

Issue # 208

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

COVID-19 Report

Highlights

- Newly-detected cases continue to rise in the United States and worldwide: these are averaging ~120k per day in the U.S. and 560k per day worldwide
 - These new cases are increasing at an accelerating rate in the U.S., while the rate of increase worldwide is decelerating
 - The rate of increase in the U.S., however, has not yet matched what it was during the July case surge
- Europe continues to be the epicenter of the new cases: of the countries with >1M people, the sixteen countries with the highest 7-day infection rates per capita (and twentythree of the top twenty-five) are all in Europe (or, Eurasia)
 - Czechia and Switzerland now have the highest infection rates per capita among countries with >1M people
 - Czechia's rate is 2.5x higher than the U.S., which ranks twenty-second in the world
 - Nevertheless, there are signs that infections are easing in some of these hard-hit countries:
 Belgium, Czechia and the Netherlands each of experienced marked declines in infection rates since the end of October; France and Switzerland have seen declines in the past few days
 - Israel, which had been hard-hit in September, has seen a dramatic decline since that time
- Based on detected cases, 3% of the U.S population has or had the infection at some point. Of course, we know from CDC reports that this is understated
 - Oliver Wyman is one the few sites that models actual infection rates. It estimates that >1-in-10 Americans has or had the infection, and possibly as many as 1-in-5

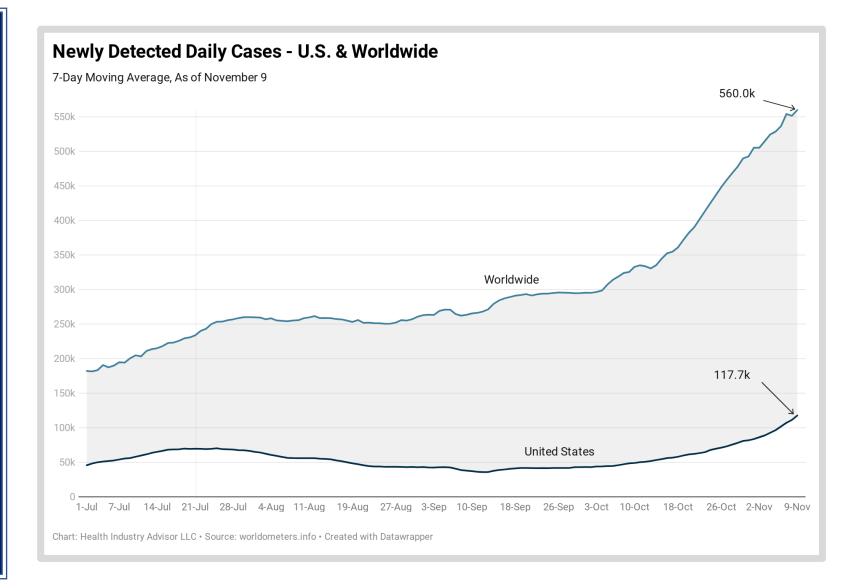
- Wyman's estimates thus suggest that the actual infection rate is 3.5x the detected rate, on a cumulative basis; It places the current ratio at 2.6x (lower than the cumulative rate, due to improved testing)
- Covid-19 hospitalizations continue to increase, just not as fast as new cases
 - On a same-day, prior week basis, Covid-19 hospital census has increased every day since September 23
 - Only Nevada (40%) and Wisconsin (37%), however, are devoting more than 1/3 of their bed capacity to Covid-19 patients. Contrast this to April, when Connecticut (113%), New Jersey (106%) and New York (145%) exceeded inpatient bed capacity with only Covid-19 patients
 - Covid-19 census per new case fell yesterday, for the twenty-eighth time in the past thirty-one days
 - The likelihood of a Covid-19 patient would be in the ICU or on a ventilator each fell again yesterday; these rates are at the lowest point they have been at any time during the pandemic
- Testing volumes in the U.S. continue to rise: the 7-day testing rate per capita set a new high again yesterday, marking the sixteenth time in the past twenty days this has been accomplished
 - The test-positive rate, however, is increasing despite the higher volume; this 7-day rate has increased on thirty-two of the past thirty-five days
- Deaths with the coronavirus in the U.S. continue to increase each day: on a 7-day average basis, deaths exceeded 1,000 yesterday - the first time this level has been breached since August 22
 - The case fatality rate, however, as measured on a 4week lag, has remained stable for the past month



