



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 12, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner 
County Administrator

Re: **Pandemic Update**

Since the beginning of the pandemic Pima County has experienced more than 283,188 cases of COVID-19. Last week there were 1,726 COVID-19 cases reported in Pima County. As in the rest of the state, Pima County cases have been declining during the last four weeks. (Attachment 1) At this time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting a case rate of 191.26 per 100,000 for the last seven days in Pima County.

Likewise, hospitalization of Pima County *residents* has been declining in the last three weeks, and was noted to be 34 last week. Overall, Emergency Department visits for COVID-like illness in Pima County hospitals (reporting into the federal syndromic surveillance programs) are also beginning to decline and were about 2.3 percent last week. The end of the Governor's Emergency Declaration also ended the hospital requirement to report capacity or COVID-19 related admissions; therefore, a precise quantitation of COVID-related bed use is not possible. Having said that the CDC is reporting 3 percent of hospital beds and 2.9 percent of ICU beds in use by COVID-19 patients in Pima County.

Since the onset of the pandemic, Pima County has reported 3,233,597 diagnostic COVID-19 tests. Testing in Pima County continues to trend down since its most recent peak at the end in the last four weeks. About 9,324 diagnostic tests were performed last week. Diagnostic test positivity, which was hovering at about 3 to 4 percent in April, continues to hover at about 25 percent. Both the total number of tests and the positivity rate are likely to be lower, given the wide distribution and home use of rapid antigen testing which is not being reported.

On June 30 the State discontinued testing in Pima County at the Ellie Towne Center location. The County still maintains some free low-barrier testing capacity sponsored by the County, which remains available from Paradigm at its Grant Road and Tucson International Airport location, but will be looking to consolidate and scale down the airport site on August 18 in response to diminishing demand. Additionally, Federally Qualified Health Centers, retail pharmacies and the federal government continue to distribute test kits for self-administration and to offer on-site testing.

The COVID-19 Community Level for Pima County continues to be Green (Low) Level, based on the most recently CDC risk assessment. Encouraging vaccination and boosting is essential. Testing and masking for symptomatic individuals, as well as avoiding crowded in-

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door settings for older and otherwise medically vulnerable individuals continues to be recommended behaviors.

Test-to-Treat

On June 23, the Pima County Health Department initiated a low-barrier Test-to-Treat program at our East Clinic. This service, the first of its kind in Arizona, is possible due to the collaboration and support of the Federal Emergency Management Administration which has deployed two teams of three Family Nurse Practitioners. The federal team, supported by Health Department staff, evaluates patients and when appropriate prescribes anti-viral medication provided by the federal government.

Testing and evaluation for anti-viral medication is available on site and through telephone consultation. The service is available Monday through Friday during business hours. Starting the second week of August, the Health Department began to directly dispense Paxlovid (one of the anti-virals) as appropriate at this site. There is no cost to the patient for the testing, evaluation, or medication.

Access to these anti-viral medications has been a challenge in our community and across the United States. Thanks to this collaborative effort, however, the Health Department has medically evaluated 1,299 individuals in order to identify 1,241 for treatment. We have also served residents of Santa Cruz and Cochise County Health Departments.

Vaccination

More than 2,026,078 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Pima County residents. At this time, 70.8 percent (741,065) of the County has been *fully* vaccinated. Notably, 74.8 percent of the population 5-years and older is now fully vaccinated. Additionally, 366,045 or 49.4 percent of the *fully-vaccinated booster eligible* population has received a first booster dose.

Everyone who is 5-years and older and has been fully vaccinated is eligible for and should receive a first booster. Additionally, individuals who are 50 years and older as well as those 12 and older who are immunocompromised are eligible for a second booster dose.

Since vaccine became available, we have documented 70,151 breakthrough infections following complete vaccination. This is 9.8 percent of the fully vaccinated population that have developed subsequent COVID-19 infection. Breakthrough cases result in less severe disease and only 1.8 percent (12,760) of fully vaccinated individuals have required hospitalization, and 0.55 percent (3,937) have died of COVID-19 related illness.

Vaccine remains abundantly available through retail pharmacies, Federally Qualified Health Centers, other clinical entities, and at our own Health Department fixed and mobile locations. (Attachment 2)

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Conclusion

Pima County, through the efforts of its Health Department and in collaboration with a myriad of community partners, continues to lead and innovate in our evolving response to endemic COVID-19. Despite objective progress in some of our indicators, it is critical that residents continue to protect themselves and each other with vaccination and boosters, staying home when sick, and masking indoors especially for medically vulnerable individuals.

