



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 4, 2022

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

From: Jan Leshner 
Acting County Administrator

Re: **Pandemic Update**

On Wednesday, March 30, 2022, Governor Ducey terminated the Arizona's COVID-19 Emergency Declaration.

In Pima County, COVID-19 cases continue to fall precipitously from a historic high of 17,992 cases the week of January 9, 2022 to 288 during the last week of March. This is dramatically better, but 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 63.8 per 100,000 for the last seven days.

The peak hospitalization of Pima County residents occurred the third week of January 2022 at 321, and was reported at less than 20 for last week. The improvement is best appreciated in the overall intensive care bed utilization reported by hospitals where the COVID-19 related occupancy has dropped to 25 patients (9 percent) yesterday from January highs in excess of 45 percent.

Diagnostic COVID-19 testing in Pima County which peaked at 80,425 the week of January 9, 2022 has now dropped to 14,510 this last week. Diagnostic test positivity peaked at about 28 percent the week of January 16 and has now dropped to 3 percent the last week of March. Accordingly, Pima County sponsored testing sites have begun to scale back. However, the Health Department, Federally Qualified Health Centers, retail pharmacies and the federal government continue to distribute test kits for self-administration.

Based on the most recently revised CDC risk assessment, the COVID-19 Community Level for Pima County is Low (or Green) Level. At this level, vaccination (and boosters) are the primary recommendation. Individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms should mask in public settings and undergo prompt rapid testing. Those at increased risk (and their household contacts) should consider additional mitigation measures including the use of masks and preventive medications.

Schools

Since the beginning of the current academic year, 337 schools have reported 24,158 cases. Case numbers have been decreasing each week from a high of 4,403 cases the second week of January 2022 to 67 cases in the last week. Students make up 85.2 percent of cases

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors

Re: **Pandemic Update**

April 4, 2022

Page 2

while teachers and staff are 14.8 percent. Children up to 11 years of age are 44.4 percent (10,728 cases) of school reported cases, while the 12 to 19-year age group made up 38.1 percent (9,219 cases). This school year, schools have experienced 435 outbreaks and 198 recommended classroom closures. (Attachment 2)

Vaccination

More than 1,813,906 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Pima County. At this time 68.3 percent (715,667 individuals) of the population of this County is fully vaccinated. Notably, 72.2 percent of the vaccine age eligible population (5 years and older) is now fully vaccinated. Additionally, 321,098 or about 45 percent of the fully vaccinated population has received a first booster dose. Overall, primary and booster vaccine uptake has slowed down significantly across all demographic groups throughout the County.

In total we have documented 52,558 breakthrough infections following complete vaccination. This is 7.7 percent of the fully vaccinated population that have developed subsequent COVID-19 infection. Breakthrough cases tend to result in less severe disease and only 0.15 percent (1,007) of fully vaccinated individuals have required hospitalization, and only 0.04 percent (265) have died of COVID-19 related illness.

This week the federal government approved a second booster vaccination for individuals 50 years of age and older. Vaccine remains abundantly available through retail pharmacies, federally qualified health center as well as other clinical entities, and at our own Health Department fixed and mobile locations. Second boosters became available on March 30, 2022.

Conclusion

Pima County continues to develop a flexible approach to mitigate against community transmission and its consequences. We continue to ask the community to 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.

