Weekly Data Reflections

Week of May 25, 2020

Public Health

Several of these graphs and charts are live on our data hub at: https://durhampublichealth-durhamnc.hub.arcgis.com/

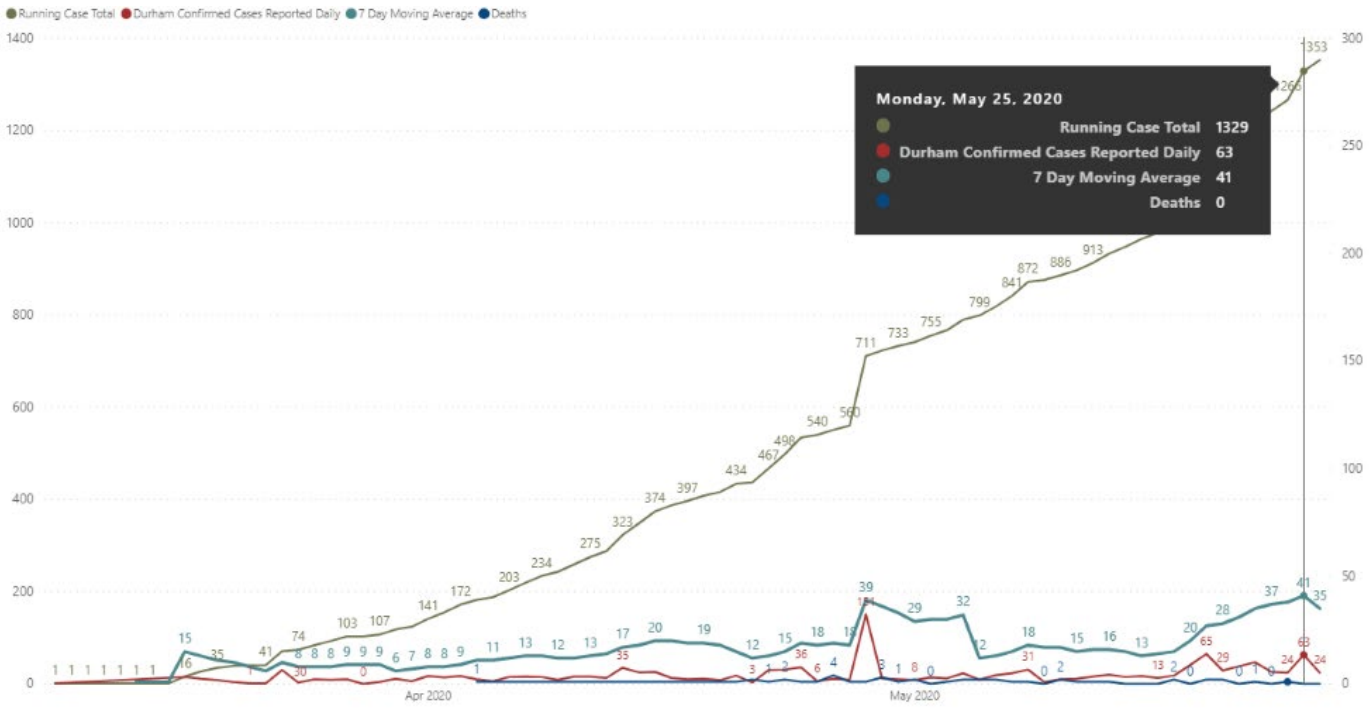
1. Overall Case Trends

On Monday, May 25

- There were 1,329 total cases
  - This is a 292 case **increase** from last week
- The 7-day moving average was 41
  - This is **up** from the average of 20 last week

What Does This Mean

- The number of total cases is cumulative, and it will increase daily
  - We watch the total number of cases to understand the **total disease burden** in the community
- The 7-day average is a weekly average, which is re-estimated every day – it will decrease as the rate of new cases slows
  - We watch the 7-day average to determine if **trends in cases are increasing or decreasing** in the community



2. We added race & ethnicity summaries to the Data Hub

Why is it Important to Look at Data related to Race and Ethnicity?

