

Covid-19 in Iowa: Dramatic Case Increases

Figure 1. Weekly Additional Covid-19 Cases, Iowa, 2020

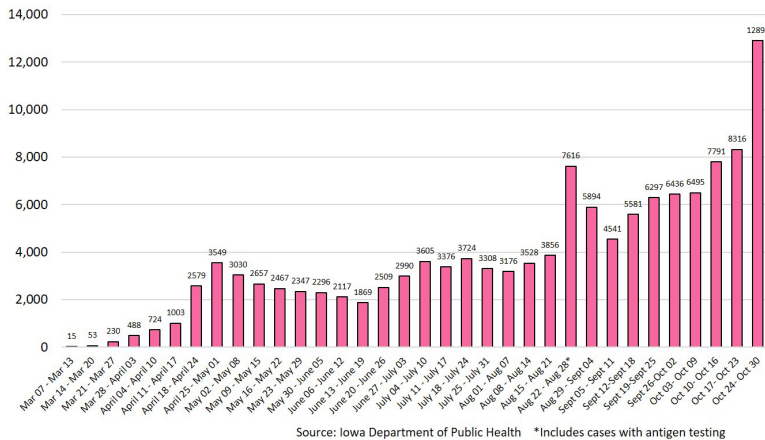


Figure 2. Weekly Additional Covid-19 Cases by Age Group, Iowa, 2020

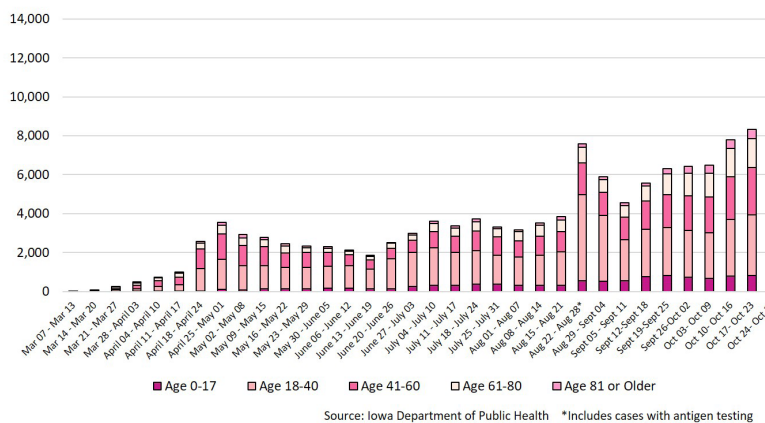
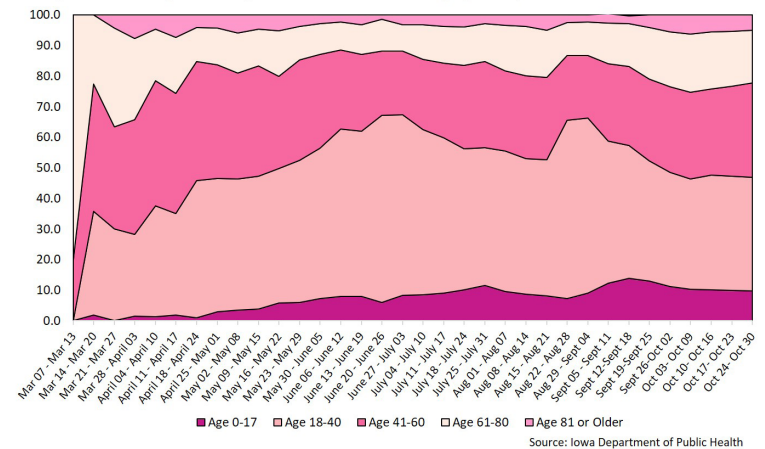


Figure 3. Percentage of Weekly Additional Covid-19 Cases by Age Group, Iowa, 2020



Covid-19 cases¹ increased dramatically in Iowa during the week of October 30th. Statewide, Iowa reported 12,894 cases that week, a 55% increase from the previous week's 8,316, itself a new weekly² high (Figure 1, Table 1). Through October 30th, the Iowa Department of Public Health³ (IDPH) had reported 127,357 total Covid-19 cases in the state.

Statewide, cases are reported by five age groups. Through October 30th, the highest cumulative number of cases (56,736) is reported for those age 18-40; those 81 or older have the fewest reported cases (5,312). In the weeks since Covid-19 has been reported in Iowa, the numbers for the week of October 30th were the highest weekly number of new cases for all the age groups (Figure 2, Table 1). These new cases surpassed even the week of August 28th when there was a surge of cases of persons age 18-40, driven in part by college-age students as well as a one-time adjustment by IDPH in positive cases reported by antigen testing that artificially inflated the case reporting for that week.⁴

Despite the significant increases in cases, there has not been, in recent weeks, much variation in the proportions of cases by age. Although the surge in the proportion of cases age 18-40 is apparent for the week of August 28th, the weekly proportions across the age groups have remained relatively constant since late September (Figure 3, Table 1). This suggests that all age groups are experiencing the surge in the virus and that Iowans need to do more to get the spread of the virus under better control.

Notes

- ¹Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is defined as illness caused by a novel coronavirus <https://www.medscape.com/answers/2500114-197401/what-is-covid-19>
- ²The weeks reported here start with cases and tests reported for a Saturday and end with the reporting for the following Friday.
- ³The Iowa Department of Public Health uses several web sites for reporting. These include: <https://www.idph.iowa.gov/>; <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus>; <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/>; <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/pages/access>; <https://open-iowa.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/ia-covid19-demographics>; and <https://open-iowa.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/ia-covid19-cases>
- ⁴On August 27, 2020, IDPH revised the reported statewide Covid-19 cases by adding an estimated cumulative 1,377 previous cases. These cases were from many previous weeks and months, *not* from that current week. The data reported in Table 1 for the week of Aug 22-Aug 28 reflect the totals *with* the added antigen cases. These additional cases artificially inflate the case numbers for that week. See <https://idph.iowa.gov/News/ArtMid/646/ArticleID/158374/IDPH-updates-COVID-19-antigen-test-results-following-increased-testing-volume-and-new-CDC-guidance>.

