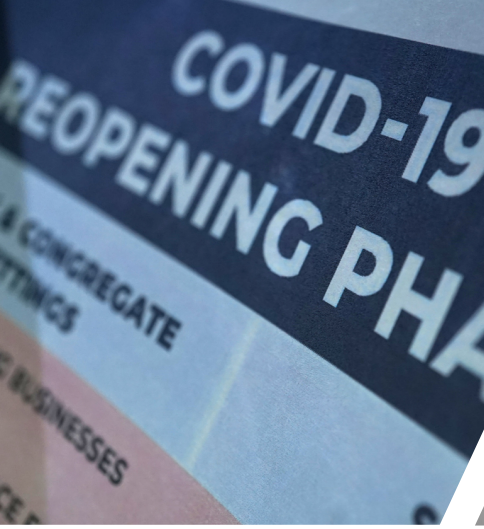

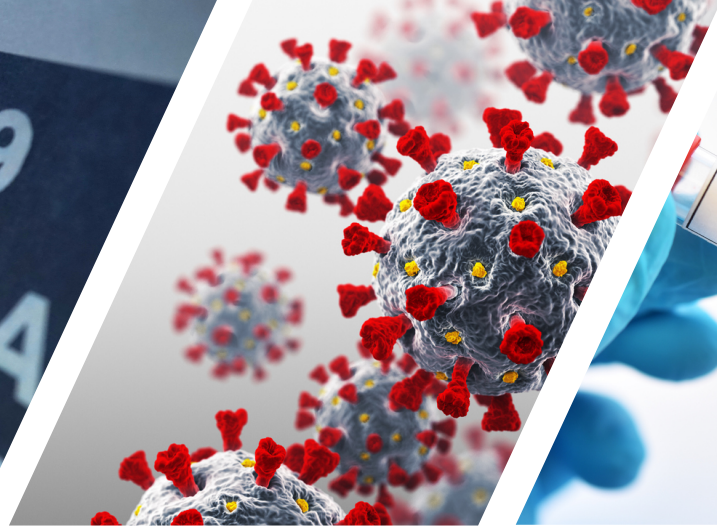

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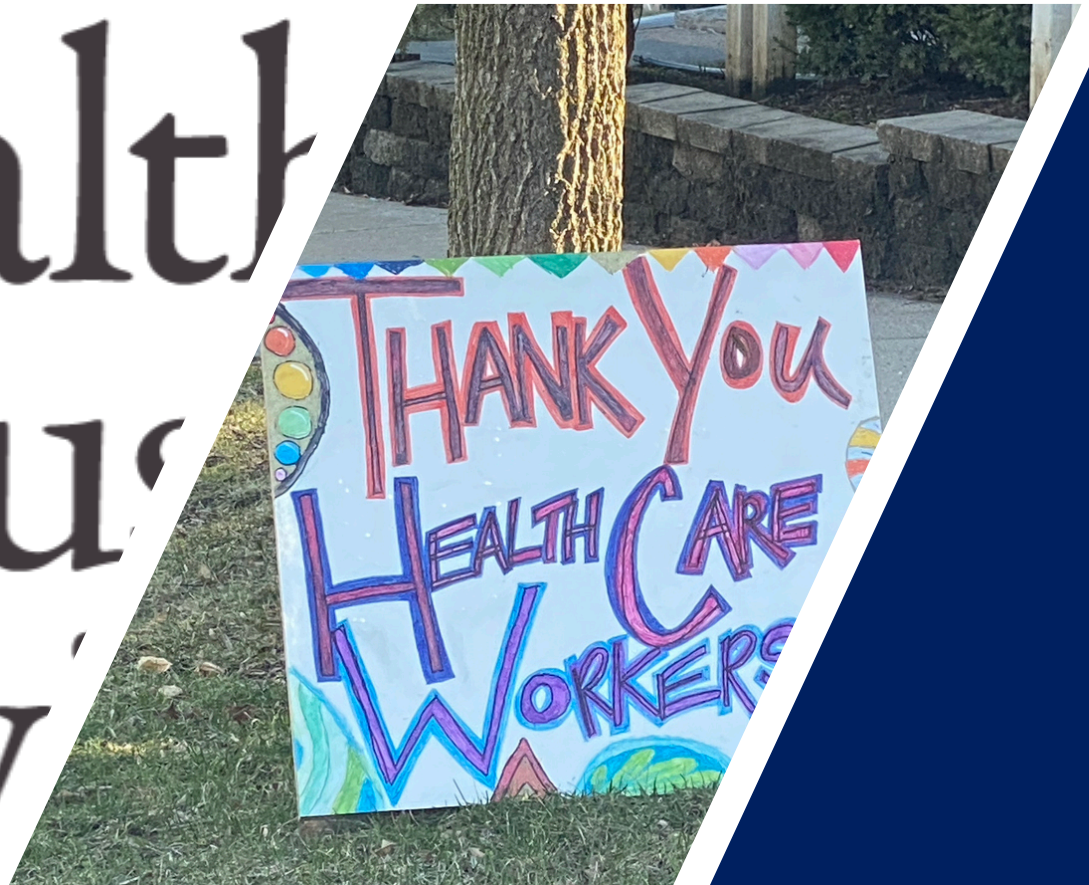


