North Central Health District
COVID-19 Operational Summary

August 23, 2020

This is an emerging and dynamic situation, therefore our data and recommendations are subject to change. North Central Health District (NCHD) is part of the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) and serves individuals residing in 13 Central Georgia counties: Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, Hancock, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Monroe, Peach, Putnam, Twiggs, Washington, and Wilkinson. This report describes the NCHD operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
The purpose of this report is to provide situational awareness to our district partners and community members.

Workforce

NCHD has a total of 314 employees. Since before the response to COVID-19 started, NCHD staff have been planning and preparing for the response. In January 2020, the Epidemiology and Emergency Preparedness programs began watching the situation closely, educating partners, and monitoring travelers. Today, we have scaled back our normal operations to be able to respond to this event appropriately and have employees dedicated full time to the response with many additional employees assisting on an as-needed basis. Public health staff are working on a variety of tasks from epidemiology (which includes data management, case investigation, contact tracing, and outbreak investigations), PPE Distribution, Partner Coordination, SPOC operations, and ensuring our regulated facilities are operating according to the newest executive order. In addition to our workforce, NCHD has received several temporary staff from the state office that are assisting with Epidemiology and SPOC operations.

278
Public Health Responders

15	INCIDENT COMMAND/ ADMINISTRATION/LOGISTICS
44	COVID-19 REFERRAL LINE
44	EPIDEMIOLOGY - CASE INVESTIGATOR
30	EPIDEMIOLOGY - CONTACT TRACER
7	EPIDEMIOLOGY - DATA ENTRY
138	SPOC OPERATIONS

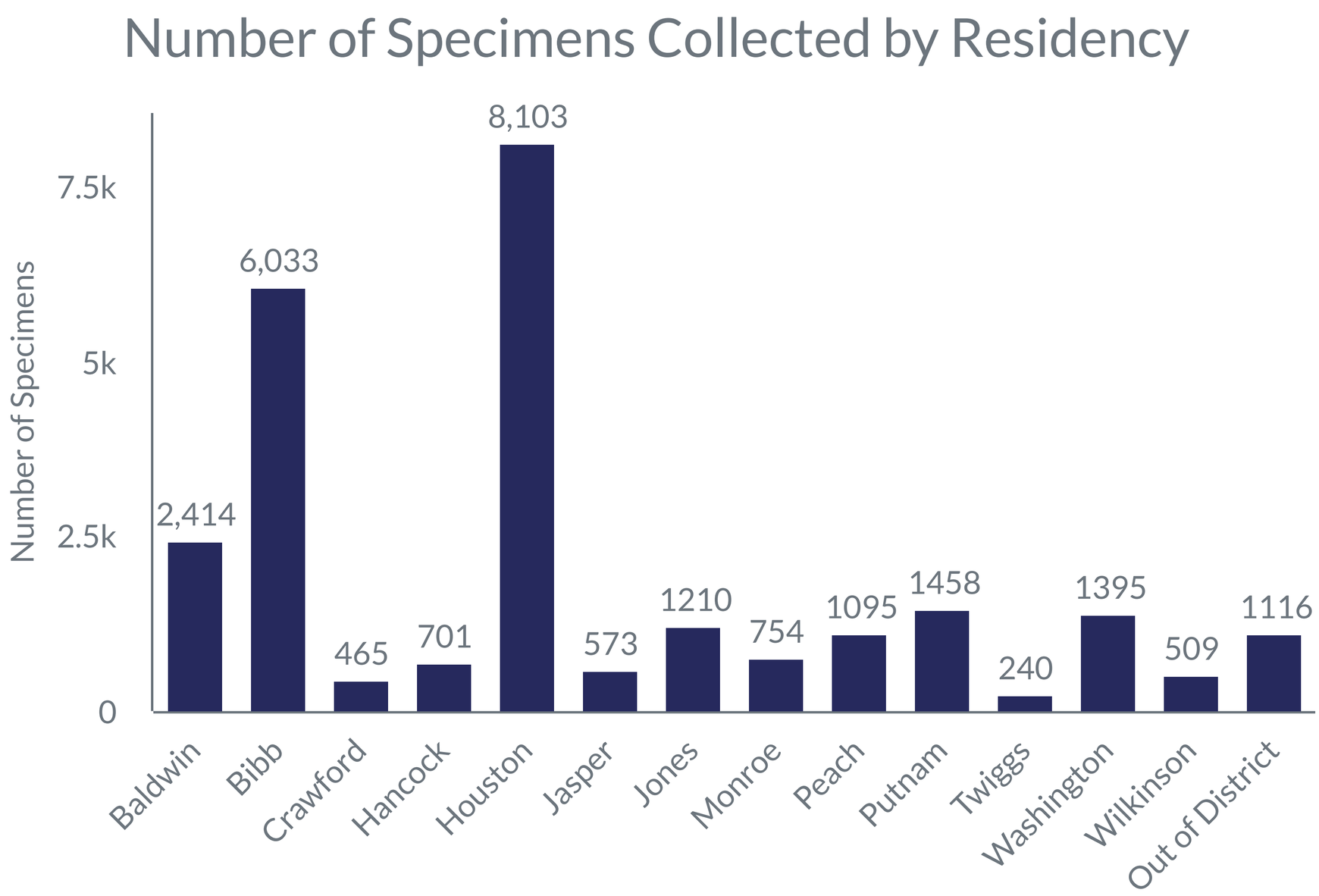
Specimen Points of Collection (SPOC)

On March 18, 2020, NCHD stood up our first SPOC in Houston County, in the following weeks we expanded to 3 additionals locations in Jasper, Jones, and Washington Counties. The activities of these locations were limited in capacity due to state-supplied specimen collection kits. On 4/17/2020, due to an increase in the state's capacity to supply specimen collection kits, we opened our fifth location in Bibb County. On 5/3/2020, we expanded testing to all 13 of our county health departments.

The information in this portion of the report is accurate as of 8/23/2020 at 9PM.

The data shown on this page only reflects specimens collected from NCHD public health points of collection and not representative of all specimens collected within our 13-county area.

NOTE: Over the past several weeks there have been delays in laboratory reporting. The week-to-week changes may be affected by such delays. These delays are outside of the operations of NCHD.



1,848

Specimens Collected Between 8/17/2020-8/23/2020

26,066

Total Specimens Collected

3.5 minutes is the average time spent per patient for specimen collection.

County of Residence	Total Specimens Collected by 8/23/2020	Increase in Specimens Collected Between 8/16-8/23 (%)	Amount of Labs Pending (%)	Total Positivity Rate (%) 3/18-8/23	21 Day Positivity Rate 8/3-8/23 (%)
BALDWIN	2,414	10%	10%	9%	5%
BIBB	6,033	5%	10%	8%	5%
CRAWFORD	465	9%	10%	10%	5%
HANCOCK	701	3%	2%	12%	10%
HOUSTON	8,103	12%	12%	10%	9%
JASPER	573	2%	1%	8%	13%
JONES	1210	4%	4%	9%	9%
MONROE	754	2%	3%	5%	4%
PEACH	1095	7%	6%	10%	8%
PUTNAM	1458	6%	4%	8%	5%
TWIGGS	240	7%	5%	11%	16%
WASHINGTON	1395	9%	3%	10%	10%
WILKINSON	509	5%	3%	10%	7%
Out of District	1116	6%	8%	9%	7%
Total	26,066	8%	8%	9%	7%

Epidemiology - Overview

NCHD's Epidemiology Program is responsible for investigating every reported case of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19. The following information describes the activities of the epidemiology program and provides a description of the current situation with the district.

NCHD Epidemiology only reports Confirmed* and Presumptive* cases that reside within the 13 counties that make up the district. Although serology (i.e. antibody tests) are reportable, they do not meet the CDC case definition for a confirmed or presumptive case, therefore number of serology tests are not included in this report.

Any reductions in numbers are a result of data error corrections (i.e. duplication, incorrect case classification, residency, etc). Data corrections are made as soon as they are found and data accuracy is checked daily by NCHD epidemiology staff. The information in this portion of the report is accurate as of 8/23/2020 at 9PM.

SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD

Total Number of Confirmed and Presumptive	12,476
Median Age (Age Range)	43 (0-103 Years)
Hospitalizations	1,551 (12%)
Deaths	344 (2.8%)
Deaths Median Age (Age Range)	74 (24-100 Years)
Deaths that were Hospitalized	256 (74%)

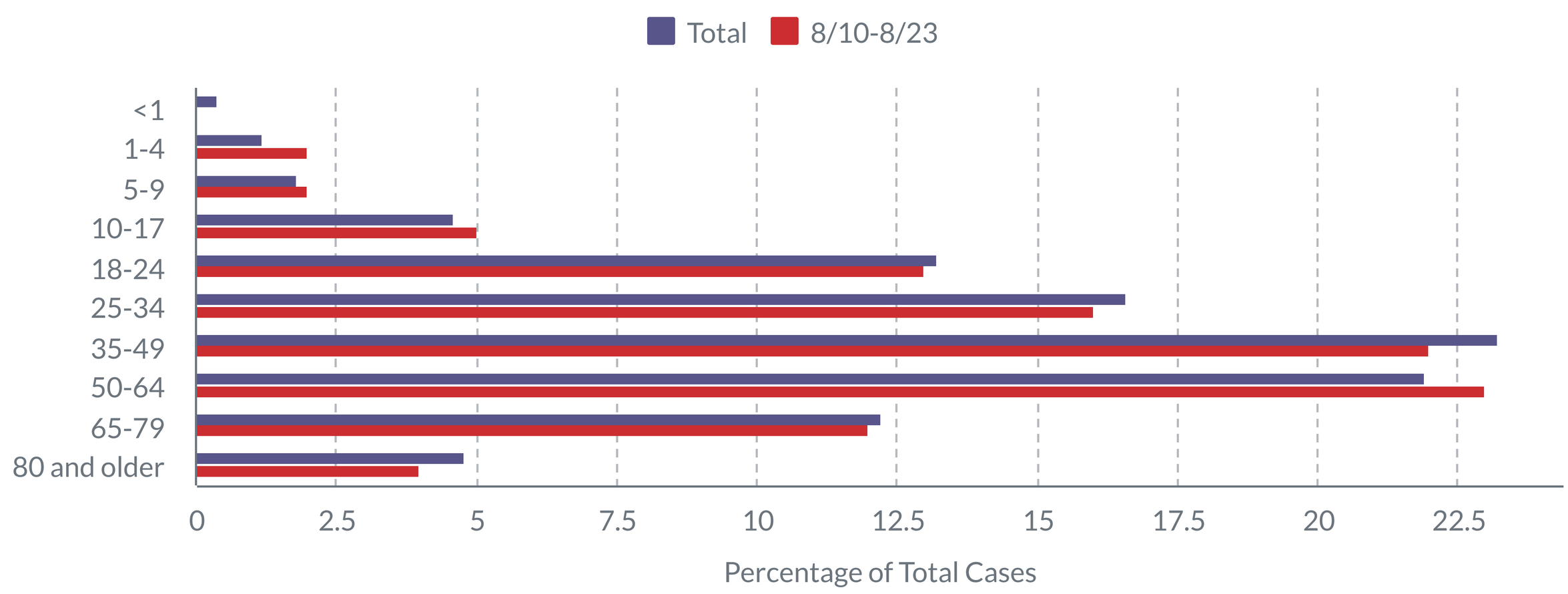
374

14-Day Incidence Rate (8/3-8/16)