Attachments

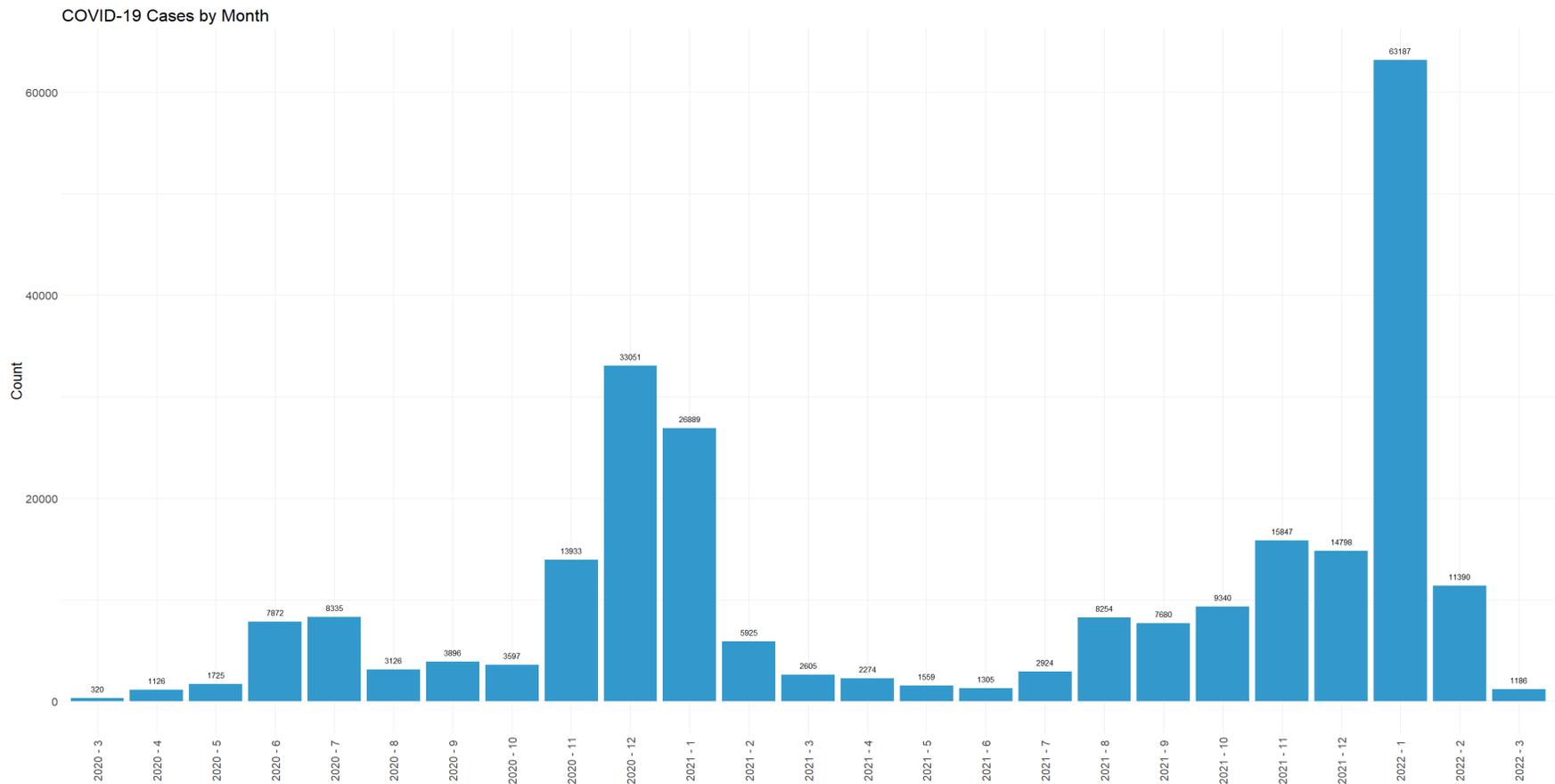
- c: Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator for Health and Community Services & Chief Medical Officer
- Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
- Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department