Issue # 163

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

COVID-19 Report

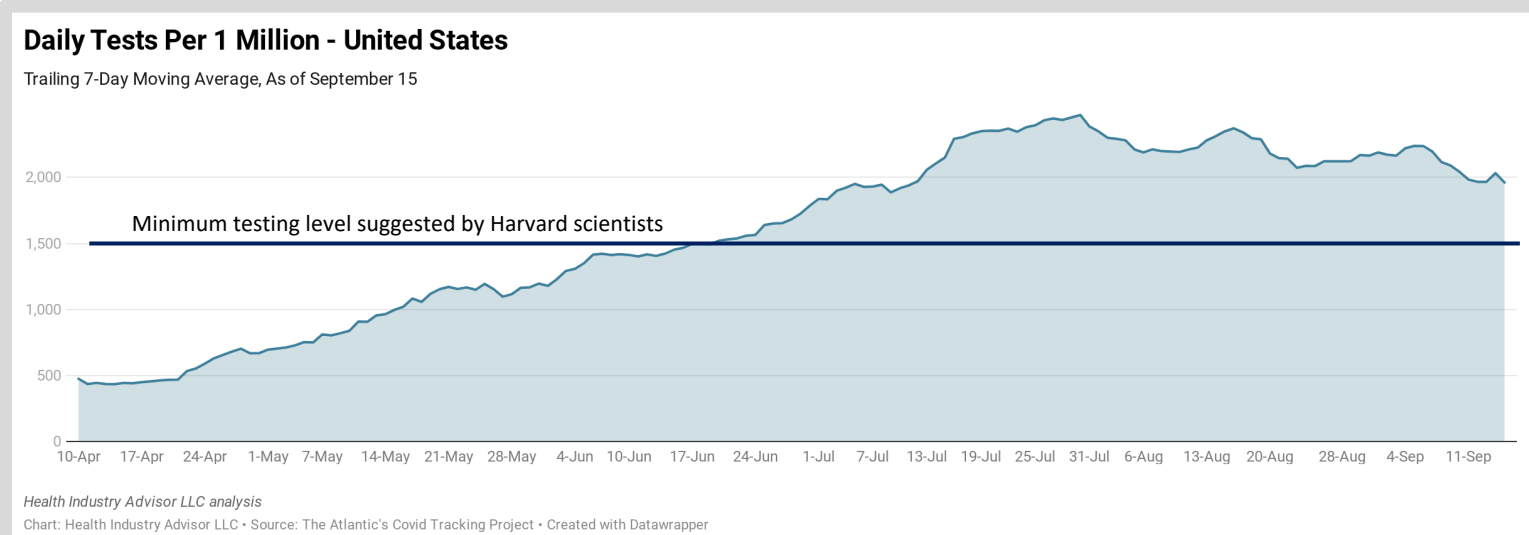
Highlights

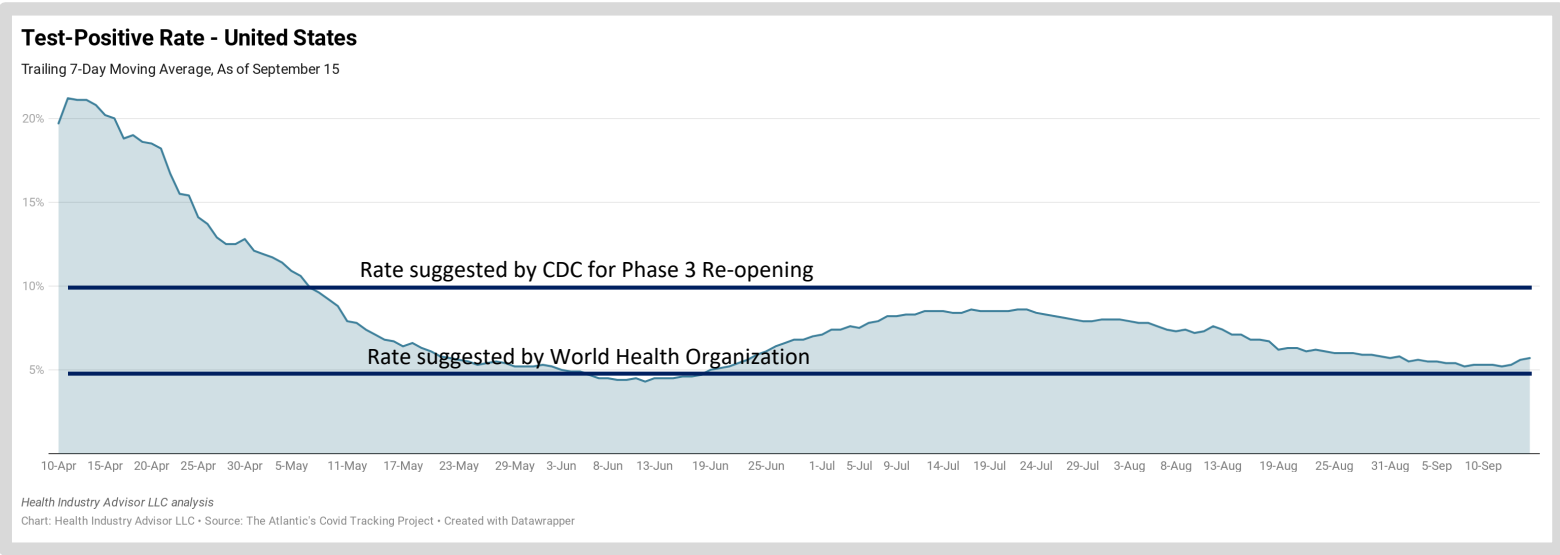
- **We are beginning to observe the impact of the Labor Day holiday on cases and reported deaths; we just cannot determine yet if this impact is the result of holiday-induced delays in reporting or, if we are beginning to experience an uptick in cases due to the holiday (or, school re-opening)**
- Buttressing the idea that it is more a reporting issue than an infection spike, **the test-positive rate remains low by recent experience; we have yet to observe a return to the high test-positive rates experienced during either the March/April or June/July infection surges**
- For the first time in seven weeks, new cases increased on a week-over-week basis, by 2.7%. New cases reported on Labor Day and the following day, however, were remarkably low compared to recent experience. To the degree that case reporting was delayed due to the holiday, it would have over-stated new cases for the most recent week and under-stated those for the prior week
- Reinforcing this perspective, **new cases yesterday were lower than for any Tuesday since June 23 - except last Tuesday**

- Appreciation of where the virus is currently hitting the hardest can be seen in the state-by-state maps of new infection rates, and of the time since this rate peaked in each state:
  - **North and South Dakota, followed by Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Wisconsin report the highest rate of new infections per capita over the past 7 days**
  - **Nine states, mostly in the Heartland and Upper Midwest, have experienced their highest rate of new infections in September; conversely, fifteen states, mostly in the Northeast plus Illinois and Michigan, experienced their peak rate prior to June**
  - Fourteen states are within 25% of their highest infection rate; ten are at 25% or less of their peak rate
- Inpatient and ICU census of COVID-19 patients each increased slightly yesterday. These remain 40-50% lower than peak levels posted in June
- **ER visits for COVID-19, influenza, pneumonia and shortness of breath continue to decline as a % of total ER visits**

Testing remains above minimum level suggested by Harvard scientists . . . Yet, is ~6% lower than last week

Test-positive rate turned up the past two days, largely influenced by low test volume on Monday. The rate for Tuesday was back down to recent low levels