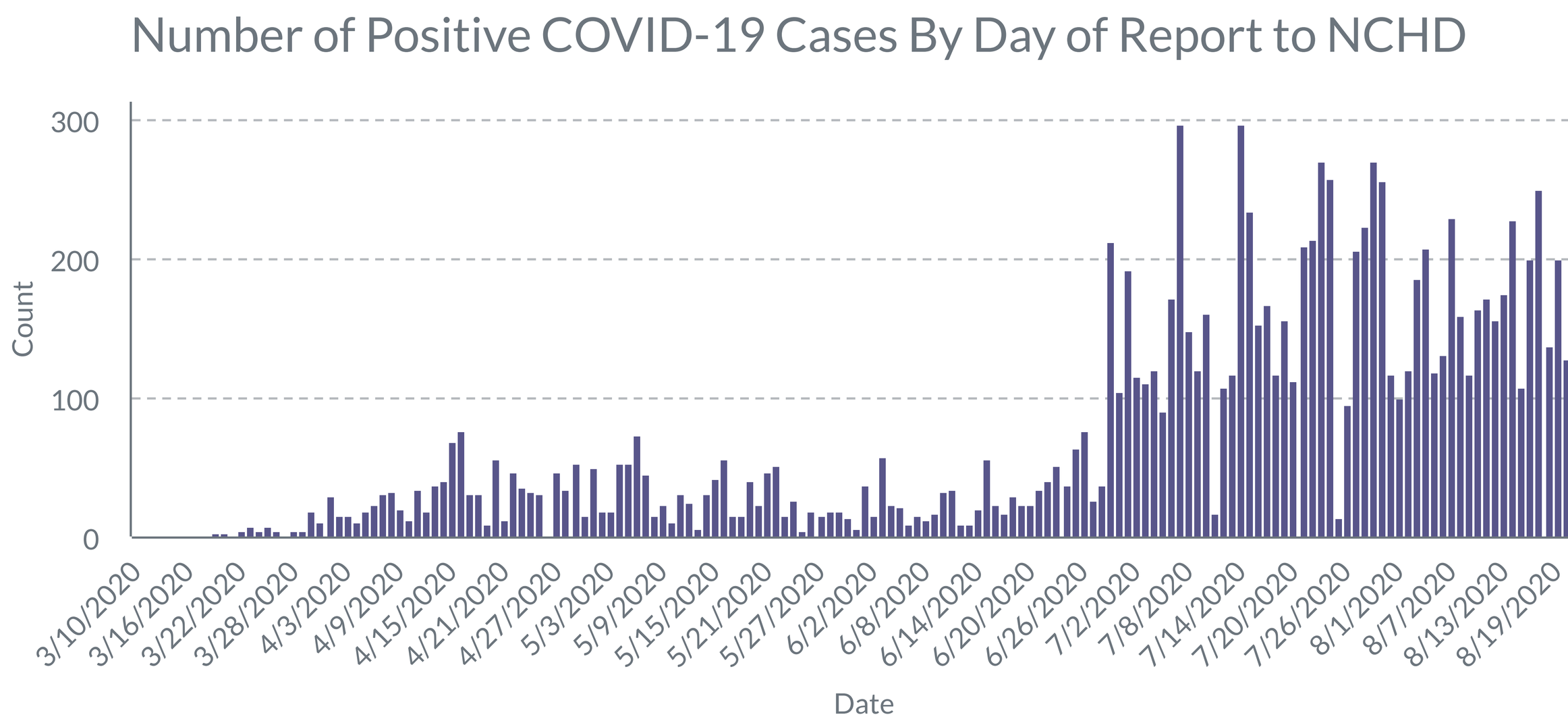
The incidence rate of COVID-19 for NCHD residents between **8/3/2020-8/16/2020 was 374 per 100,000 population (n=1,986; population=530,945)**. The prior 14-Day Incidence Rate (7/20/2020-8/2/2020) was 391 per 100,000 population (n=2,077).

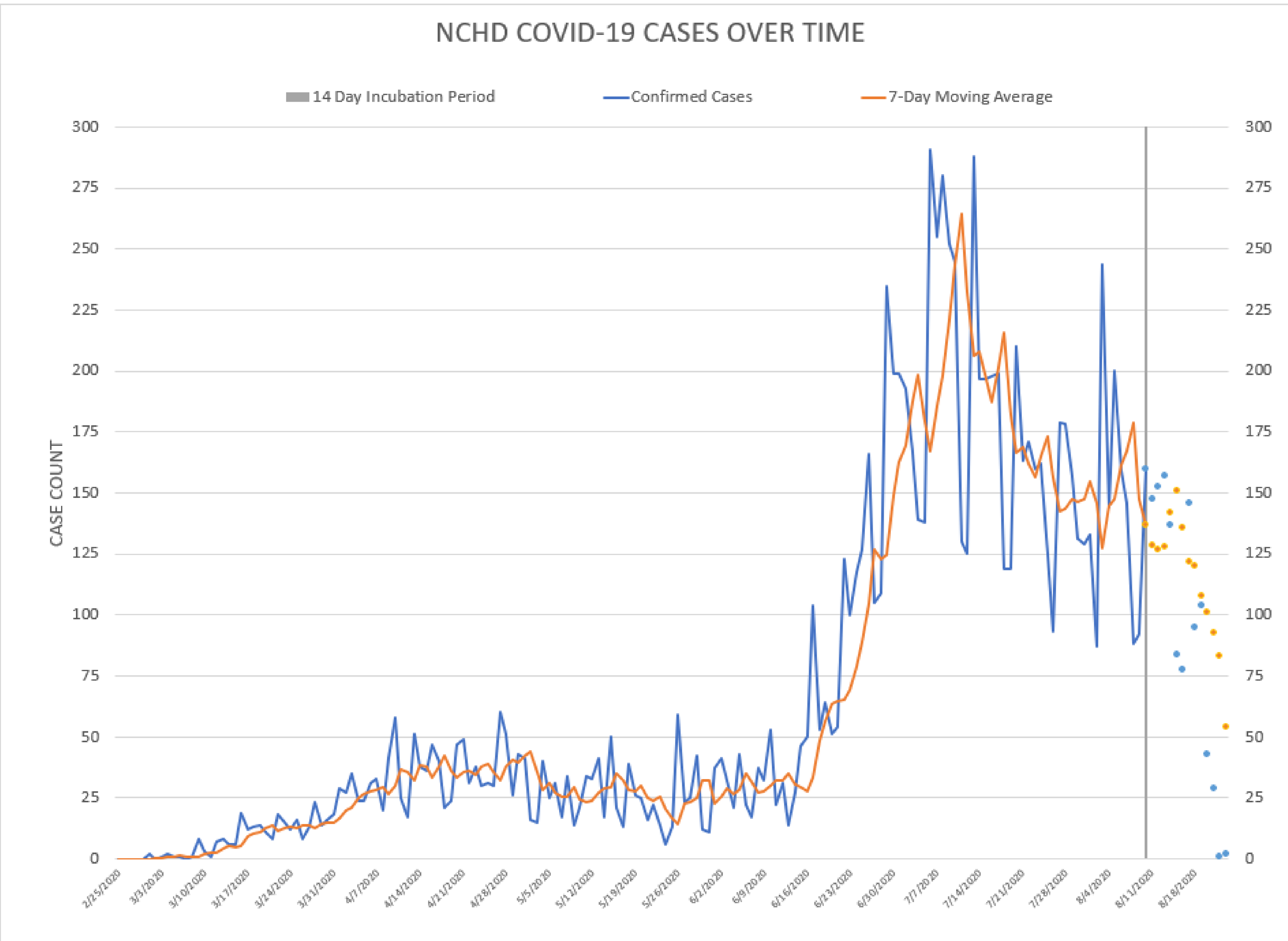
County	Total Confirmed Cases as of 8/23/2020 9PM	Total Presumptive Cases as of 8/23/2020 9PM	Total Presumptive and Confirmed Cases 8/23/2020	Total Presumptive and Confirmed Cases 8/16/2020	% Change Between 8/16/2020-8/23/2020	Total Hospitalizations (Presumptive and Confirmed)	Total Deaths (Presumptive and Confirmed)
Baldwin	1392	23	1415	1190	19%	116	46
Bibb	4582	69	4651	4125	13%	687	98
Crawford	149	14	163	132	23%	18	0
Hancock	350	4	354	340	4%	55	39
Houston	2568	138	2706	2352	15%	301	63
Jasper	251	65	316	243	30%	15	2
Jones	389	7	396	356	11%	36	5
Monroe	598	64	662	565	17%	67	33
Peach	566	66	632	521	21%	81	16
Putnam	589	22	611	504	21%	52	19
Twiggs	158	2	160	139	15%	35	6
Washington	616	32	648	560	16%	41	4
Wilkinson	265	6	271	242	12%	46	13
Total	12473	512	12985	11269	15%	1550	344

Age Distribution of Cases



All data is based on patient county of residence when known.
*Confirmed Cases are those tested using a Molecular Tests (i.e. PCR) since 3/1/2020.
*Presumptive Cases are those tested using an Antigen Test since 3/1/2020



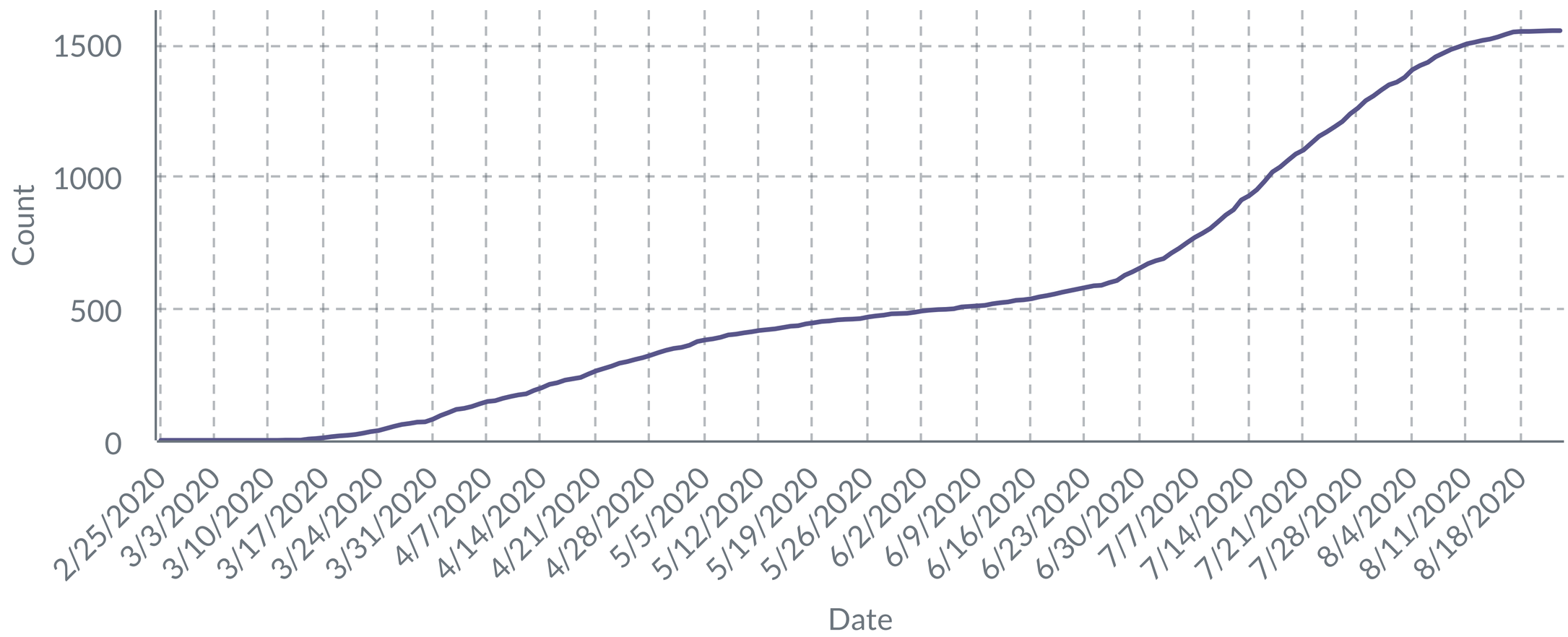


The date indicated for the newly confirmed COVID-19 cases is based on the combination of dates based on: 1)date of symptom onset; 2)if the date is invalid or missing, the first postive collection date is used and 3) if both of those dates are invalid or missing, the date the case is reported is used.

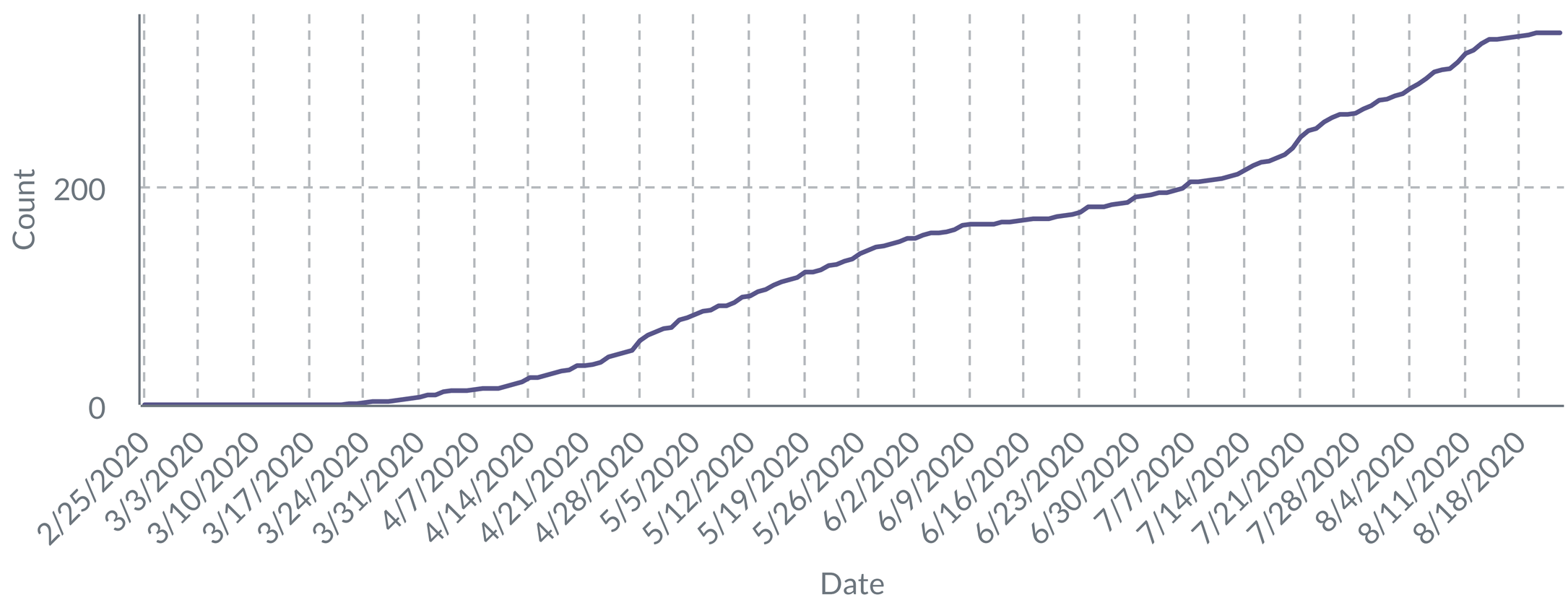
** 14-day window – Confirmed cases over the last 14 days may not be accounted for due to illnesses yet to be reported or test results may still be pending.*

Note - Data during the reporting period may be incomplete due to the lag in time between when the case was tested and/or reported and submitted to the Georgia DPH for reporting purposes. This delay can vary depending on the testing facility and/or jurisdiction.

