

# New York City Board of Correction COVID-19 Update

*June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

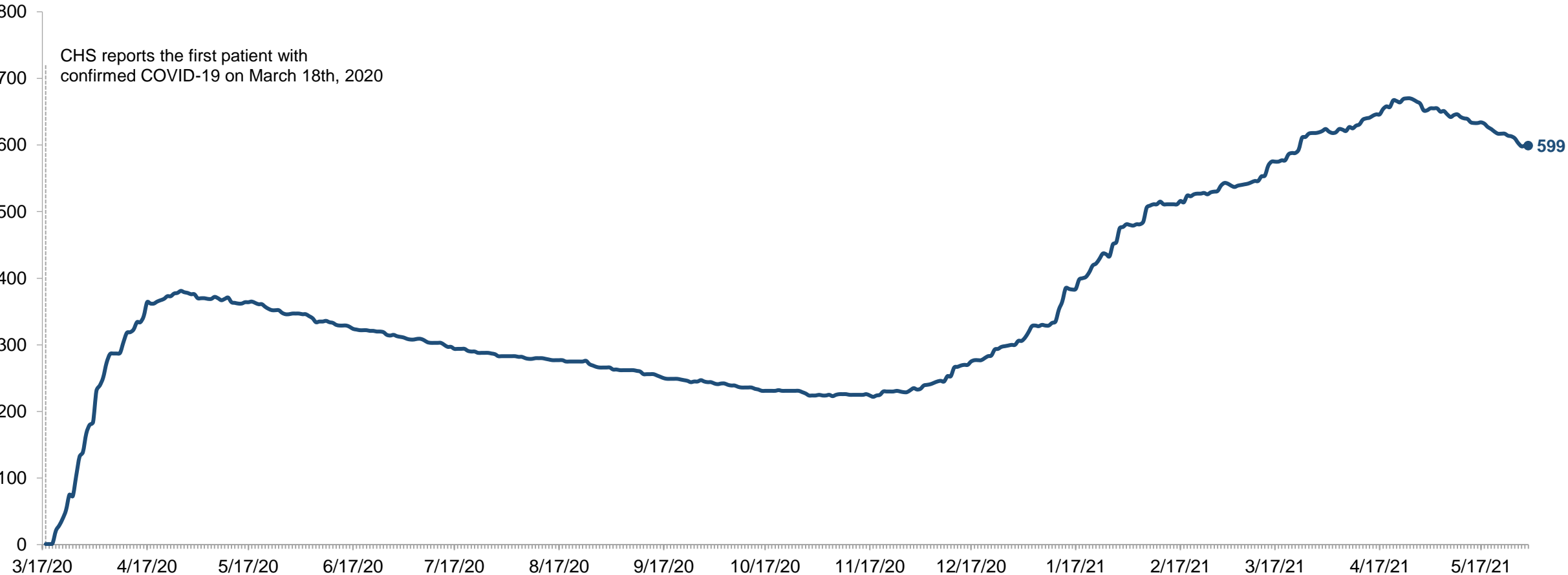
# COVID-19 Update June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

- 1) Confirmed Cases
- 2) Jail Population & Decarceration
- 3) Housing Area Density
- 4) Testing Strategy Staff & People in Custody
- 5) Vaccinations
- 6) Critical Jail Services

## Confirmed Cases

- The number of active and recovered COVID-19 patients in jail rose for much of the period between December 2020 and late-April 2021 but has since fallen.
- As of May 31<sup>st</sup>, there were 599 active and recovered patients in custody. Only three (3) of these patients had an active infection.