- Promoting **health equity** is central to the Durham County Health Department's values
- A history of **structural racism** (e.g. residential and job segregation) creates inequitable access to health care and risk of disease exposure

What to Look for with Race and Ethnicity Data

- Is the race and ethnicity distribution of cases **representative** of the Durham population? Over-represented groups have **greater COVID-19 risk**. Under-represented groups have **lower COVID-19 risk.**
  - Who is at greater risk?
  - Who is at lower risk?
- **When** are cases being identified within race and ethnicity groups? This can reflect **risk of exposure** and **access to testing**.
  - Who has access to testing?
  - Who can stay home?
  - Who is protected at work?

Monthly Race & Ethnicity Trends

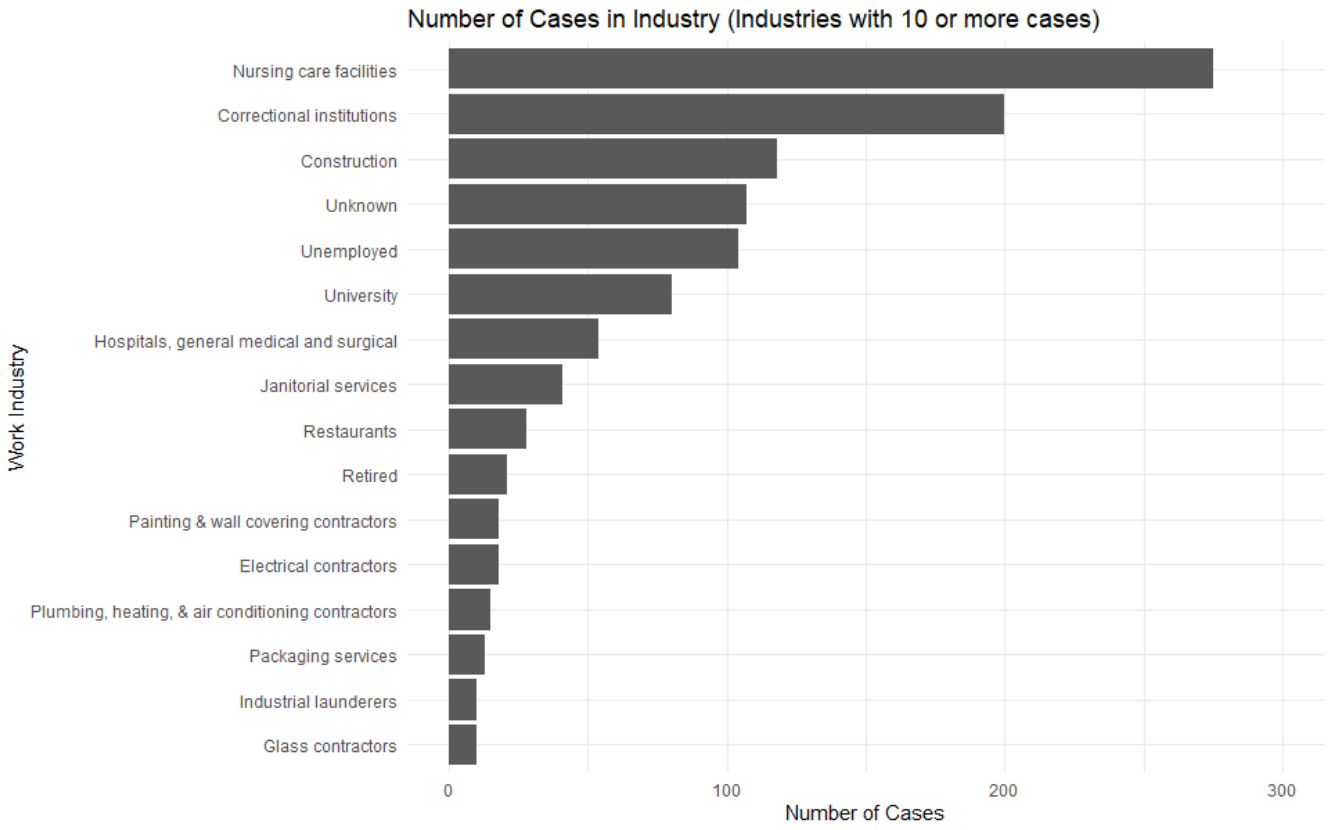
- Most cases identified in **March** were among White individuals (58%)
- In **April**, most cases were among Black or African American individuals (57%)
- In **May**, most have been among Hispanic or Latino individuals (58%)