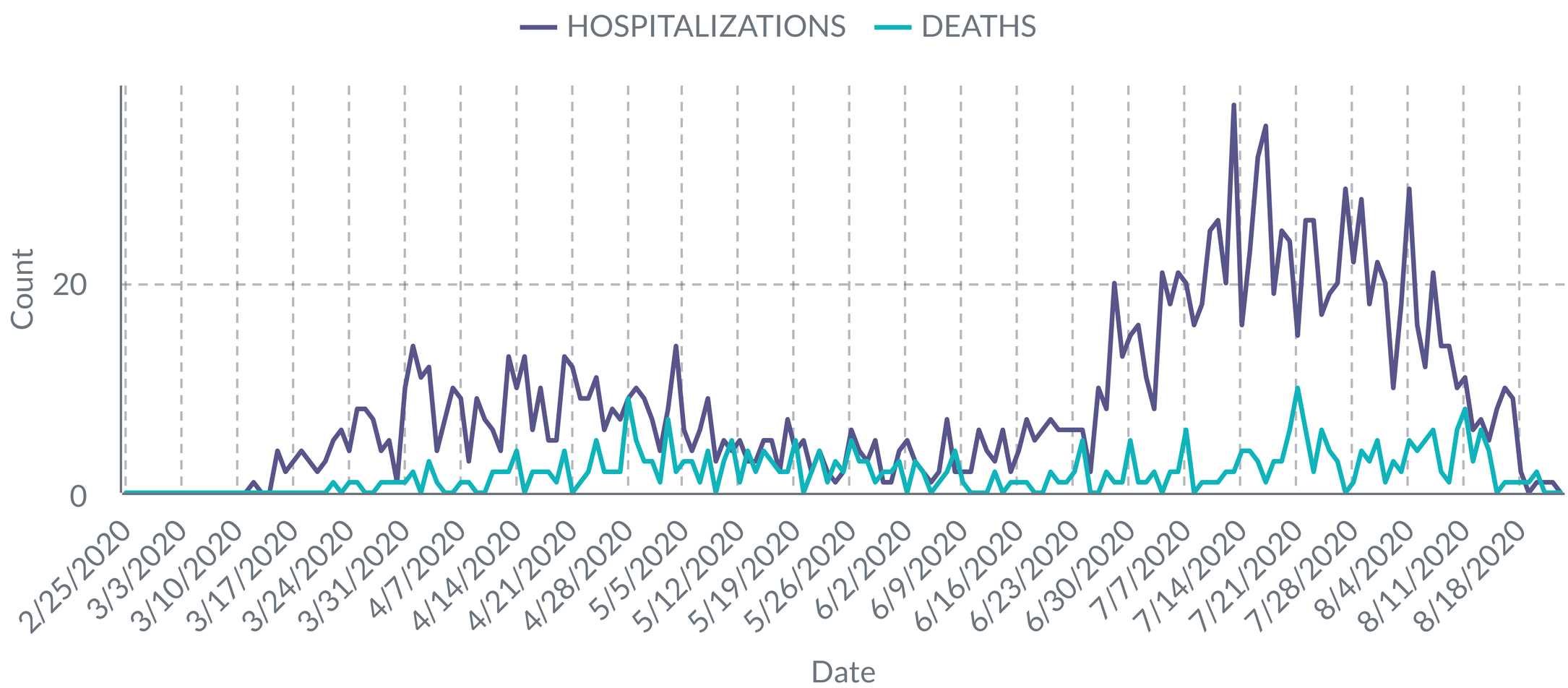
Hospitalizations Over Time



Deaths Over Time



Hospitalizations and Death By Date of Occurrence



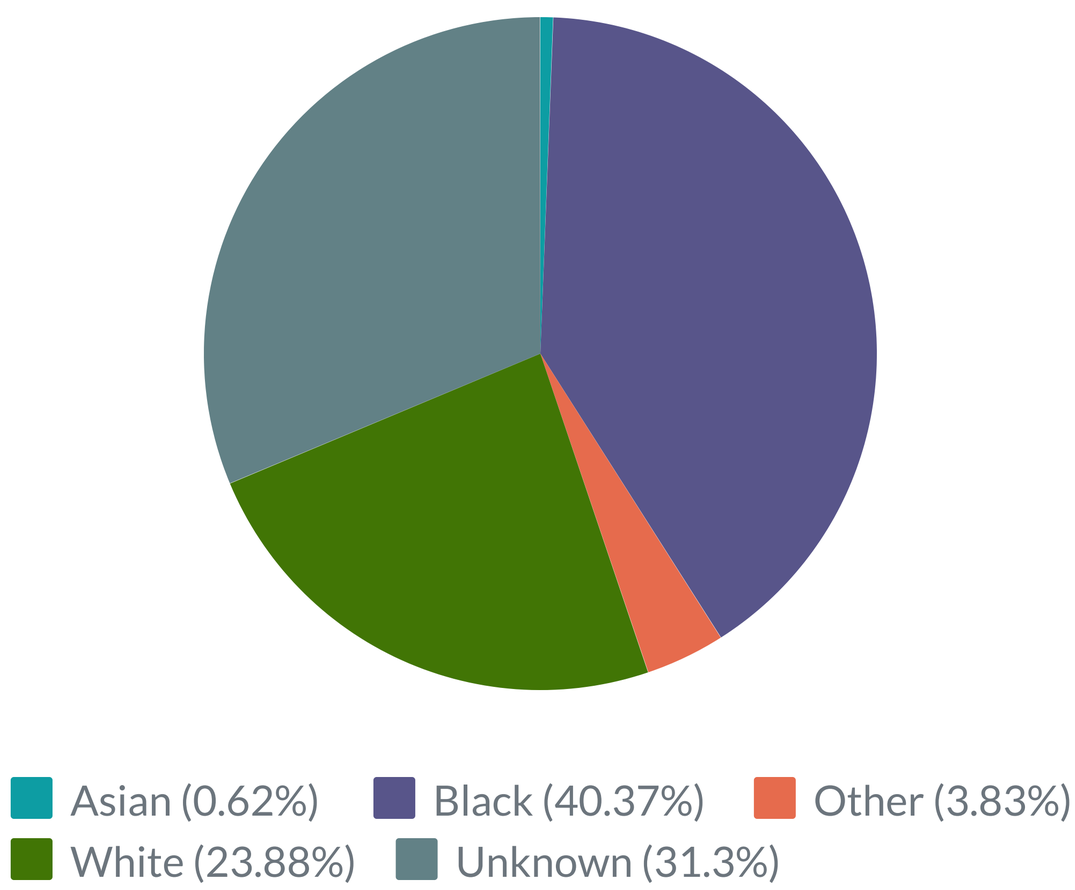
70% of Hospitalized Cases have been reported as being discharged.

9% of Cases have been identified as Healthcare Workers.

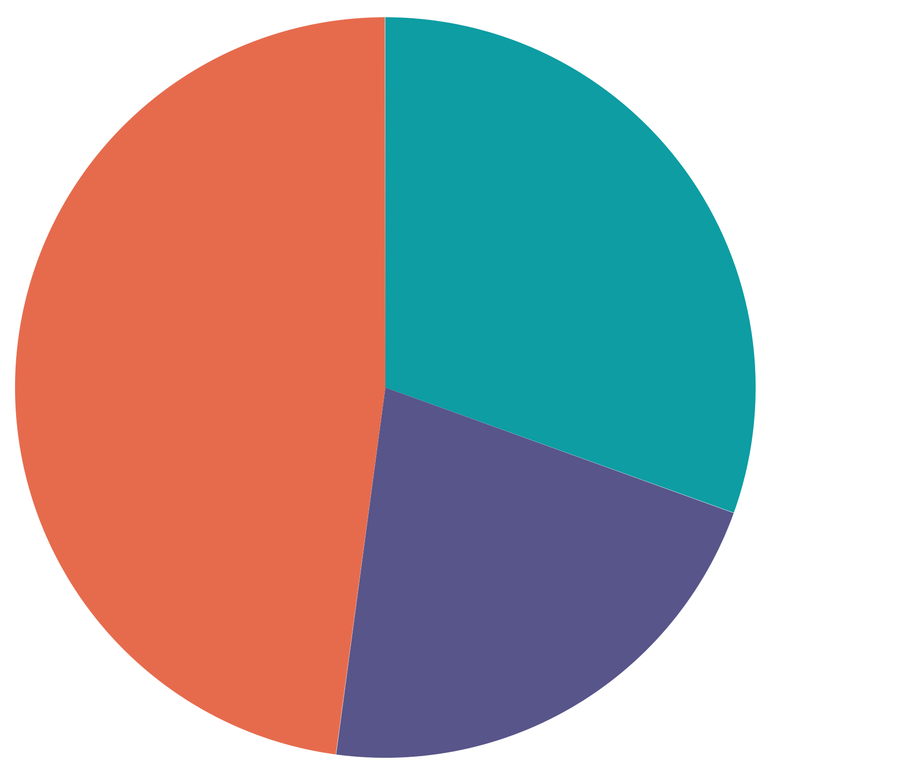
53% of Deaths are associated with a congregate setting outbreak.

13% of Cases are associated with a congregate setting outbreak.

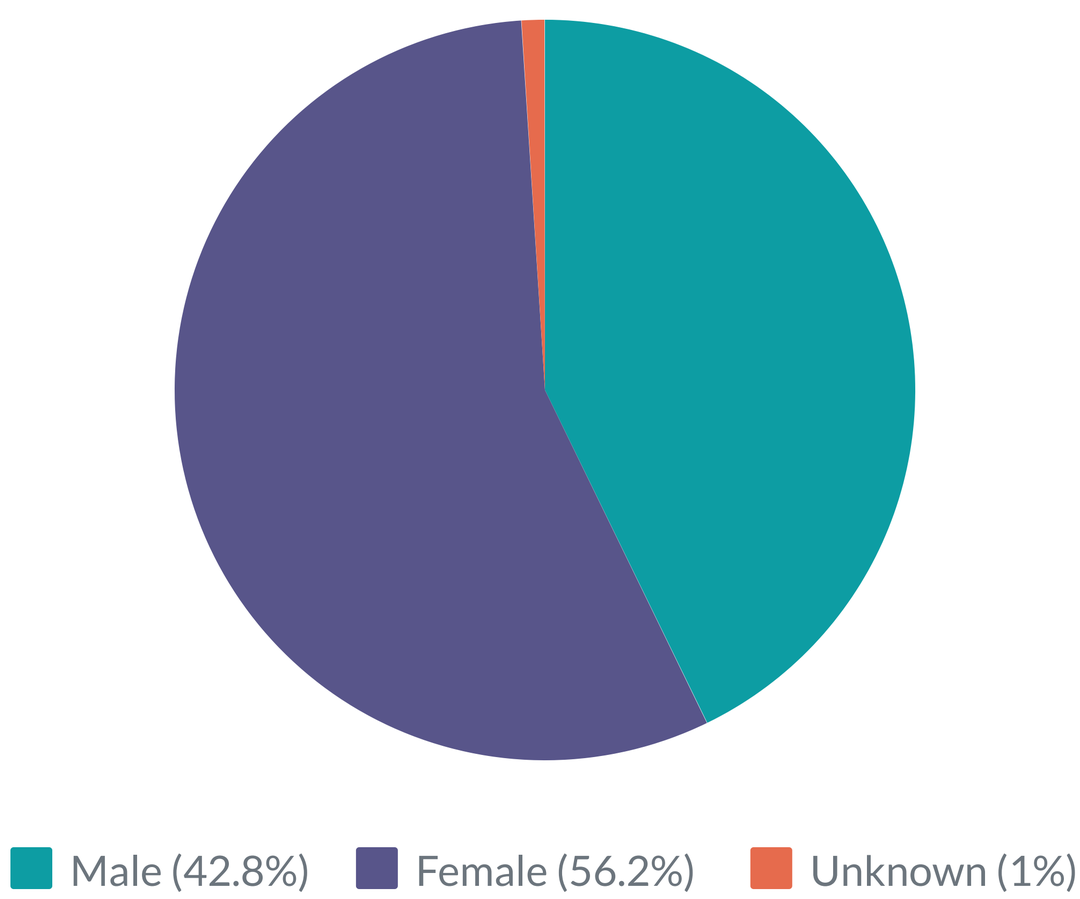
Race Distribution of Cases



Underlying Health Conditions



Gender Distribution of Cases



Epidemiology - County and Outbreak Summaries

The information in the rest of the report is a breakdown by Presumptive and Confirmed Cases by each county within NCHD.

