

Issue # 161 Monday, September 14, 2020

> COVID-19 Report

Highlights

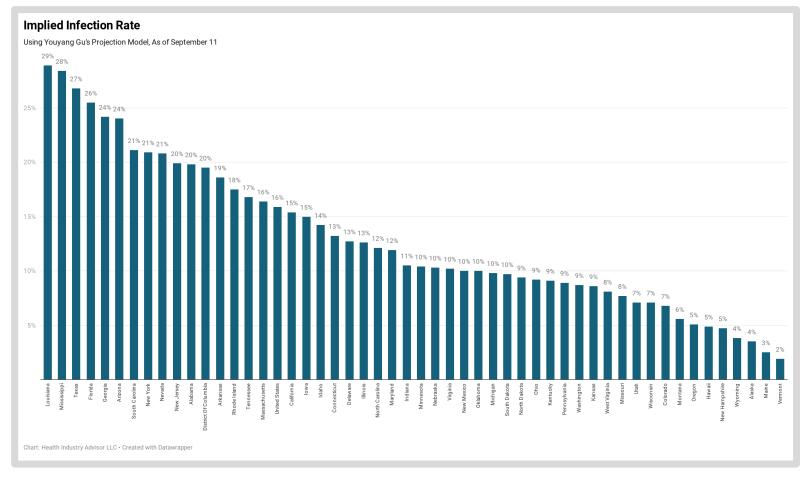
- Estimated and Projected Actual Infections
 - The CDC has reported that the actual infection rate could be more than 10x what is reported using current testing methods
 - Youyang Gu, an MIT-trained data scientist has developed a wellregarded, machine leaning-based and open-source model to forecast implied infection rates and infection fatality rates https://covid19-projections.com
 - Applying Gu's model, 16% of the U.S. population has been infected with the SARS-Cov-2 virus as of Friday, versus the 2% that has been reported
 - Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, Georgia and Arizona, in order, have the highest implied infection rates in the U.S. (24-29%); Vermont, Maine, Wyoming, New Hampshire, Hawaii and Oregon each have implied infection rates of 5% or less
 - Based on Gu's projections, the implied infection rate in the
 U.S. could increase to 18.6% by November 1. Arkansas, Idaho,
 lowa, North Carolina and North Dakota could experience the
 most new-infections per capita from September 11 November
 1; Colorado, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania,
 the fewest
 - Given the expectations for the eleven most heavily-populated states, infection rate growth for the U.S. between now and November may be tempered: Infection rates in Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania may be at or near a plateau; Florida, Georgia, Illinois and Texas could see a slowing rate of infection growth. California and North Carolina are the two heavily-populated states for which Gu projects the growth in the rate of new infections to be similar to their recent experience
- Testing
 - Testing remains above minimum level suggested by Harvard scientists . . . Yet, is 10% lower than last week
 - Test-positive rate continued to decline and is just above WHOtargeted level
 - Eleven states reported test-positive rates for the past 7 days higher than the CDC-target for Phase 3 re-openings; Another seventeen states reported rates above the stricter WHO-target

- New Cases and Infection Rates
 - After spiking from mid-June to mid-July, new cases per week have not increased in six weeks; Through Sunday, new cases declined 11.5% week-over-week
 - A reason for concern? New daily cases on Sunday were higher than 2 of the past 4 weeks; New cases for the day remain lower than on Sundays in late-June to early-August; higher than on Sundays in June (It must be noted that Sunday is typically a "slow" day for reporting (i.e., relatively few reported new cases)
 - New infections per capita in the U.S. continued to decline over the weekend; The current rate is ~1/2 that reported July 16-22
 - North and South Dakota reported the highest rates of new infections per capita over the past 7 days, followed by Arkansas, Oklahoma, Iowa and Wisconsin; Vermont reported the lowest rate, followed by Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut. New York and New Jersey
 - Aruba reported the highest rate of new infections per capita worldwide over the past 7 days, followed by Guadeloupe, Bahrain, Israel, Montenegro and Argentina; Spain ranked 9th and France, 22nd; The United States ranked 26th
- Healthcare Resource Demand
 - COVID-19's demand on healthcare resources has been easing for months: Inpatient COVID-19 census has declined 46 of the past 52 days and is ½ its July 25 level
 - ICU COVID-19 census is down 40% since late-lune
 - Ventilator use among hospitalized patients is ½ its level from the Spring
 - ER visits for COVID-19-like illness are ½ the July rate; flu visits have not yet picked up
- COVID-19 Case Status
 - There were relatively few deaths reported yesterday, typical for a Sunday; the daily average reported deaths are lower than late-July to early-August, but higher than early-July
 - There are 20 persons recovered from the virus for each death;
 There are ~60% more recovered persons than active cases



