

Issue # 210

Thursday, November 12, 2020

COVID-19 Report

Highlights

- The number of new cases being detected each day in the United States is of great concern:
 - We are averaging nearly 130k new cases every day
 - On a week-over-week basis, new cases yesterday were up 41% - a rate only surpassed in late-June
 - Making it worse, this rate of week-over-week increase has itself increased eight consecutive days (think of it this way - the roller coaster is racing fast; its accelerating . . . and the rate of acceleration is increasing!. In physics terms, that's called "jerk", as in its "jerking us" everfaster by the second. That may be thrilling at the amusement park; its not great in this context)
- There is a bit of encouraging news North Dakota and South Dakota, two states with the highest rates of new cases experienced at any time during the pandemic, are showing signs of decelerating case growth. Indeed the week-over-week case growth in these states is among the lowest of all states
- The increasing test-positivity rate in the U.S. also is concerning:
 - This test-positive rate has increased on thirtyfive of the past thirty-eight days
 - The current rate exceeds the CDC guideline for Phase 3 re-openings
 - In fifteen states, the rate is more than double the CDC guideline
 - It is occurring despite record test volumes testing has set new highs twenty of the past twenty-four days, and is 80% higher than it was in mid-September

- Fortunately, the stress that the new cases is placing on the healthcare system has been muted - the question is, how much more can it absorb?
 - Covid-19 census per new case has now declined eleven consecutive days and thirty of the past thirty-three; this rate has been halved since mid-September and by 3/4's since mid-May
 - The % of Covid-19 patients that were in the ICU
 has declined nine consecutive days, and is nearly
 1/4 lower than it was in mid-September and 1/3
 lower than in mid-April
 - The % of Covid-19 patients that were on a ventilator has declined eight of the past nine days and is down 60% since mid-May and 80% since mid-March
 - Even with the lowered rate of hospitalizations, increasing cases, if unchecked, could strain available resources. Six states Nevada, Wisconsin, Illinois, Connecticut, Michigan and South Dakota are each devoting at least 3 of every ten beds to Covid-19 patients. Of note, eight states have experienced higher rates at some point during the pandemic, including Connecticut, New Jersey and New York, which exceeded 100% for a time
- Deaths with the coronavirus have now increased (on a 7day moving average basis) nine consecutive days
 - This is related to the recent rise in new cases, as the case fatality rate, on a 4-week lag from caseto-death basis, has been stable for the past month
 - Unfortunately, if this rate remains stable, deaths will continue to increase, following the pattern of new case growth



State-By-State Scorecard

Designed to reflect five critical measures of a state's current experience with Covid-19

At his point, we have elected not to provide an overall score – in our view, different audiences would assign different priorities to each of the five measures

For example, health systems might weigh the Covid-19 census as a % of available beds; A community might weigh the deaths per case highest

Worse Better

Metric		Black	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue
7-Day Average New Daily Reported Infections per Capita	Greater than	450	350	250	150	50	0
Week-over-Week Change in Newly Reported Cases	Greater than	30%	20%	10%	0%	-10%	N/A
7-Day Average Viral Tests per 7-Day Average Newly Reported Cases	Less than	5	10	25	50	75	N/A
Covid-19 Inpatient Census as % of All Inpatient Beds	Greater than	75%	60%	45%	30%	15%	0%
7-Day Deaths per 1000 New Cases (28-day lag)	Greater than	50	40	30	20	10	0

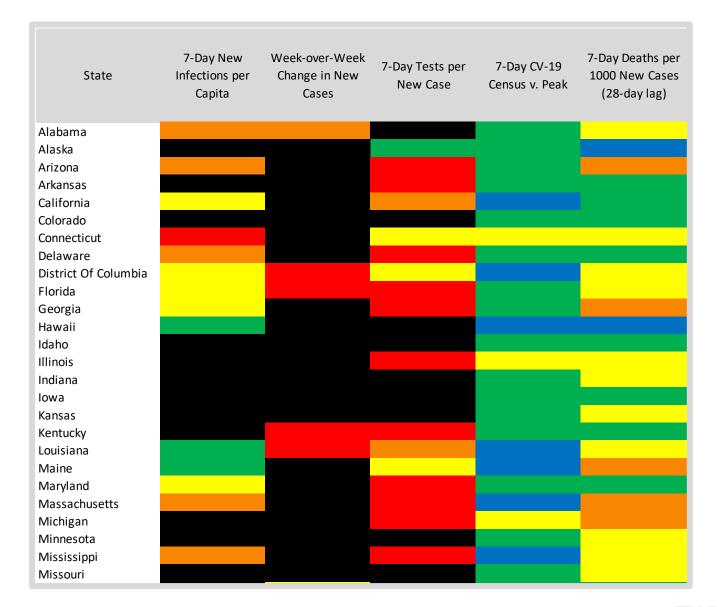
Note: this week, we convert from Covid-19 census v. peak Covid-19 census to Covid-19 census as a % of available inpatient beds. In our view, this provides a better indication of the strain that Covid-19 is placing on inpatient resources.