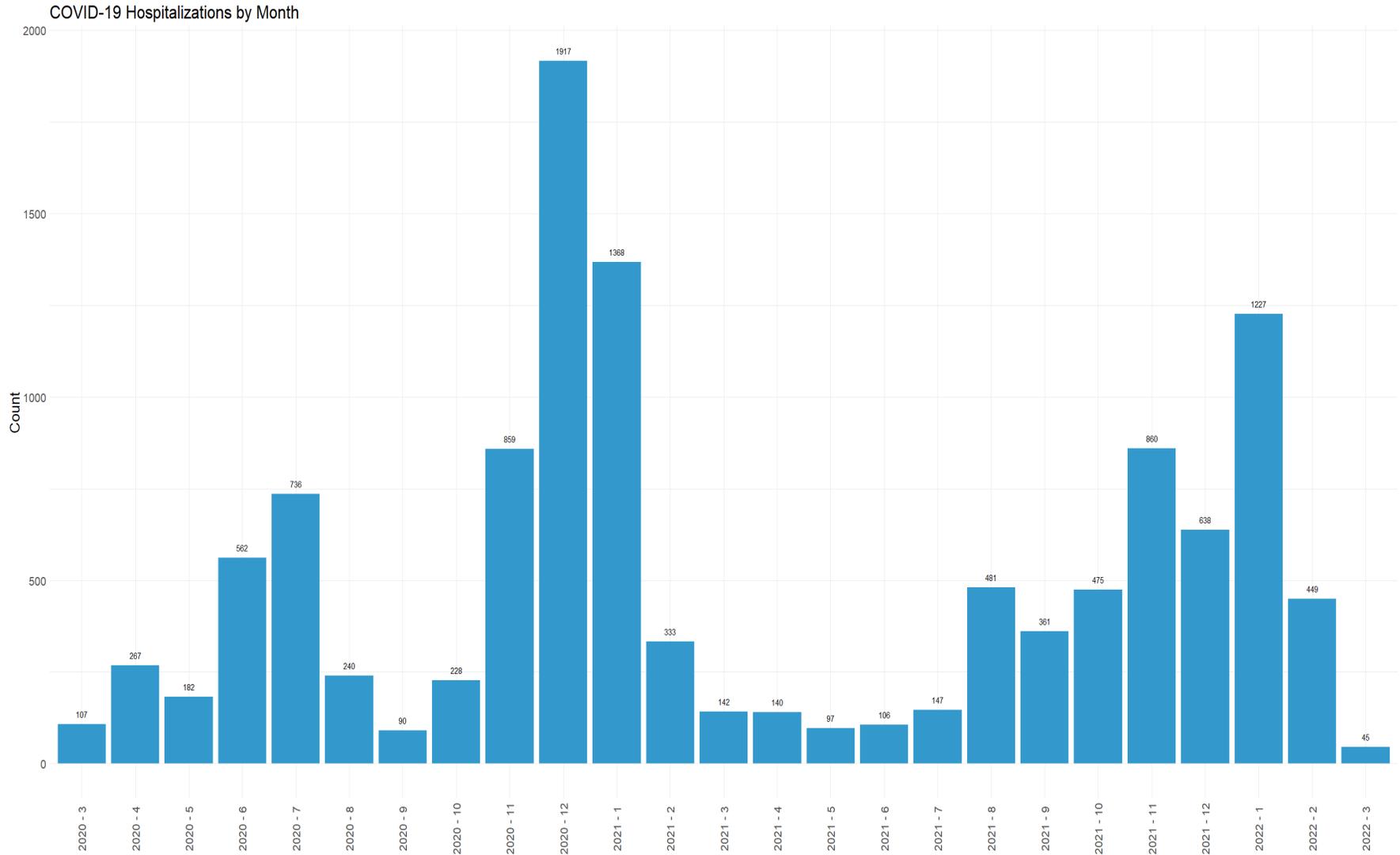
ATTACHMENT 1

Weekly COVID-19 Summary

Cumulative Demographic Report - MEDSIS weekly data