JKL/dym

Attachments

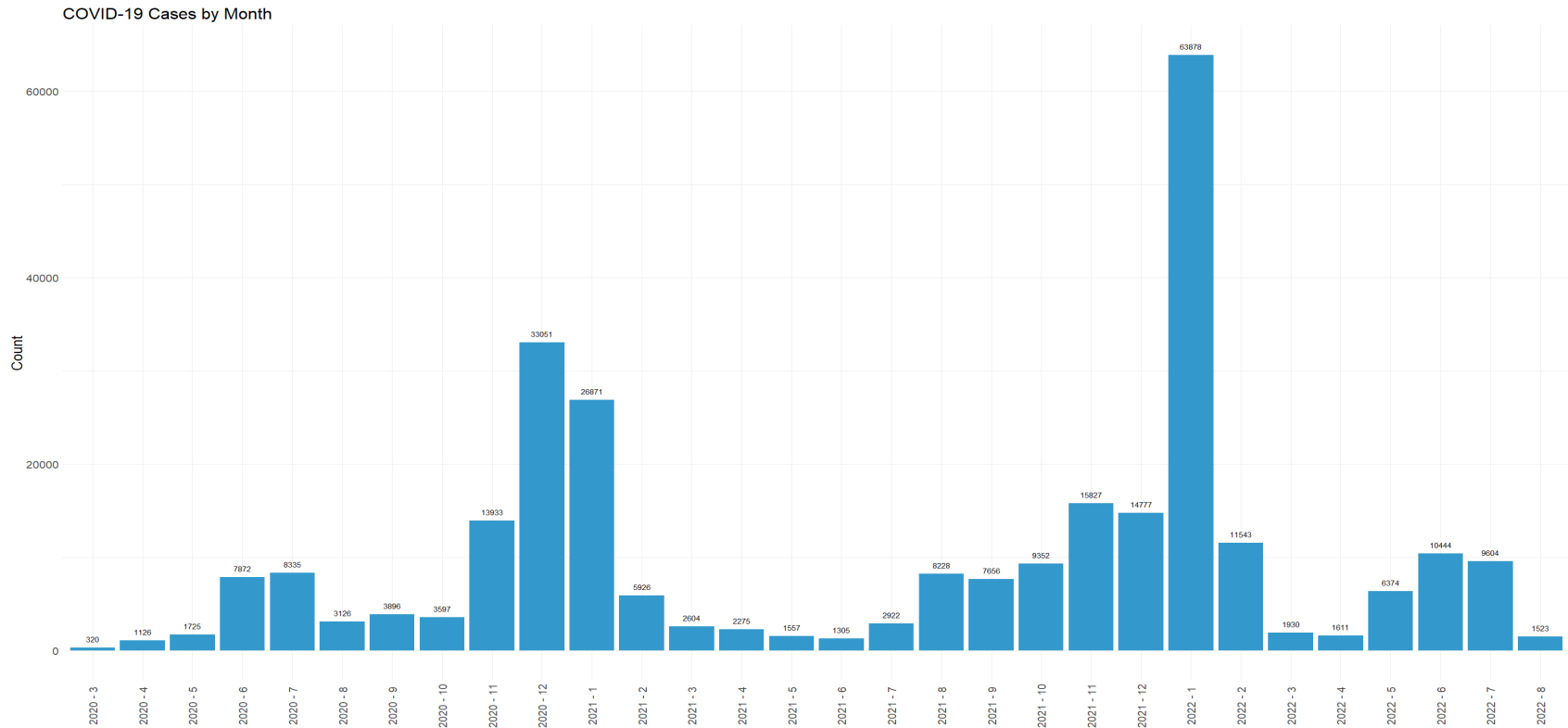
c: Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department