Confirmed Cases are those tested using a Molecular Test (i.e. PCR) since 3/1/2020.

Presumptive Cases are those tested using an Antigen Test since 3/1/2020

Due to the reporting, interview, and data analysis processes, there may be delays in reporting cases as an outbreak. The Epidemiology Program is working closely with all partners to ensure data accuracy.

An outbreak is considered closed if it has been 2 incubation periods since the last symptom onset date.

Not all cases within an outbreak are counted within the county the outbreak occurs (i.e. staff of a facility may live in another county).

14-Day incidence rate indicates newly reported confirmed COVID-19 cases among county residents per 100,000 residents during the 14- day period indicated, using 2018 U.S. Census data to derive county population. Rates cannot be accurately calculated for Counties with <5 cases.

Transmission Levels are based on the incidence rate and defined as:

- Substantial Spread: greater than 101 cases per 100,000 county residents
- Moderate Spread: 51-100 cases per 100,000 county residents
- Minimal Spread: >11-50 cases per 100,000 county residents
- Low Spread: > 0-10 cases per 100,000 county residents
- Insufficient Data: A rate is not calculated for less than 5 cases reported. These counties may likely have low levels of transmission but may be affected by other factors such as levels of COVID-19 testing.

Counties of Interest are identified by counties that have within the most current week (most recent 7 days) to the previous week [>5% increase in COVID syndrome/ILI syndrome (if >2 visits) AND >5% increase in cases (if >2 cases)] OR [>25% change in cases AND >10 cases during most recent week].

Syndromic surveillance (SS) provides a method for timely detection of potential clusters or outbreaks of specified diseases/events. SS data include emergency department (ED) visits based on the patient's chief complaint upon admission and/or discharge diagnosis. *SS data used within this report is based on county of residence NOT facility.*

- *Covid-19 Syndrome includes:* Chief complaint text for "coronavirus", "covid", "c-19", or "ncov". Selected discharge diagnosis codes (ICD or Snomed) relevant to COVID-19; including confirmed COVID-19, suspected/probable COVID-19, unspecified coronavirus infection, exposure to COVID-19, or severe acute respiratory syndrome.
- *ILI Syndrome includes:* Chief complaint text for fever, influenza, RSV, viral infection, viral pneumonia, cough (if fever), or sore throat (if fever).
- *Note:* Covid-19 Syndrome excludes select visits related to Covid-19 testing or exposure with no mention of symptoms. Criteria for syndromes are subject to change as additional information is received.

The information is accurate as of 8/23/2020 at 9PM.

CURRENT 2 WEEK PERIOD:
8/3/2020-8/16/2020

PREVIOUS 2 WEEK PERIOD:
7/20/2020-8/2/2020

Baldwin County - Substantial Spread

11% of Emergency Department Visits captured in syndromic surveillance for residents of Baldwin County were categorized as COVID-19 Syndrome since 7/31/2020.

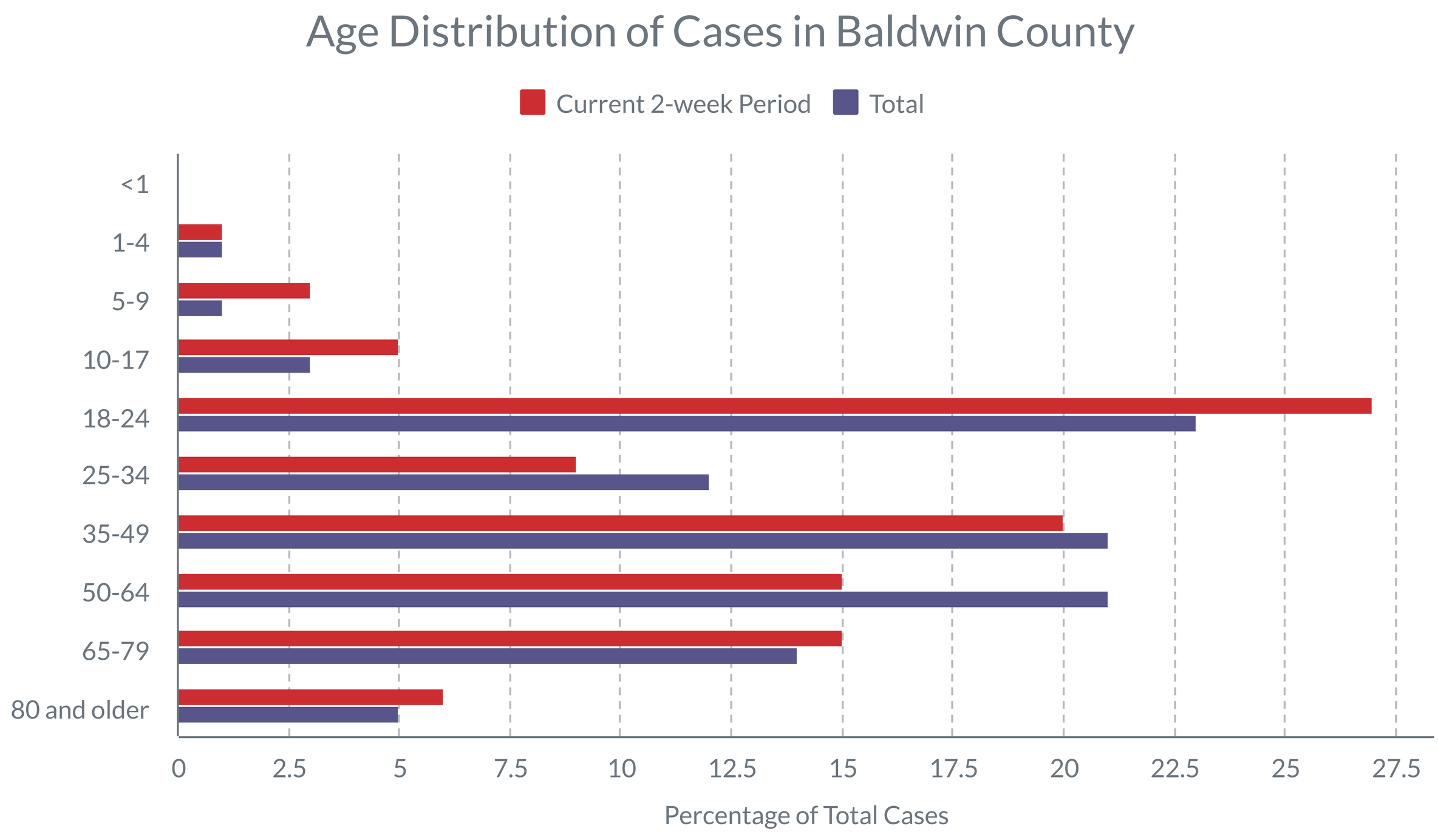
352

Current 14-Day Incidence Rate

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Baldwin County residents from **the Current 2-Week Period was 352 per 100,000 population (n=158; population=44,823)**. The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 462 (n=207) per 100,000 population.

▼ 24%

24% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Baldwin County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods.**



6%

Current 2-week Period Outbreak Related Cases

The cases reported in Baldwin County for the Current 2-week period associated with an outbreak account for 6% (n=9) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, 100% (n=9) of the outbreak-related cases are associated with a congregate care setting. The other **94%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Baldwin County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 27% (378) of cases reported in Baldwin County have been linked to an outbreak.

Bibb County - Substantial Spread

5% of Emergency Department Visits captured in syndromic surveillance for residents of Bibb County were categorized as COVID-19 Syndrome since 7/31/2020.

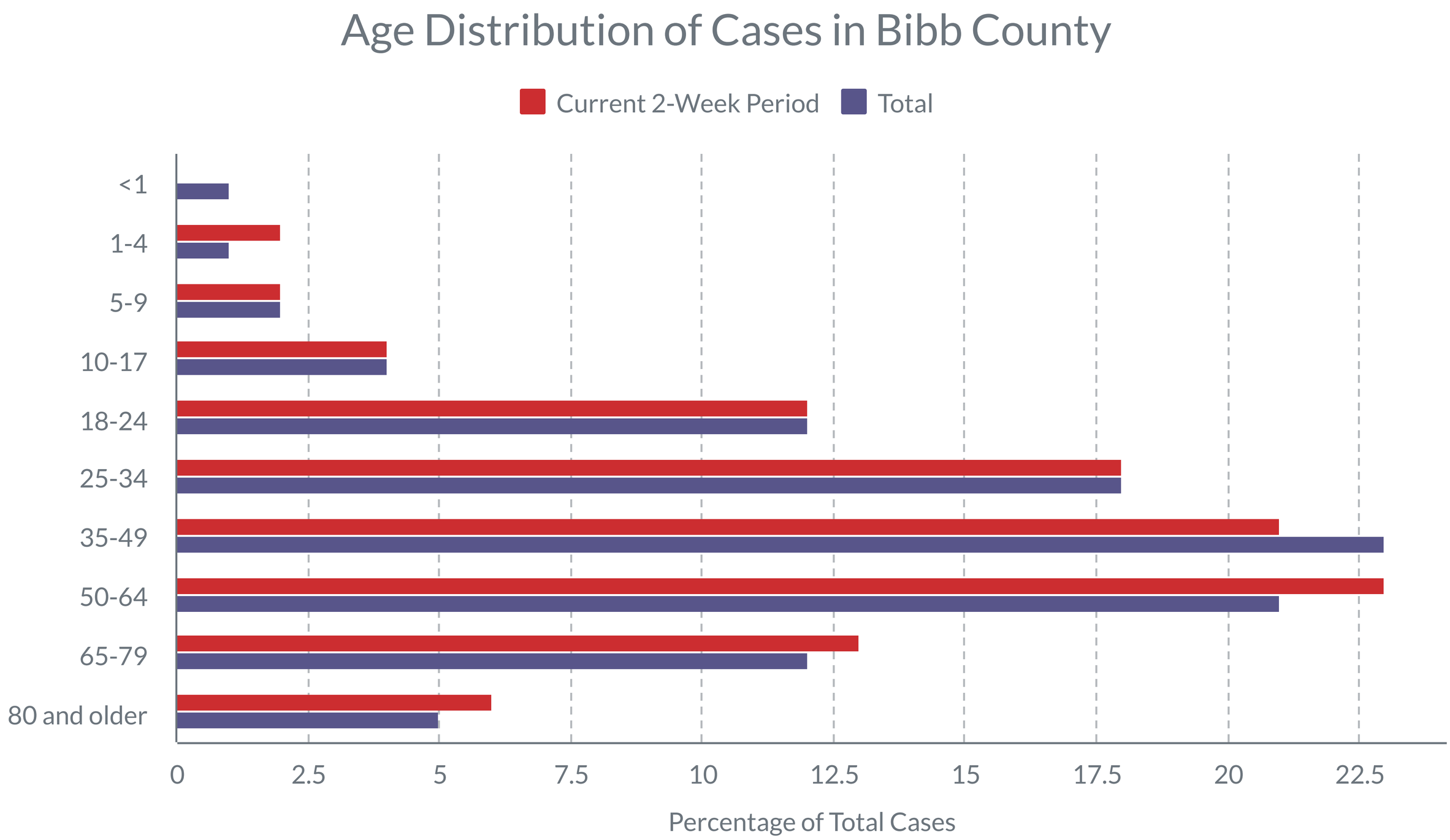
514

Current 14-Day Incidence Rate

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Bibb County residents from **the Current 2-Week Period was 514 per 100,000 population (n=787; population=153,095)**. The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 470 (n=720) per 100,000 population.