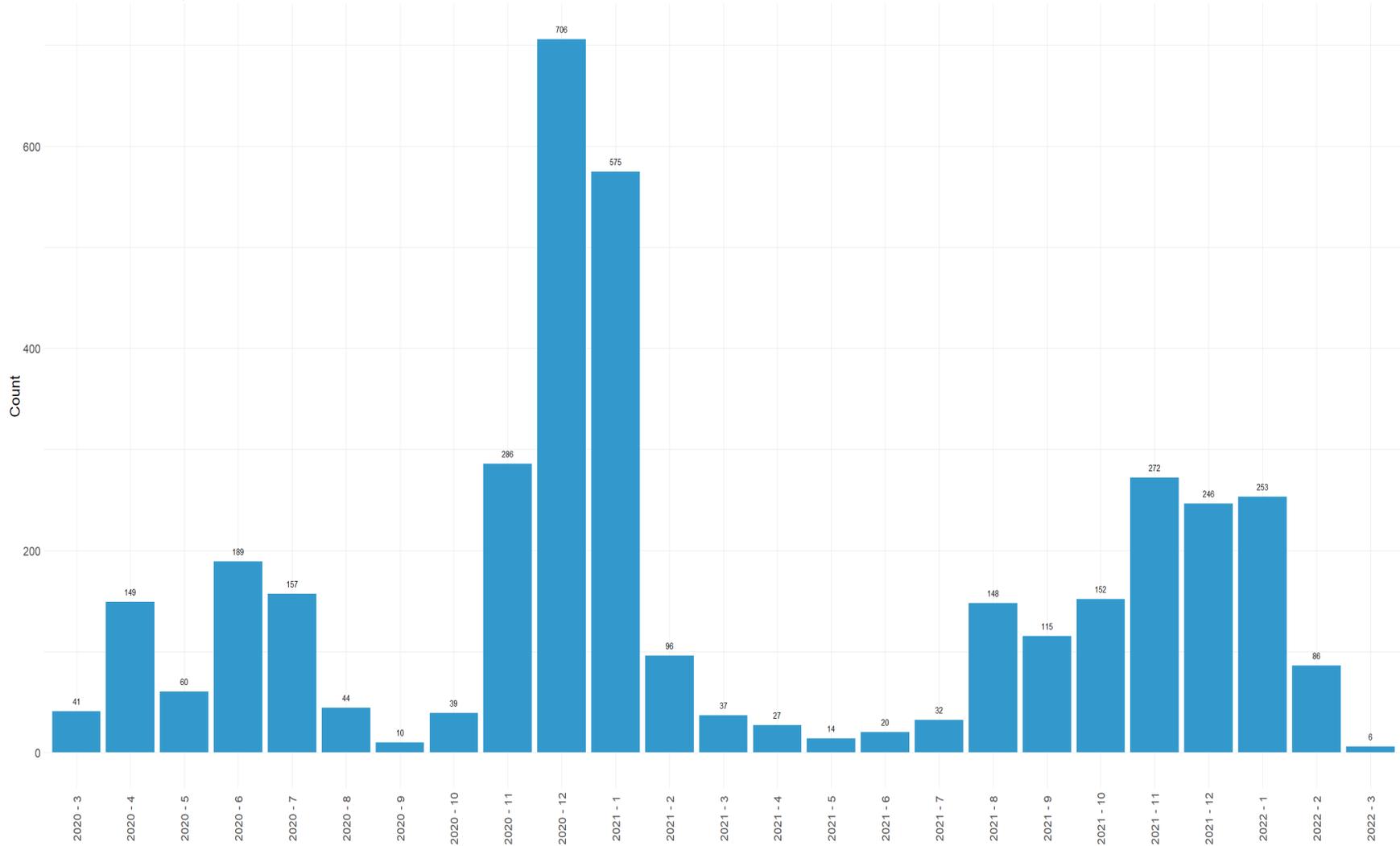
Cases





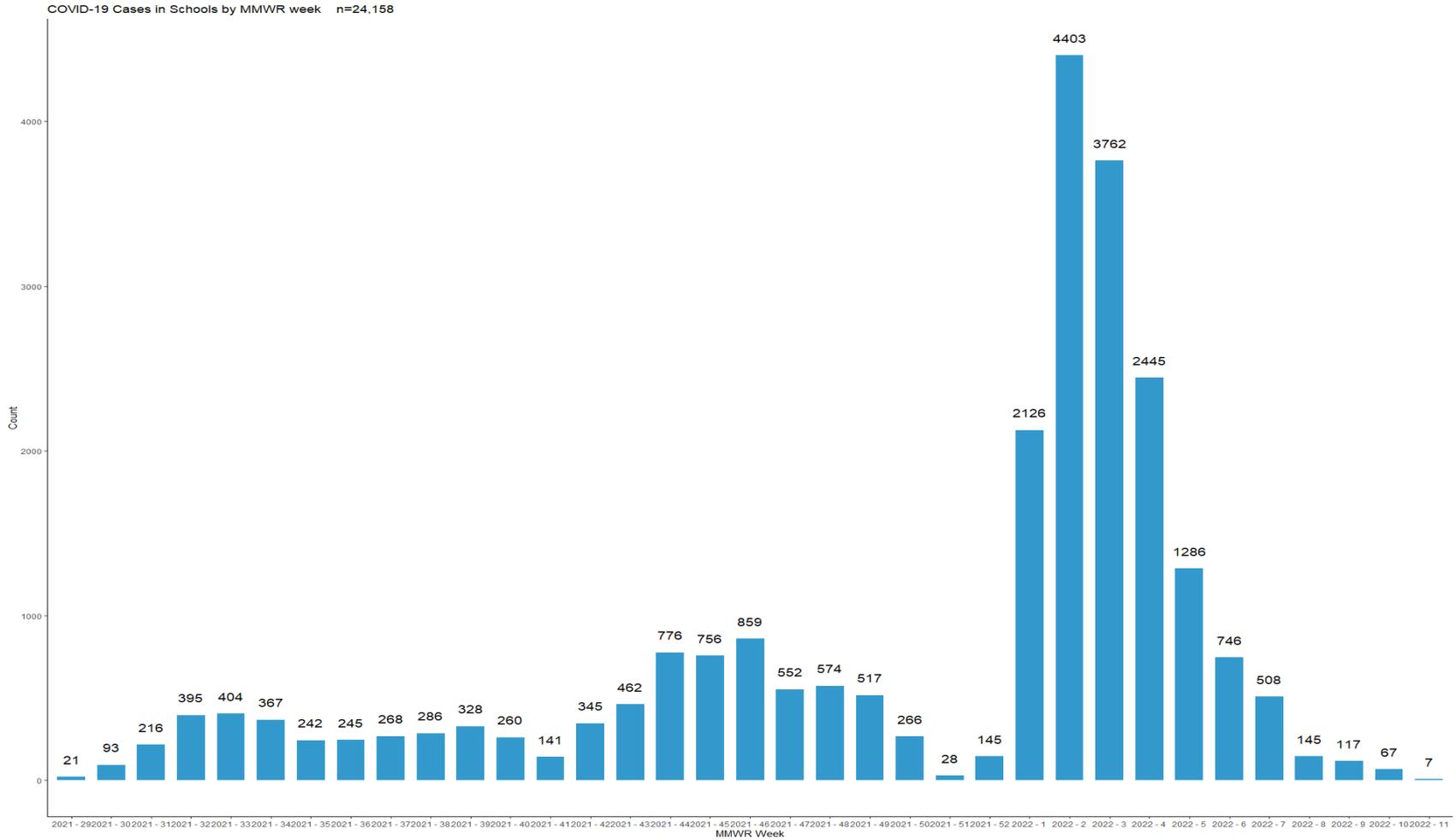
Deaths

