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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: May 2, 2022

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

From: Jan Lesner   
Acting County Administrator

Re: **Pandemic Update**

Last week 297 COVID-19 cases were documented, this compares to the historic high of 18,483 cases the week of January 9, 2022. We appear to be plateauing at this point and at a weekly case count still higher than during our low-point of 244 cases the first week of June 2021. (Attachment 1) At this time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting a case rate of <30 per 100,000 for the last seven days.

Hospitalization of Pima County *residents* has been less than 23 per week for the last four weeks, compared to our most recent peak the third week of January 2022 at 312. One impact of the end of the Governor's Emergency Declaration is that hospitals are no longer required to report on capacity or COVID-19 related admissions. This has been the case since March 30, 2022. Pima County Health Department is developing a voluntary reporting process for those hospitals.

Since the onset of the pandemic, Pima County has reported 3,043,900 diagnostic COVID-19 tests. Testing in Pima County last week dropped to 7,811 its lowest point in 20 months (previously peaked at 80,431 the week of January 9, 2022). Diagnostic test positivity peaked at about 28 percent (January 16, 2022) and is now hovering at about 3 to 5 percent in the last 4 weeks. Accordingly, Pima County and State sponsored testing sites at which no-cost low-barrier testing is available have scaled down to three locations. However, 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 Low (or Green) Level, based on the most recently CDC risk assessment, and community transmission is also at a Low (or Blue) Level.

## Schools

Since the beginning of the current academic year, 337 schools have reported 24,440 cases. Case numbers have been decreasing each week from a high of 4,403 cases the second week of January 2022 to 42 cases last week. Students make up 85 percent of cases while teachers and staff are 15 percent. This academic year, schools have experienced 439 outbreaks and 199 recommended classroom closures. (Attachment 2)

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Collaborative school-based vaccination has continued to be a major focus of the Health Department with 307 such events since the beginning of the academic year.

### Vaccination

More than 1,868,298 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Pima County. At this time, 69.2 percent (724,766 individuals) of the population of this County is fully vaccinated. Notably, 73.2 percent of the vaccine age eligible population (5 years and older) is now fully vaccinated. Additionally, 333,941 or 48 percent of the fully vaccinated booster eligible population has received a first booster dose.

Since vaccine became available, we have documented 53,479 breakthrough infections following complete vaccination. This is 7.7 percent of the fully vaccinated population that have developed subsequent COVID-19 infection. Breakthrough cases result in less severe disease and only 0.14 percent (995) of fully vaccinated individuals have required hospitalization, and only 0.04 percent (296) have died of COVID-19 related illness.

Vaccine remains available through retail pharmacies, Federally Qualified Health Centers, other clinical entities, and at our own Health Department fixed and mobile locations as summarized [here](#).

### Conclusion

Pima County continues to closely monitor local and regional COVID-19 transmission. Our guidance continues to be that residents protect themselves and each other with vaccination (and boosters), staying home when sick, masking for the protection of vulnerable populations, are evidence-based interventions that will continue to be needed our community.