ATTACHMENT 1

Weekly COVID-19 Summary

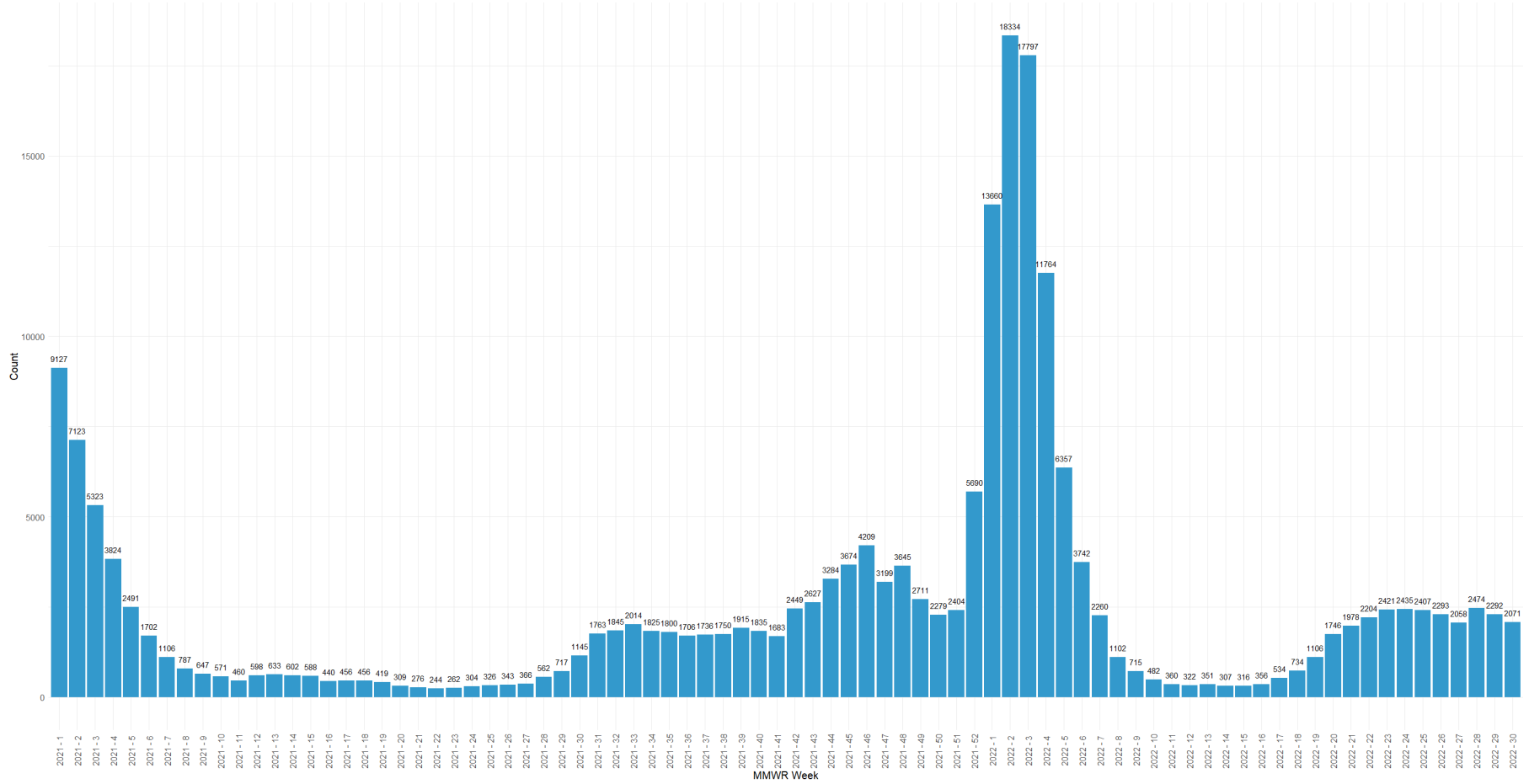
Cumulative Demographic Report - MEDSIS weekly data