Scorecard (1 of 2)

Several states are of concern, based on poor scores on cases/capita, weekly increases in cases and testing/case, most notably: Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas,, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota and Missouri

States to keep an eye on bed capacity: Connecticut, Illinois and Michigan





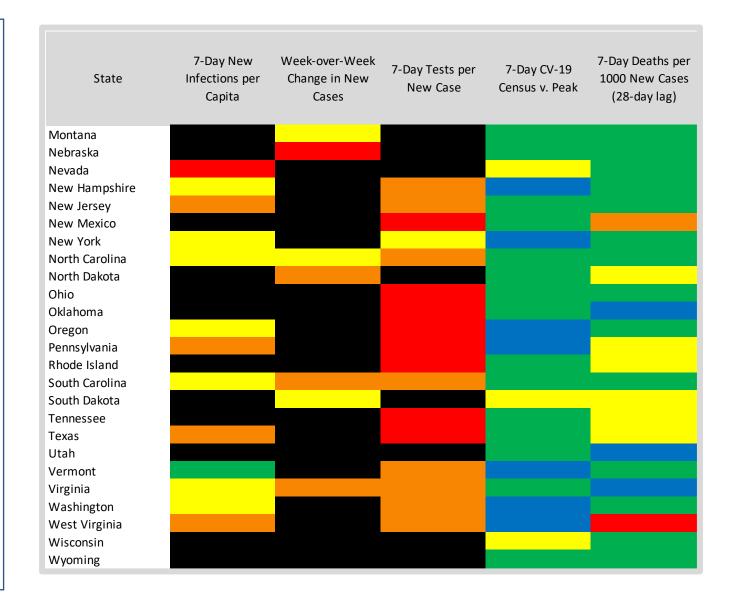


Scorecard (page 2 of 2)

Several states are of concern, based on poor scores on cases/capita, weekly increases in cases and testing/case, most notably: Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming

States to keep an eye on bed capacity: Nevada, North Dakota and Wisconsin

West Virginia's case fatality rate (based on new cases detected 4 weeks ago) is of concern



