of CLI visits among all ED including irrespective of residence. %CLI ED (Boston Resident Visits Only) is a percentage of CLI visits by Boston residents among all ED visits by Boston residents.

Figure 2: Percent of All COVID-19 Cases (Boston Residents), by Sex, 2020-2021



DATA SOURCES: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan 1, 2020 to Aug 26 2021, 9:34 am)

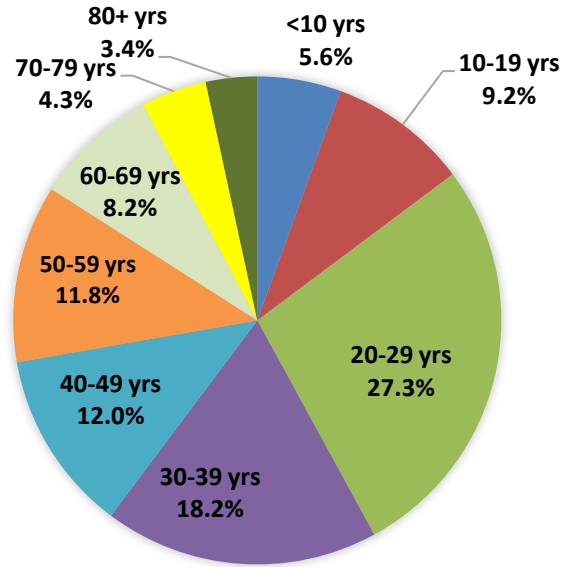
Figure 3. Rates of Reported COVID-19 Cases by Sex Among Boston Residents



DATA SOURCES: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan 1, 2020 to Aug 26, 2021, 9:34 am); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 5-yr estimates (2014-2018)

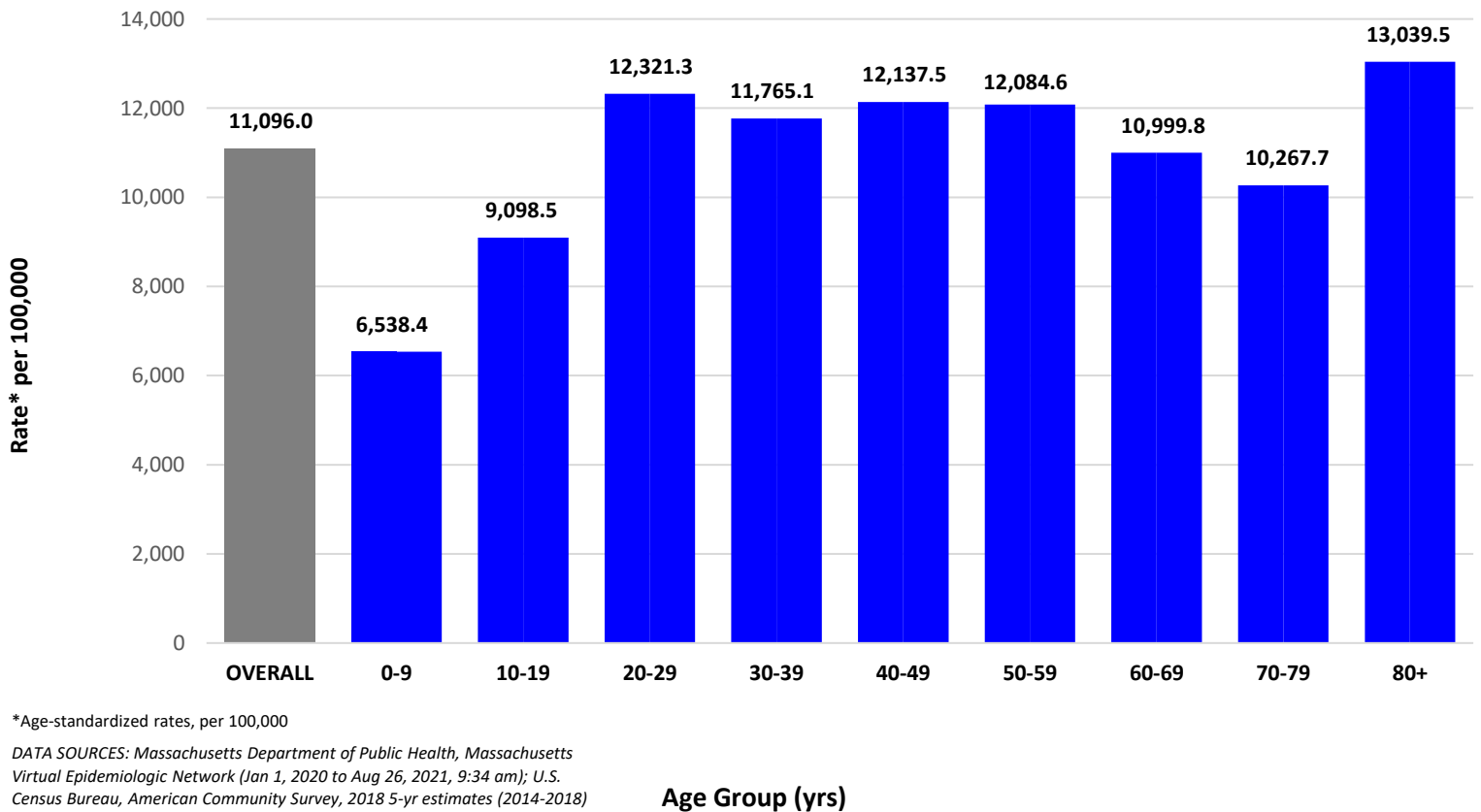
There was a similar distribution of male cases and female cases (Figure 2). The incidence rate of COVID-19 among female residents was similar compared to male residents (Figure 3). *Note: The overall rate was higher than rates by sex due to the 0.6% of cases with other/unknown sex or who identify as transgender.*

