

# Board of Health Health Officer Report 11 July, 2023



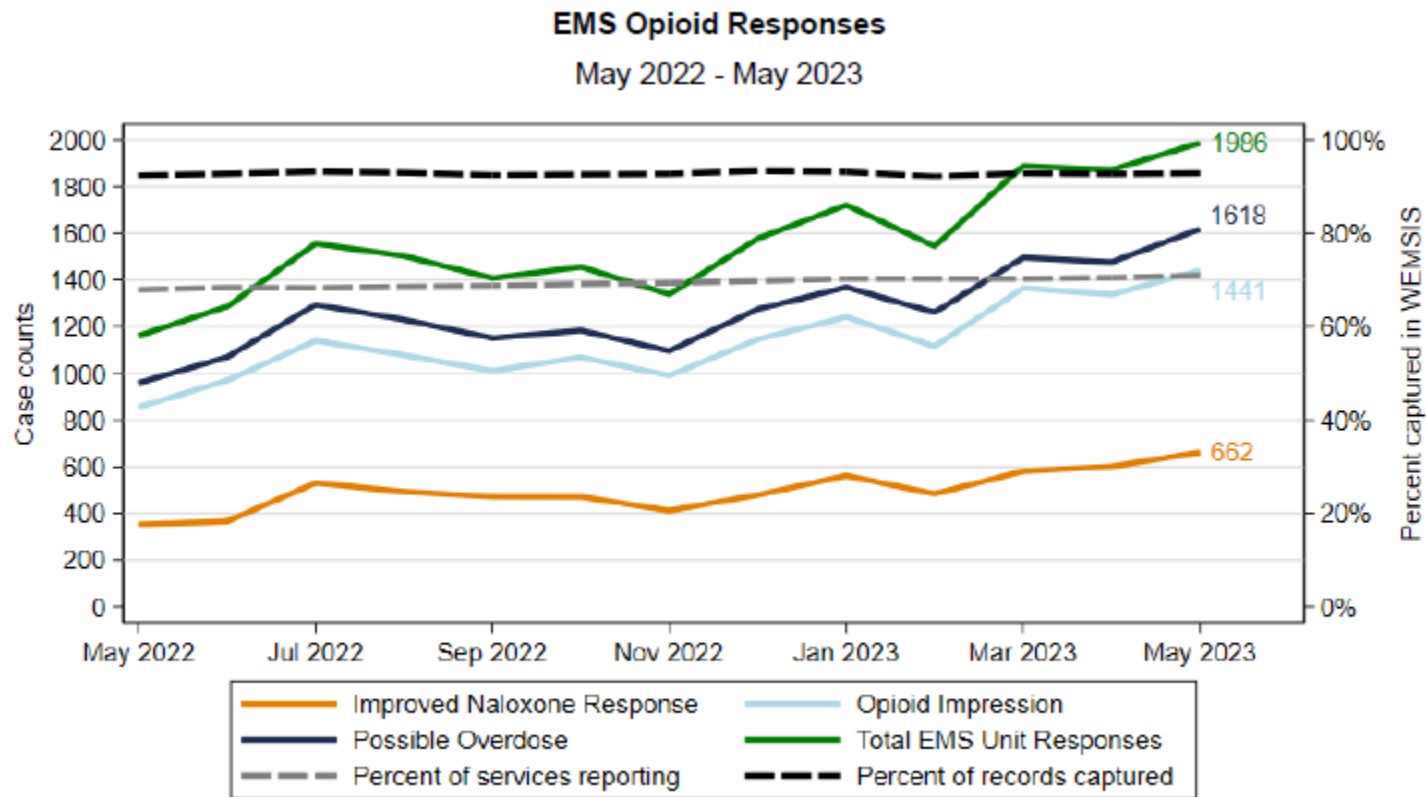
# Opioid Epidemic

- Ongoing epidemic/crisis
- Trajectory of increase continues
- Xylazine (aka Tranq) found a handful of times in King County
  - Health advisory provided to HS planned for CBO and SUD treatment providers