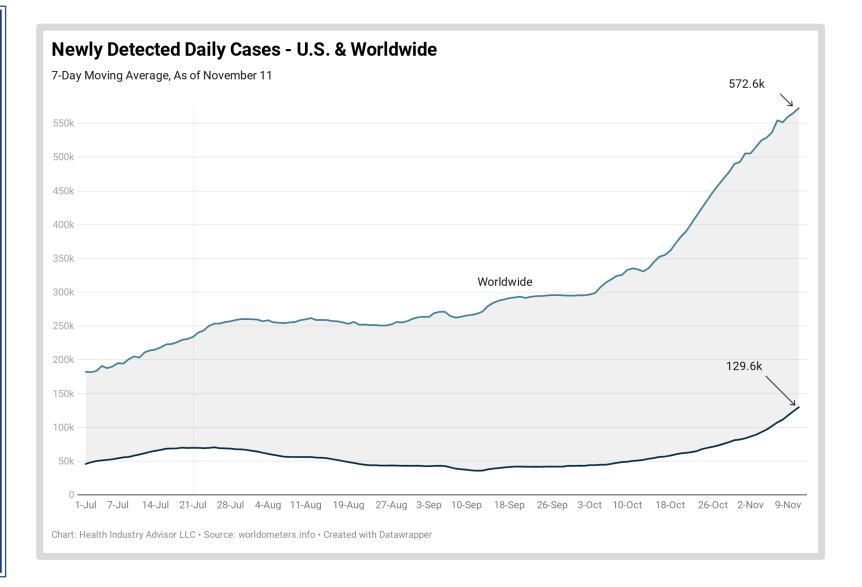




Worldwide, we are experiencing ~573k new cases each day

The United States is averaging ~130k new cases each day

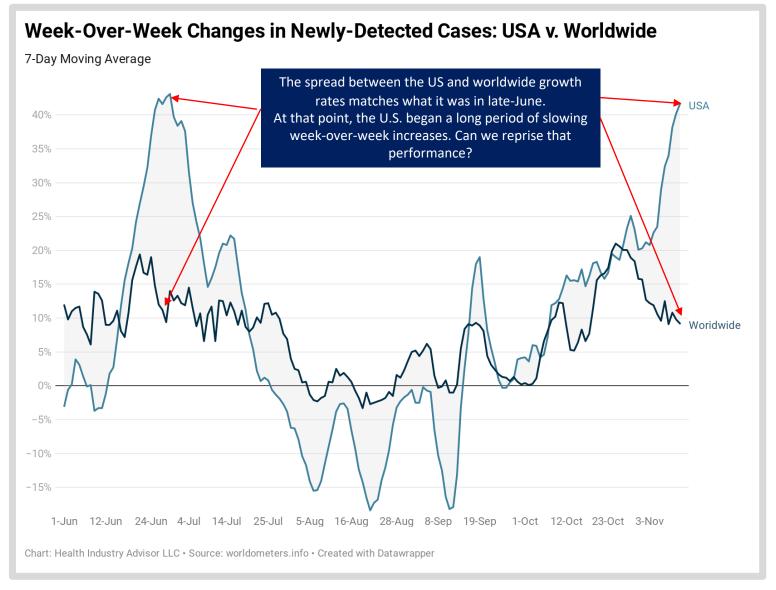
* - 7-day moving average basis





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

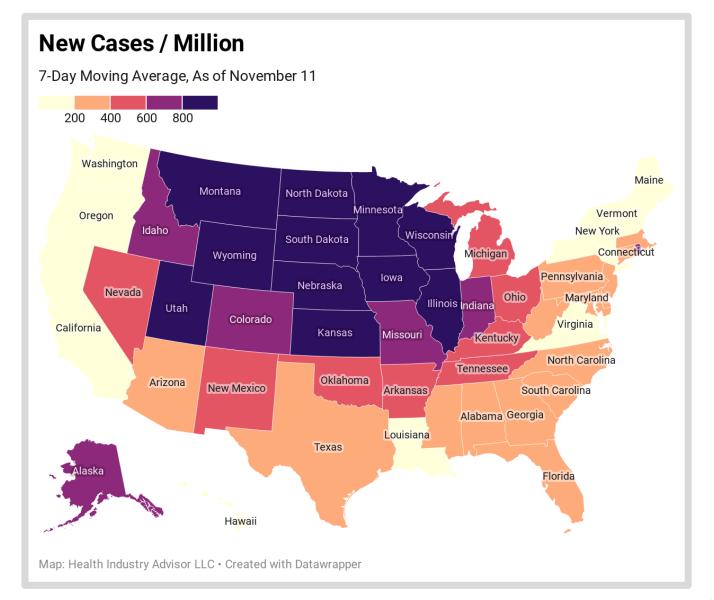
The U.S. is moving in the opposite direction, with the rate of change in new cases *increasing* throughout November (accelerating growth) — and approaching the week-over-week rate of increase experienced in late-June/early-July





Newly detected cases per capita are high across the country

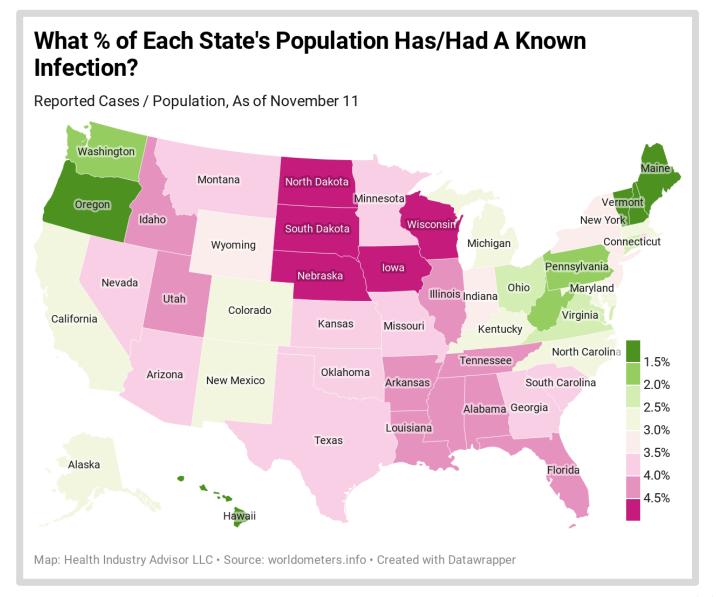
The highest rates are found in the Upper Midwest, the Plaines and the Mountain States





States that have been recently hard-hit by the virus spread have surpassed 4% of the population known to have been infected

Given the high testpositive rates in these states, the true rates are likely much higher

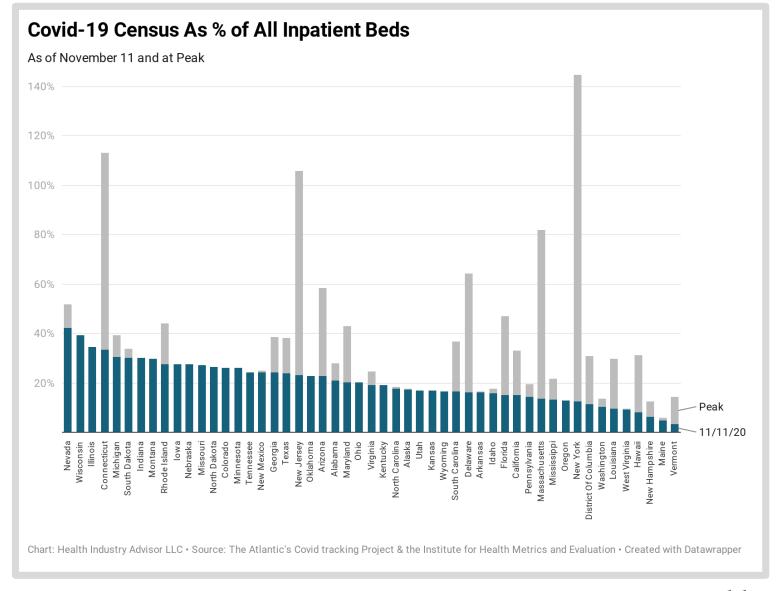




In the United States, Covid-19 patients are occupying 21% of available inpatient beds