Worldwide, we are experiencing ~560k new cases each day

The United States is averaging 117.7k new cases each day

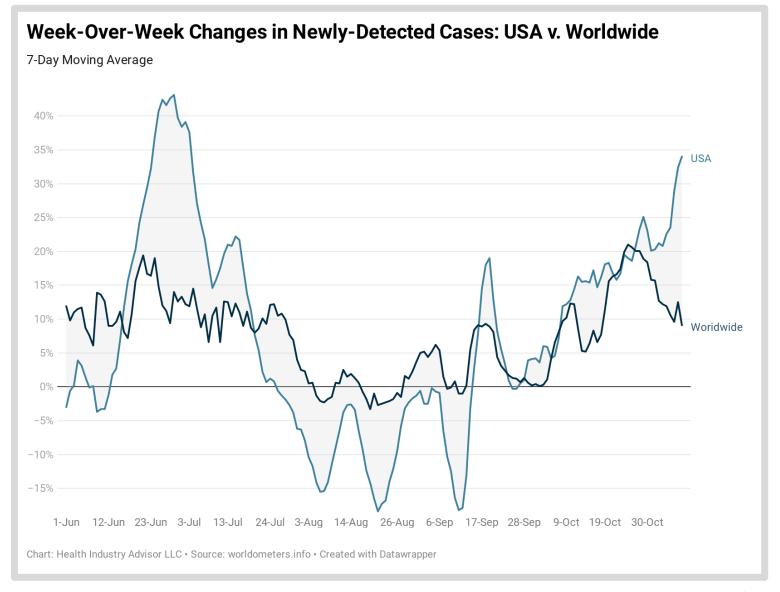
* - 7-day moving average basis





Worldwide, the rate of growth slowed over the past two weeks

The U.S. is moving in the opposite direction, with the rate of change in new cases *increasing* throughout November (accelerating growth)





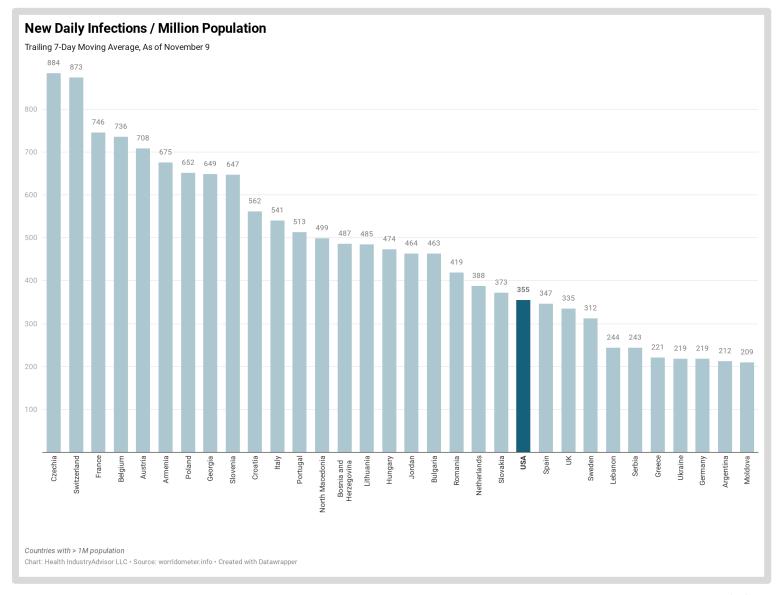
Among countries with > 1 million population, thirty-two countries currently have new daily infection rates/1M* > 200

In order, Czechia, Switzerland, France and Belgium, and Austria have the highest rates (each >700)

Europe (and Eurasia) is home to the sixteen countries with the highest rates and twenty-three of the top twenty-five

The United States ranks twentysecond among these countries (Czechia's rate is 2.5x higher than the U.S.'s)