▲9%

9% increase in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Bibb County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods.**



9%

Current 2-week Period Outbreak Related Cases

The cases reported in Bibb County for the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 9% (n=68) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, 96% (n=65) of the outbreak-related cases are associated with a congregate care setting. The other **91%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Bibb County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 11% (n=492) of cases reported in Bibb County have been linked to an outbreak.

Crawford County - Substantial Spread

AREA OF CONCERN: Confirmed case counts, as well as emergency room visits associated with COVID-19 and ILI Syndromes, have increased amongst Crawford County residents. The increase in cases cannot be attributed solely to congregate setting outbreaks. Due to this we are watching the situation closely and working with our partners to ensure that precautions amongst residents are encouraged.

203

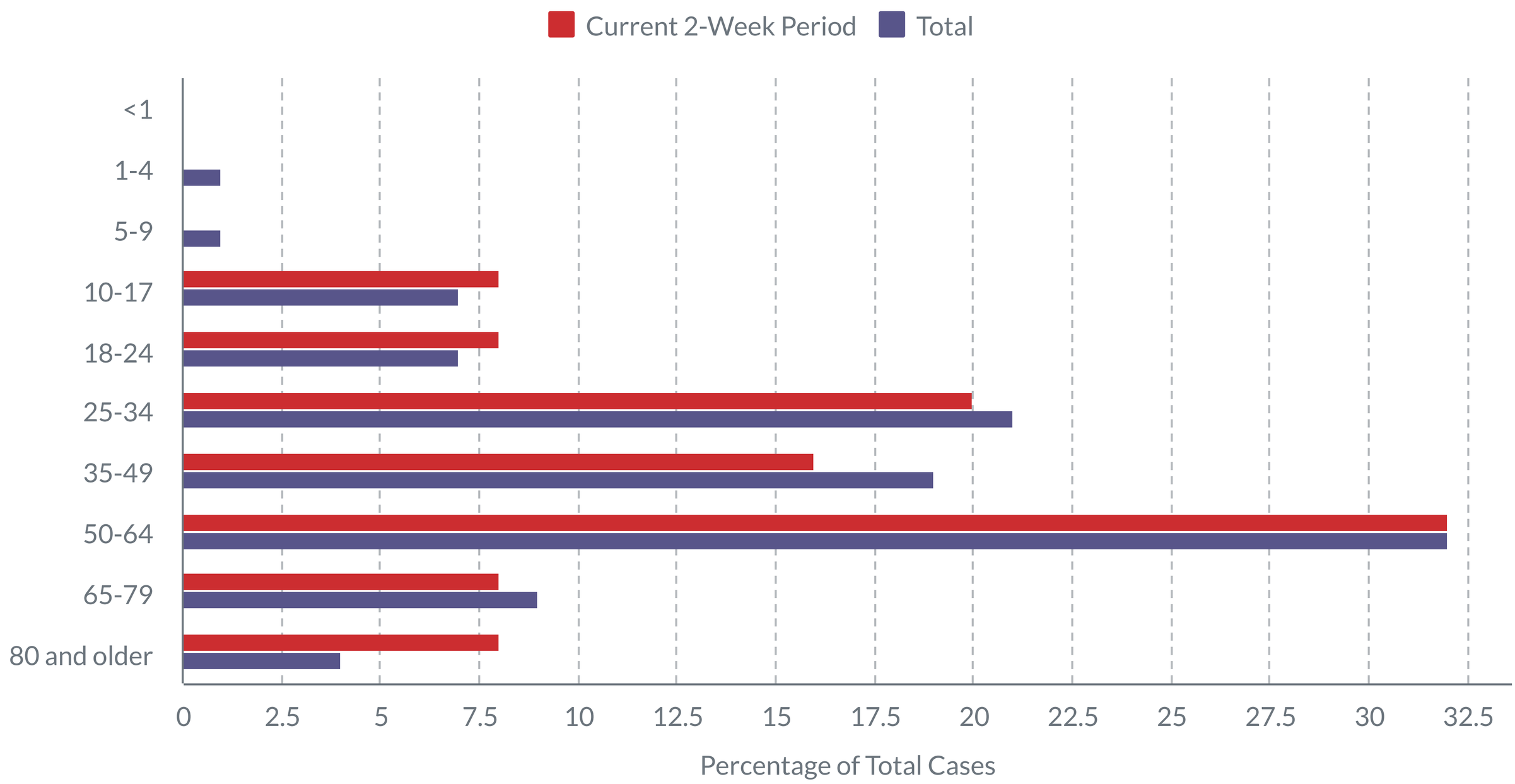
Current 14-Day Incidence Rate

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Crawford County residents from **the Current 2-week period was 203 per 100,000 population (n=25; population=12,318)**. The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 203 (n=25) per 100,000 population.

▶ 0%

There was not a change is numbers of newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Crawford County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods.**

Age Distribution of Cases in Crawford County



11%

Current 2-week Period Outbreak Related Cases

The cases reported in Crawford County for the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 8% (n=2) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. The other **92%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Crawford County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 17% (n=26) of cases reported in Crawford County have been linked to an outbreak.

Hancock County - Substantial Spread

AREA OF CONCERN: Confirmed case counts, as well as emergency room visits associated with COVID-19 and ILI Syndromes, have increased amongst Hancock County residents. The increase in cases cannot be attributed solely to congregate setting outbreaks. Due to this we are watching the situation closely and working with our partners to ensure that precautions amongst residents are encouraged.

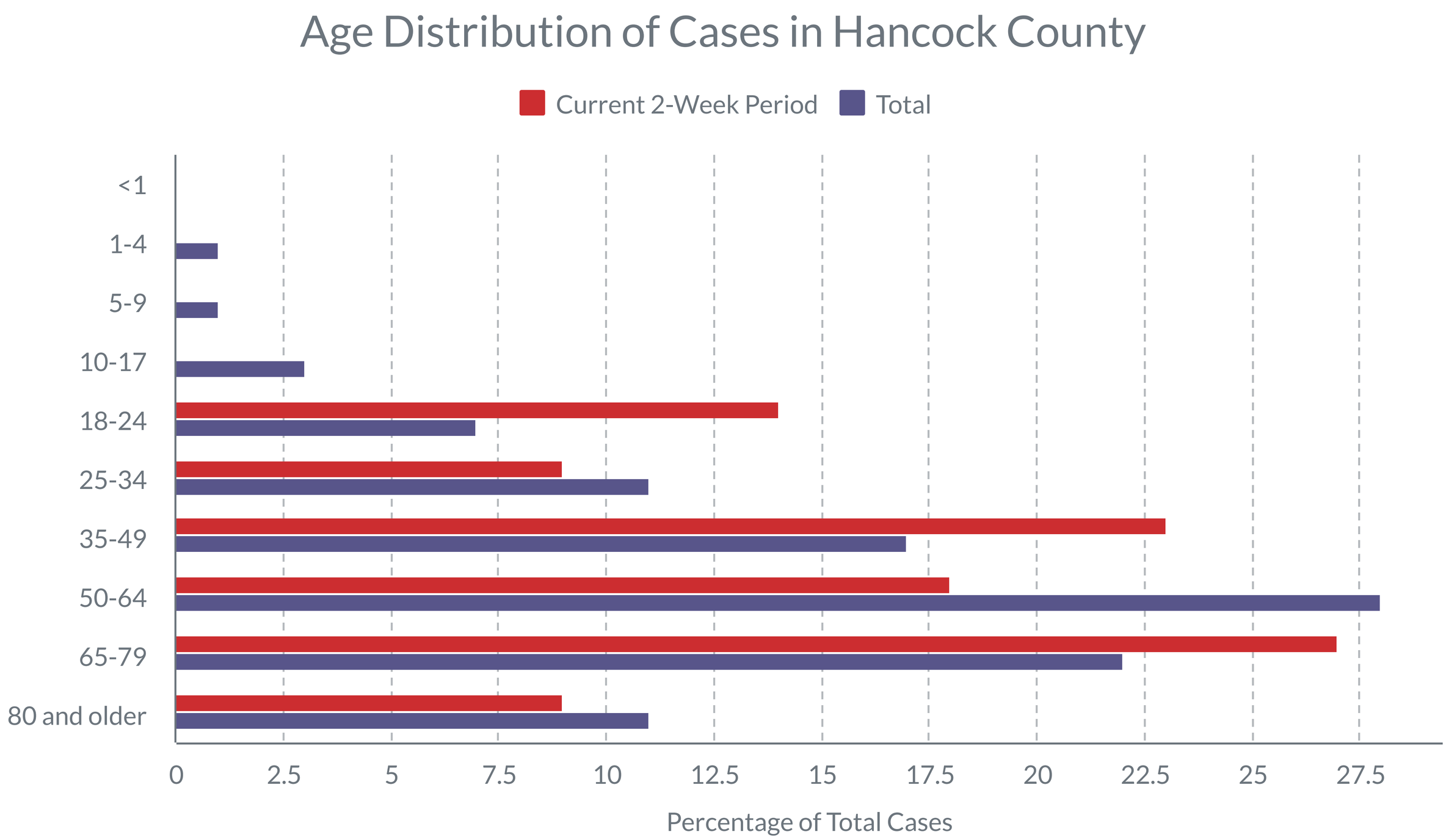
264

Current 14-Day Incidence Rate

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Hancock County residents from **the Current 2-week period was 264 per 100,000 population (n=22; population=8,348)**. The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 539 (n=45) per 100,000 population.

▼51%

51% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Hancock County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods.**



23%

Current 2-week Period Outbreak Related Cases

The cases reported in Hancock County for the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 23% (n=5) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, 80% (n=4) of the outbreak-related cases are associated with a congregate care setting. The other **77%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Hancock County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 43% (n=151) of cases reported in Hancock County have been linked to an outbreak.

Houston County - Substantial Spread

3% of Emergency Department Visits captured in syndromic surveillance for residents of Houston County were categorized as COVID-19 Syndrome since 7/31/2020.

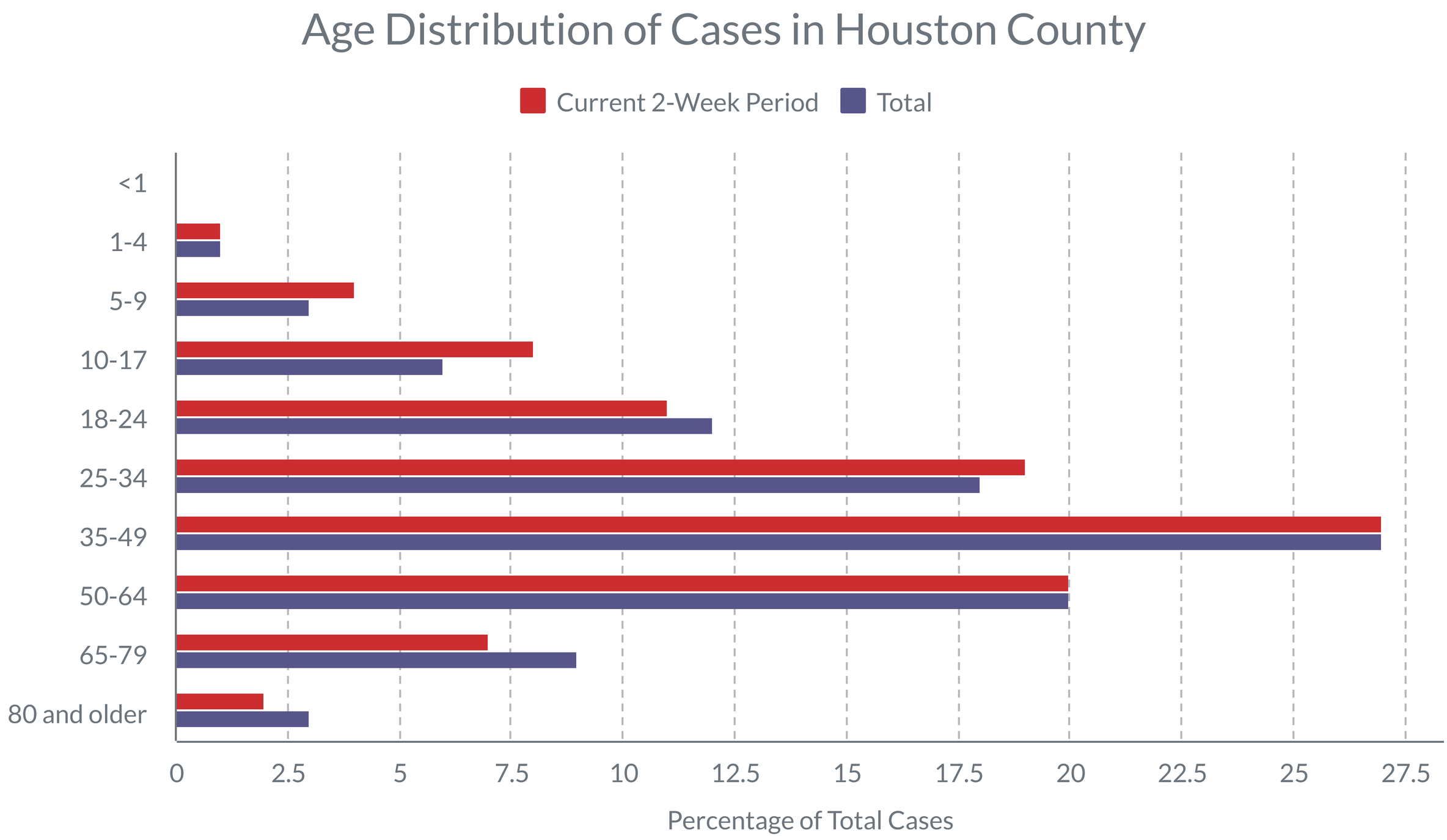
262

Current 14-Day Incidence Rate

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Houston County residents from the **Current 2-Week Period was 262 per 100,000 population (n=408; population=155,469)**. The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 258 (n=401) per 100,000 population.