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Table 1. Cumulative and Weekly Covid-19 Cases by Age, Iowa, 2020.¹

Week	Cumulative Cases	Weekly Number of Covid-19 Cases by Age						Weekly Percentage of Covid-19 Cases by Age				
		All Ages	Age 0-17	Age 18-40	Age 41-60	Age 61-80	Age 81 or Older	Age 0-17	Age 18-40	Age 41-60	Age 61-80	Age 81 or Older
Mar 07 - Mar 13	15	15	0	0	3	12	0	0.0	0.0	20.0	80.0	0.0
Mar 14 - Mar 20	68	53	1	18	22	12	0	1.9	34.0	41.5	22.6	0
Mar 21 - Mar 27	298	230	0	69	77	74	10	0.0	30.0	33.5	32.2	4.3
Mar 28 - April 03	786	488	7	131	183	129	38	1.4	26.8	37.5	26.4	7.8
April 04 - April 10	1510	724	9	262	296	122	33	1.3	36.3	41.0	16.9	4.7
April 11 - April 17	2513	1003	18	334	395	183	75	1.8	33.2	39.4	18.2	7.4
April 18 - April 24	5092	2579	26	1155	1004	289	105	1.0	44.8	38.9	11.2	4.1
April 25 - May 01	8641	3549	102	1549	1319	428	146	2.9	43.6	37.2	12.1	4.2
May 02 - May 08	11671	3030	70	1267	1019	385	177	3.4	42.9	34.7	13.1	5.9
May 09 - May 15	14328	2657	128	1185	983	351	127	3.8	43.5	36.0	12.1	4.6
May 16 - May 22	16795	2467	143	1084	745	366	129	5.8	43.9	30.2	14.8	5.2
May 23 - May 29	19142	2347	136	1092	770	255	88	5.9	46.6	32.8	10.9	3.8
May 30 - June 05	21438	2296	167	1127	704	232	66	7.3	49.1	30.7	10.1	2.9
June 06 - June 12	23555	2117	169	1158	548	194	50	8.0	54.7	25.9	9.1	2.4
June 13 - June 19	25424	1869	147	1012	468	185	58	7.9	54.1	25.0	9.8	3.1
June 20 - June 26	27933	2509	150	1537	524	260	38	6.0	61.3	20.9	10.4	1.5
June 27 - July 03	30923	2990	248	1767	619	262	93	8.3	59.1	20.7	8.8	3.1
July 04 - July 10	34528	3605	304	1949	824	409	116	8.5	54.1	22.9	11.3	3.2
July 11 - July 17	37904	3376	305	1713	822	406	131	9.0	50.7	24.3	12.0	3.9
July 18 - July 24	41628	3724	375	1720	1016	467	149	10.1	46.2	27.3	12.5	4.0
July 25 - July 31	44936	3308	383	1488	935	407	94	11.6	45.0	28.3	12.3	2.8
Aug 01 - Aug 07	48112	3176	304	1457	835	470	112	9.6	45.9	26.3	14.8	3.5
Aug 08 - Aug 14	51640	3528	306	1562	960	567	133	8.7	44.3	27.2	16.1	3.8
Aug 15 - Aug 21	55496	3856	317	1712	1039	594	196	8.2	44.4	26.9	15.4	5.1
Aug 22 - Aug 28*	63112	7616	552	4438	1621	806	180	7.2	58.3	21.3	10.7	2.5
Aug 29 - Sept 04	69006	5894	533	3374	1202	647	137	9.0	57.2	20.4	11.0	2.3
Sept 05 - Sept 11	73547	4541	559	2111	1146	602	136	12.3	46.5	25.2	13.3	3.0
Sept 12 - Sept 18	79128	5581	771	2422	1449	775	145	13.8	43.4	26.0	13.9	2.6
Sept 19 - Sept 25	85425	6297	812	2485	1678	1062	265	12.9	39.5	26.6	16.9	4.2
Sept 26 - Oct 02	91861	6436	720	2402	1800	1160	353	11.2	37.3	28.0	18.0	5.5
Oct 03 - Oct 09	98356	6495	663	2343	1848	1234	405	10.2	36.1	28.5	19.0	6.2
Oct 10 - Oct 16	106147	7791	793	2921	2195	1444	435	10.2	37.5	28.2	18.5	5.6
Oct 17 - Oct 23	114463	8316	823	3100	2454	1486	452	9.9	37.3	29.5	17.9	5.4
Oct 24 - Oct 30	127357	12894	1264	4792	3976	2218	640	9.8	37.2	30.8	17.2	5.0
Cumulative Age Totals	127357		11305	56736	35479	18493	5312	8.9	44.5	27.9	14.5	4.2

¹Source: Iowa Department of Public Health; *On August 27th, the Iowa Department of Public Health added the cumulative positive Covid-19 cases identified by antigen testing (1,377) to the state cumulative Covid-19 total cases identified by PCR (polymerase chain reaction) testing. Before August 27th, the reported state positive totals were based only on PCR testing. The data reported here for the week of August 22-August 28 reflect the totals with the added antigen cases even though those cases were from many previous weeks and months, not from just that week.

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