* - 7-day moving average basis



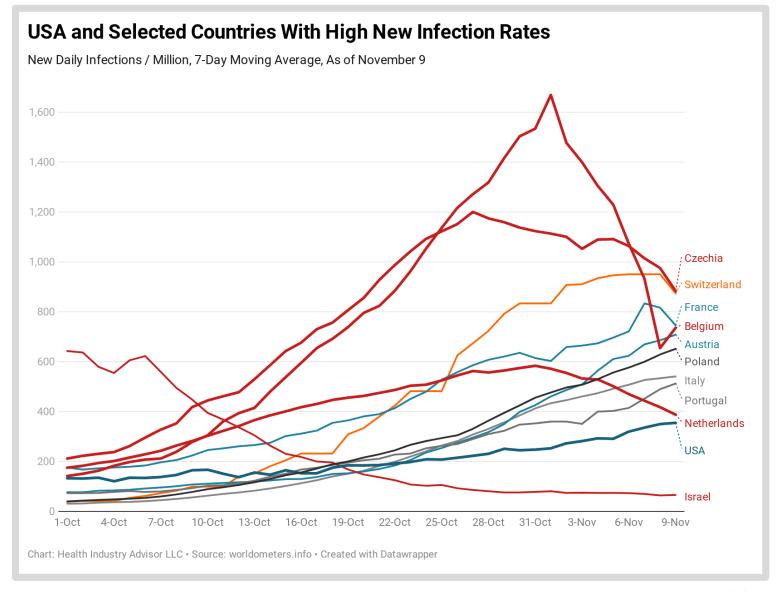


Belgium, Czechia, Israel, and the Netherlands have seen infection rates decline from high rates experienced in October

Switzerland has seen a declining rate in the past few days, following a period of rapid increase

Austria, France, Italy, Poland and Portugal are seeing significant increases in rates