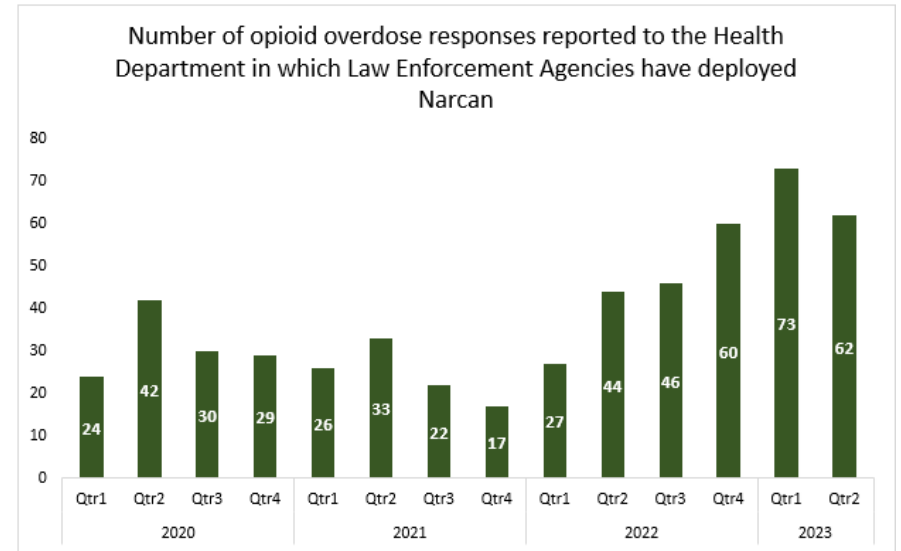
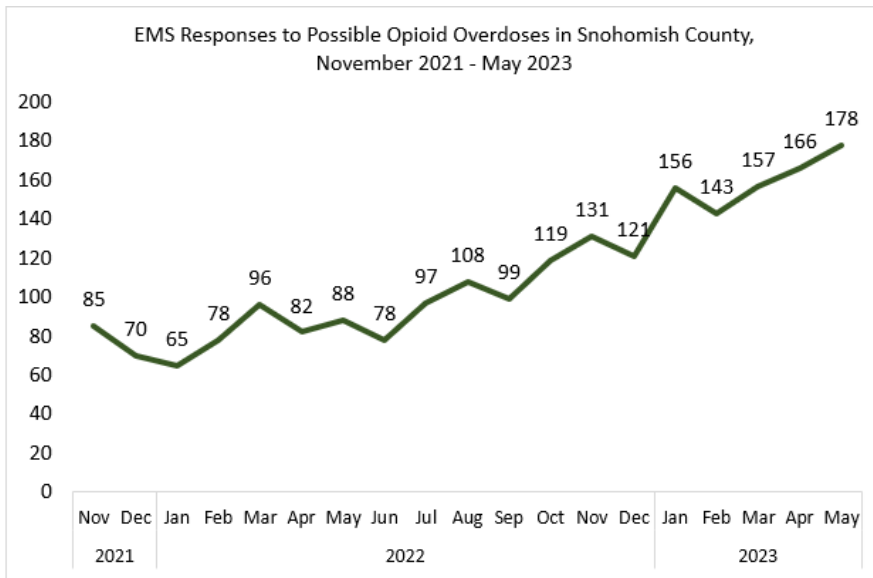
# Opioid Epidemic

- Executive's Office opioid response plan updates:
  - [Press release](#)
  - Media:
    - [Understanding the personal cost of the drug crisis | The Seattle Times](#)
    - [On front lines of fentanyl crisis, Somers mourns brother's overdose | HeraldNet.com](#)
  - Updates [MAC Group Executive Directive](#) including creation of a disaster policy group
    - PH, Fire, LE, Executive, HS, DEM all on policy group
  - Opioid Settlement funds [spend plan](#)
    - Of note includes funding for an Epidemiologist as well as mobile MAT resources
  - Additionally receiving \$500k/year with a double pay out the first year from Chemical Dependency & Mental Health (CDMH) sales tax