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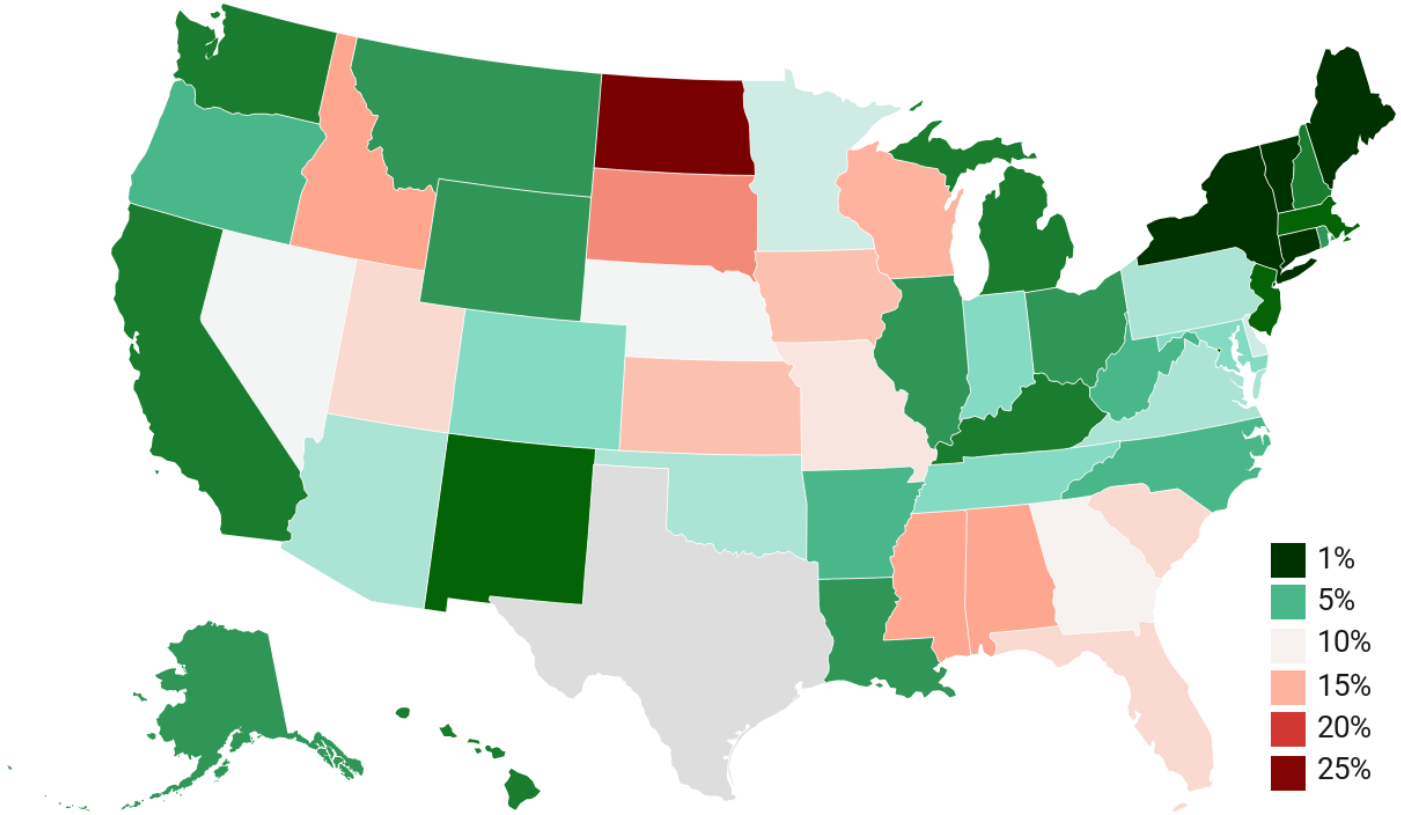
Twelve states reported test-positive rates for the past 7 days higher than the CDC-target for Phase 3 re-openings

Another fourteen states reported rates above the stricter WHO-target

On 9/14, Texas “revised its method for reporting Total Tests”, resulting in a reduction of ~300,000 tests – the are excluded from this analysis until the historical data can be adjusted

Test-Positive Rate

Trailing 7-Day Moving Average, As of September 15



Health Industry Advisor LLC analysis

Map: Health Industry Advisor LLC • Source: The Atlantic's Covid Tracking Project • Created with Datawrapper

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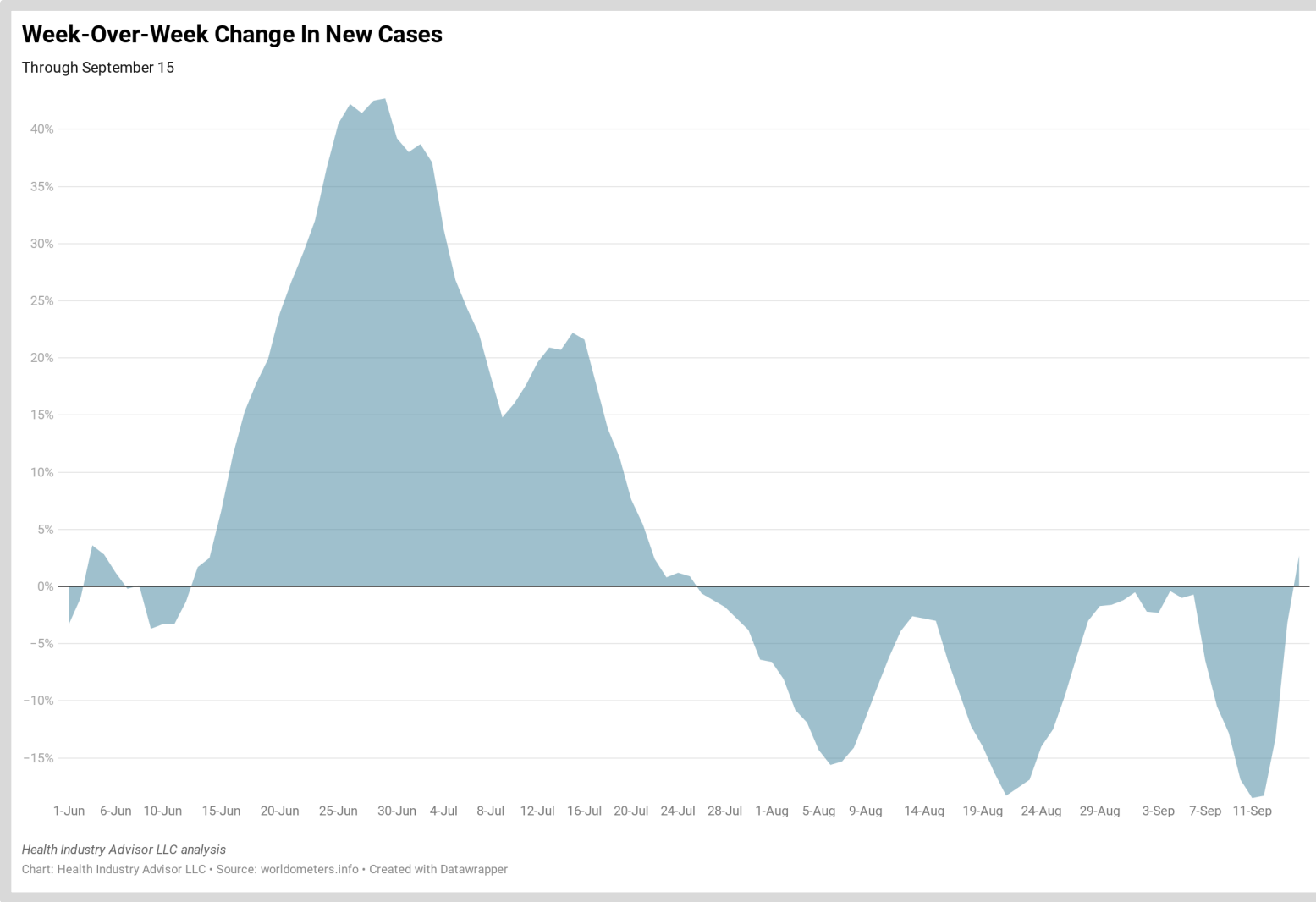
For the first time in seven weeks, new cases increased on a week-over-week-basis (an increase of 2.7%)