- * Population >1 million
- ** 7-day average

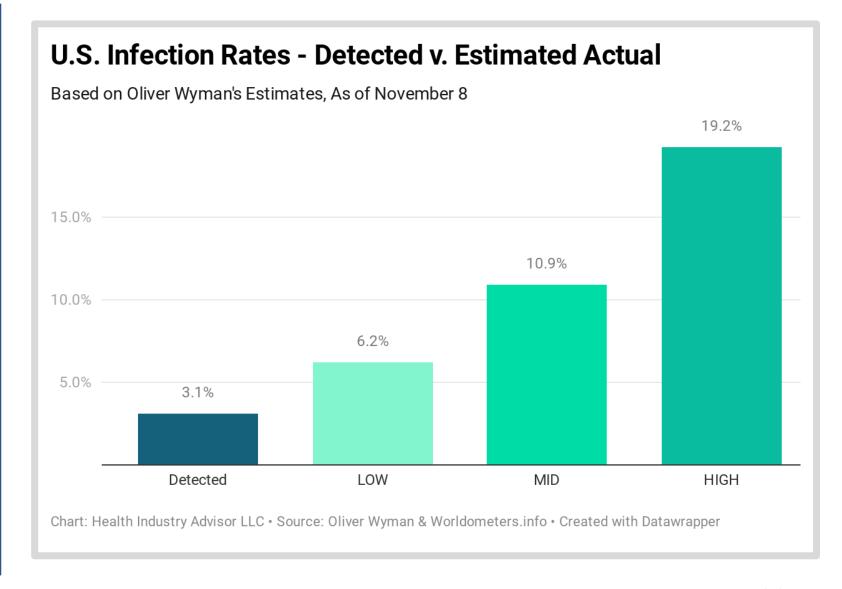




Oliver Wyman provides estimates of actual infection rates

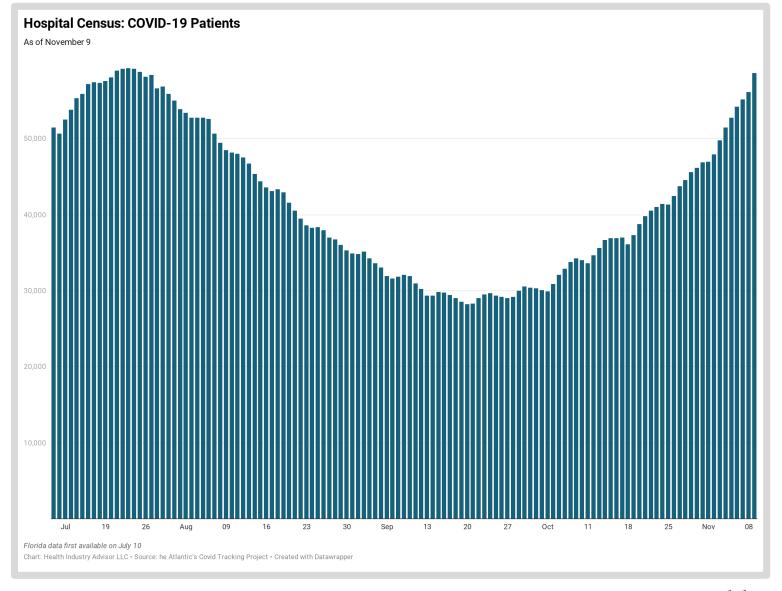
The latest estimates is that 1-in-10 people in the U.S. has been infected by the SARS-CoV-2 virus (with an upper limit of nearly 1-in-5)

Wyman's estimate puts actual infections at 3.5x those that have been detected and reported





On a same-day, priorweek basis, inpatient Covid-19 census increased every day since September 23

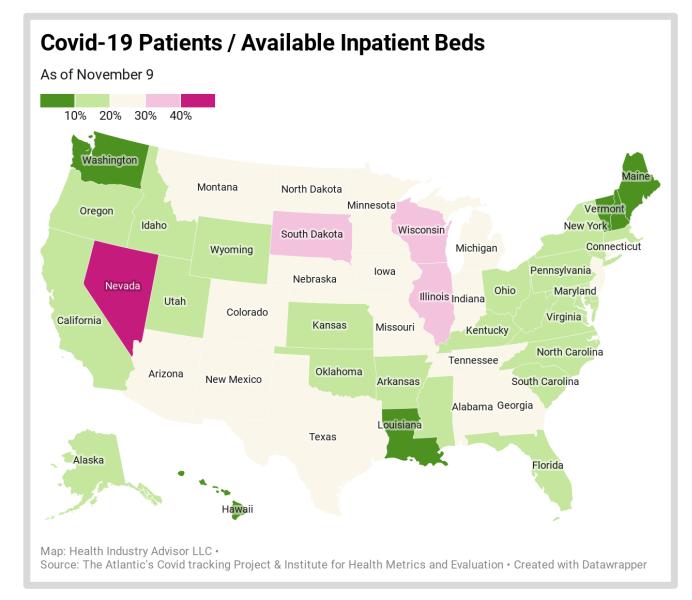




In the United States, Covid-19 patients are occupying 18% of available inpatient beds

Nevada has the highest rate at this point - 40%, followed by Wisconsin at 37%

In April, Connecticut, New Jersey and New York each experienced Covid-19 patients exceeding the inpatient bed capacity



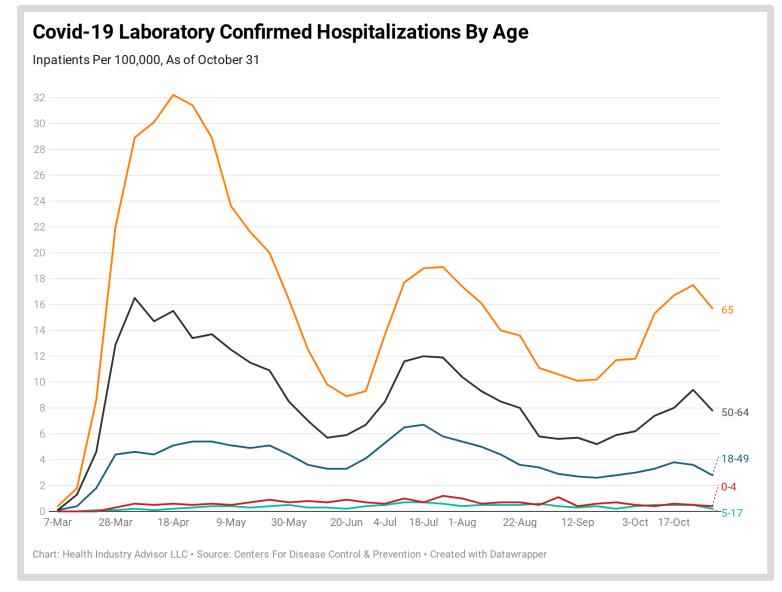


Rates of Hospitalizations generally increase with age:

During the recent run-up in hospitalizations, it appears to be centered on persons 50 years old and older

Hospitalization rates among those >50 years old, however, remain lower than during previous surges

Rate remain very low for persons > 18 years old

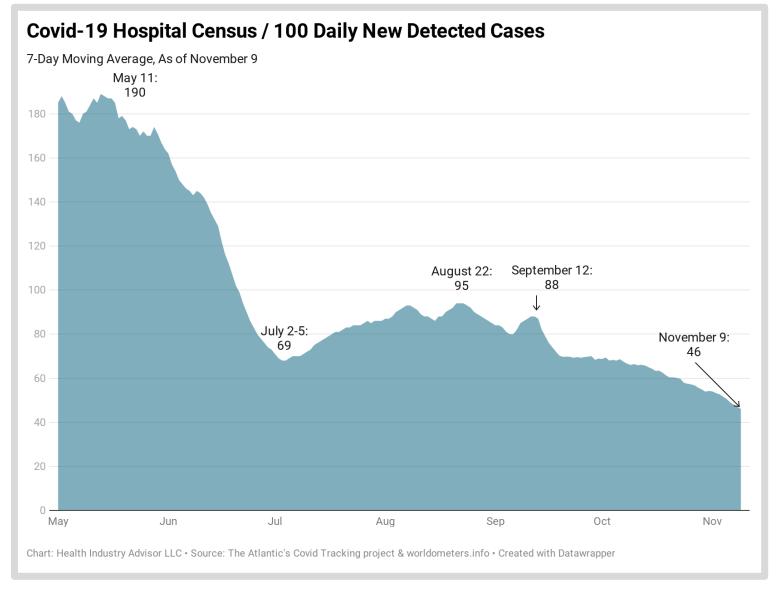




Covid-19 Hospitalizations, while increasing, have not kept pace with the increase in newly-detected cases:

The average Covid-19 census per 100 new cases has declined on twenty-eight of the past thirty-one days

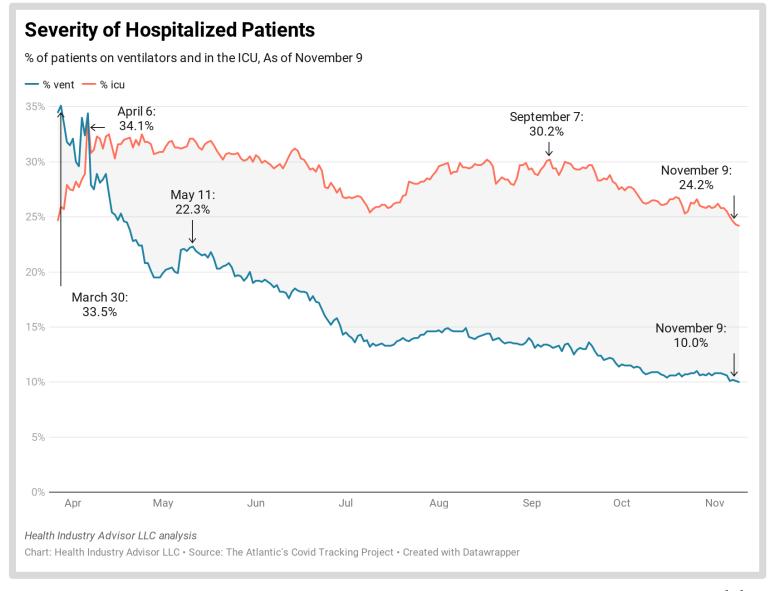
This rate has been reduced by ~1/2 since mid-September and by ¾ since mid-May





The likelihood of a hospitalized Covid-19 patient would require ICU care has declined 20% since early-September and nearly 30% since early-April