# Opioid Epidemic: WA EMS OD Response Trends



# Opioid Epidemic: Snohomish OD Response Trends



# COVID-19 Community Level

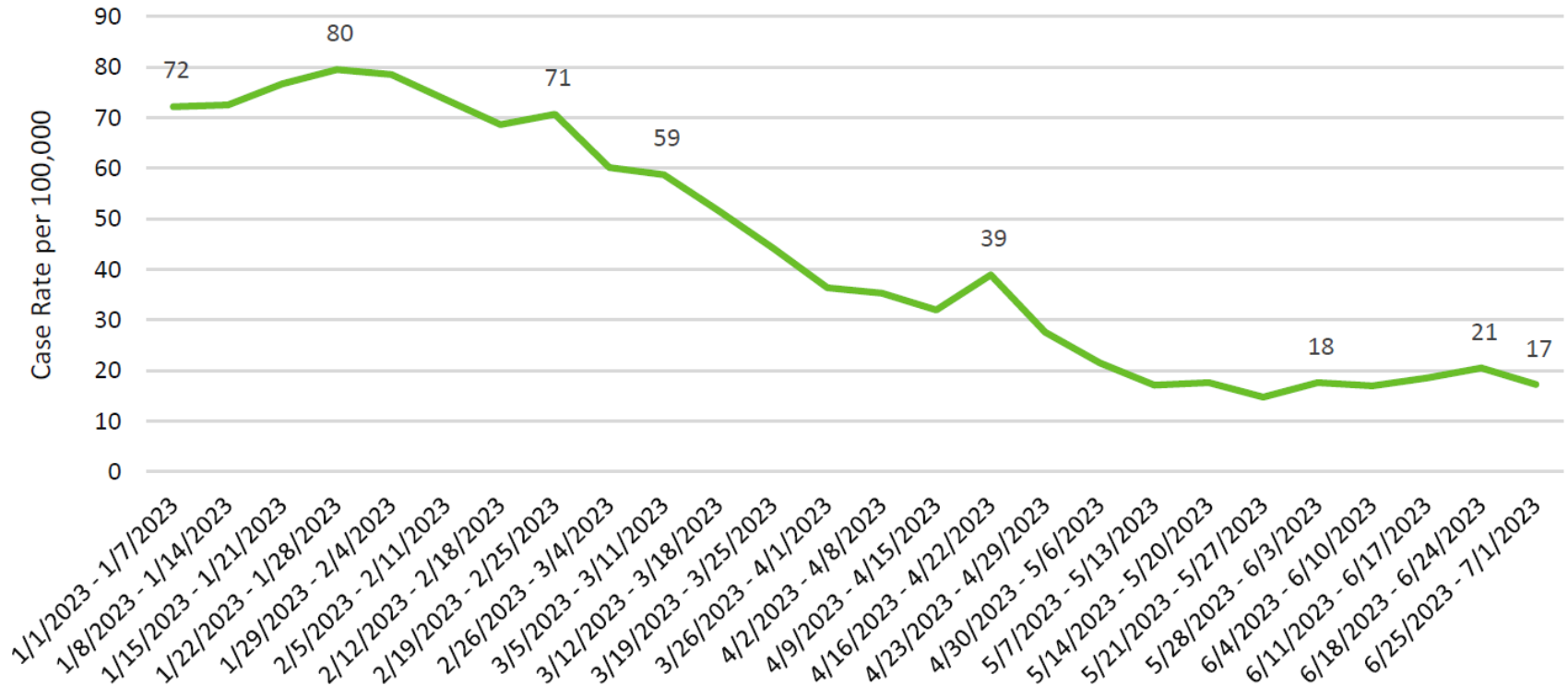
New Cases (per 100,000 population in the last 7 days)	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200 <b>17</b>	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total) <b>2.5</b>	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average) <b>1%</b>	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10%	≥10.0%

# Executive Summary

- Snohomish County case rates remain relatively steady. Only cases tested by a healthcare provider or laboratory are counted in this report. The downward trend seen in recent months may be due to declines in availability of healthcare provider testing and increases in homebased testing with rapid antigen kits. Homebased tests are not reported to public health and are not included in these data.
- COVID-19-related hospitalizations were up slightly from the previous weeks at 2.5/100,000.
- COVID-19 transmission was <50/100,000 across all zip codes in Snohomish County.
- Case rates decreased or remained stable amongst most age groups. A small increase was seen in the 20–29 & 40-49-year-old age groups. Highest case rates are amongst our 70+ population, which is due to higher rates of testing and small population size.
- Case rates week to week were steady or decreased for most race/ethnicity groups. Small increases were seen in Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx and Black/African American groups.
- There has been a slight increase in the number of cases associated with reported LTCF outbreaks in the past couple of weeks. There have been 7 new LTCF outbreak in the past month.