Cases



Wednesday, August 10, 2022

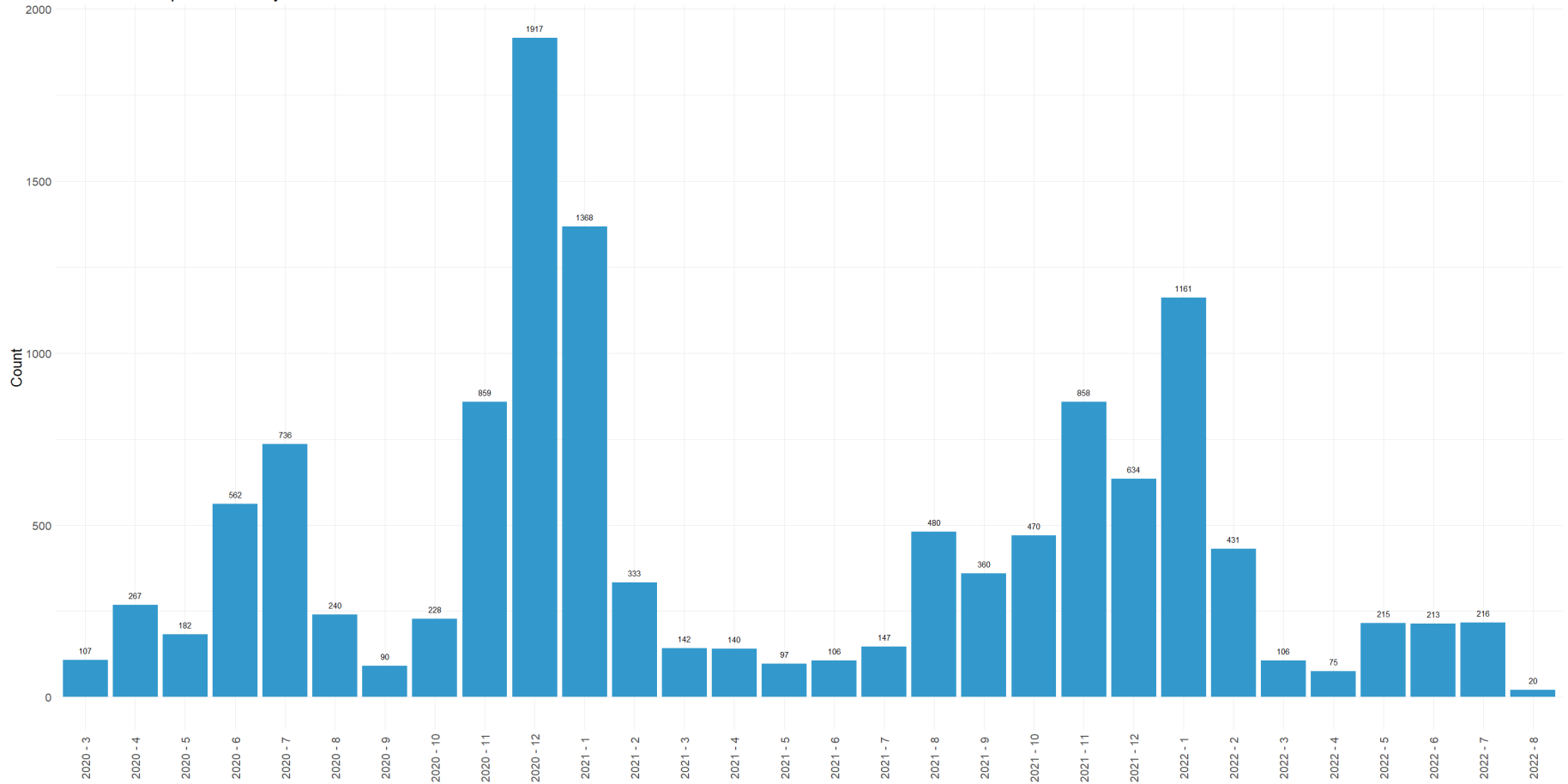
COVID-19 Cases by MMWR week



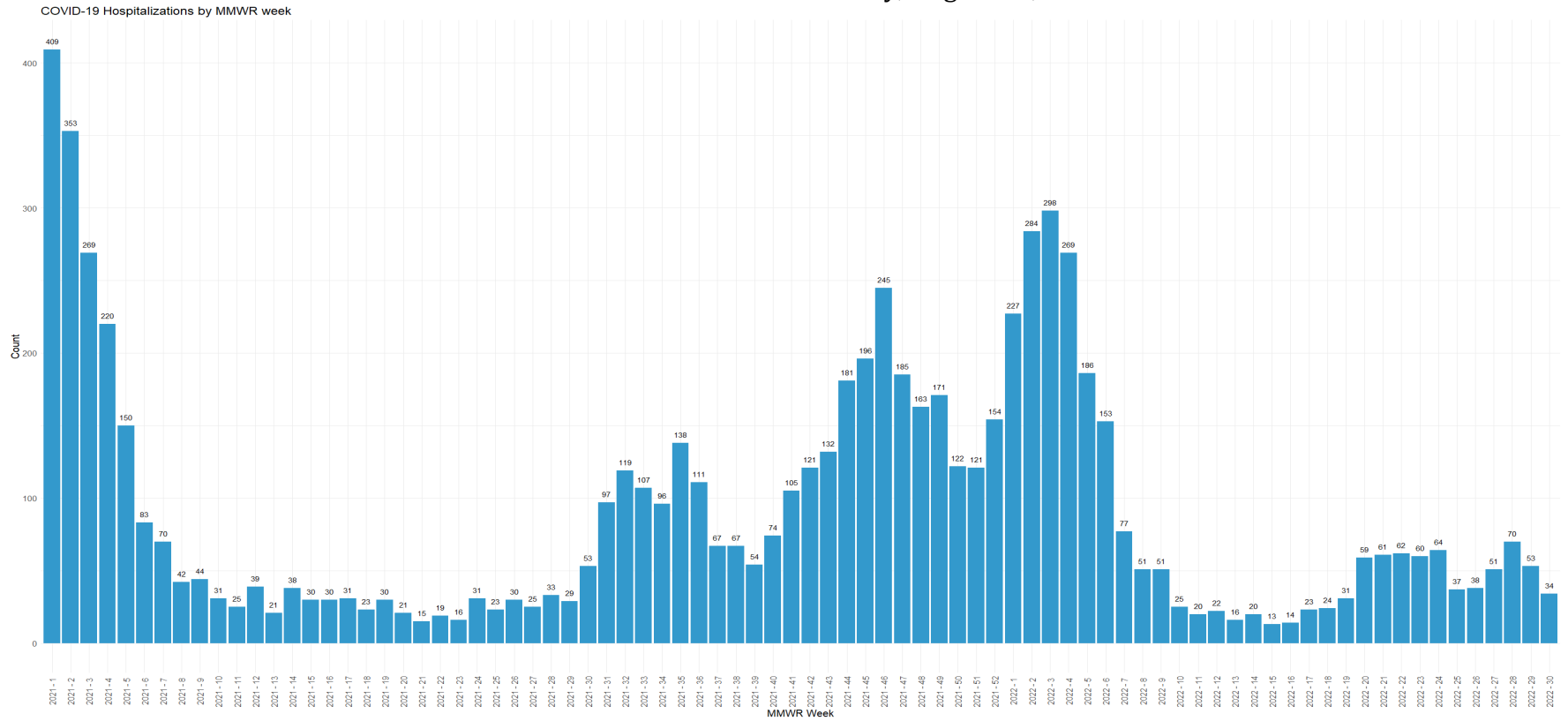
Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Hospitalizations