The likelihood of a hospitalized Covid-19 patients would be on a ventilator has reduced by>1/2 since mid-May and by >2/3 since March

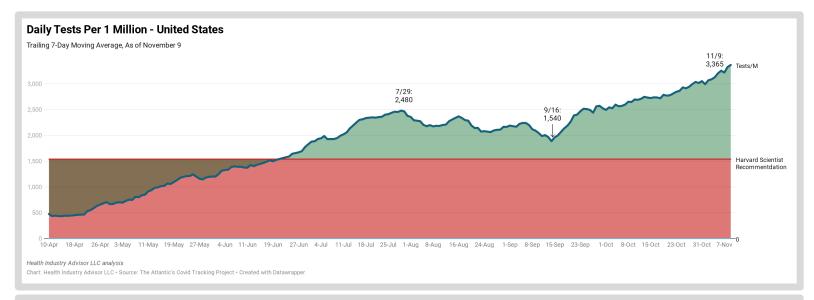


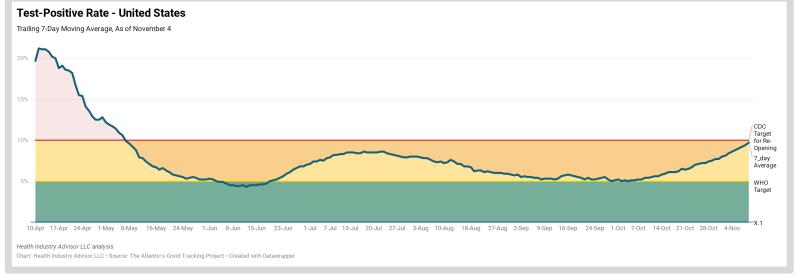


The 7-day average testing volume set another new high on Monday – the sixteen time it has accomplished this in the past twenty days

This rate has increased by 70% since mid-September

The 7-day test-positive rate, however, has been trending upward since the beginning of October - increasing on thirty-two of the past thirty-five days

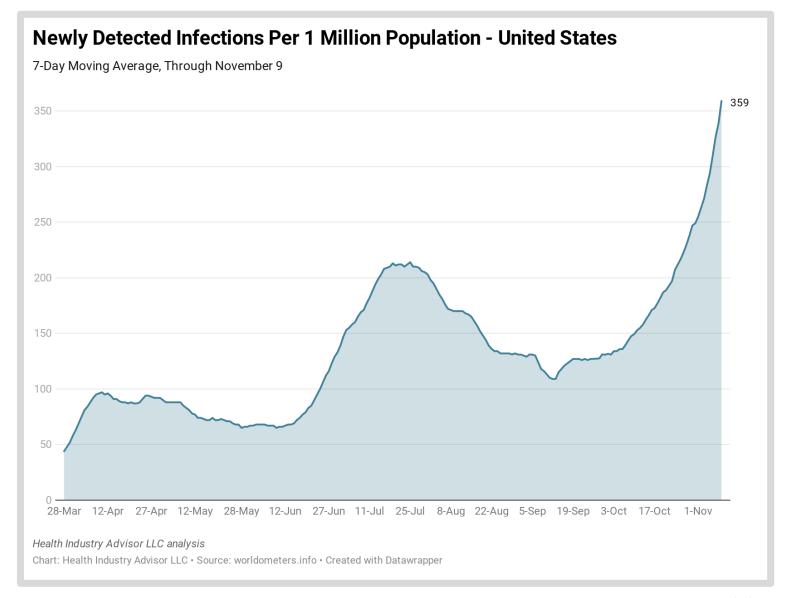






The rate of new infections per capita* in the U.S. has risen every day since October 2