**Number of Currently Incarcerated Patients with Confirmed COVID-19**  
**March 17, 2020 – May 31, 2021**

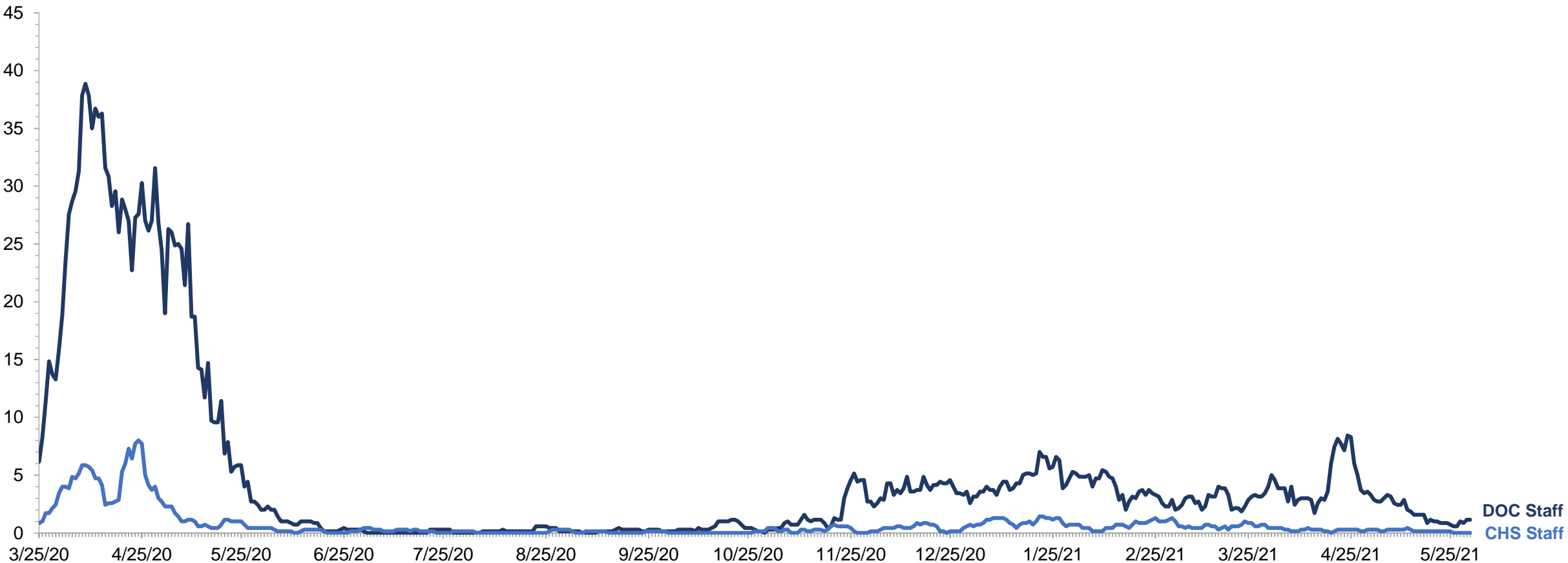


<sup>1</sup> This metric includes active and recovered patients with confirmed COVID-19.  
SOURCE: BOC analysis of daily COVID-19 Reports to BOC

- Between March 2020 and May 2021, there have been 313 COVID cases among CHS staff and 2,146 COVID cases among DOC staff.
- DOC reported 50 new staff cases in May, down 61 percent compared to the previous month. CHS reported four (4) new staff cases in May, down 43 percent compared to the previous month.