COVID-19 Hospitalizations by Month



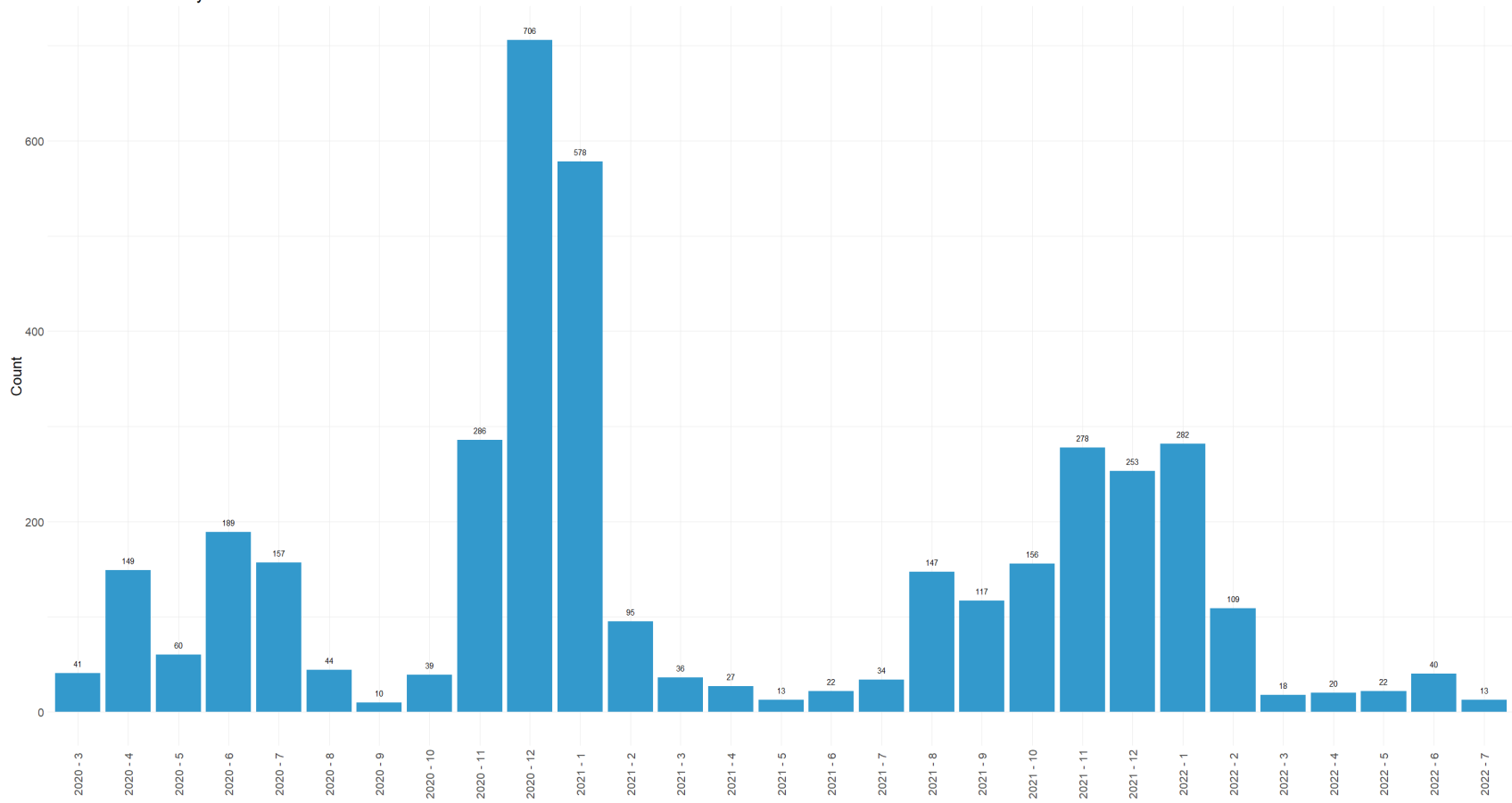