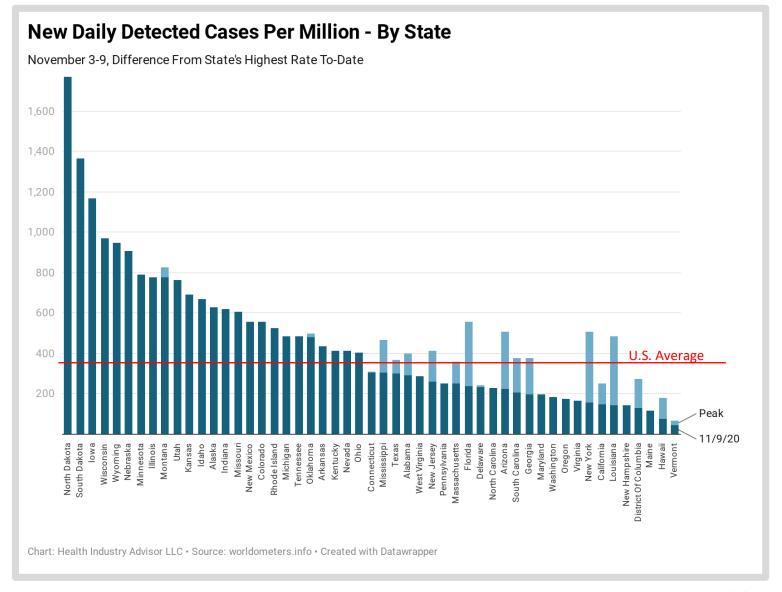
* - 7-day moving average basis





North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Iowa Wisconsin and Wyoming (in order) experienced the highest new infection rate over the past seven days

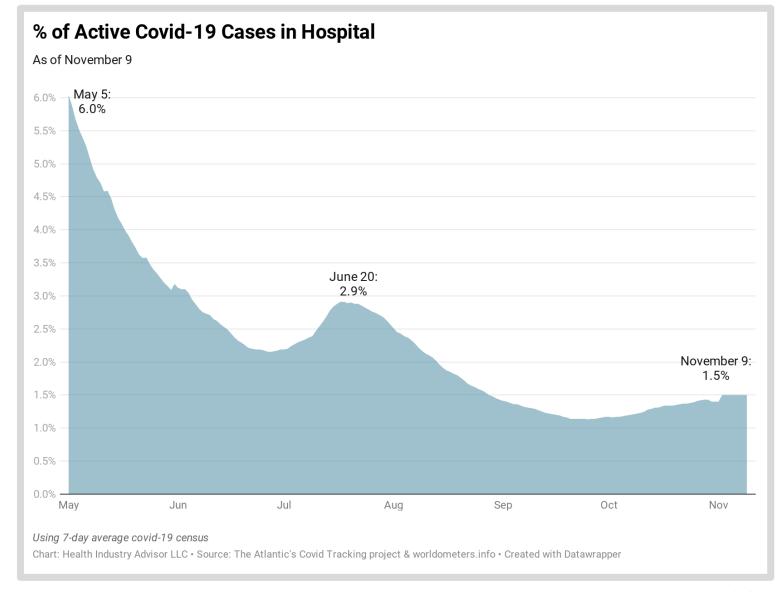
Thirty-two states are experiencing the highest rates experienced at any time during the pandemic





The likelihood that a person with an active Covid-19 infection would be hospitalized has stabilized over the past two weeks

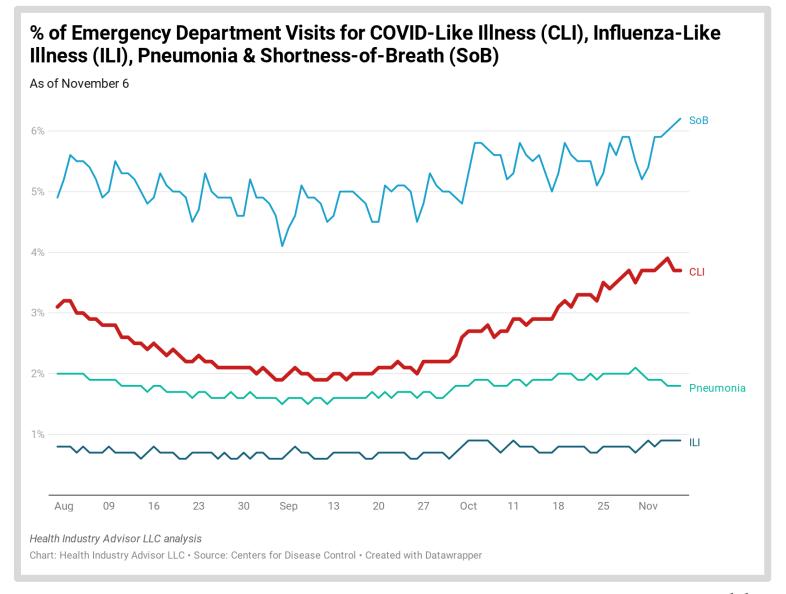
This likelihood is ½ what it was during the July surge and 1/4 of what it was in May