Bearing in mind that the week-to-week comparison includes Labor Day, it is not yet clear if the increase is due to timing issues of reporting cases during the holiday or, if the holiday has resulted in a new rise in cases

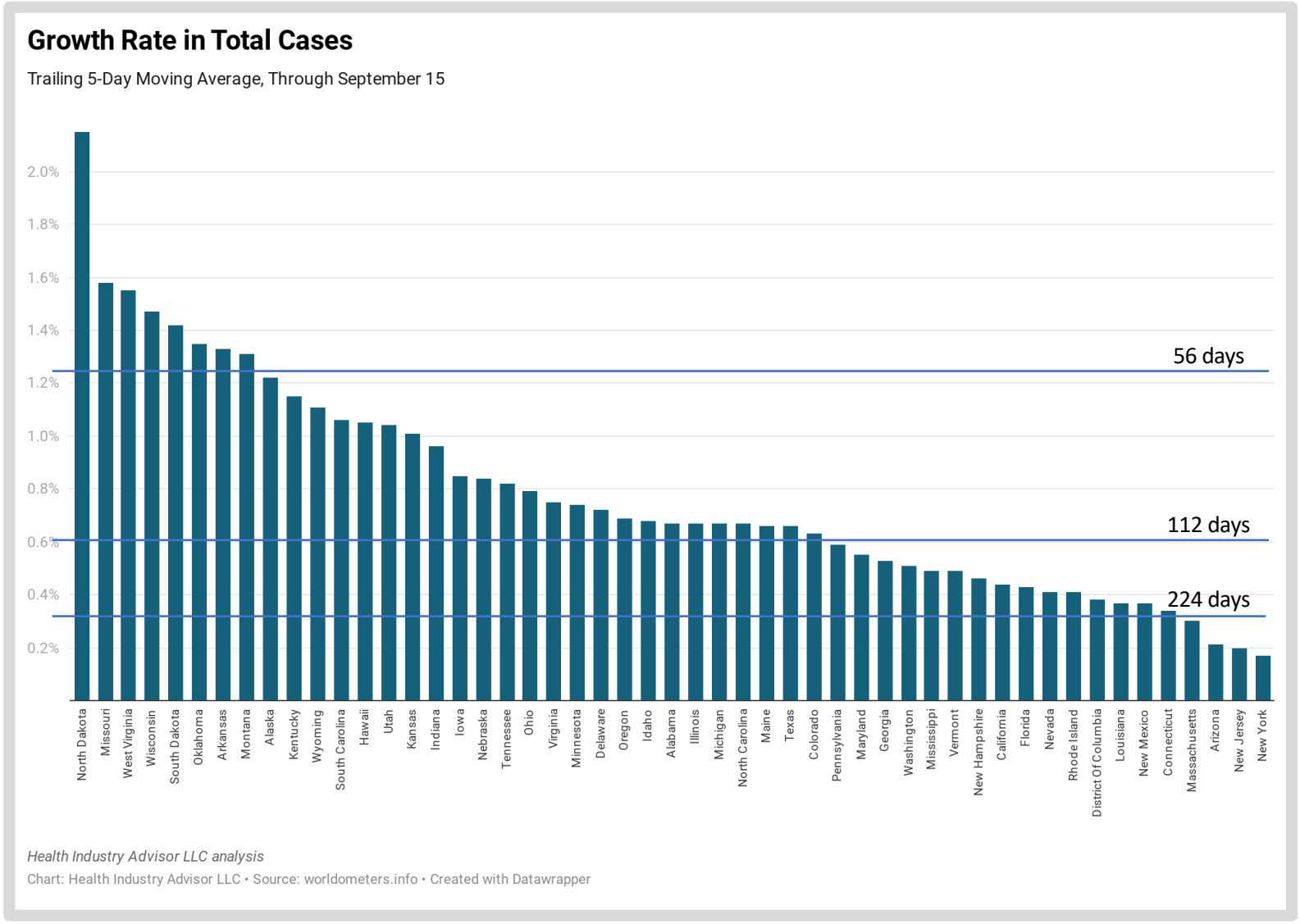


Case growth:

At current rates, cases are doubling every 33 days in North Dakota

Every 398-9 days in New York

Every 120 days for the United States overall



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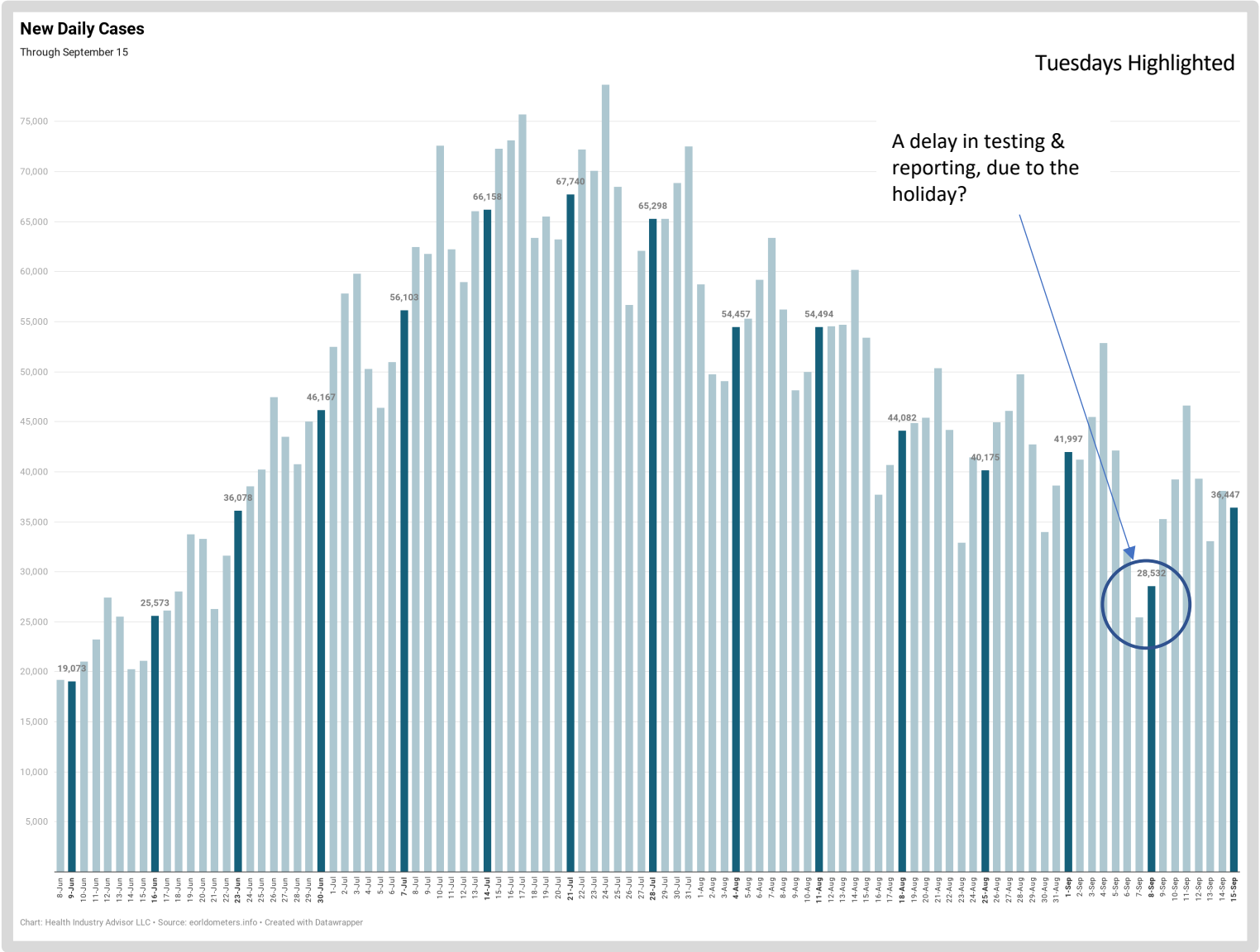
Other than the day-after-Labor Day, there were fewer new daily cases on Tuesday than any other Tuesday since June 23



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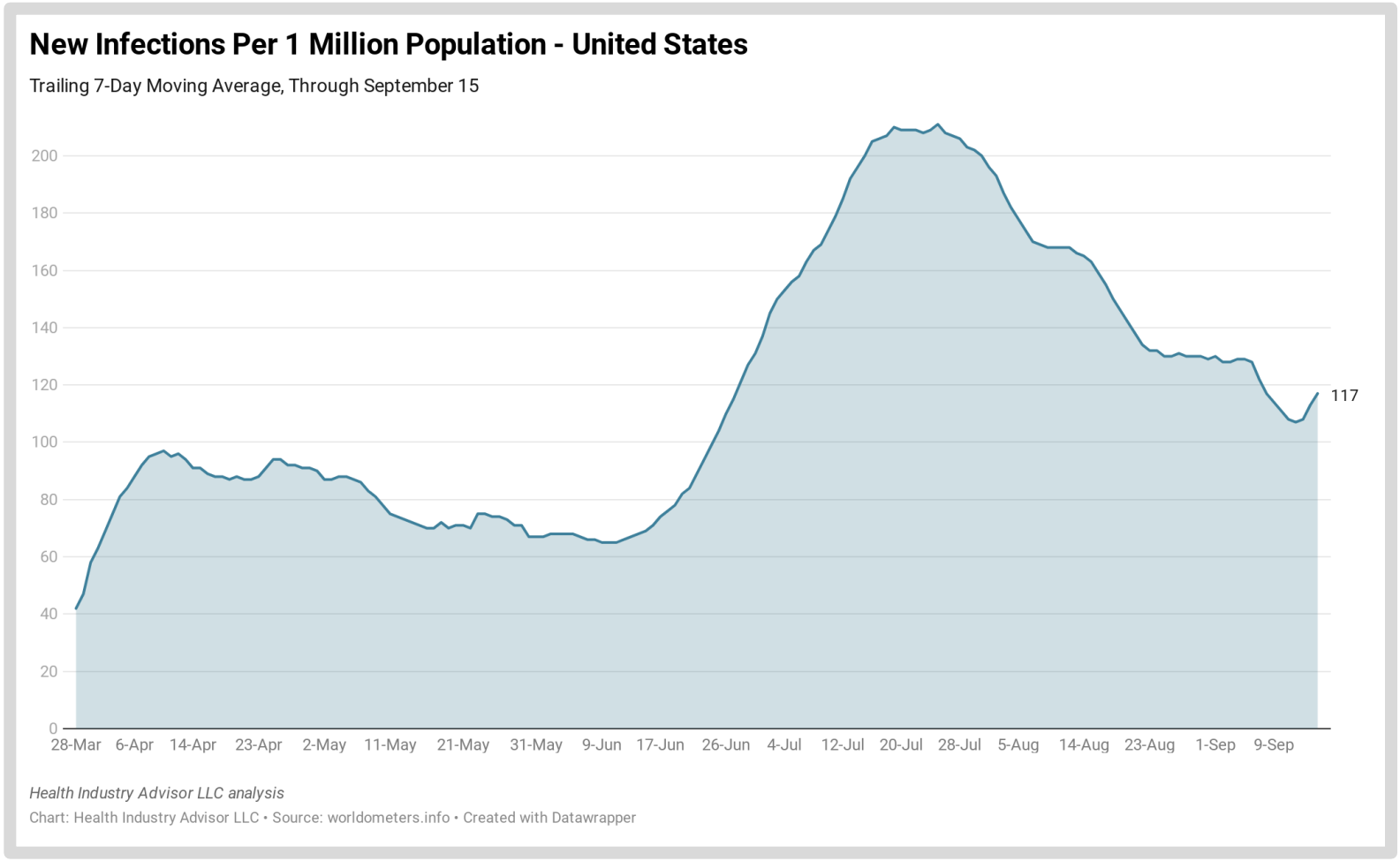
New infections per capita in the U.S.* increased since last week