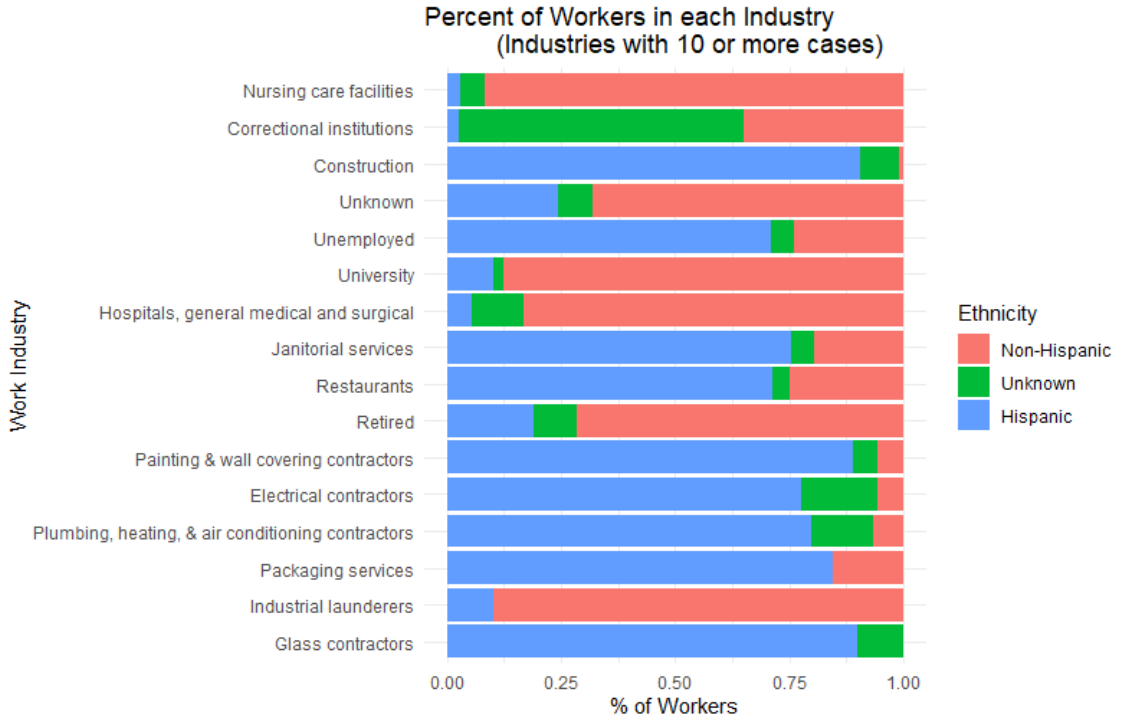
Overall Race & Ethnicity Information

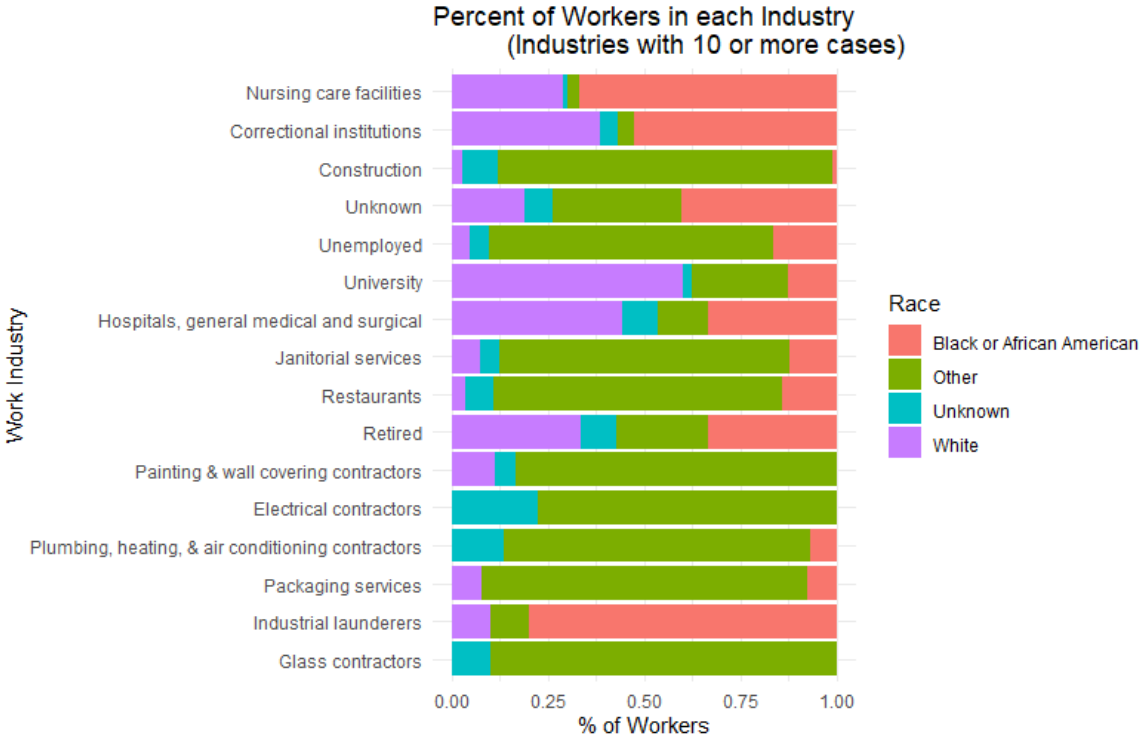
- **Hispanic or Latino** individuals are **over-represented** in COVID-19 cases: 34% of all cases are among Hispanic or Latino individuals, while only 14% of Durham County residents identify as Hispanic or Latino
- **Black or African American** individuals are **over-represented** in COVID-19 cases: 42% of all cases are among Black or African American individuals, while 37% of Durham County residents identify as Black or African American
- **White** individuals are **under-represented** in COVID-19 cases: 26% of cases are among White individuals, while they make up 54% of the Durham County population
- **Asian** individuals are **under-represented** in COVID-19 cases: 3% of cases are among Asian individuals, while 6% of Durham County identifies as Asian
- Less than 1% of cases are among **American Indian or Alaska Native** and **Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander** individuals
- There is a substantial amount of **missing data** for race and ethnicity. We are missing ethnicity for 17% of cases and race for 4% of cases.

Work, Race & Ethnicity

- Why is this important?
  - On May 22, the NC DHHS released guidance recommending local health departments aid in cluster identification based on **occupational and community settings**
  - Understanding common workplace and congregate living settings of COVID-19 transmission can help us **target resources, ensure worker protections, and identify root causes of disparities**
- What does it tell us?
  - In terms of occupational settings, the greatest number of cases occurred in **nursing care facilities, correctional institutions, and construction industry work**
  - 67% of cases associated with **nursing care facility** settings were **Black or African American**
  - 53% of cases associated with correctional institution settings were **Black or African American**