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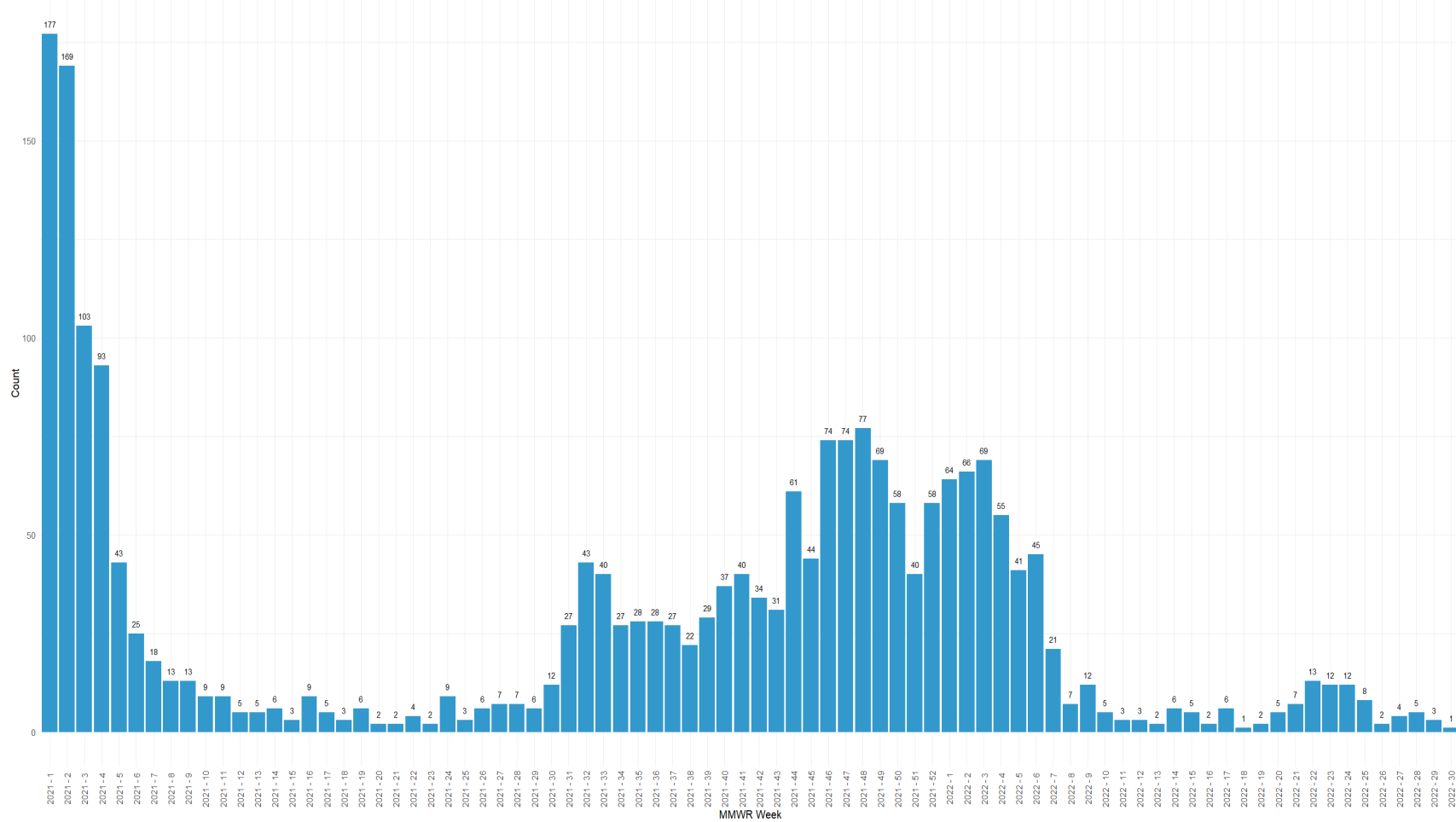
Deaths