**DOC & CHS Staff with Confirmed COVID-19, Daily Change**  
**March 25, 2020 – May 31, 2021**

*Figures are presented as a 7-day moving average*



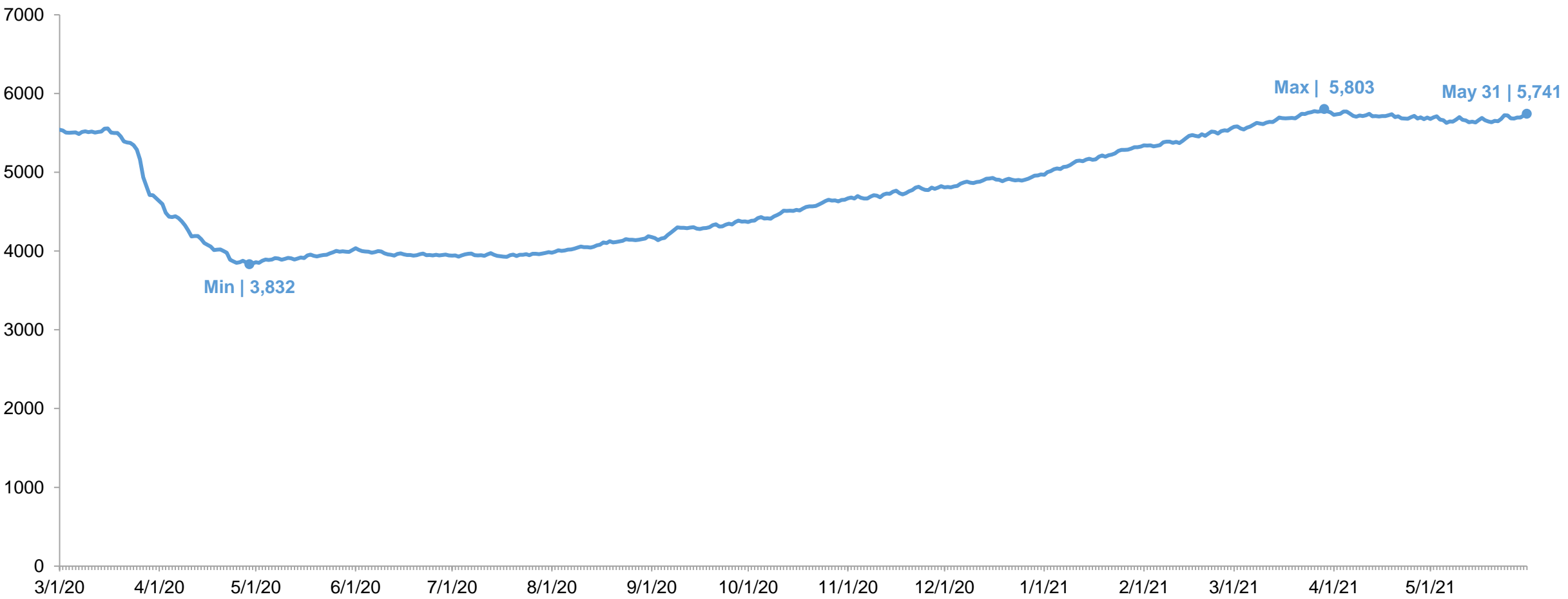
NOTE: CHS began reporting positive staff cases to the Board on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020. DOC began reporting positive staff cases to the Board on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

SOURCE: BOC analysis of daily DOC and CHS COVID-19 Reports to BOC

# Jail Population & Decarceration

- The first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic prompted coordinated efforts to rapidly reduce the jail population. By April 29th, 2020, the jail population fell to a historic low of 3,832.
- This trend slowly reversed for much of the latter part of the pandemic. The jail population peaked at 5,803 on March 29th, 2021—a 51 percent increase compared to April 29th, 2021.
- The jail population has since leveled-off. As of May 31st, 2021, there were 5,741 people in jail.

**Total Jail Population**  
**March 2020 – May 2021**



SOURCES: DOC Inmates in Custody files

# **DOC Population by Custody Status and Key Demographics as of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

As of Monday May 31<sup>st</sup>, New York City's jails held:

- 5,058 people in pre-trial detention
- 217 people serving a city sentence
- 229 people held on technical parole violations with no open case
- 237 people in custody for other reasons (e.g., state sentenced, state ready)
- 854 people age 50 and over, including 49 held solely on a technical parole violation