# COVID-19 7-Day Case Rate

Snohomish County COVID-19 Weekly Case Rates per 100,000 by Symptom Onset Date

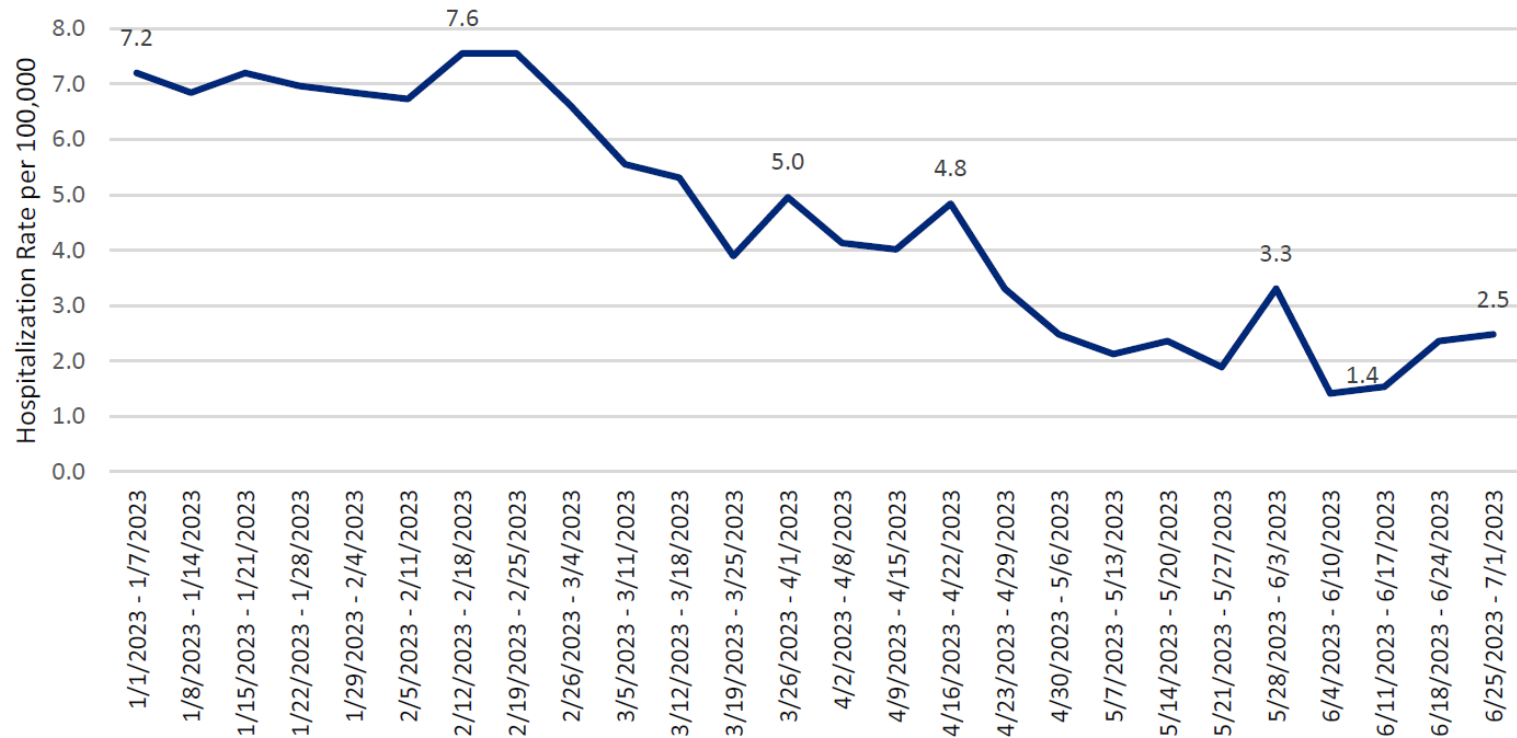


**N=146 cases for the week ending 7/1**



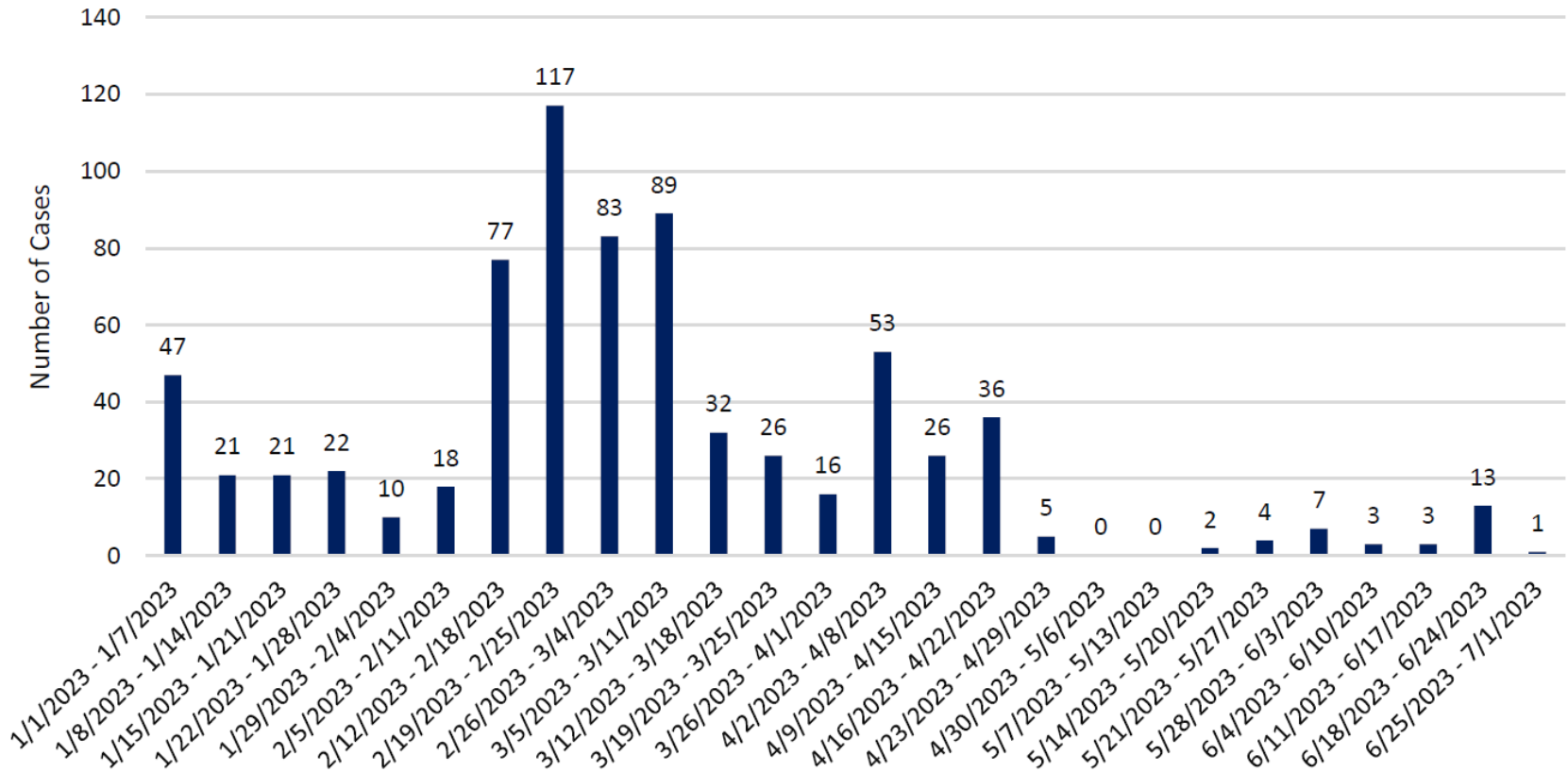