JKL/dym

### Attachments

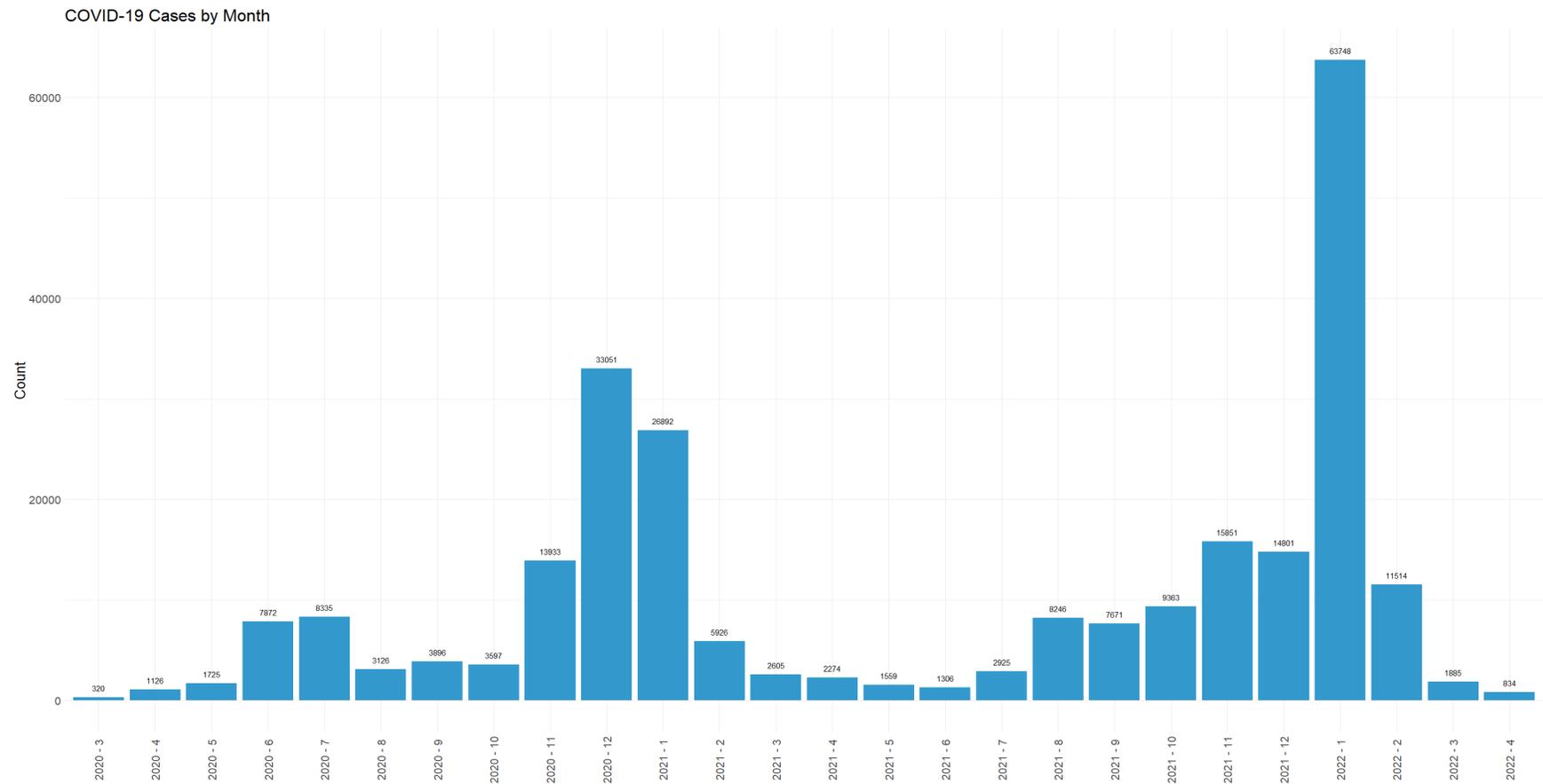
- c: Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator for Health and Community Services & Chief Medical Officer
- Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
- Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department