Likely a Labor Day impact due to: timeliness of reporting, surge in new cases, or both?



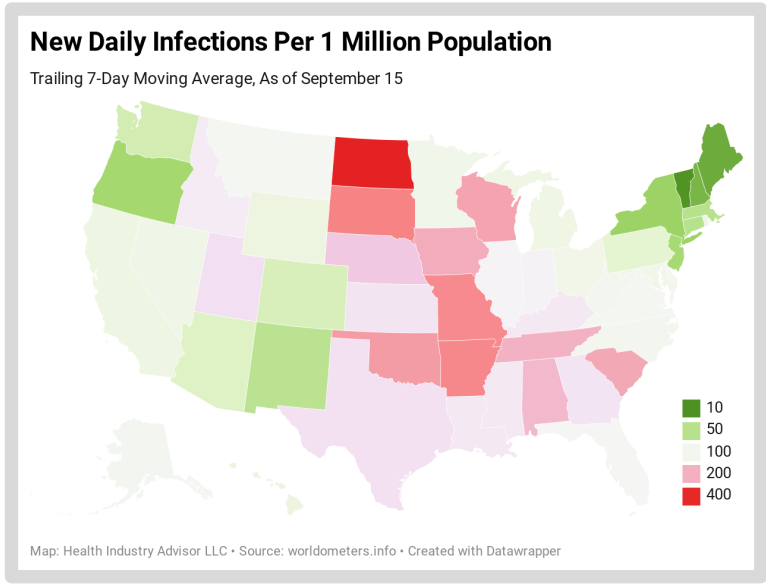
* - 7-day moving average basis

Health Industry Advisor, llc

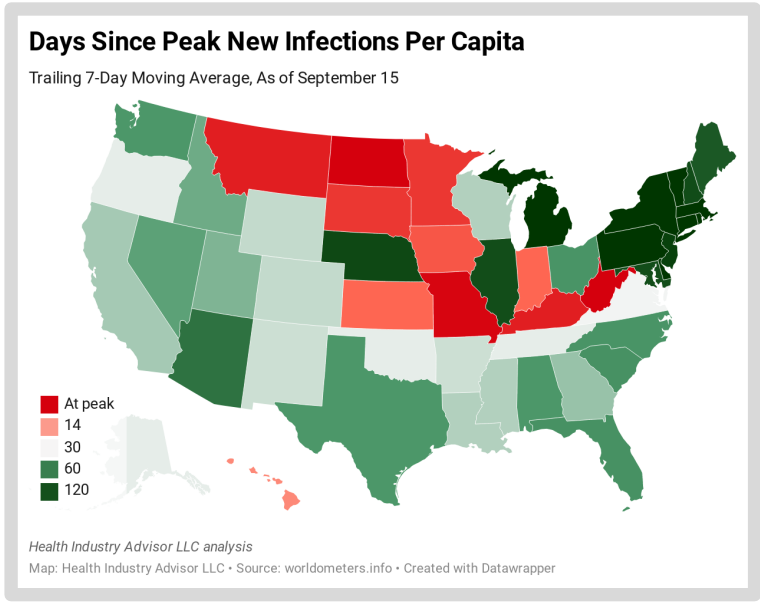
North and South Dakota reported the highest rates of new infections per capita* over the past 7 days, followed by Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Wisconsin

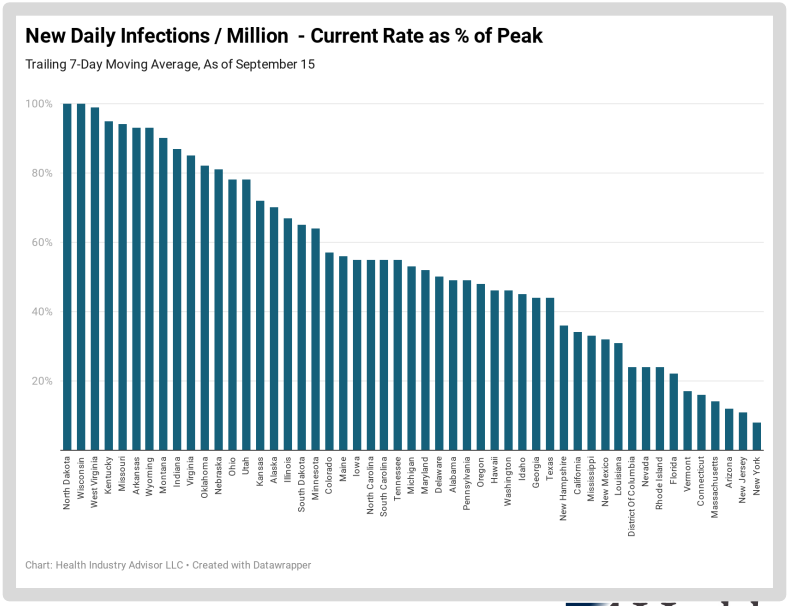
Nine states experienced their peak new infection rate in September; fifteen states experienced their peak infection rate prior to June

Fourteen states are within 25% of their peak new infection rate; ten states are at 25% or less of their peak rate



