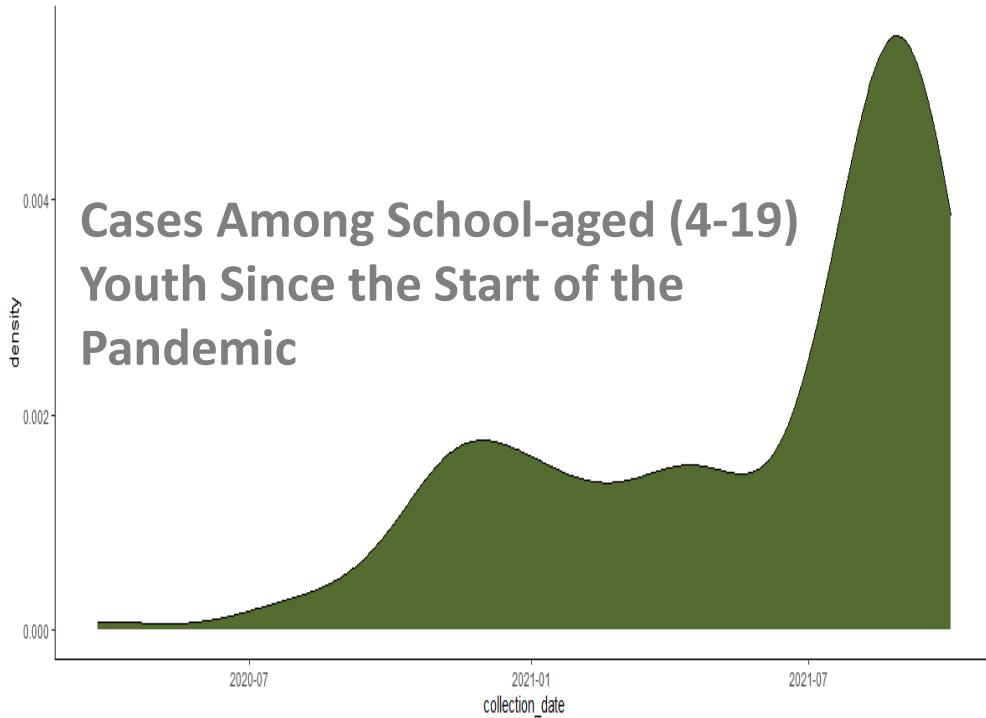
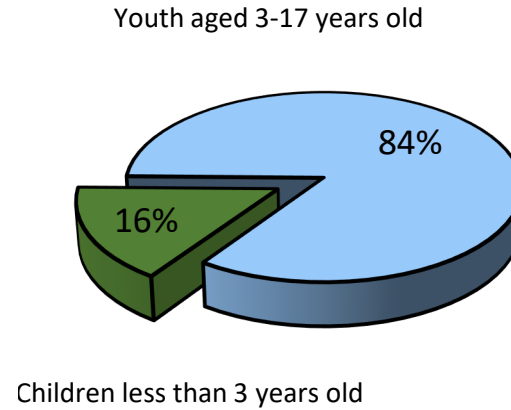