The % of ER visits for COVID-19-like illnesses (CLI) has increased for the past six weeks

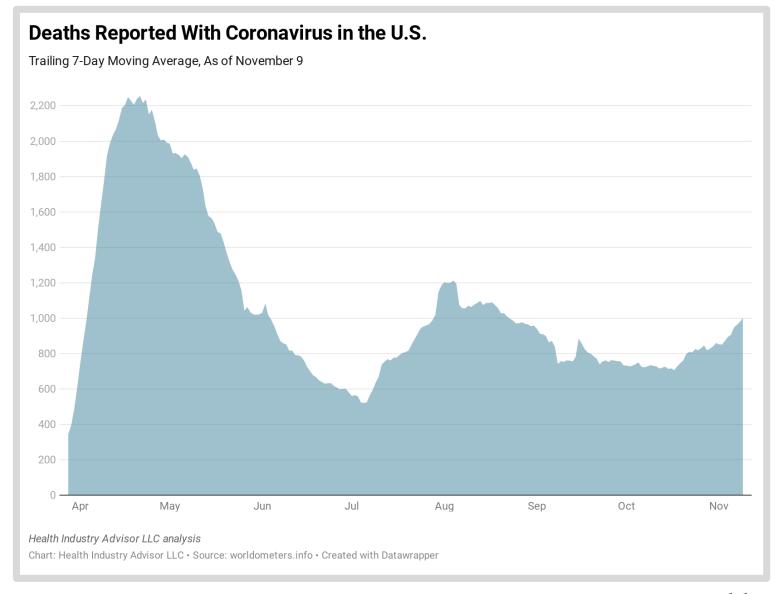
This rate remains lower, however, than it was in July and in March/April





The recent uptick in newly-detected cases is is resulting in increased deaths:

The 7-day average deaths per day exceeded 1,000 yesterday - the first time since August 22

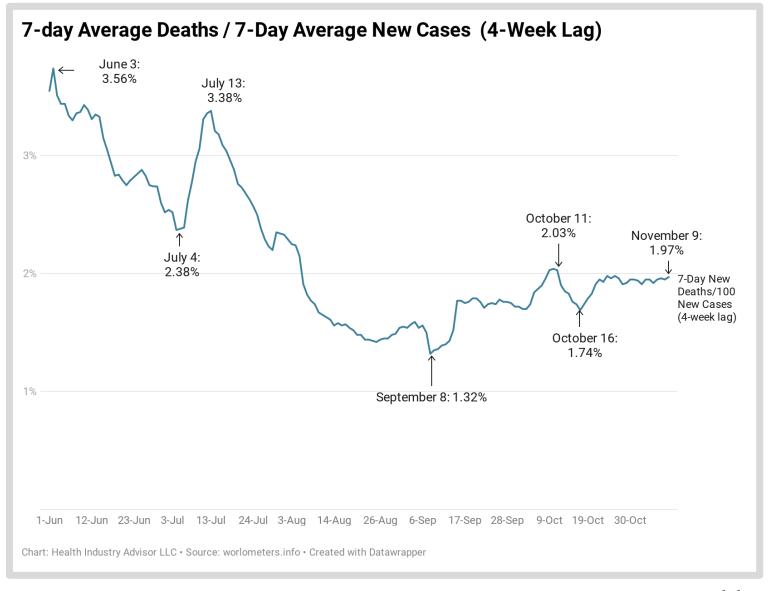




Deaths with coronavirus, relative to new cases (lagged 4 weeks) have moved within a narrow range for the past month

This rate declined rapidly in July and August

Note: this rate tends to fall 4 weeks after new cases peak; might we expect a similar pattern down-theroad, once new case peak?





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