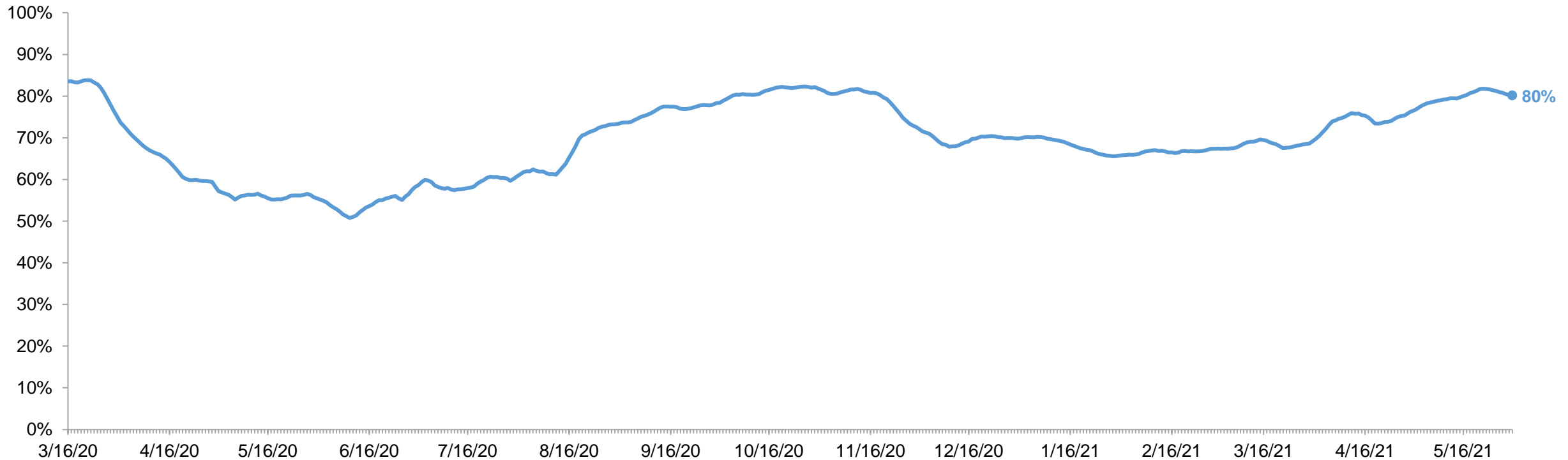


# Housing Area Density

- Throughout the pandemic, most people in jail have been housed in units operating above 50 percent of their design capacity.
- As of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, 80 percent of people in jail were housed in units that exceeded 50 percent capacity.

### Percentage of Jail Population Housed in Units Above 50% Capacity March 16, 2020 – May 31, 2021

*Figures are presented as a 7-day moving average*



#### NOTES:

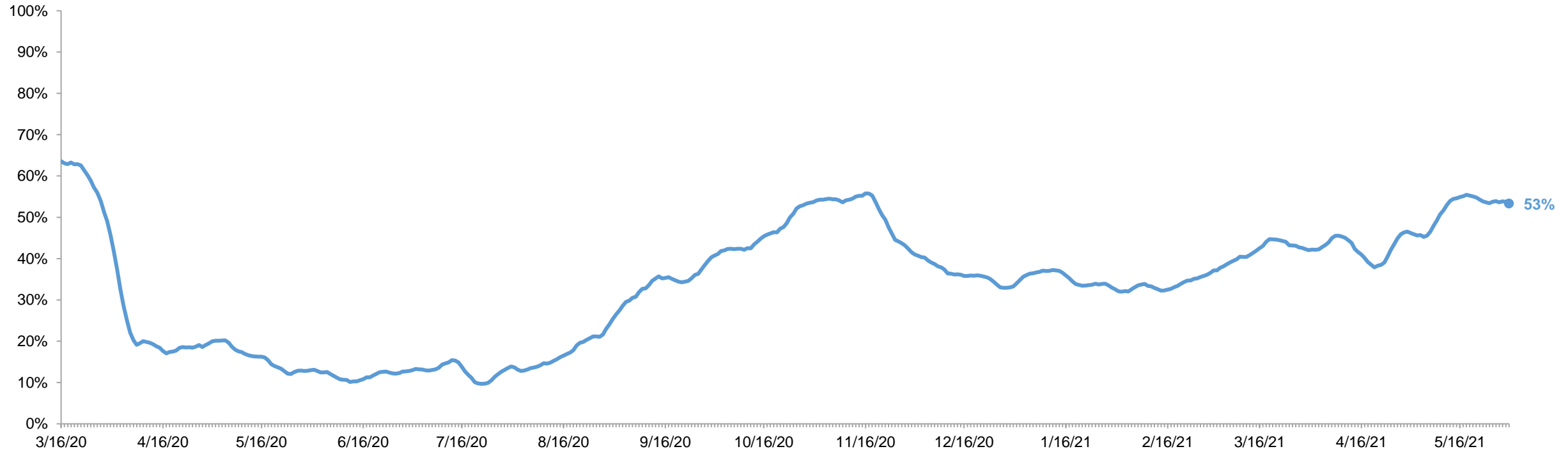
- 1) Design capacity reflects the maximum number of beds each housing area was designed to accommodate. DOC believes this metric serves as the best available proxy for housing area size. Accordingly, the capacity figures presented above are calculated by dividing housing area census by housing area design capacity.
- 2) The census data presented in the table above comes from DOC's 5am census, which reflects a head count conducted by DOC staff each morning. The census data presented on all other slides is sourced from DOC's Inmates in Custody files.
- 3) Dorm count includes modular dorm units in AMKC, RMSC, and RNDC.
- 4) The values above exclude counts of people in Contagious Disease Units (CDUs) (where people in custody share no communal space), intake areas (where the census changes throughout the day), and the Bellevue Hospital Prison Ward (BHPW).