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



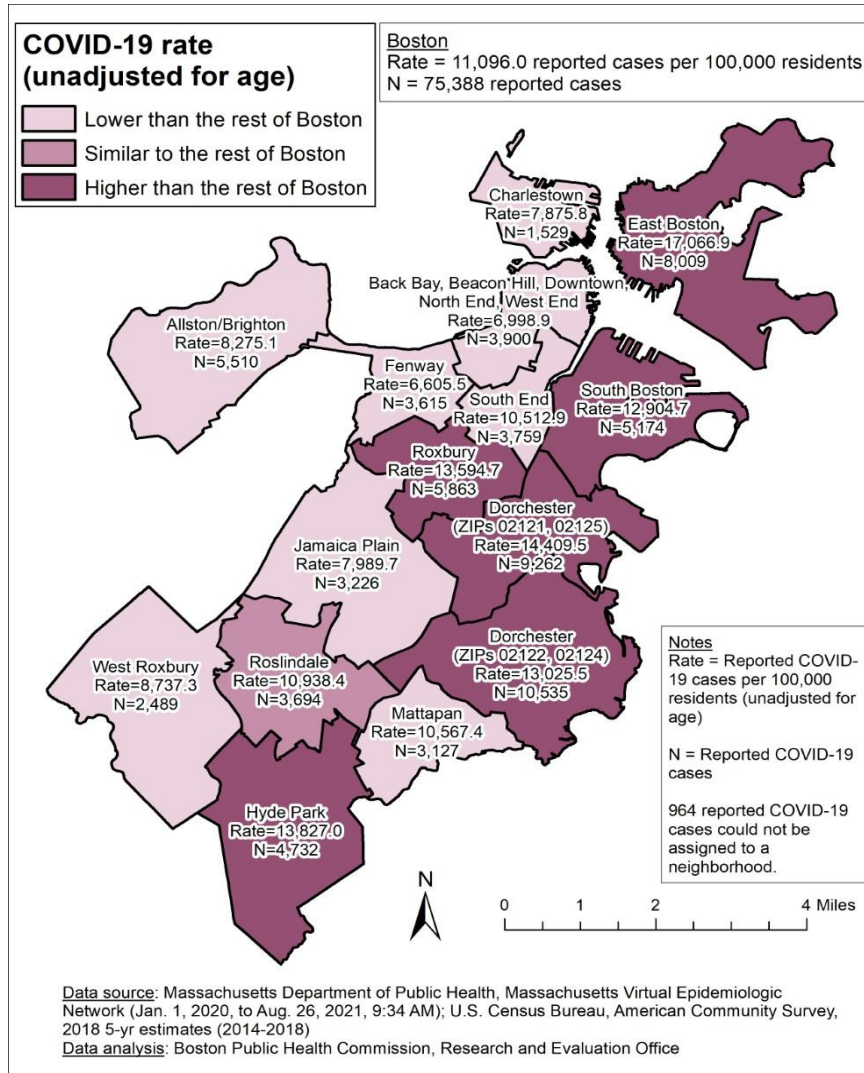
DATA SOURCES: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan 1, 2020 to Aug 26, 2021, 9:34 am)