Youyang Gu*
publishes a model
that estimates actual
infections and
forecasts infections
and deaths through
November 1

Louisiana is estimated to have the highest rate of infections — 29% of its population, followed by Mississippi, Texas, Florida, Georgia and Arizona

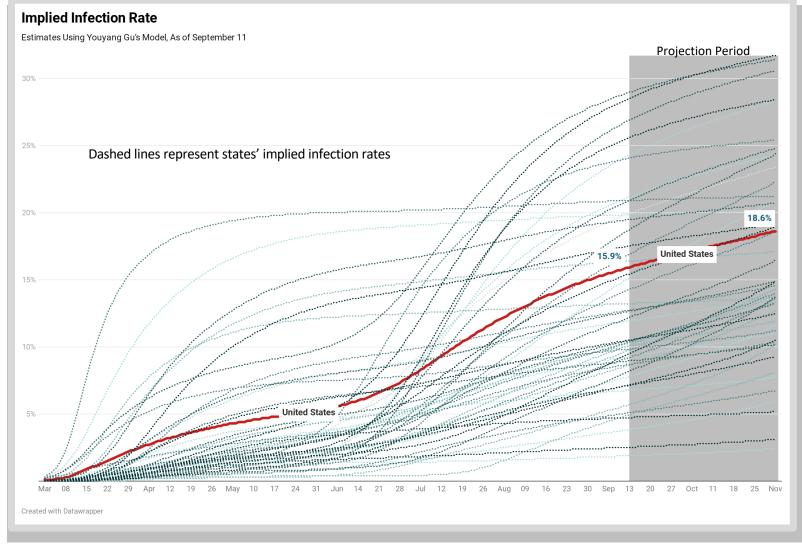


*Source: "Estimating True Infections: A Simple Heuristic to Measure Implied Infection Fatality Rate", Youyang Gu, July 29, 2020 (Updated September 12)



Gu estimates that 16% of U.S. population has been infected with SARS-CoV-2

By November 1, he projects it to be 18.6%



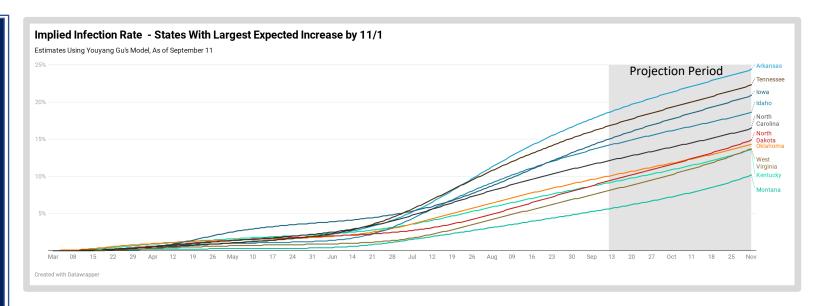
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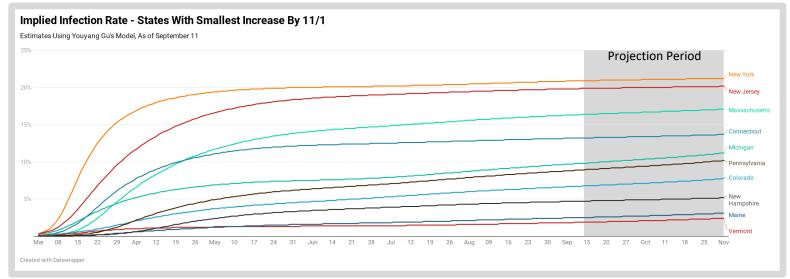


Between now and November 1, Gu projects . .

Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, North Carolina and North Dakota will experience the most new-infections per capita

Colorado, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania may have plateaued



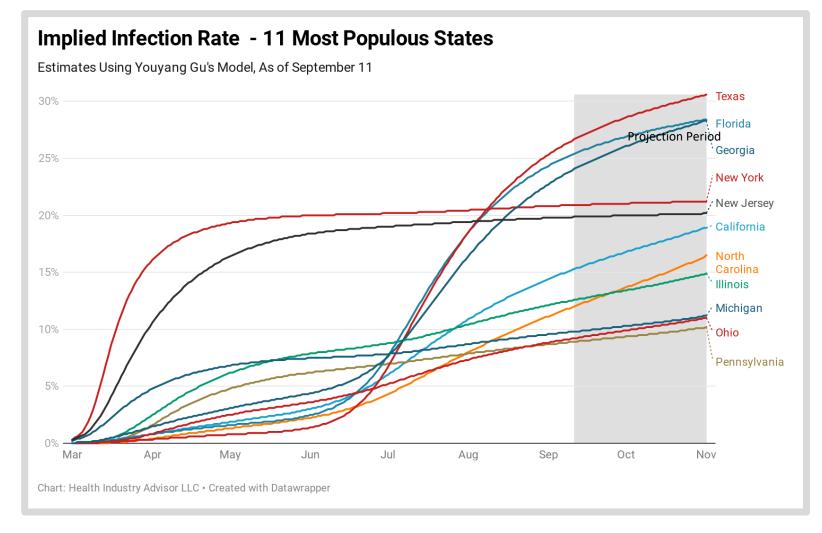




Given the expectations for heavily-populated states, infection rate growth for the U.S. may be tempered: somewhat:

Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania may have plateaued

California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois and Texas could see a slowing rate of infection growth

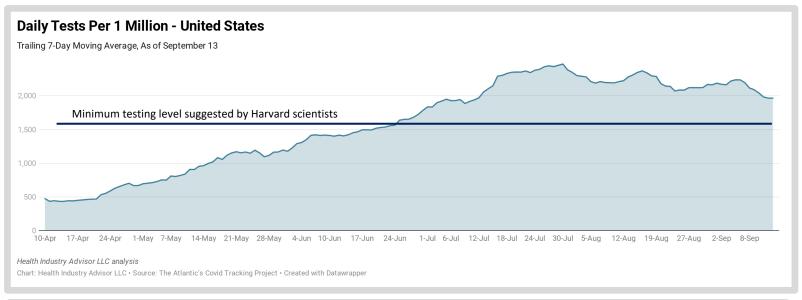


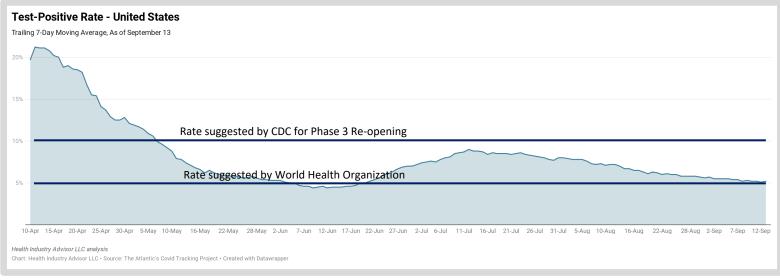
*Source: "Estimating True Infections: A Simple Heuristic to Measure Implied Infection Fatality Rate", Youyang Gu, July 29, 2020 (Updated September 2)



Testing remains above minimum level suggested by Harvard scientists . . . Yet, is 10% lower than last week