Epidemiology Brief: October 2021

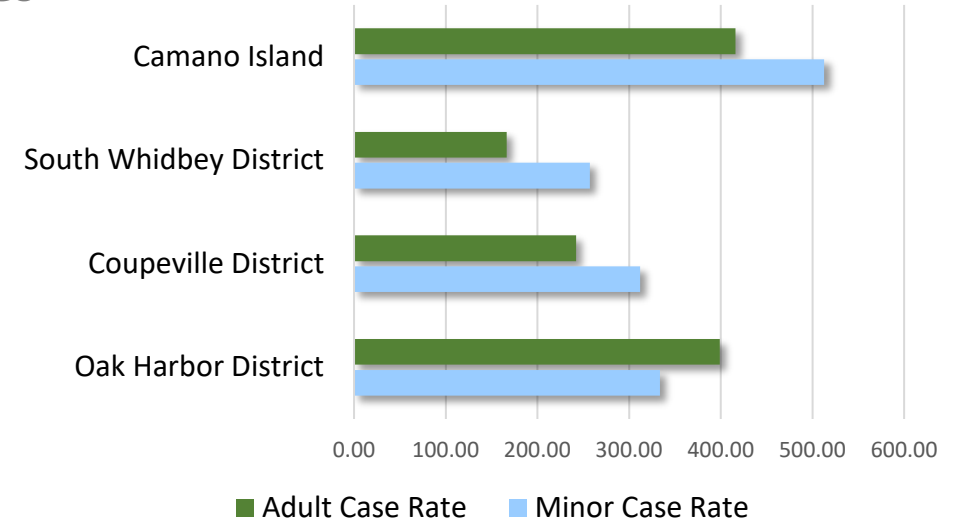
(687 cases in September and October as of 10/3/2021)



Age of Minor Cases



Minor and Adult Case Rates by Zip Code Group



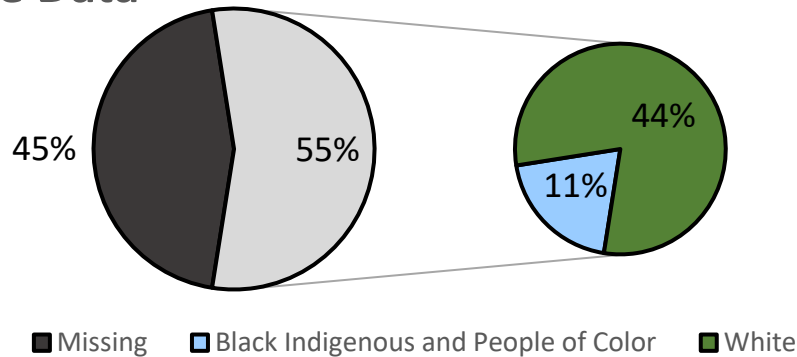
This brief is intended to highlight cases of COVID-19 among youth in Island County. The brief includes all cases tested from September 1st through October 3rd. The titles of each graphic indicate if a smaller youth-oriented subsection is displayed. The histogram on the left draws data from across the length of the pandemic, showing the marked rise in children and adolescent cases recorded over the past couple months. Since opening a month ago, schools across Island County have been dealing with substantial numbers of cases among students and staff. This is not surprising when we look at the spike in cases in the age group of interest.

August and September brought increases in case rates across all of Island County that show some signs of persistent leveling. Over the past month Camano Island has seen the highest case rates in the county among both adults and minors. Additionally, over the past two weeks we've seen an unusually large concentration of cases in Freeland. Civil leaders and public health experts agree on the importance of in-person learning and the structure and support brought by school attendance for children of all ages. Despite the myriad benefits, it is a difficult time to re-open schools, as we experience a season of extremely high COVID-19 transmission dominated by the delta variant while vaccination approval for 5-11 year-olds is still pending. Higher case rates for minors, when compared to adults, can be found across all of Island County's school districts with the exception of Oak Harbor.

Recent case data shows proportionality in infections among white residents and county residents of color. Race data is missing for nearly half of our cases as illustrated by the graph at bottom left. We will continue to monitor and report on race related trends in Island County case data.

It is important to remember, and obvious from our local data, that children, adolescents, and young adults are vulnerable to COVID-19. While children are less likely to experience serious cases of COVID-19, even a mild case can be an unpleasant experience worthy of protecting a child from. Children with rare serious cases have suffered a range of outcomes including "long COVID" symptoms, hospitalization, intubation, multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C – a very rare but dangerous complication from COVID-19 infection in children), and death. It is crucial for those who are old enough to be vaccinated to get their shots so that children who are currently too young to be vaccinated can be better shielded from exposure.

Case Race Data



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