▲ 2%

2% increase in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Houston County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods.**



0%

Current 2-week Period Outbreak Related Cases

The cases reported in Houston County for the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 0% (n=0) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. **100%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Houston County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 8% (n=202) of cases reported in Houston County have been linked to an outbreak.

Jasper County - Substantial Spread

AREA OF CONCERN: Confirmed case counts, as well as emergency room visits associated with COVID-19 and ILI Syndromes, have increased amongst Jasper County residents. The increase in cases cannot be attributed solely to congregate setting outbreaks. Due to this we are watching the situation closely and working with our partners to ensure that precautions amongst residents are encouraged.

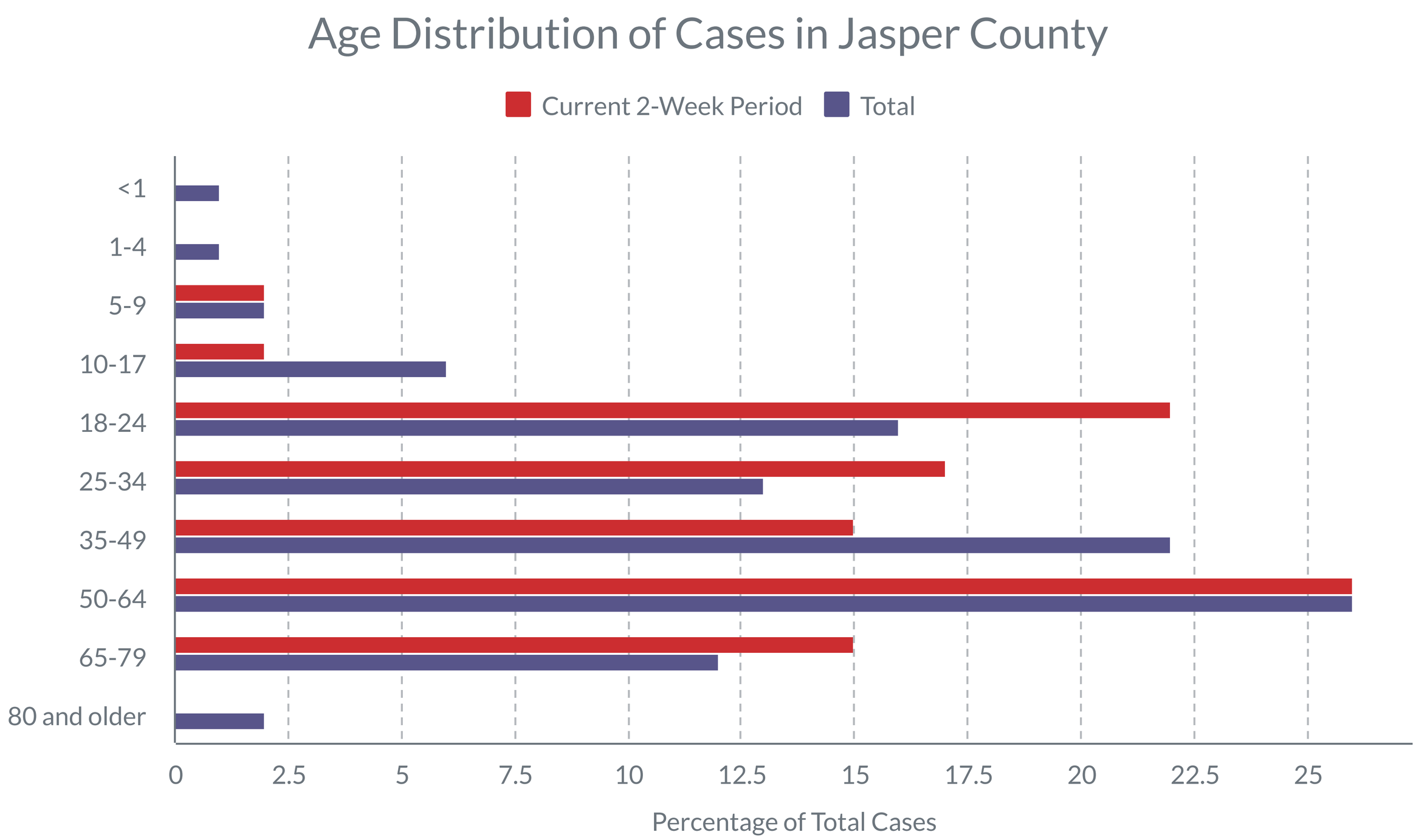
328

Current 14-Day Incidence Rate

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Jasper County residents from the **Current 2-Week Period was 328 per 100,000 population (n=46; population=14,040)**. The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 335 (n=47) per 100,000 population.

▼ 2%

2% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Jasper County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods.**



4%

Current 2-week Period Outbreak Related Cases

The cases reported in Jasper County for the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 4% (n=2) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, 100% of the outbreak-related cases are associated with congregate care settings. The other **96%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Jasper County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 5% (n=13) of cases reported in Jasper County have been linked to an outbreak.

Jones County - Substantial Spread

8% of Emergency Department Visits captured in syndromic surveillance for residents of Jones County were categorized as COVID-19 Syndrome since 7/31/2020.

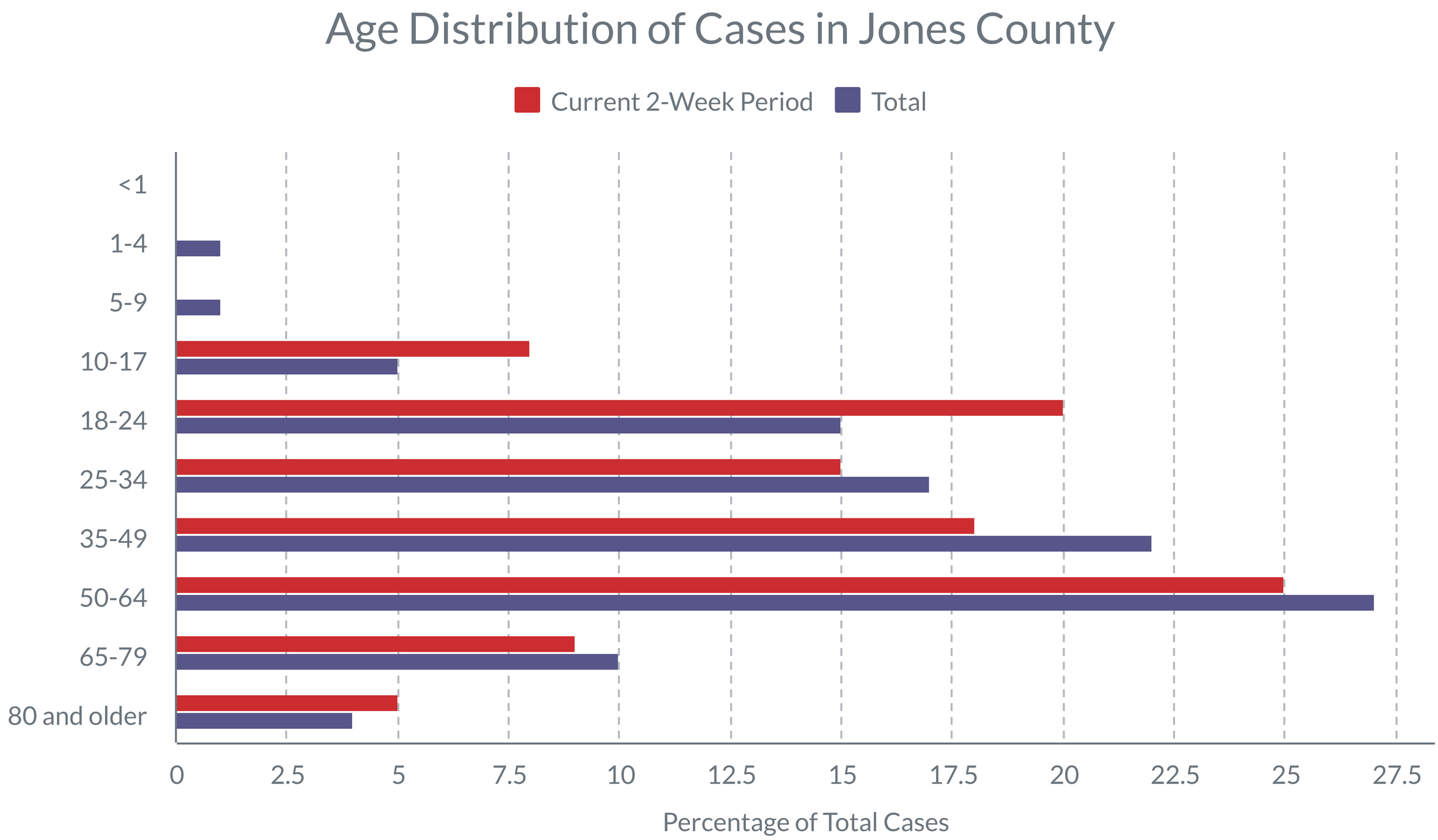
227

Current 14-Day Incidence Rate

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Jones County residents from the **Current 2-Week Period was 227 per 100,000 (n=65; population=28,616)**. The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 231 (n=66) per 100,000 population.

▼2%

2% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Jones County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods.**



3%

Current 2-week Period Outbreak Related Cases

The cases reported in Jones County for the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 3% (n=2) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, 100% (n=2) of the outbreak-related cases are associated with a congregate care setting. The other **97%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Jones County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 7% (n=29) of cases reported in Jones County have been linked to an outbreak.

Monroe County - Substantial Spread

5% of Emergency Department Visits captured in syndromic surveillance for residents of Monroe County were categorized as COVID-19 Syndrome since 7/31/2020.