# COVID-19 7-day Hospitalization Rate

Snohomish County COVID-19 Hospitalization Case Rate per 100,000 by Week of Illness Onset



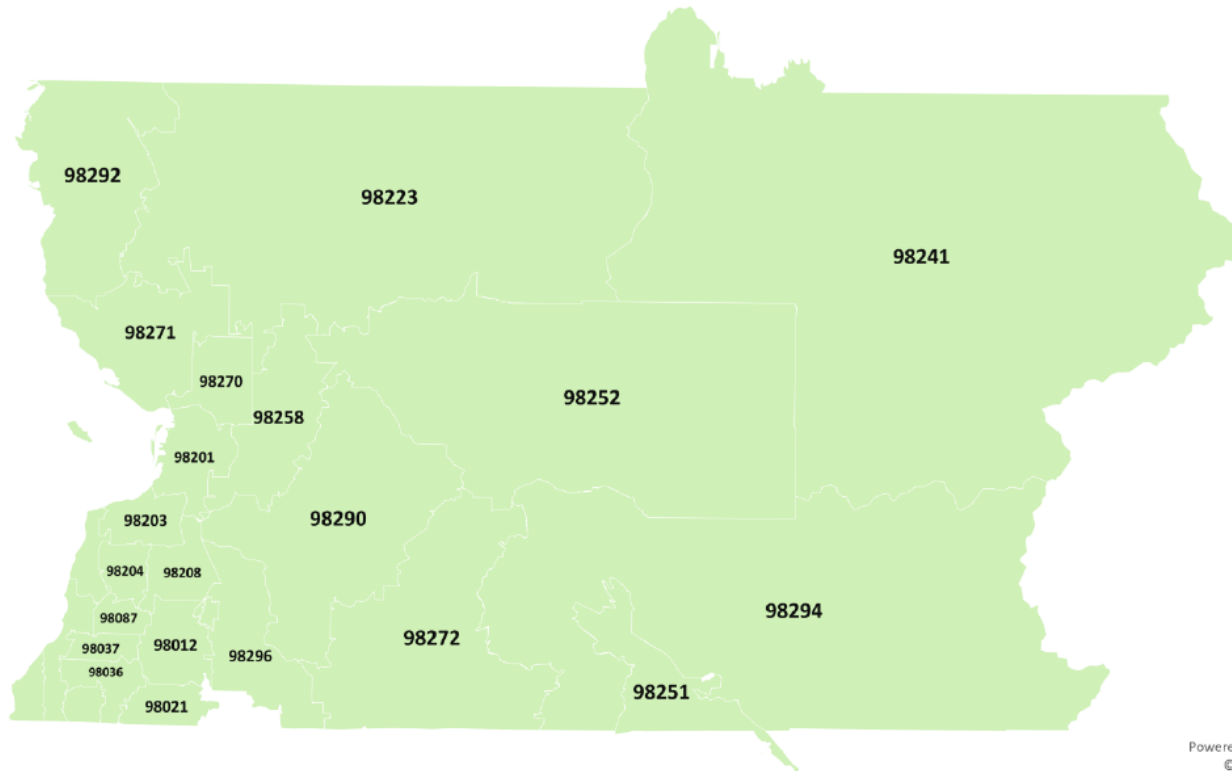
# LTC Outbreak Report Trend

Snohomish County Long-term Care Facility Outbreak Associated COVID-19 Cases by Onset Date