  - 91% of cases associated with **construction work** settings were **Hispanic or Latino**
- Notes on this data:
  - Distributions are among **adults** (18 and older)
  - In "Nursing care facilities," 67% are **residents** and 33% are **staff**
  - In "Correctional institutions," 95% are **inmates** and 5% are **staff**
  - Adults **65 and older** listed as "unemployed" were assumed to be **retired**




Percent of Workers in each Industry
(Industries with 10 or more cases)
Work Industry
Nursing care facilities
Correctional institutions
Construction
Unknown
Unemployed
University
Hospitals, general medical and surgical
Janitorial services
Restaurants
Retired
Painting & wall covering contractors
Electrical contractors
Plumbing, heating, & air conditioning contractors
Packaging services
Industrial launderers
Glass contractors
0.00
0.25
0.50
0.75
1.00
% of Workers
Ethnicity
Non-Hispanic
Unknown
Hispanic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Janitorial services
Restaurants
Retired
Painting & wall covering contractors
Electrical contractors
Plumbing, heating, & air conditioning contractors
Packaging services
Industrial launderers
Glass contractors
0.00
0.25
0.50
0.75
1.00
% of Workers
Race
Black or African American
Other
Unknown
White

3. We are tracking two surveillance efforts. The positivity prevalence remains stable in both populations over time

Surveillance Effort 1

- The first effort reflects prevalence of positive tests in an **insured population** within Durham County
- This positive test prevalence in this population is trending at **9%**

Surveillance Effort 2

- The second effort is **community-based**
- This positive test prevalence in this population is trending at 9**%**

Comments on the Surveillance Data

- We do not have access to data on all **negative tests** completed in Durham County
- Because we do not have complete denominator information (total number of tests), we may be **misestimating** positive test prevalence
- Interpretations of positive prevalence estimates should be mindful of this limitation