COVID-19 Deaths by Month



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COVID-19 Deaths by MMWR week



ATTACHMENT 2

PIMA COUNTY MOBILE VACCINATION SITES

Date	Start Time	End Time	Location	Address
8/12/2022	9:00 AM	4:00 PM	Tohono O'odham Community College	Milepost 125.5, AZ-86, Sells, AZ 85634
8/15/2022	8:00 AM	1:00 PM	Homeless Vaccine Clinic - Wild Cat Inn	Wild Cat Inn - 1701 N. Oracle Rd.
8/16/2022	8:00 AM	1:00 PM	Homeless Vaccine Clinic - Wild Cat Inn	Wild Cat Inn - 1701 N. Oracle Rd.
8/17/2022	3:00 PM	5:30 PM	Tucson Indian Center	162 N. Stone Ave.
8/18/2022	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	Utterback Middle School	3233 South Pinal Vista
8/19/2022	8:00 AM	12:00 PM	San Xavier Mission School	1980 W. San Xavier Rd.
8/20/2022	9:00 AM	1:00 PM	San Xavier del Bac Plaza	1950 W. San Xavier Rd.
8/22/2022	8:00 AM	1:00 PM	La Frontera Magnotto House	1367 W. Miracle Mile
8/23/2022	9:00 AM	3:00 PM	University of Arizona Vaccine Event	640 N. National Championship Dr.
8/24/2022	9:00 AM	12:00 PM	Homeless Vaccine Clinic - Sister Jose Women's Center	Sister Jose Women's Center - 1050 S.Park Ave.
8/24/2022	3:00 PM	5:30 PM	Tucson Indian Center	162 N. Stone Ave.
8/24/2022	9:00 AM	3:00 PM	University of Arizona	640 N. National Championship Dr.
8/25/2022	8:00 AM	1:00 PM	Homeless Vaccine Clinic - Z Mansion	Z Mansion - 288 N. Church Ave.
8/31/2022	3:00 PM	5:30 PM	Tucson Indian Center	162 N. Stone Ave.
9/12/2022	8:00 AM	12:00 PM	Grace St. Paul's Church	2331 E. Adams St.
9/23/2022	8:00 AM	12:00 PM	San Xavier Mission School	1980 W. San Xavier Rd.