# COVID-19 Case Rates per 100k per 7 Days by Zip Code

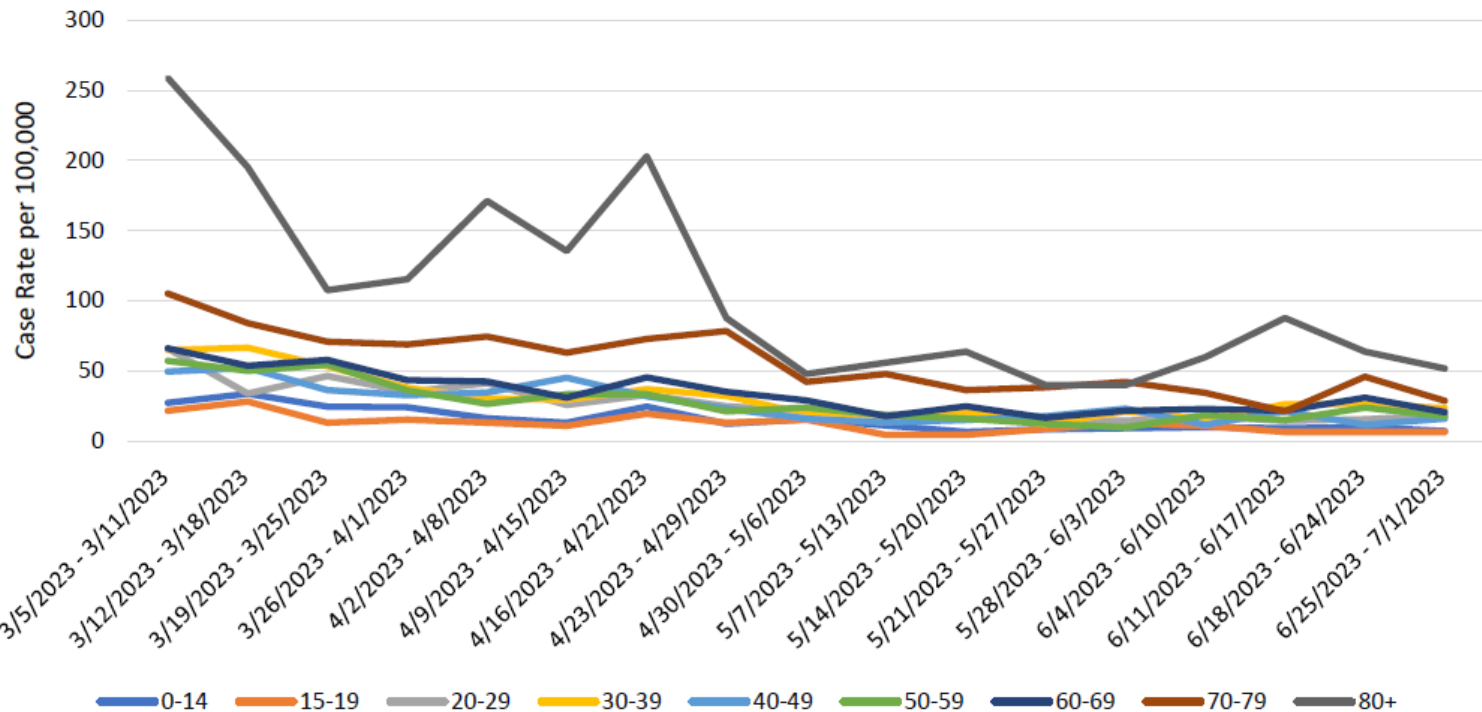
Snohomish County COVID-19 Case Rates per 100,000 by Zip Code  
June 25 - July 1, 2023