COVID-19 Deaths by Month

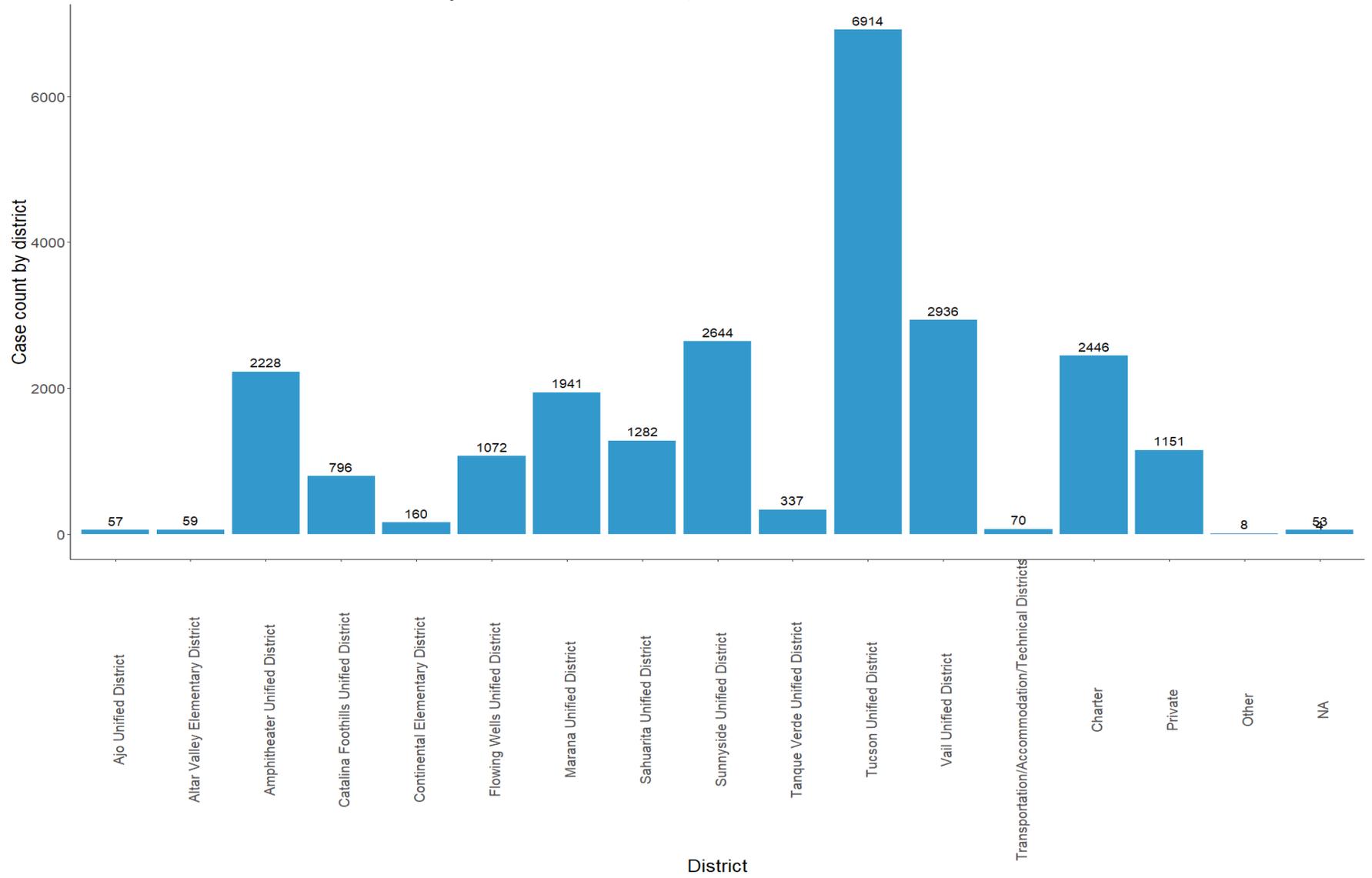


ATTACHMENT 2

COVID-19 in Pima County Schools



Total COVID-19 Cases in Pima County School Districts n=24,158



Total COVID-19 Cases in Schools by age n=24,158