* - 7-day moving average basis





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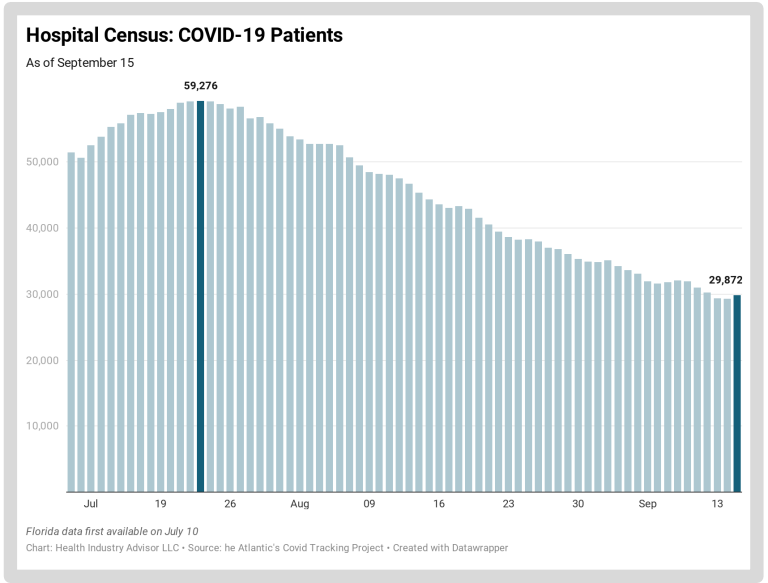
COVID-19's demand on healthcare resources has been easing for months:

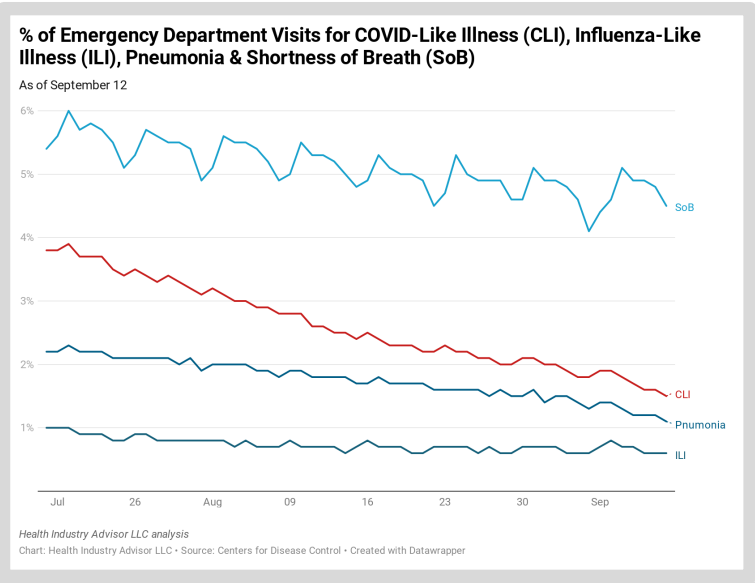
Inpatient COVID-19 census increased yesterday, for only the 7th time in the past 53 days; it remains ~ ½ its July 25 level

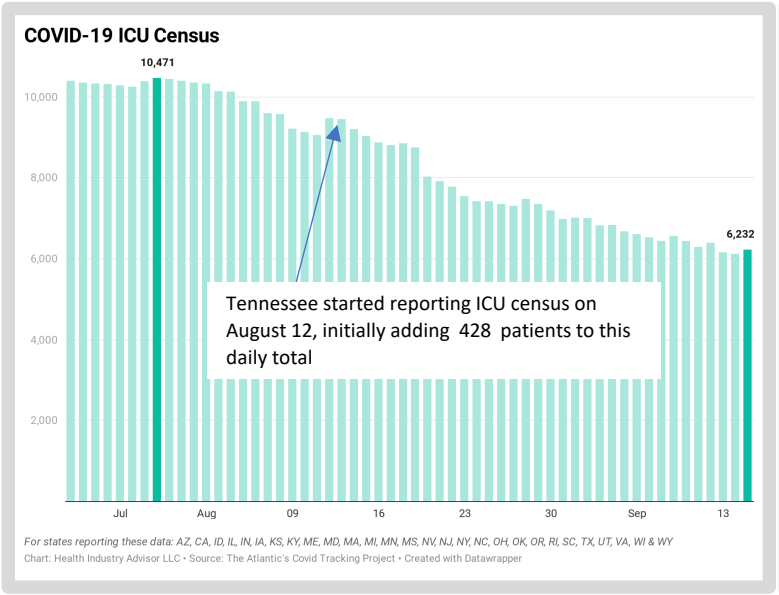
ICU COVID-19 census also increased yesterday yet, is down 40% since late-June

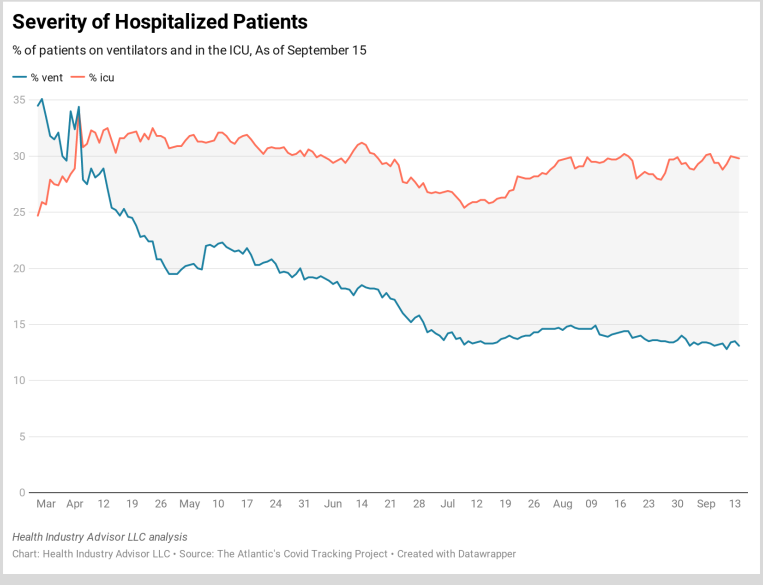
Ventilator use among hospitalized patients is ½ its level from the Spring

ER visits for COVID-19- like illness are ½ their July rate; flu visits have not yet picked up