<50

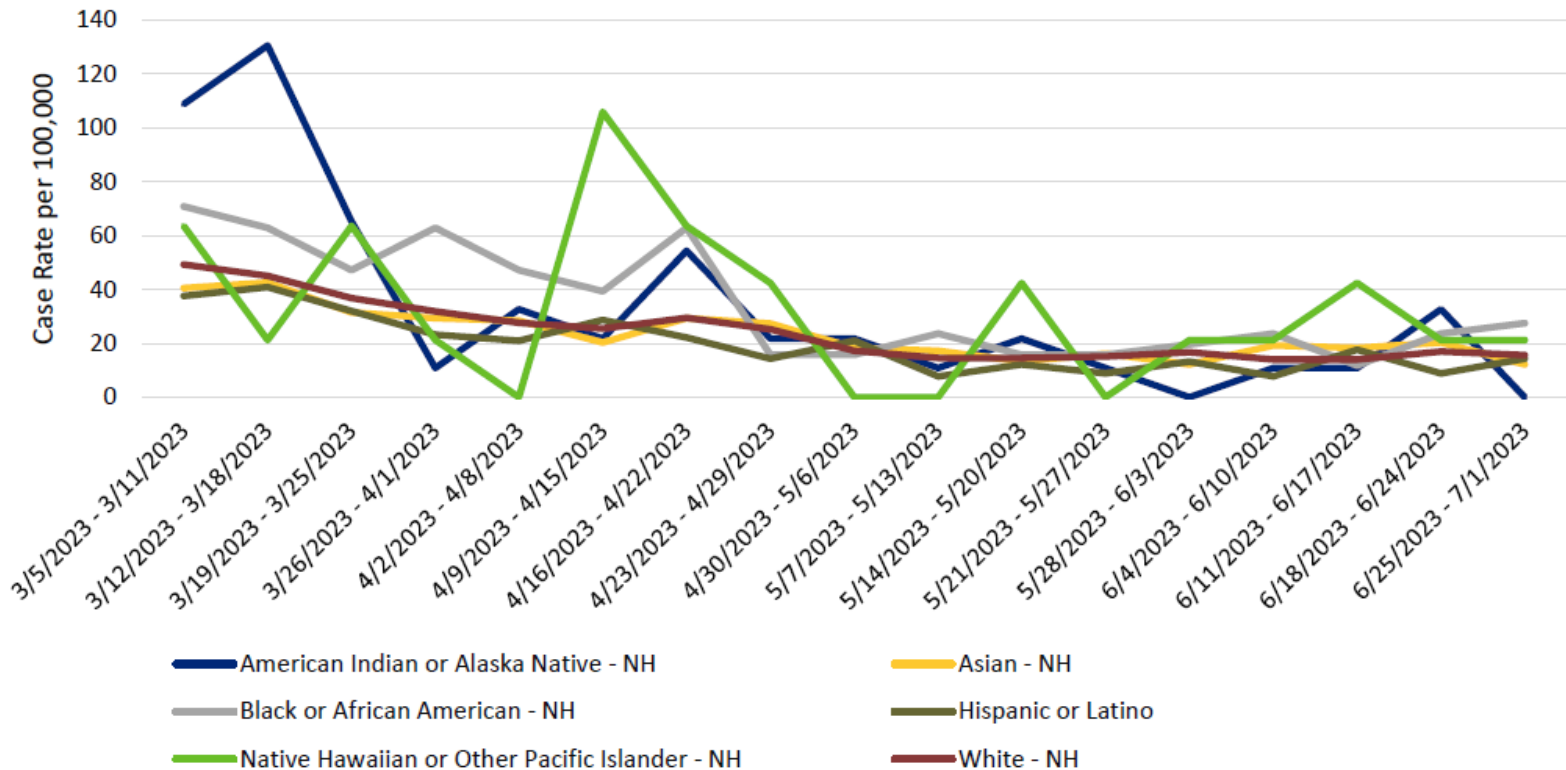
# COVID-19 Case Rates per 100k/7 Days by Age Group

Snohomish County COVID-19 Case Rates per 100,000 by Illness Onset Date and Age Group



# COVID-19 Case Rates per 100k/7 Days by Race/Ethnicity

Snohomish County COVID-19 Case Rates per 100,000 by Illness Onset Date and Race/Ethnicity



# COVID-Related Topics

- As of June moved to bi-weekly report updates
- DOH planning to create a multi-sector steering committee to help inform the work of our Executive Office of Resiliency and Health Security
- Masking:
  - Met with healthcare and NWHRN to re-evaluate plans for July as not expected to have additional CDC guidance
  - Likely going to evaluate regional metrics possibility of data-based approach as well – small group
- Concerns about the end of the emergency?
  - Previously free care/services now going to cost
    - Likely seeing impacts on incidence already

# COVID-Related Topics

- Long-COVID: [Working Definition](#) created by [RECOVER](#) study investigators
  - Postacute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 Infection
  - [National Academy of Science Symposium](#)

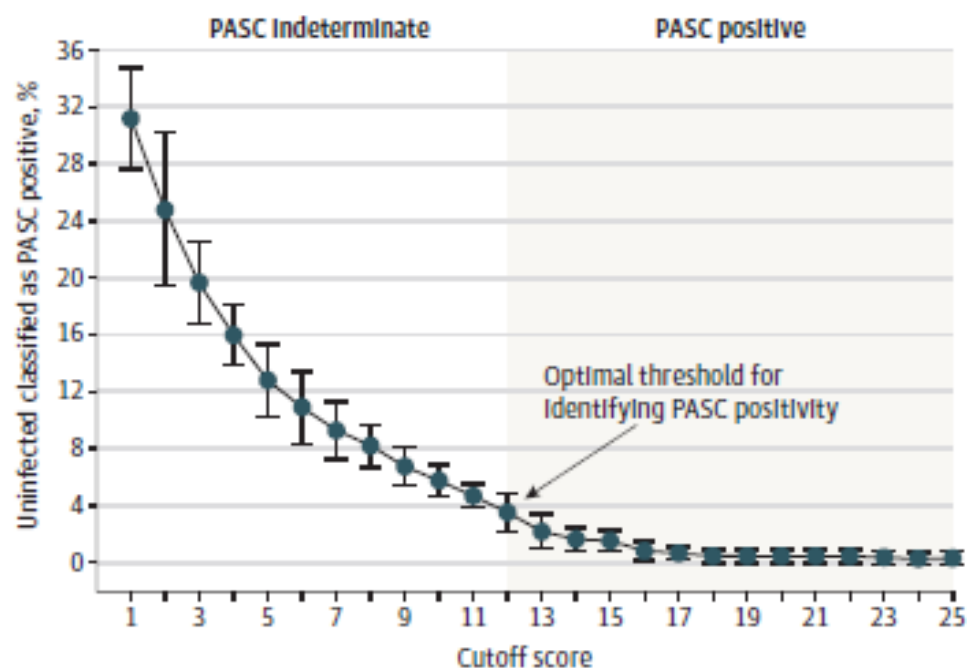
# Development of a Definition of Postacute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 Infection