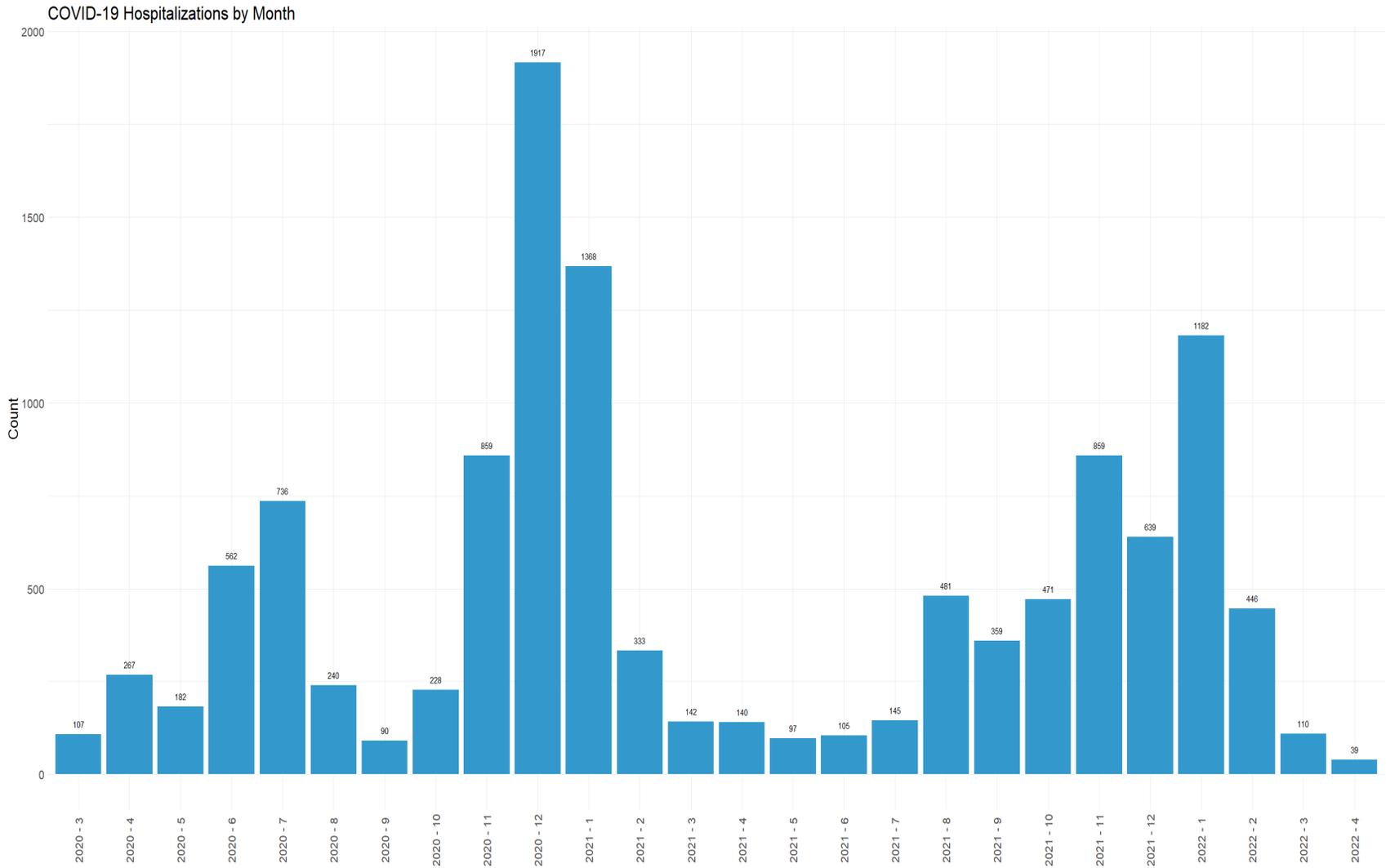
# ATTACHMENT 1

## Weekly COVID-19 Summary

### Cumulative Demographic Report - MEDSIS weekly data

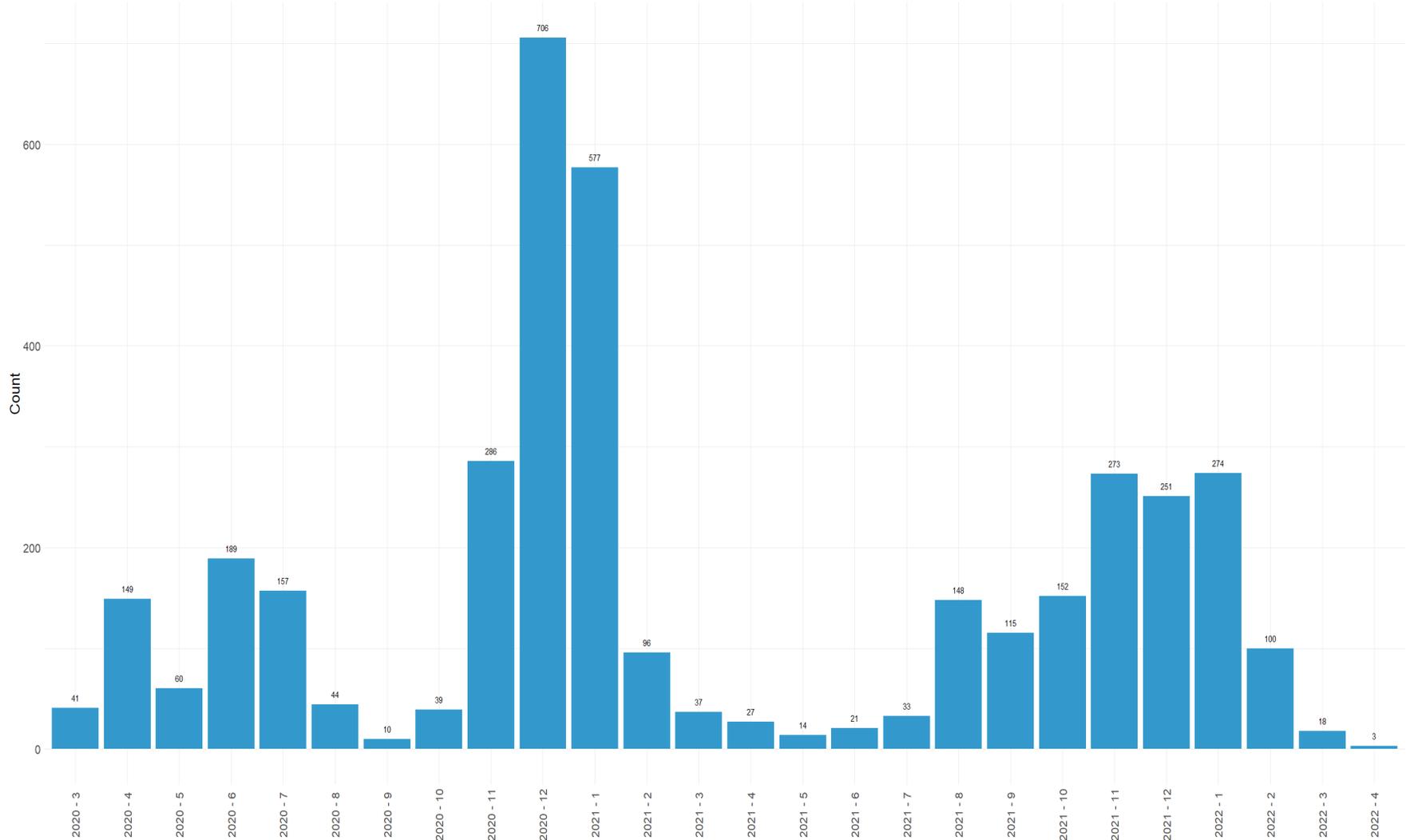