Nevada has the highest rate at this point - 42%, followed by Wisconsin at 39%

In April, Connecticut, New Jersey and New York each experienced Covid-19 patients exceeding the inpatient bed capacity; Massachusetts exceeded 80% of capacity



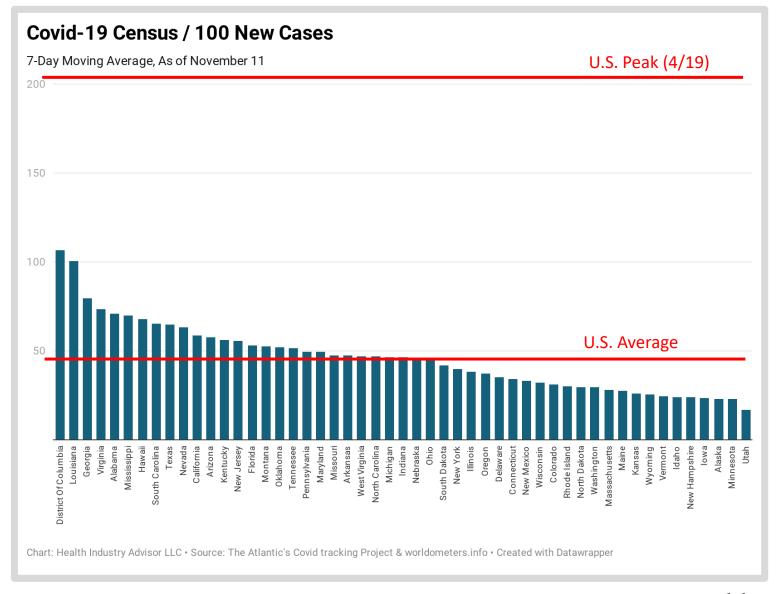


The highest average census per new case is currently experienced in D.C., followed by Louisiana and Georgia

The lowest rates are found in Utah, Minnesota, Alaska and Iowa

Contrast these rates to those experienced in selected hard-hit states during earlier surges:

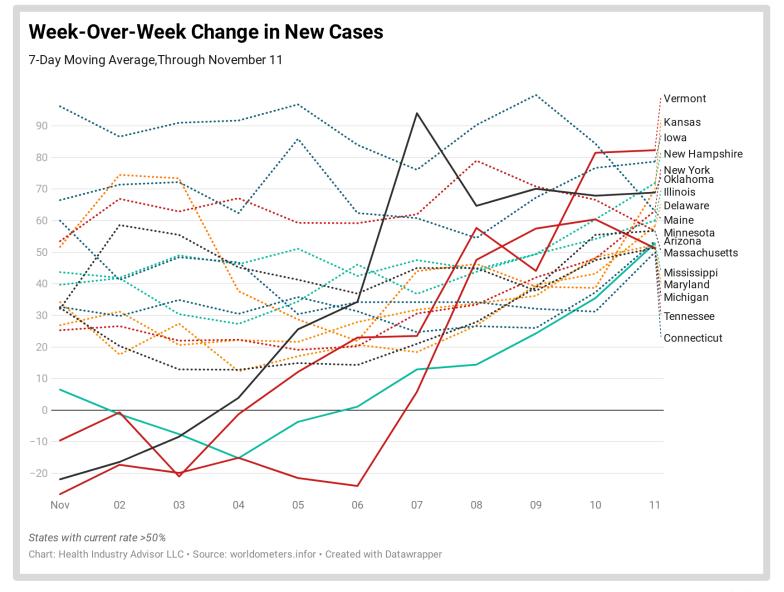
- Arizona: 305 (4/20) - California: 416 (4/17) - Connecticut: 293 (4/29) - Massachusetts: 475 (6/21) - Michigan: 422 (4/21) - New York: 330 (5/22)





Seventeen states have experienced week-over-week increases in new cases >50%, as of yesterday

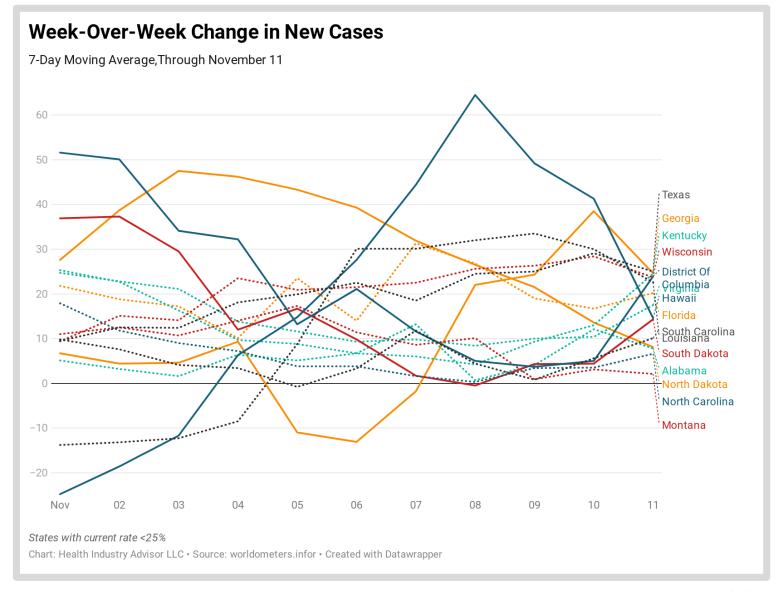
Four of these states – Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Vermont – had experienced declining cases week-over-week earlier in November