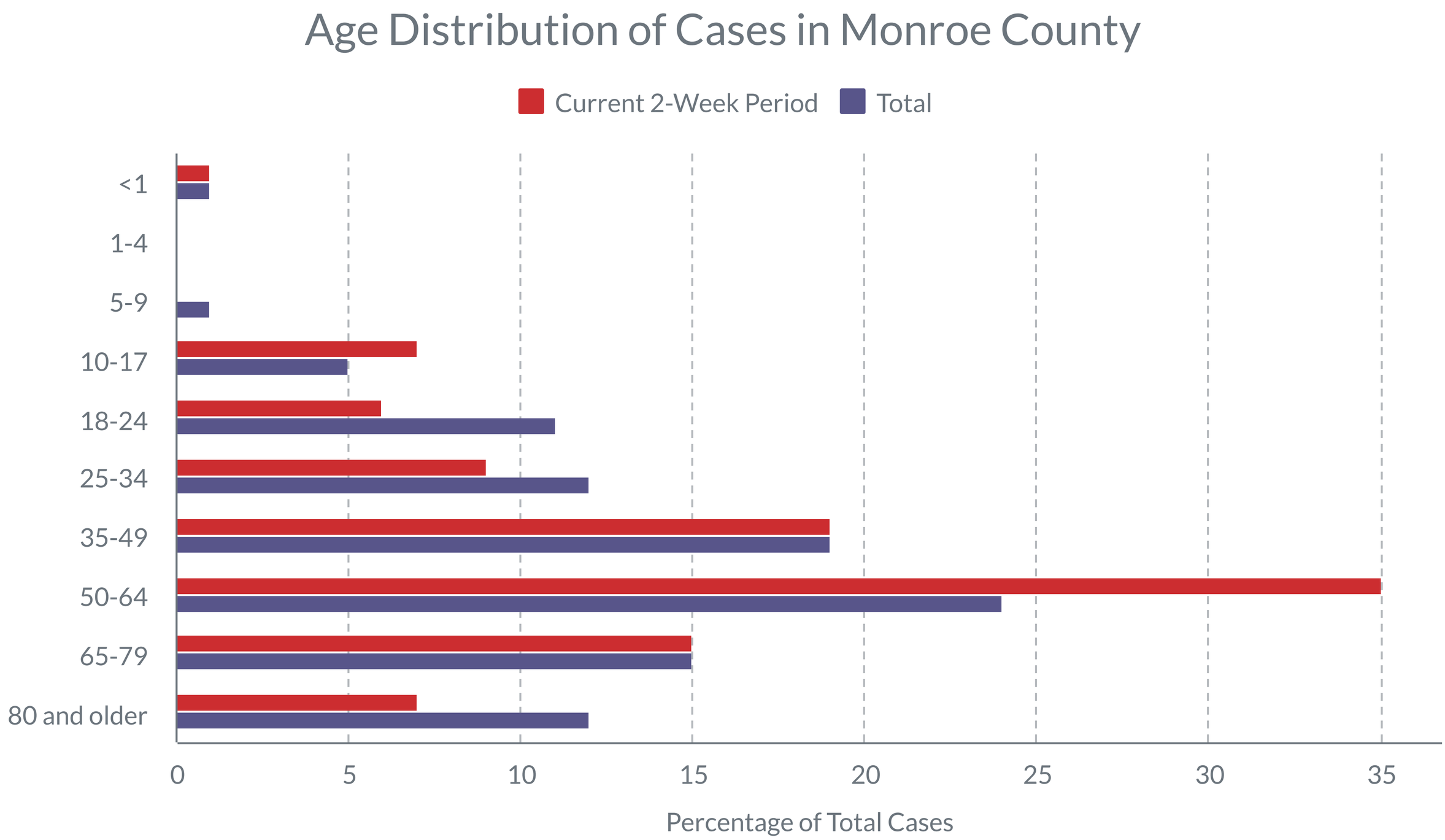
247

Current 14-Day Incidence Rate

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Monroe County residents from the **Current 2-Week Period was 247 per 100,000 population (n=68; population=27,520)**. The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 374 (n=103) per 100,000 population.

▼ 34%

34% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Monroe County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods.**



3%

Current 2-week Period Outbreak Related Cases

The cases reported in Monroe County from the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 3% (n=2) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, 100% (n=2) of the outbreak-related cases are associated with a congregate care setting. The other **97%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Monroe County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 21% (n=124) of cases reported in Monroe County have been linked to an outbreak.

Peach County - Substantial Spread

AREA OF CONCERN: Confirmed case counts, as well as emergency room visits associated with COVID-19 and ILI Syndromes, have increased amongst Peach County residents. The increase in cases cannot be attributed solely to congregate setting outbreaks. Due to this we are watching the situation closely and working with our partners to ensure that precautions amongst residents are encouraged.

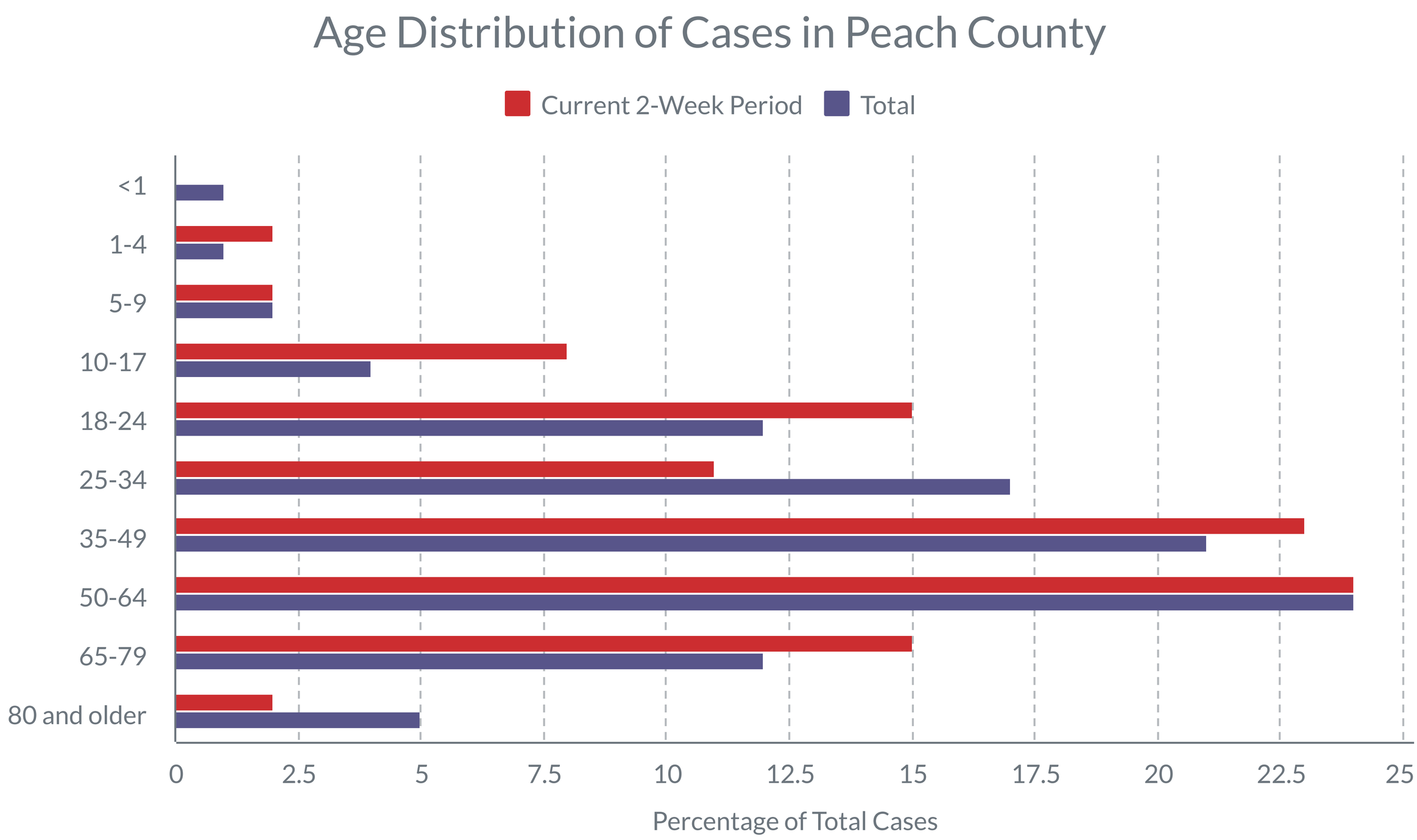
418

Current 14-Day Incidence Rate

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Peach County residents from the **Current 2-Week Period was 418 per 100,000 population (n=114; population=27,297)**. The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 531 (n=145) per 100,000 population.

▼21%

21% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Peach County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods.**



0%

Current 2-week Period Outbreak Related Cases

The cases reported in Peach County from the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 0% (n=0) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. **100%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Peach County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 5% (n=30) of cases reported in Peach County have been linked to an outbreak.

Putnam County - Substantial Spread

AREA OF CONCERN: Confirmed case counts, as well as emergency room visits associated with COVID-19 and ILI Syndromes, have increased amongst Putnam County residents. The increase in cases cannot be attributed solely to congregate setting outbreaks. Due to this we are watching the situation closely and working with our partners to ensure that precautions amongst residents are encouraged.

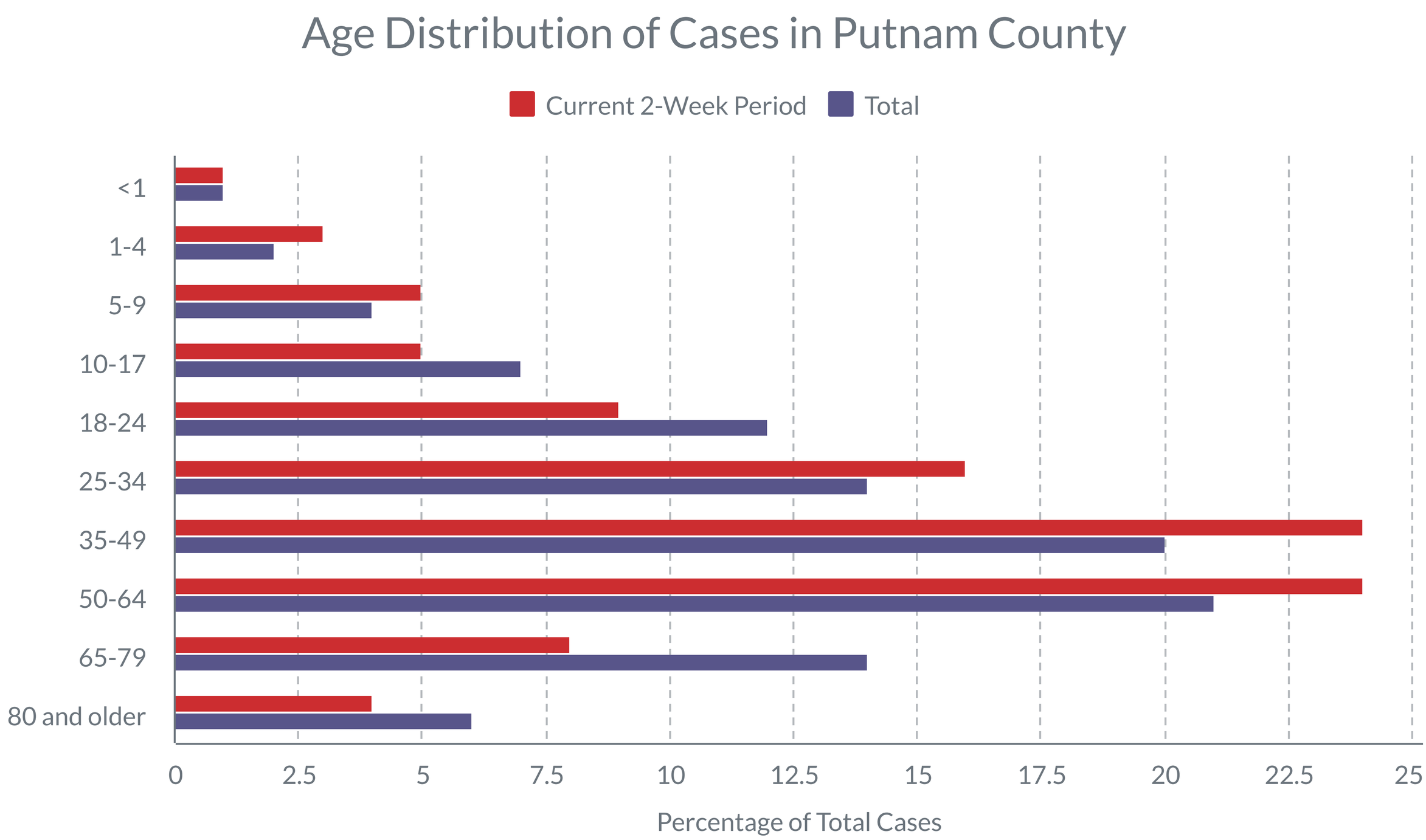
541

Current 14-Day Incidence Rate

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Putnam County residents from the **Current 2-week Period was 541 per 100,000 population (n=118; population=21,809)**. The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 408 (n=89) per 100,000 population.

▲ 33%

33% increase in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Putnam County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods.**



1%

Current 2-week Period Outbreak Related Cases

The cases reported in Putnam County from the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 1% (n=1) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, 100% (n=1) outbreak-related cases are associated with congregate care settings. The other **99%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Putnam County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 10% (n=61) of cases reported in Putnam County have been linked to an outbreak.

Twiggs County - Substantial Spread

AREA OF CONCERN: Confirmed case counts, as well as emergency room visits associated with COVID-19 and ILI Syndromes, have increased amongst Twiggs County residents. The increase in cases cannot be attributed solely to congregate setting outbreaks. Due to this we are watching the situation closely and working with our partners to ensure that precautions amongst residents are encouraged.