Test-positive rate continued to decline and is just above WHO-targeted level

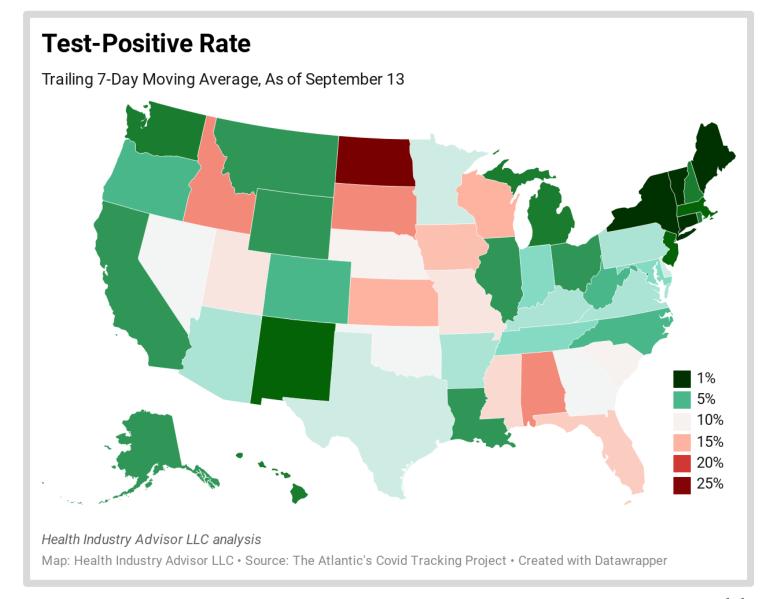






Eleven states reported test-positive rates for the past 7 days higher than the CDC-target for Phase 3 reopenings

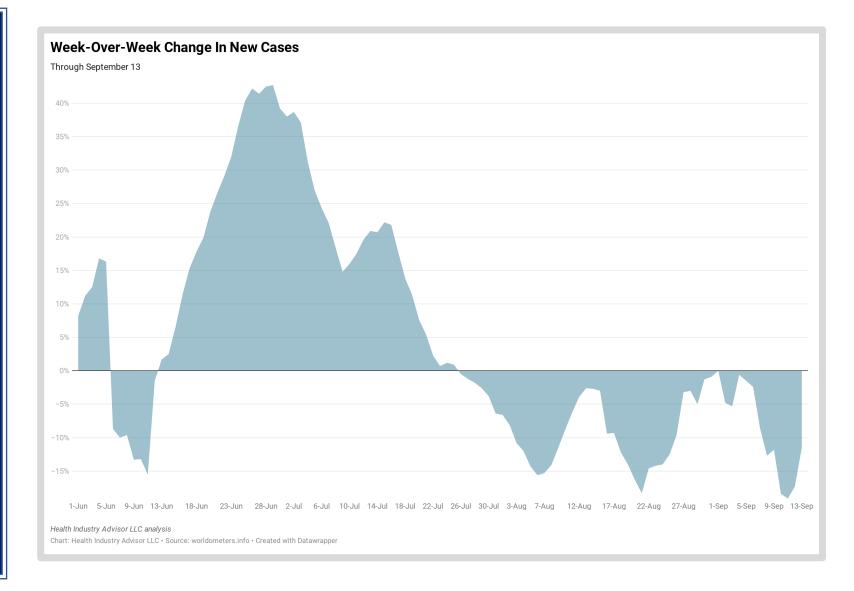
Another seventeen states reported rates above the stricter WHO-target





After spiking from mid-June to mid-July, new cases per week have not increased in six weeks