Fourteen states plus the District of Columbia have experienced week-overweek increases in new cases <25%, as of yesterday

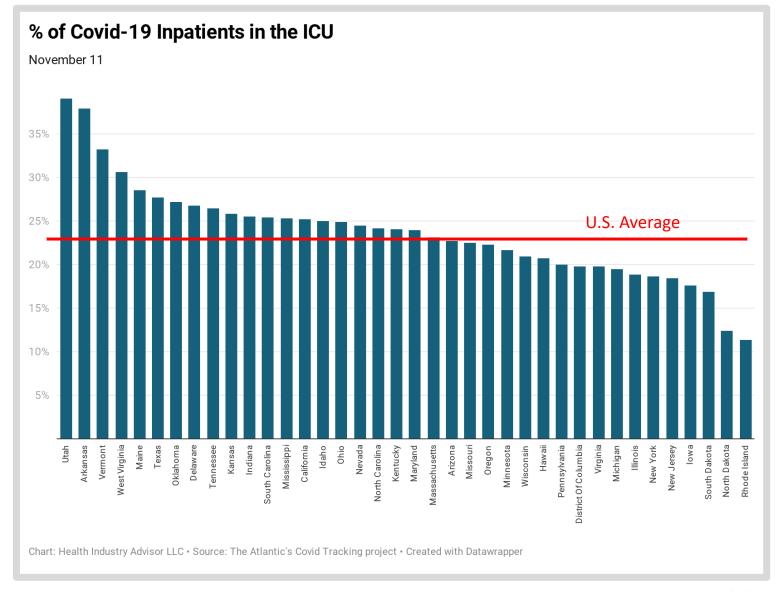
Four of these states – Georgia, Hawaii, North Dakota and South Dakota, plus D.C. – had experienced week-over-week increases near or above 40% earlier in November





On average, less than 1-in-4 Covid-19 inpatients are in the ICU

Rates are highest in Utah, Arkansas and Vermont, where >1-in-3 are in the ICU

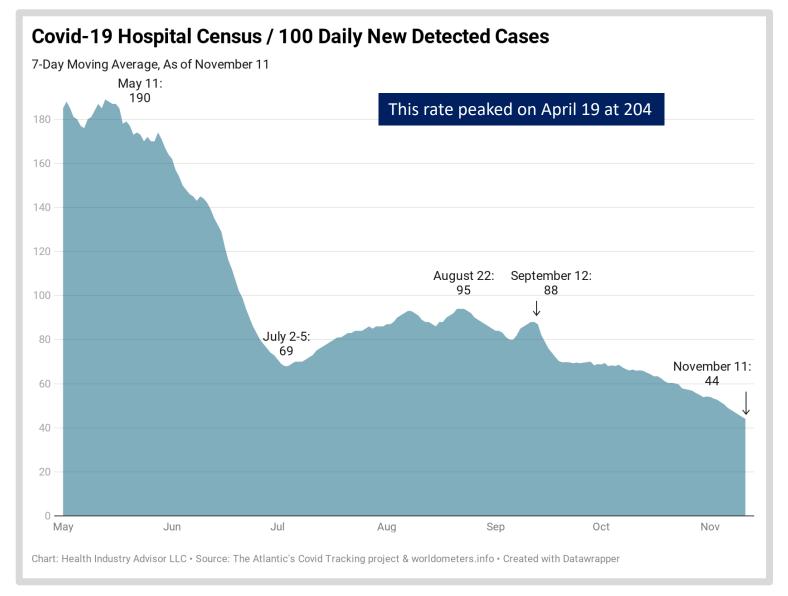




Covid-19 Hospitalizations, while increasing, have not kept pace with the increase in newly-detected cases:

The average Covid-19 census per 100 new cases has declined on eleven consecutive days and thirty of the past thirty-three days