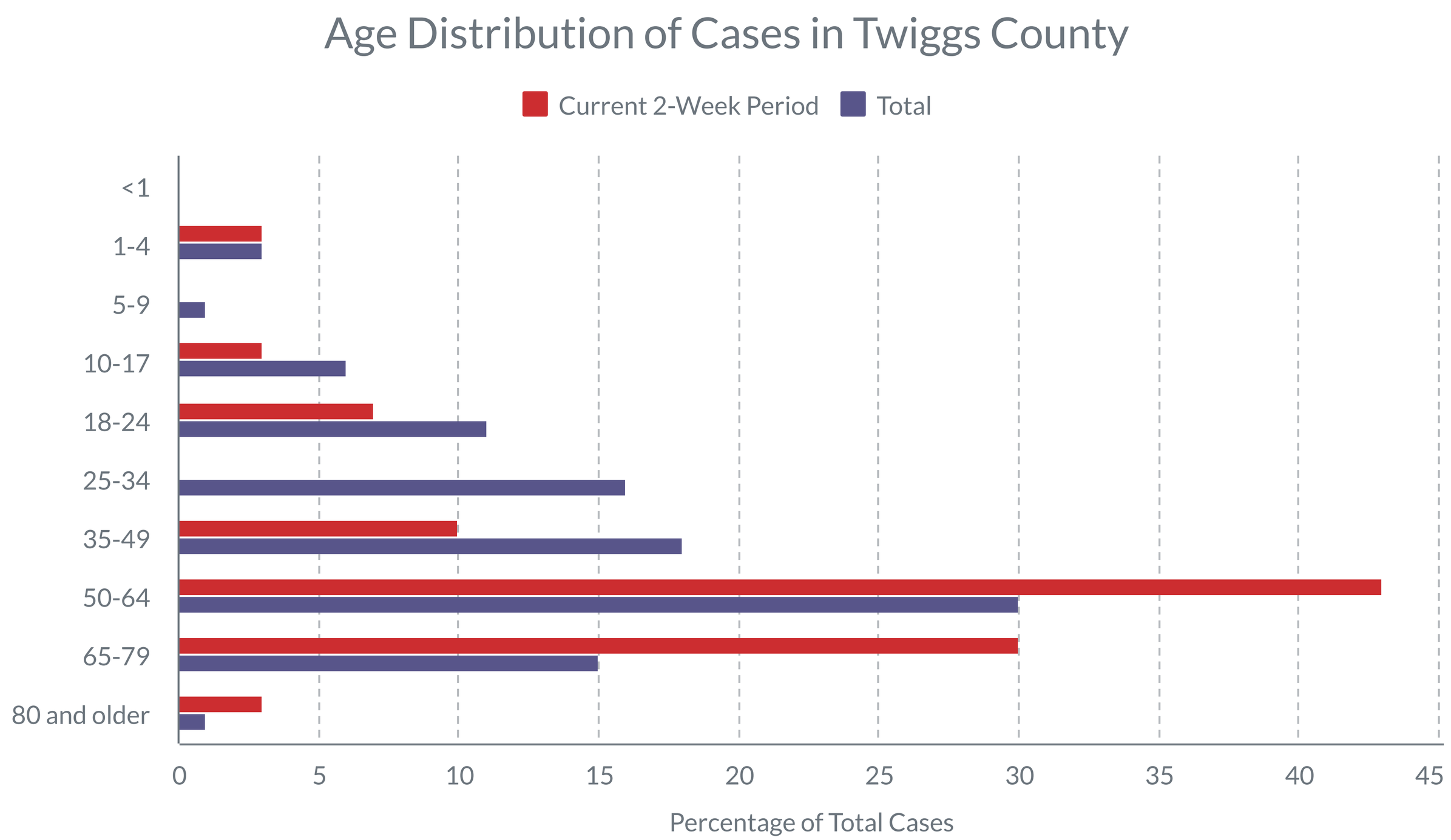
366

Current 14-Day Incidence Rate

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Twiggs County residents from the **Current 2-Week Period was 366 per 100,000 population (n=30; population=8,188)**. The previous 2-week period Incidence Rate was 537 (n=44) per 100,000 population.

▼ 32%

34% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Twiggs County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods.**



0%

Current 2-week Period Outbreak Related Cases

The cases reported in Twiggs County from the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 0% (n=0) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. **100%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Twiggs County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 6% (n=9) of cases reported in Twiggs County have been linked to an outbreak.

Washington County - Substantial Spread

7% of Emergency Department Visits captured in syndromic surveillance for residents of Washington County were categorized as COVID-19 Syndrome since 7/31/2020.

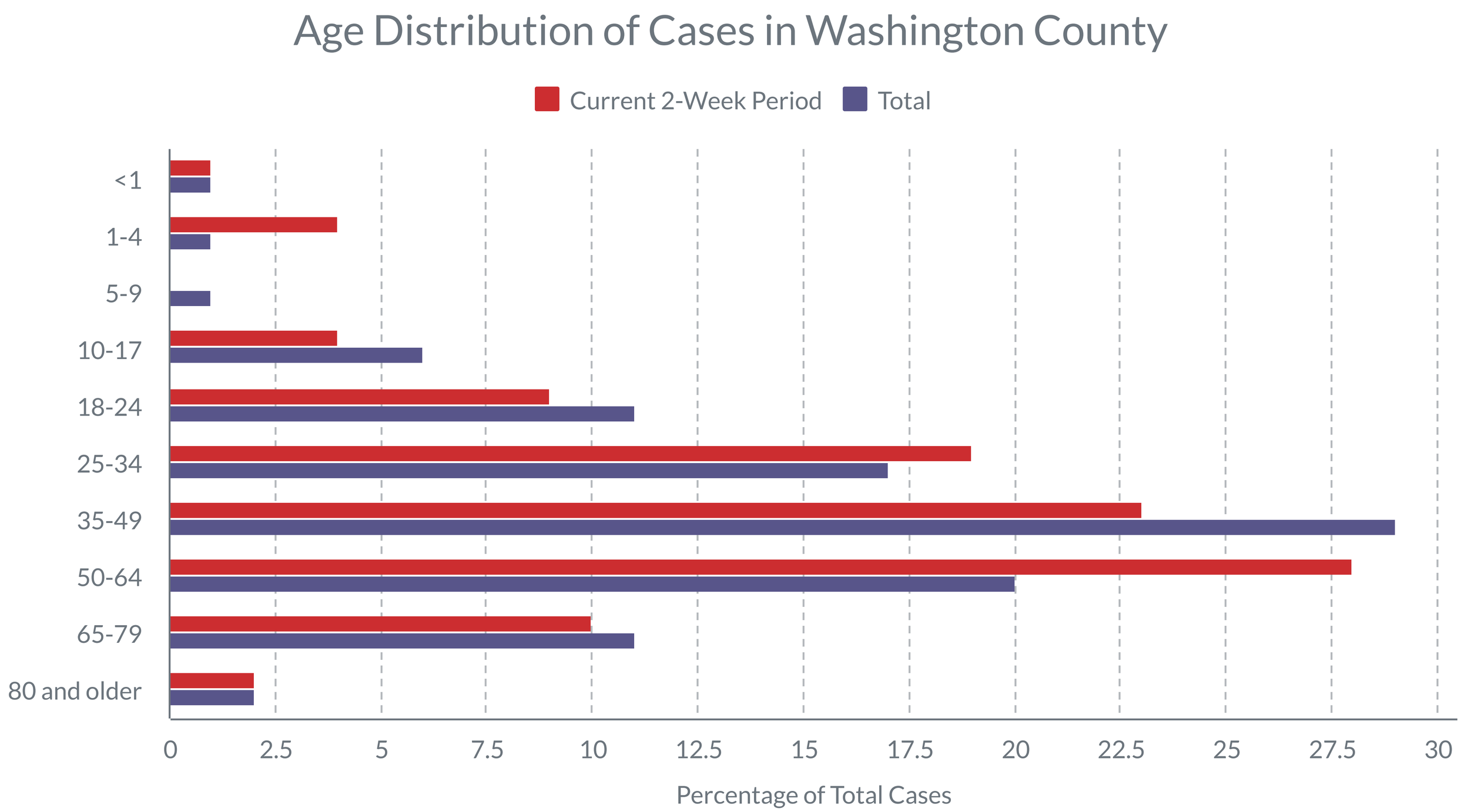
476

Current 14-Day Incidence Rate

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Washington County residents from the **Current 2-week Period was 476 per 100,000 population (n=97; population=20,386)**. The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 726 (n=148) per 100,000 population.

▼34%

34% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Washington County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods.**



9%

Current 2-week Period Outbreak Related Cases

The cases reported in Washington County for the Current 2-week Period associated with an outbreak account for 9% (n=9) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, 100% (n=9) of the outbreak-related cases are associated with a congregate care setting. The other **91%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Washington County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 10% (n=61) of cases reported in Washington County have been linked to an outbreak.

Wilkinson County - Substantial Spread

AREA OF CONCERN: Confirmed case counts, as well as emergency room visits associated with COVID-19 and ILI Syndromes, have increased amongst Wilkinson County residents. The increase in cases cannot be attributed solely to congregate setting outbreaks. Due to this we are watching the situation closely and working with our partners to ensure that precautions amongst residents are encouraged.

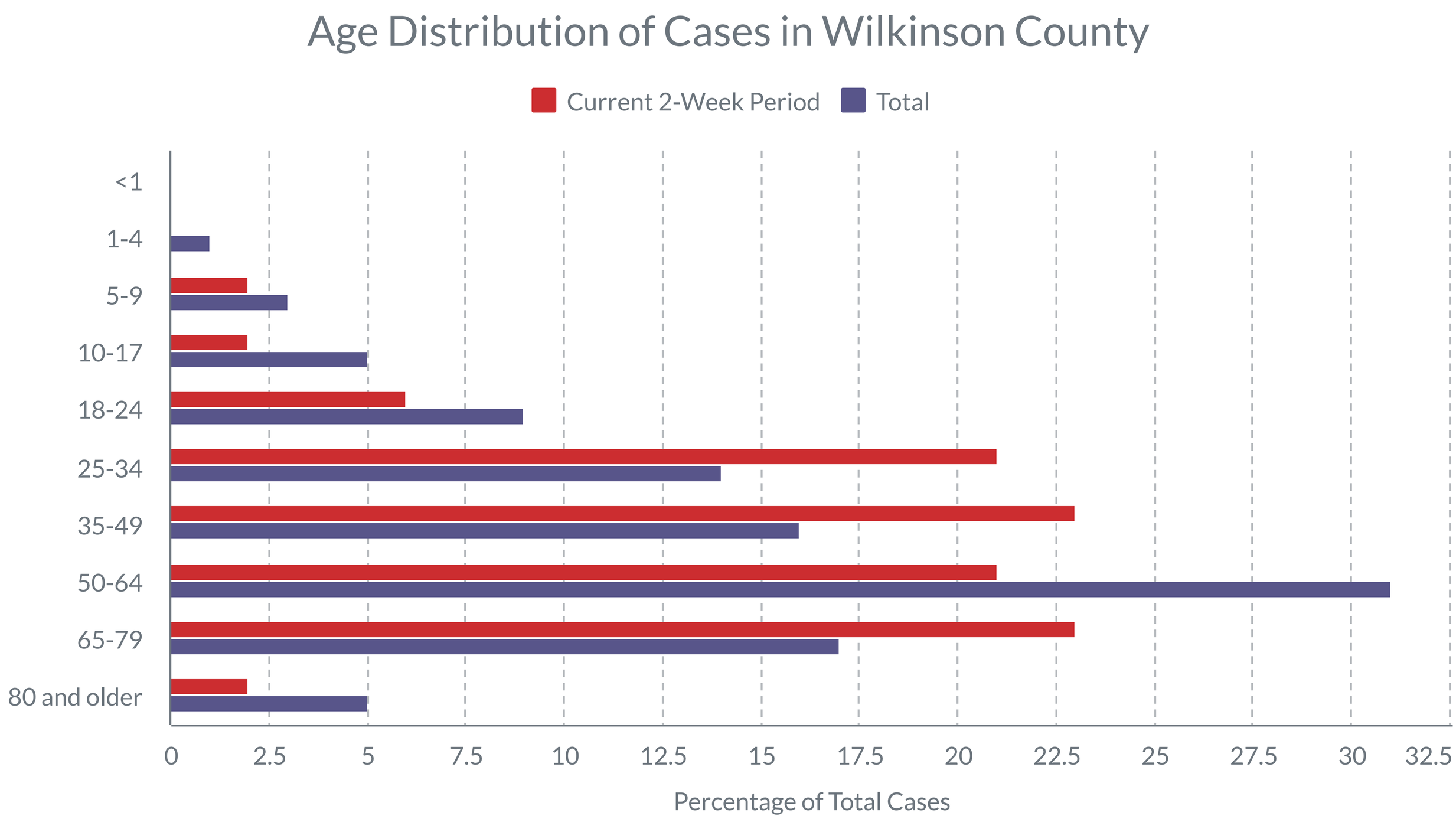
531

Current 14-Day Incidence Rate

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Wilkinson County residents from the Current 2-Week Period **was 531 per 100,000 population (n=48; population=9,036)**. The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 409 (n=37) per 100,000 population.

▲30%

30% increase in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Wilkinson County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods.**



2%

Current 2-week Period Outbreak Related Cases

The cases reported in Wilkinson County for the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 2% (n=1) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During that time period, none of the outbreak-related cases are associated with congregate care settings. The other **98%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Wilkinson County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 15% (n=39) of cases reported in Wilkinson County have been linked to an outbreak.