Tanayott Thaweethai, PhD; Sarah E. Jolley, MD, MS; Elizabeth W. Karlson, MD, MS; Emily B. Levitan, ScD; Bruce Levy, MD; Grace A. McComsey, MD; Lisa McCorkell, MPP; Girish N. Nadkarni, MD, MPH; Sairam Parthasarathy, MD; Upinder Singh, MD; Tiffany A. Walker, MD; Caitlin A. Selvaggi, MS; Daniel J. Shinnick, MS; Carolin C. M. Schulte, PhD; Rachel Atchley-Challenor, PhD; RECOVER Consortium Authors; Leora I. Horwitz, MD; Andrea S. Foulkes, ScD; for the RECOVER Consortium

**Table 2. Model-Selected Symptoms That Define PASC and Their Corresponding Scores<sup>a</sup>**

Symptom	Log odds ratio	Score
Smell/taste	0.776	8
Postexertional malaise	0.674	7
Chronic cough	0.438	4
Brain fog <sup>b</sup>	0.325	3
Thirst	0.255	3
Palpitations	0.238	2
Chest pain <sup>b</sup>	0.233	2
Fatigue <sup>b</sup>	0.148	1
Sexual desire or capacity	0.126	1
Dizziness	0.121	1
Gastrointestinal	0.085	1
Abnormal movements	0.072	1
Hair loss	0.049	0

**A** Optimal threshold for identifying PASC positivity





# Other Communicable Disease Concerns

- DOH Applying to be an [EIP site](#):
  - Snohomish offered to participate in:
    - Invasive E coli surveillance work
    - RESNET surveillance (RSV, Flu, COVID)
- Mpox rates have dropped and now only seeing sporadic cases, BUT increase is possible this summer
  - Encourage higher risk individuals to get/complete vaccination – [Health Alert](#)
- Seeing long-term increase in STI rates particularly gonorrhea and syphilis
  - [Pilot funding for return of STI clinic to SHD](#)
  - [Health Alert](#)
  - Shortage of Benzathine Penicillin – [Health Alert](#)

# Other Communicable Disease Concerns

- Increase in non-invasive GAS infections –
  - Mostly Strep throat and impetigo
  - Likely post-pandemic course correction similar to RSV/Flu will continue to monitor
- Fungal Meningitis outbreak – patients undergoing surgery with epidural anesthesia in Matamoros Mexico – [Health Alert](#)
- Measles
  - Recent case in King County – [Health Alert](#)
  - Increased risk of incident cases with summer travel – [Health Alert](#)
- Marburg Virus – [Health Alert](#)
  - Declared over in Equatorial Guinea And Tanzania
- RSV Vaccine coming this fall – multiple vaccine needs in the fall (flu & COVID)

# Other Communicable Disease Concerns

- General increase in GI illness related pathogens including:
  - Salmonella, E. coli (Shiga toxin producing), Shigella, Y. enterocolitica
- Specific GI illness outbreaks/cases:
  - Hepatitis A in a food handler:
    - [Press release](#)
    - [Health Alert](#)
    - No secondary cases identified
  - Uptick in shigella cases – continues and is focused in unsheltered and individuals utilizing food bank services – [Health Alert](#)
  - Outbreak of Salmonella related to Papa Murphy's cookie dough – [Health Alert](#)

# 6 Top Health Priorities Identified by the Data Committee

- **Persons experiencing homelessness**
- **Opioid overdoses**
- **Inadequate prenatal care**
- **Mental health access and provider ratios**
- **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**
- **Food security**

# Top health issues and barriers to good health identified by the community through key informant interviews and focus groups

- **Health care**  
access including dental, affordability, competent care
- **Mental health (esp. among youth)**  
access, affordability, competent care
- **Basic needs**  
food, shelter, hygiene, etc.

# General Program Updates

- Epidemiology and Informatics program growth:
  - Hired vaccine program manager
  - Hired Epi I & II and program assistant
  - Program manager started
  - Future growth plans near term: Database manager/analyst, another Epi with opioid settlement funding
- STI/HIV:
  - Exploring a new approach



**Questions?**

**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
always working for a safer & healthier  
**SNOHOMISH COUNTY**