#### Cases





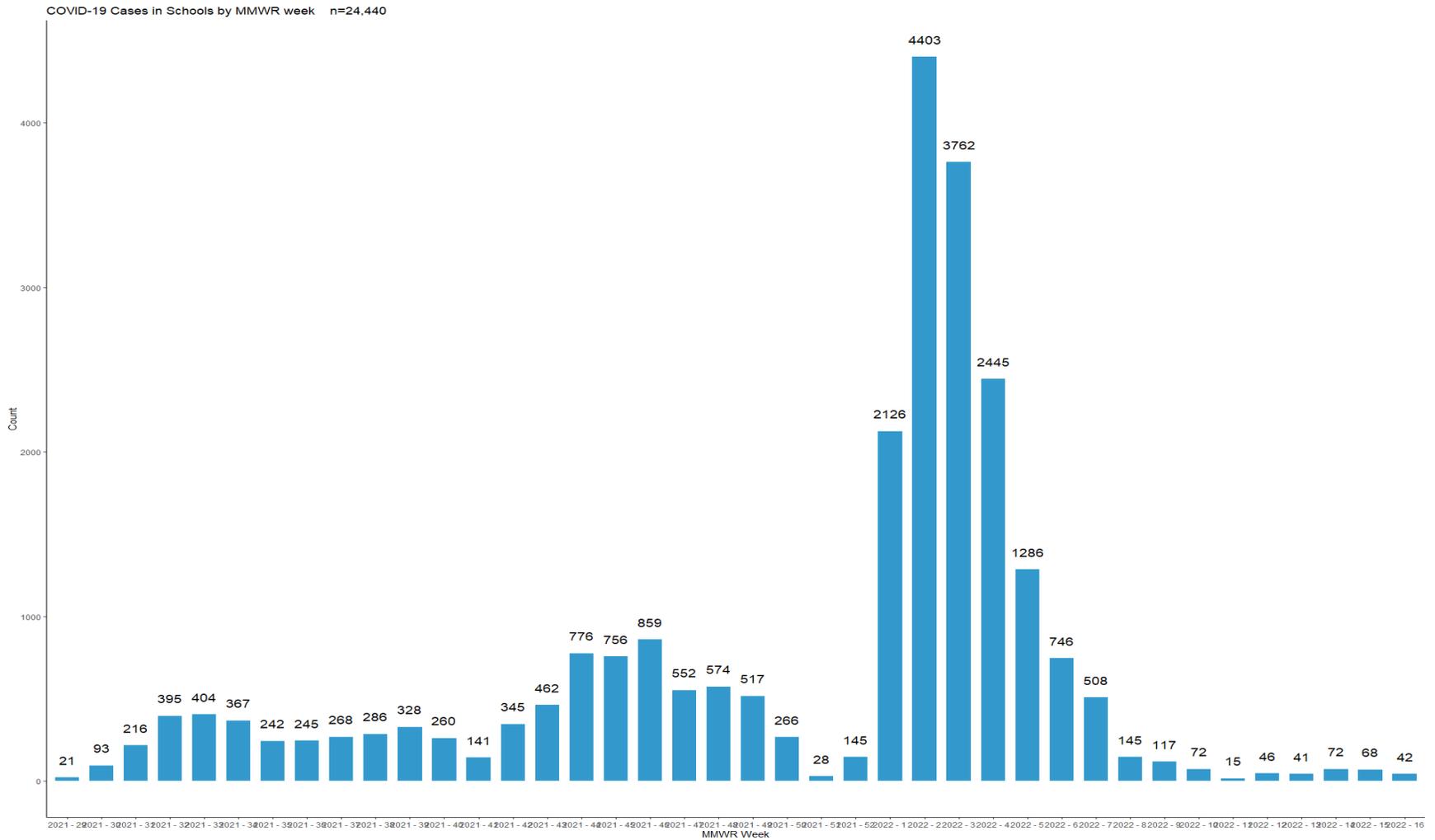
Deaths

COVID-19 Deaths by Month

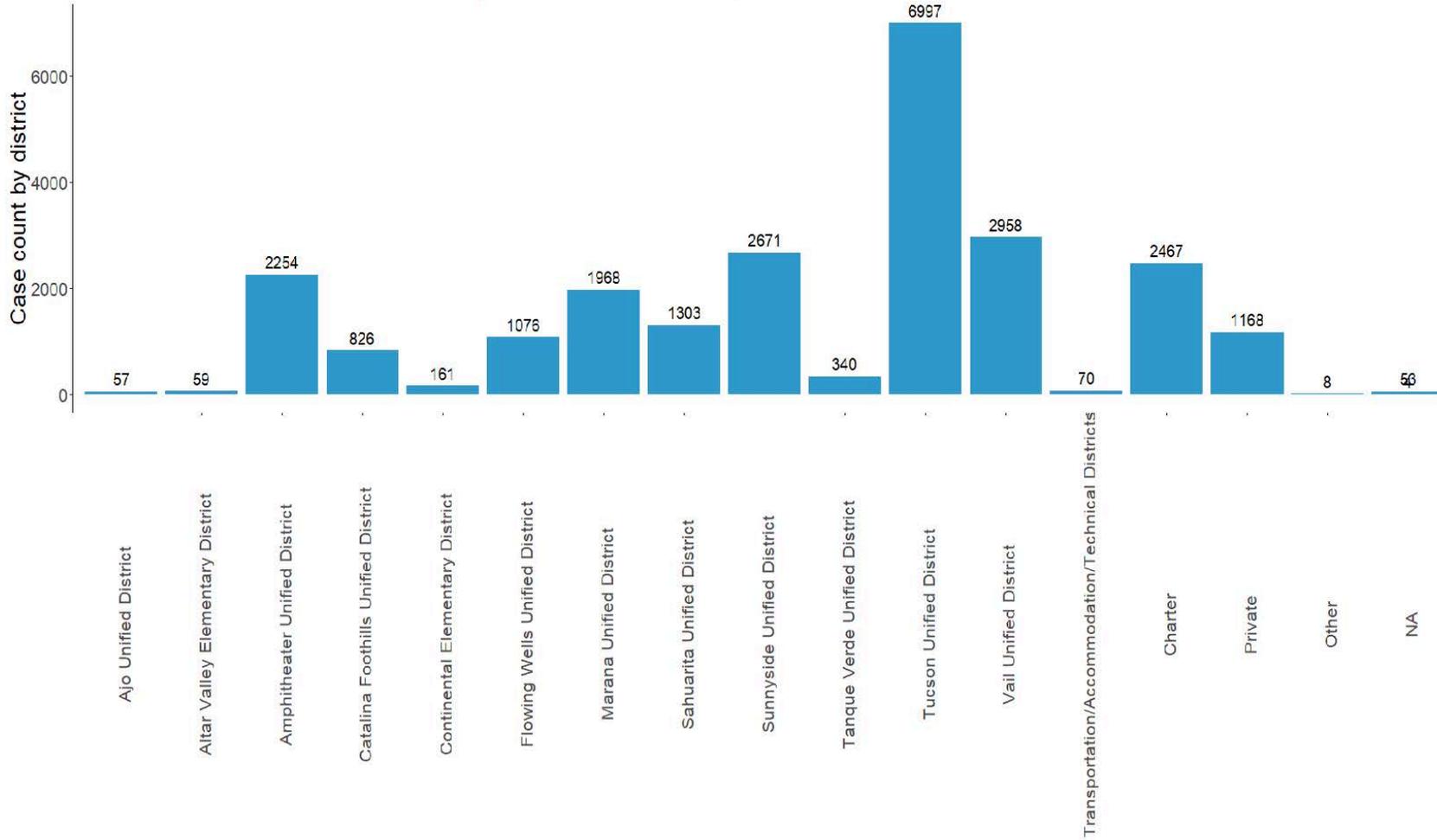


# ATTACHMENT 2

## COVID-19 in Pima County Schools



Total COVID-19 Cases in Pima County School Districts n=24,440



Total COVID-19 Cases in Schools by age n=24,440