SOURCE: BOC analysis of DOC 5am census reports and DOC designed capacity data.

- The proportion of people in custody housed in units operating above 75 percent of their design capacity began to rise in late-April 2021.
- May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, 53 percent of people in jail housed in units that exceeded 75 percent capacity.

### Percentage of Jail Population Housed in Units Above 50% Capacity March 16, 2020 – May 31, 2021

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# Testing Strategy

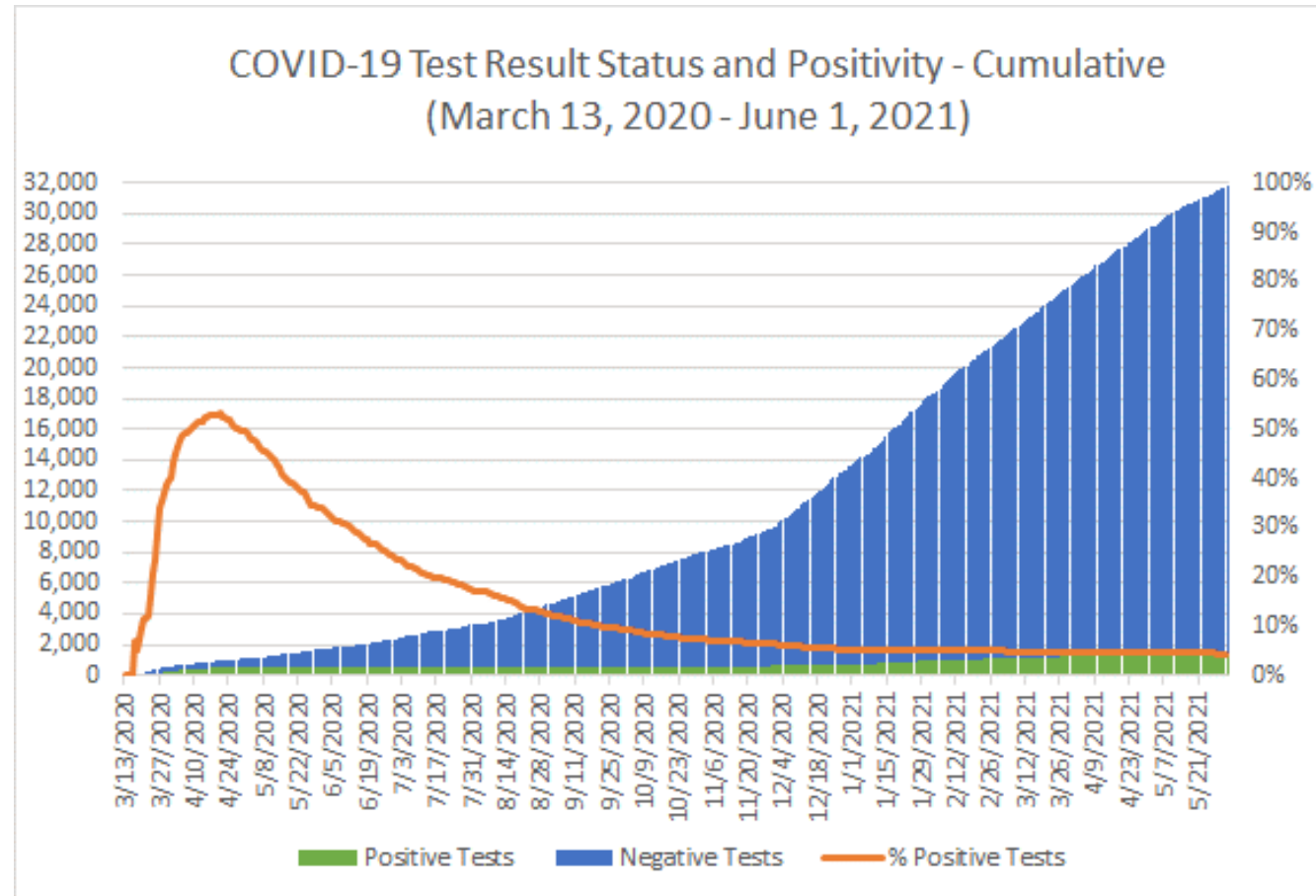
- The COVID-19 testing rate fell sharply between January and February 2021.
- Since February 2021, there have been roughly two (2) COVID-19 tests administered for every 100 people in custody.