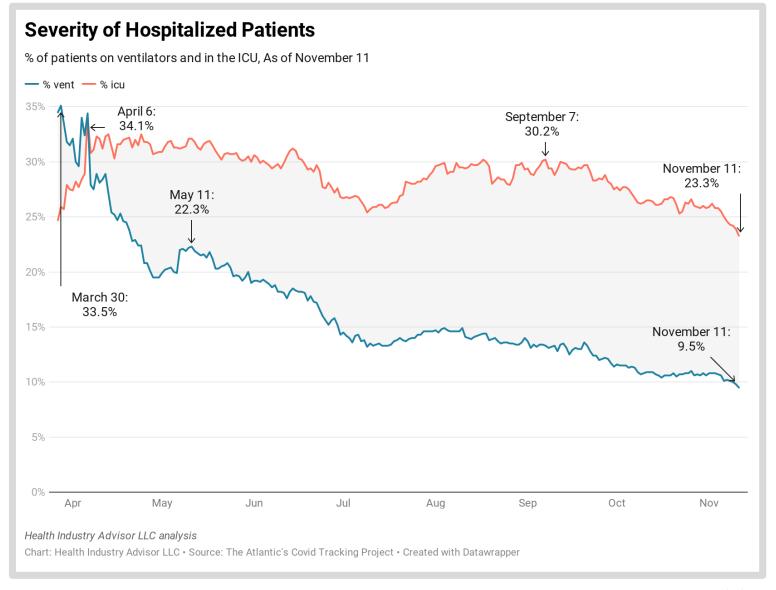
This rate has been reduced by 1/2 since mid-September and by ¾ since mid-May





The likelihood of a hospitalized Covid-19 patient would require ICU care has declined 23% since early-September and nearly 32% since early-April

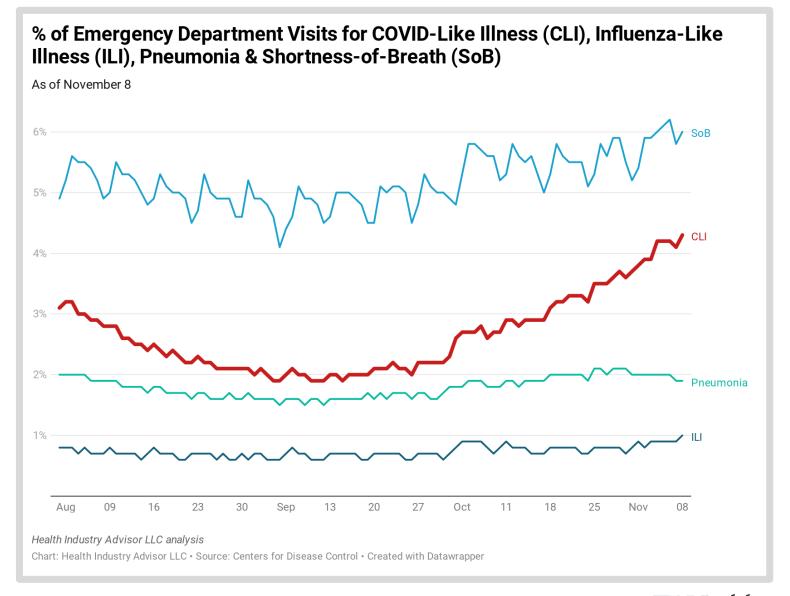
The likelihood of a hospitalized Covid-19 patients would be on a ventilator has reduced by nearly 60% since mid-May and by >80% since March





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

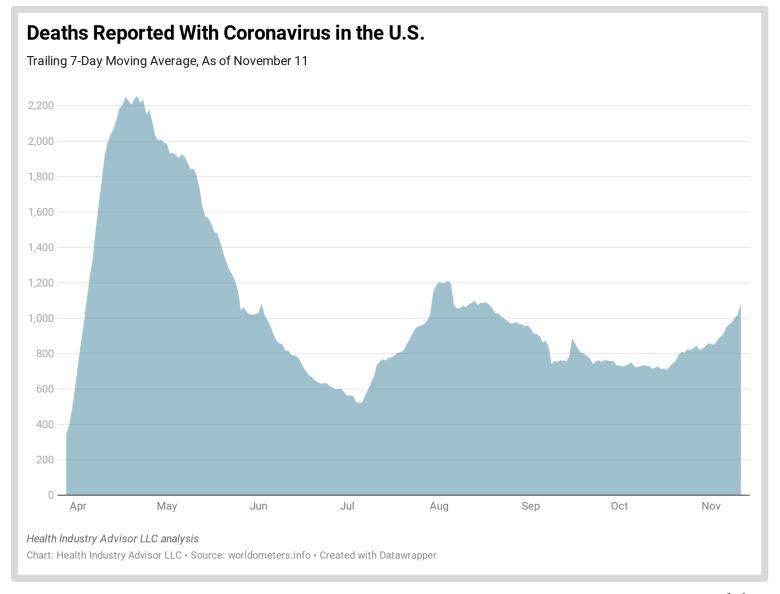
This rate remains lower, however, than it was in in March/April, and the rate of influenza visits remains low