Through Sunday, new cases declined 11.5% week-over-week



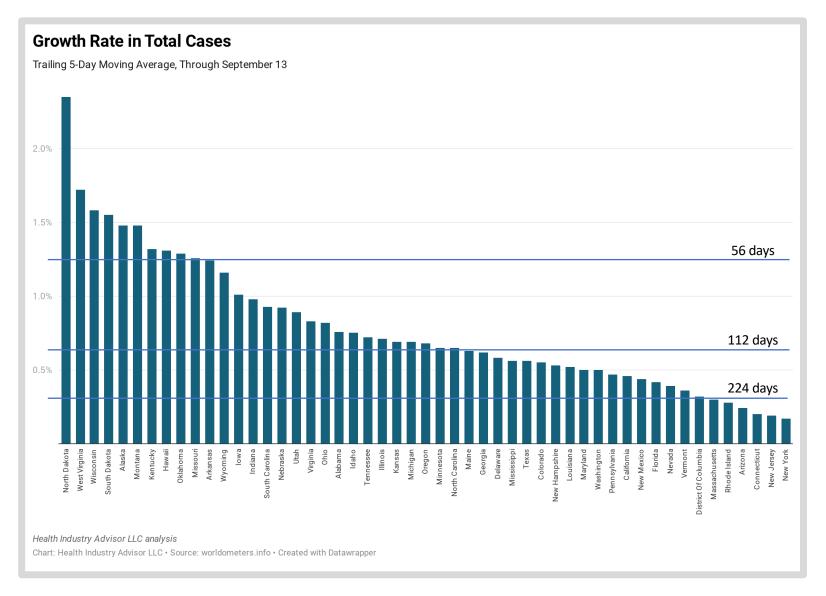


Case growth is slowing:

At current rates, cases are doubling every 30 days in North Dakota

Every 409 days in Arizona

Every 118 days for the United States overall

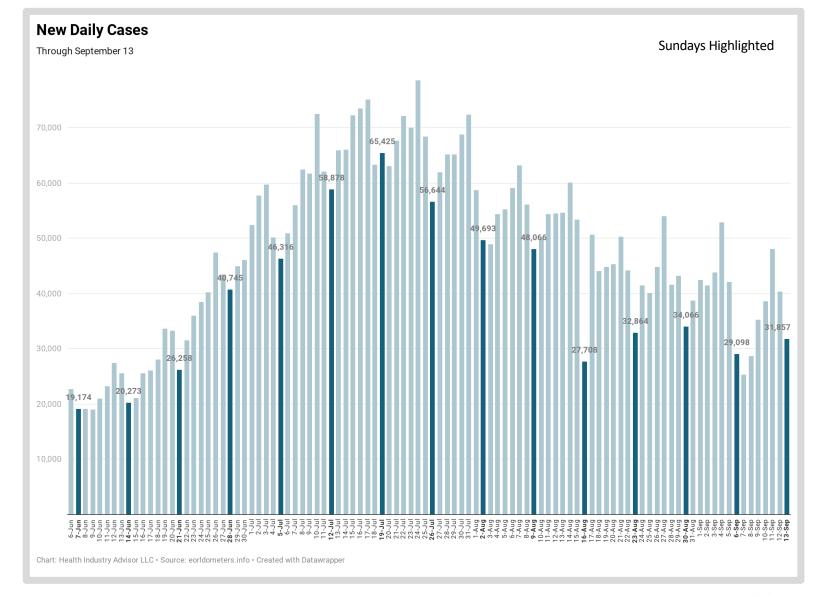




A reason for concern?

New daily cases on Sunday were higher than 2 of the past 4 weeks

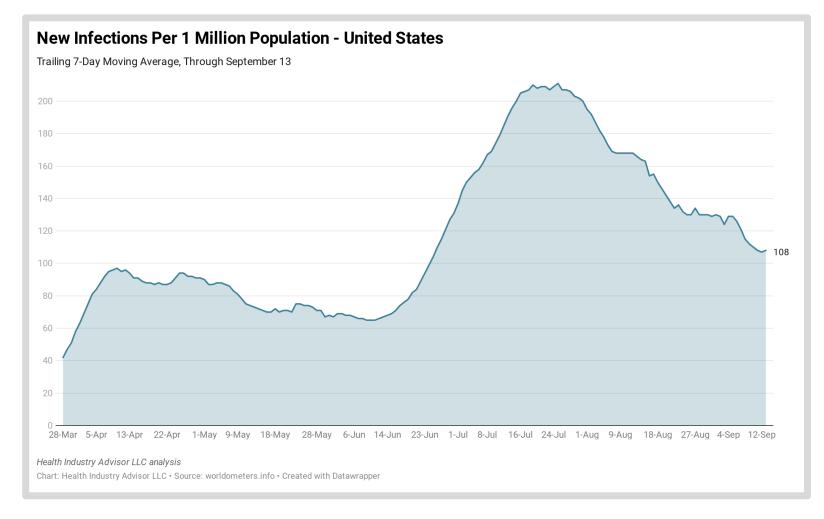
New cases for the day remain lower than on Sundays in late-June to early-August; higher than on Sundays in June