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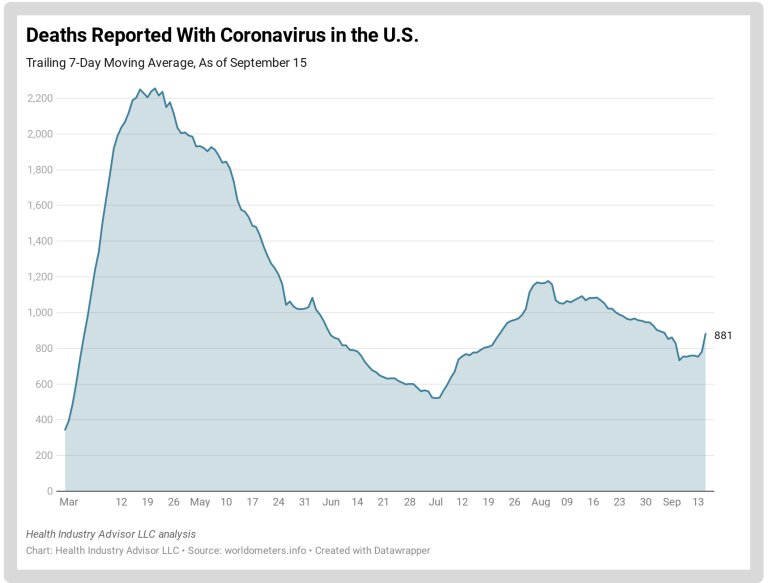
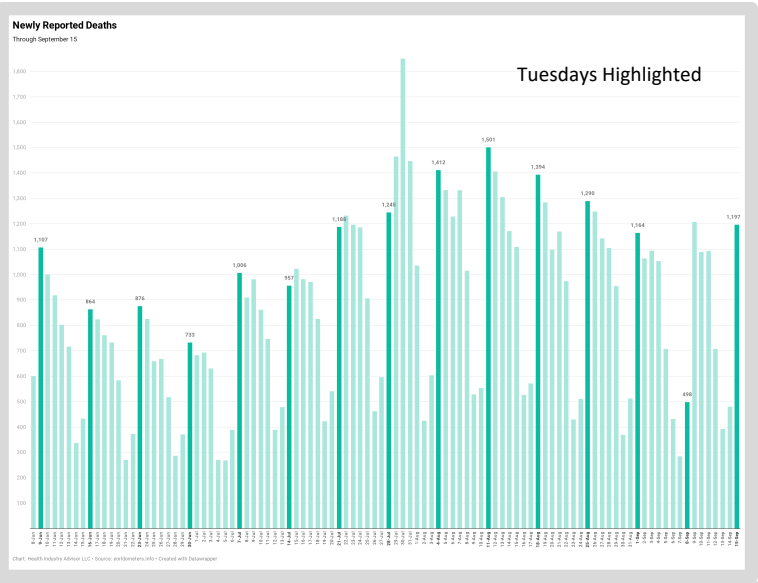
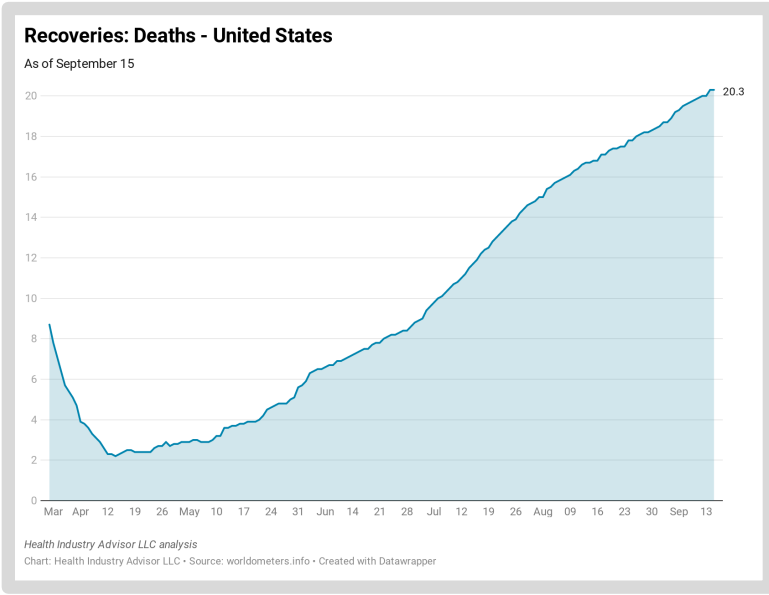
Labor Day effect - as with cases, reported deaths were low by recent experience last Monday and Tuesday. Is this a result of delays in reporting? Any delay would overstate reported deaths the past 7 days and understate deaths the prior week

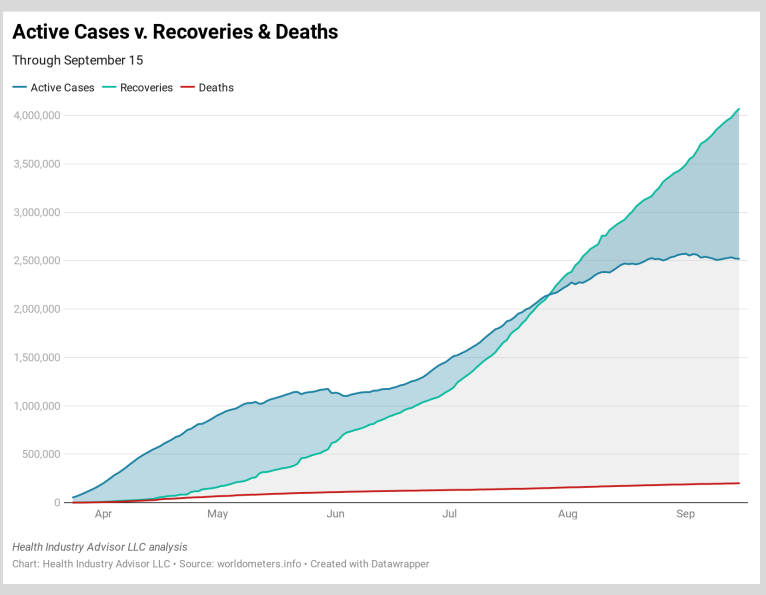
Other than last Tuesday, deaths reported yesterday were on par or lower than other Tuesdays since July 21

Active cases tapering off, while recoveries are increasing steadily









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