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

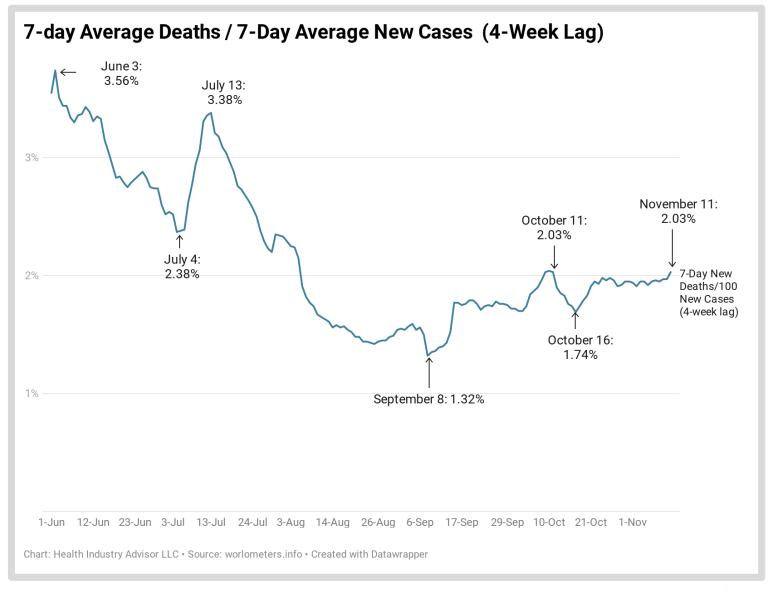
The 7-day average deaths per day has been increasing since mid-October





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

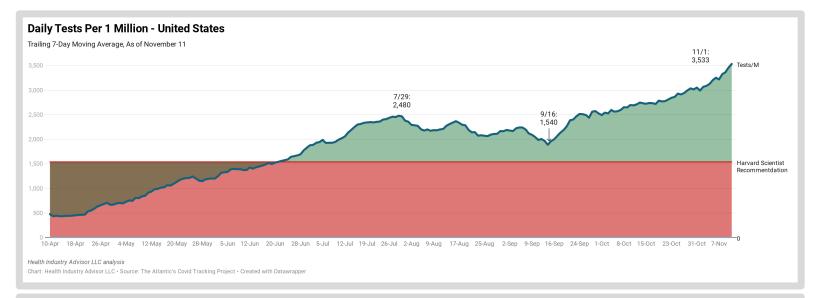


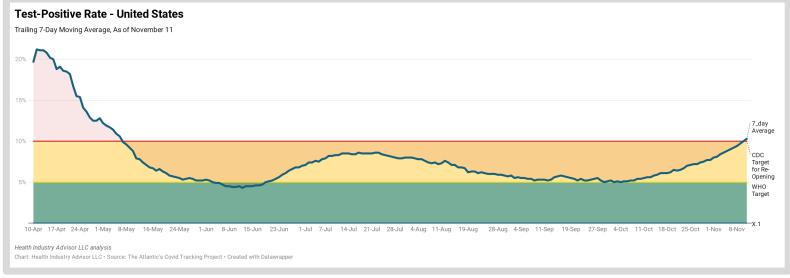


The 7-day average testing volume has increased by 80% since mid-September – setting new highs twenty of the past 24 days

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

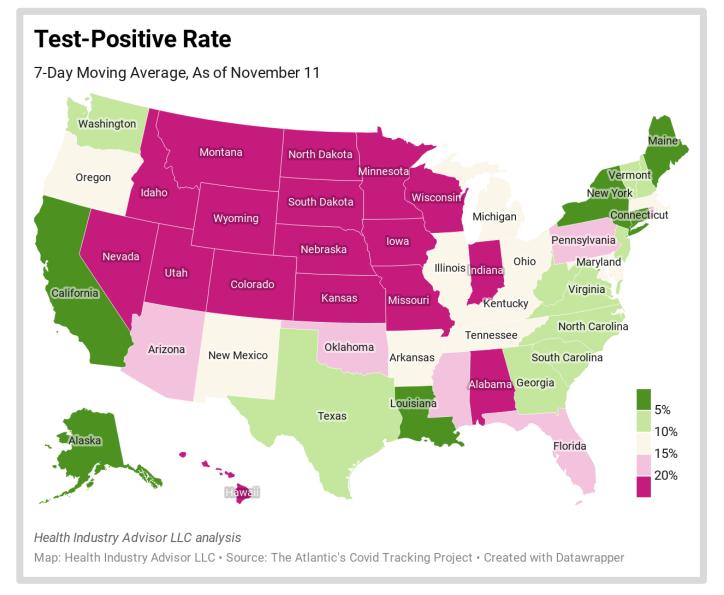
This rate is now above the target established by the CDC for Phase 3 re-openings







High test-positive rates continue to plague the Midwest, Plaines and Mountain States





State-By-State Comparisons (page 1 of 3):