New infections per capita in the U.S.* continued to decline over the weekend

Current rate is ~1/2 that reported July 16-22

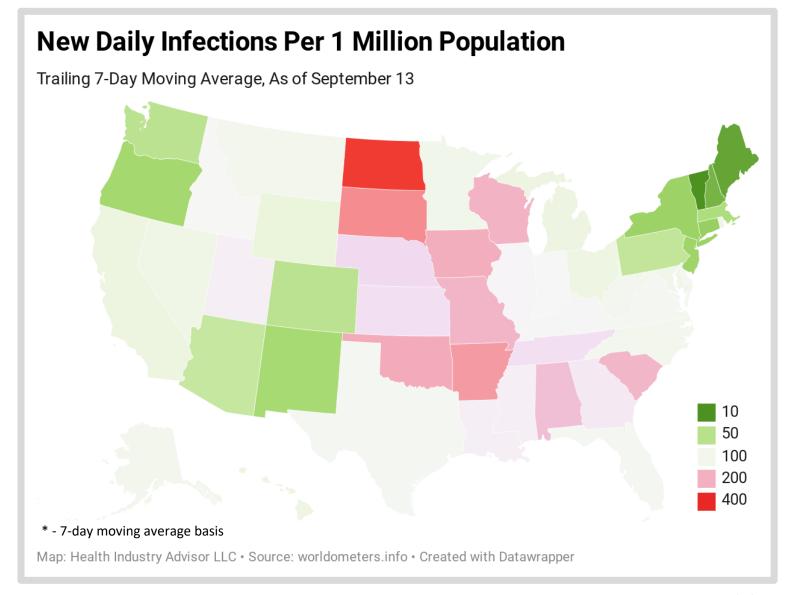


* - 7-day moving average basis



North and South
Dakota reported the
highest rates of new
infections per capita*
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followed by Arkansas,
Oklahoma, Iowa and
Wisconsin

Vermont reported the lowest rate, followed by Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey

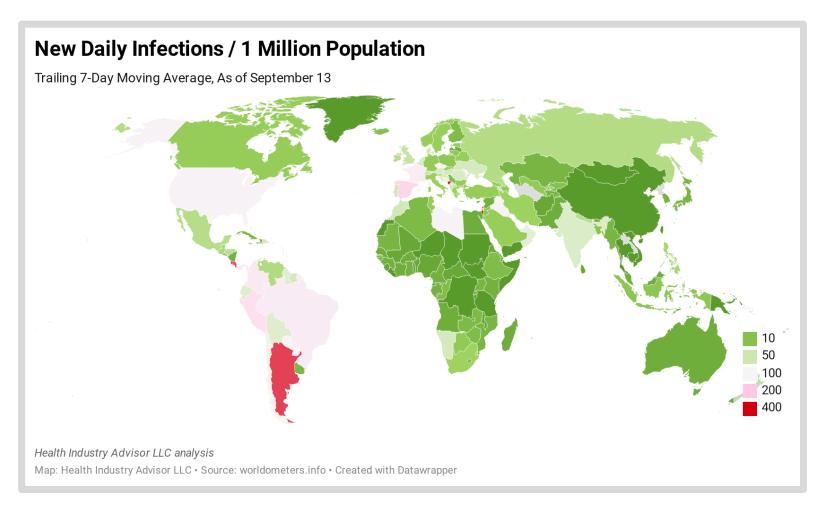




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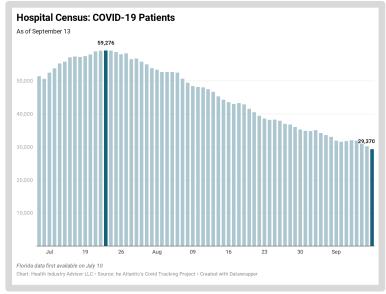
COVID-19's demand on healthcare resources has been easing for months:

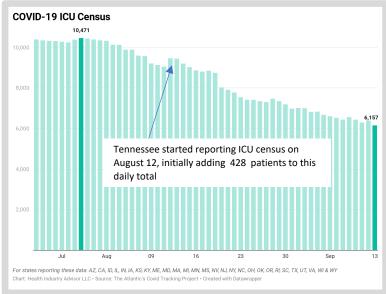
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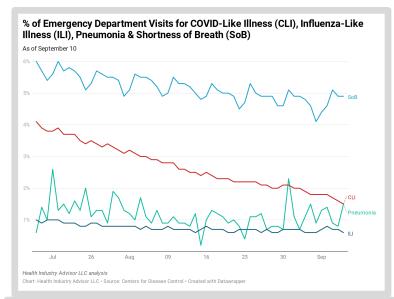
ICU COVID-19 census is down 40% since late-June

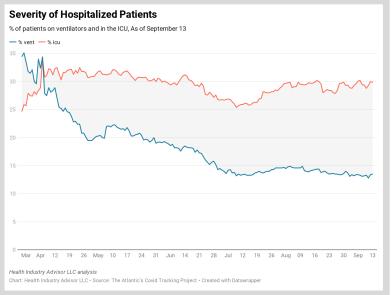
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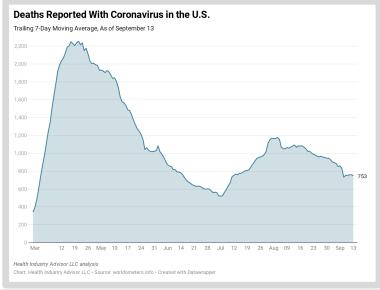


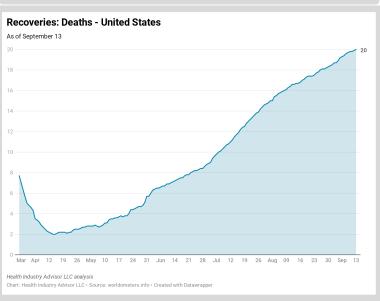


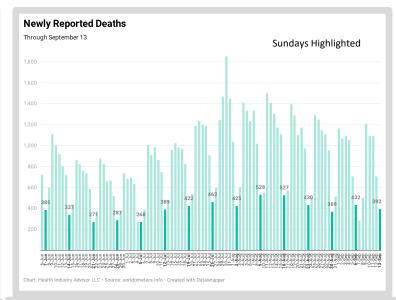
Case Status:

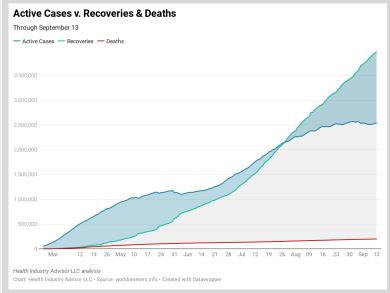
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There are 20 persons recovered from the virus for each death; There are ~60% more recovered persons than active cases











Data Sources

The following data sources are accessed on a daily or weekly basis:

- The Atlantic's Covid Tracking Project: https://covidtracking.com
- Worldometers.info: https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/
- Centers for Disease Control, National, Regional, and State Level Outpatient Illness and Viral Surveillance https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/fluportaldashboard.html
- Centers for Disease Control, COVID-19 Laboratory-Confirmed Hospitalizations https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/COVIDNet/COVID19 5.html
- Centers for Disease Control, COVID Data Tracker https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html#mobility
- Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, COVID-19 estimate downloads http://www.healthdata.org/covid/data-downloads
- New York Times, Covid-19 data https://github.com/nytimes/covid-19-data
- COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19
- COVID-19 Projections Using Machine Learning, https://covid19-projections.com