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



Rates of COVID-19 in Boston residents are lowest for those ages 19 years or less, and highest for those ages 80 and above (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, Roxbury, and South Boston 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, Mattapan, South End, 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, 2020-2021			
Race/Ethnicity <sup>1</sup>	# of Cases	% of All Cases	% of Cases with Known Race/Ethnicity <sup>2</sup>
Asian, nL/nH	4211	5.6%	6.1%
Black, nL/nH	17232	22.8%	24.8%
Latinx/Hispanic	20252	26.9%	29.2%
Other, nL/nH <sup>3</sup>	4275	5.7%	6.2%
White, nL/nH	23479	31.1%	33.8%
Unknown/Missing Data	5939	7.9%	

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

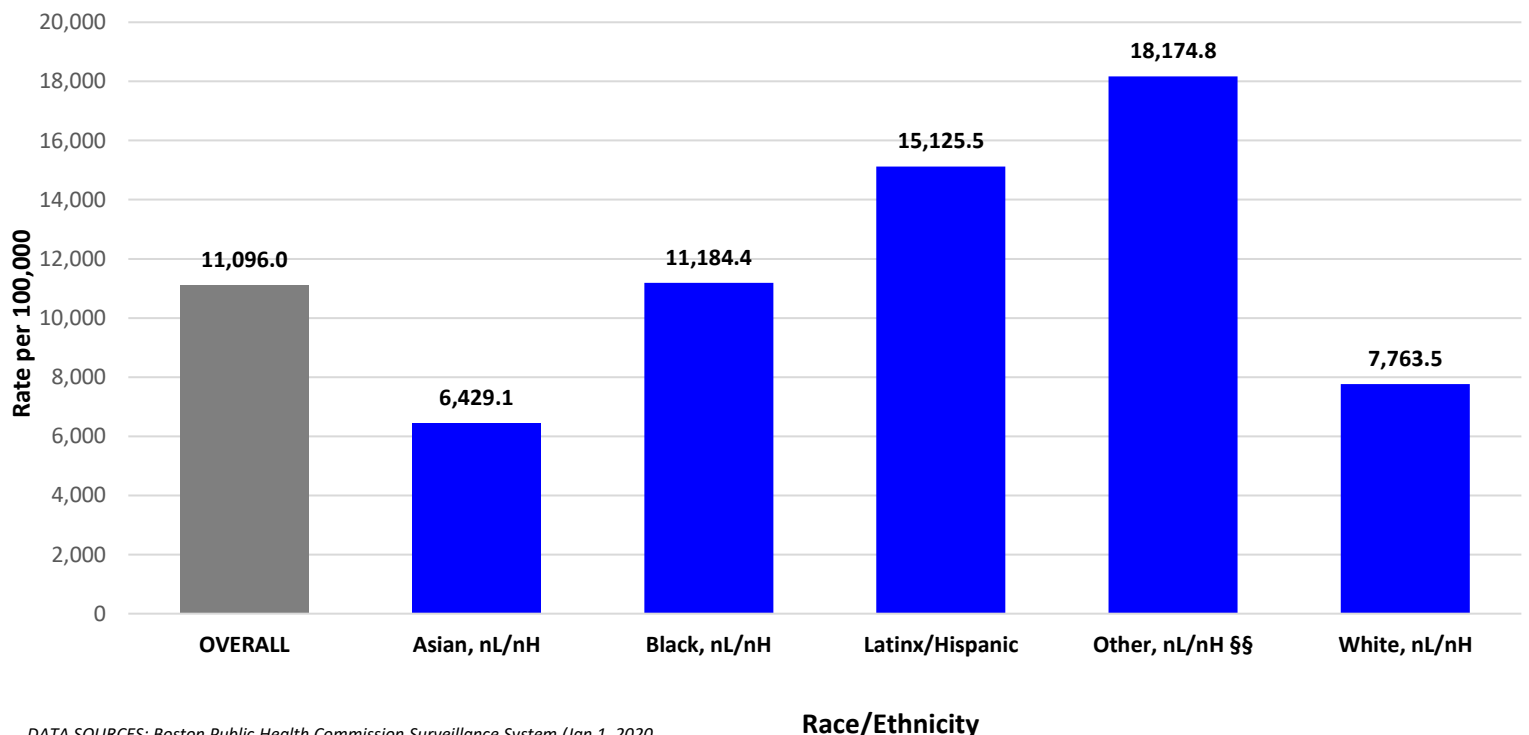
<sup>2</sup>Total with Known Race/Ethnicity=69,449 cases (92.1%) of all reported COVID-19 cases

<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 Aug 26, 2021, 9:34 am)

Of cases where race/ethnicity was known, 6.1% were Asian, 24.8% were Black, 29.2% were Latinx or Hispanic, 33.8% were White, and 6.2% 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 to Sep 14, 2020, 8:55 am); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan 1, 2020 to Aug 26, 2021, 9:34 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).