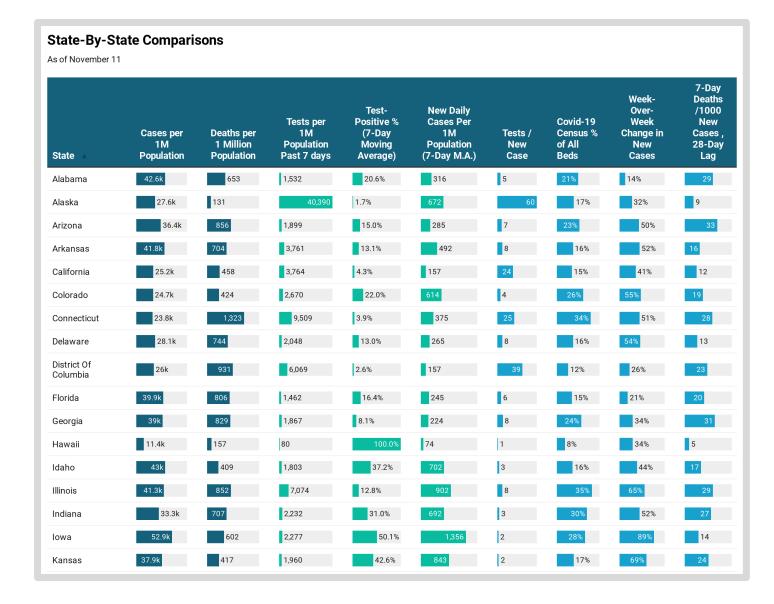
Areas of greatest concern:

High rates of new cases per capita in Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa and Kansas

High % of beds devoted to Covid-19 patients in Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana and Iowa

High week-over-week increases in new cases in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa and Kansas

High case fatality rates in Arizona and Kansas





State-By-State Comparisons (page 2 of 3):

Areas of greatest concern:

High rates of new cases per capita in Minnesota, Missouri, Montana and Nebraska

High % of beds devoted to Covid-19 patients in Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska and Nevada

High week-over-week increases in new cases in Maine,
Maryland, Massachusetts,
Michigan, Nevada, New
Hampshire and New York

High case fatality rates in Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan and New Mexico

Kentucky 28.5k 359 4,138 Louisiana 40.8k 1,303 3,042 Maine 6.1k 118 5,029 Maryland 26.2k 703 1,932 Massachusetts 25.5k 1,471 2,882 Michigan 25.2k 815 5,562 Minnesota 34.5k 498 3,163 Mississispipi 43.5k 1,175 2,101 Missouri 37.7k 567 1,885 Montana 39.4k 442 4,069 Nebraska 45.4k 377 2,627 Nevada 36.8k 609 1,659	11.1% 4.6% 2.4% 11.8% 10.2%	458 139 120 228 293 568	9 22 42 8 10 10	19% 10% 5% 20%	22% 20% 83% 60%	14 27 38 18
Maine 6.1k 118 5,029 Maryland 26.2k 703 1,932 Massachusetts 25.5k 1,471 2,882 Michigan 25.2k 815 5,562 Minnesota 34.5k 498 3,163 Mississippi 43.5k 1,175 2,101 Missouri 37.7k 567 1,885 Montana 39.4k 442 4,069 Nebraska 45.4k 377 2,627 Nevada 36.8k 609 1,659	2.4% 11.8% 10.2%	228 293 568	42 8 10	5%	83%	38
Maryland 26.2k 703 1,932 Massachusetts 25.5k 1,471 2,882 Michigan 25.2k 815 5,562 Minnesota 34.5k 498 3,163 Mississippi 43.5k 1,175 2,101 Missouri 37.7k 567 1,885 Montana 39.4k 442 4,069 Nebraska 45.4k 377 2,627 Nevada 36.8k 609 1,659	11.8% 10.2% 10.2%	228 293 568	8	20%	60%	18
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Minnesota 34.5k 498 3,163 Mississippi 43.5k 1,175 2,101 Missouri 37.7k 567 1,885 Montana 39.4k 442 4,069 Nebraska 45.4k 377 2,627 Nevada 36.8k 609 1,659			10			
Mississippi 43.5k 1,175 2,101 Missouri 37.7k 567 1,885 Montana 39.4k 442 4,069 Nebraska 45.4k 377 2,627 Nevada 36.8k 609 1,659			_	31%	56%	38
Missouri 37.7k 567 1,885 Montana 39.4k 442 4,069 Nebraska 45.4k 377 2,627 Nevada 36.8k 609 1,659	26.9%	852	4	26%	72%	24
Montana 39.4k 442 4,069 Nebraska 45.4k 377 2,627 Nevada 36.8k 609 1,659	16.3%	342	6	13%	46%	22
Nebraska 45.4k 377 2,627 Nevada 36.8k 609 1,659	34.3%	670	3	27%	57%	23
Nevada 36.8k 609 1,659	20.1%	817	5	30%	5%	16
	38.4%	875	3	28%	24%	12
	26.0%	432	4	42%	52%	16
New Hampshire 9.7k 362 1,781	8.0%	167	11	6%	73%	15
New Jersey 30.3k 1,870 5,078	5.8%	300	17	23%	55%	13
New Mexico 28.2k 552 5,423			9	0.404	45%	34
New York 29.7k 1,743 7,596	10.4%	598	9	24%		



(page 3 of 3):

Areas of greatest concern:

High rates of new cases per capita in North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming

High % of beds devoted to Covid-19 patients in North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota and Wisconsin

High week-over-week increases in new cases in Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont and Washington

High case fatality rates in West Virginia





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