Daily COVID-19 Tests Per Hundred People in Custody<sup>1</sup>  
June 29, 2020 – May 9, 2021  
*Figures are given as a moving 7-day average*



<sup>1</sup> BOC calculates the rate of testing as the proportion of (a) the daily number of tests administered to individuals per (b) the daily jail census count: (a) is derived from metric # 4 in [CHS's Local Law 59 reports](#) and (b) is derived from DOC's Inmates in Custody files.

As of Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, there were three (3) COVID patients with active infections and a 7-day average daily positivity rate of 0.28%.

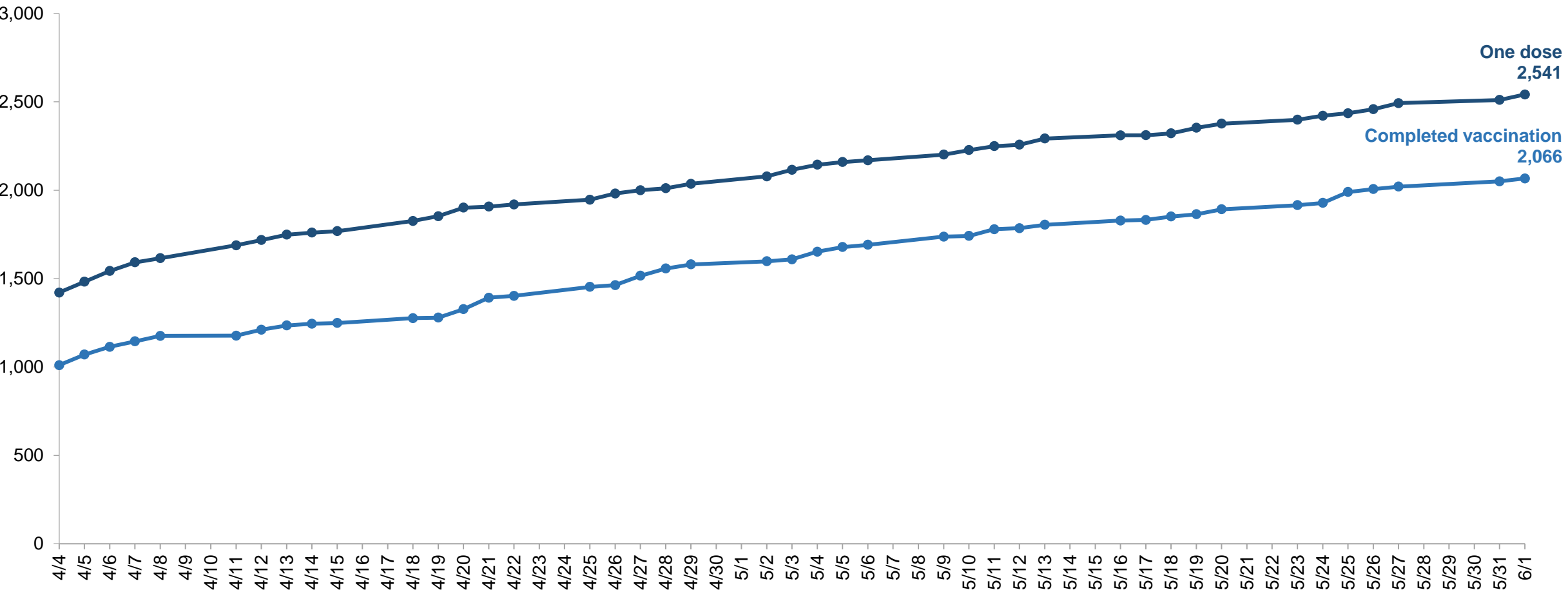


Note: 'Completed' indicates positive or negative test result. Individuals may have multiple negative test results, but only one positive test result reported

# Vaccinations

- CHS added vaccination metrics to its public data snapshots on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Between January 7<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, CHS administered one vaccine dose to 2,541 people in custody and completely vaccinated 2,066 people in custody.

Vaccination Doses Administered by CHS (since January 7, 2021)<sup>1</sup>  
April 4 – June 1, 2021

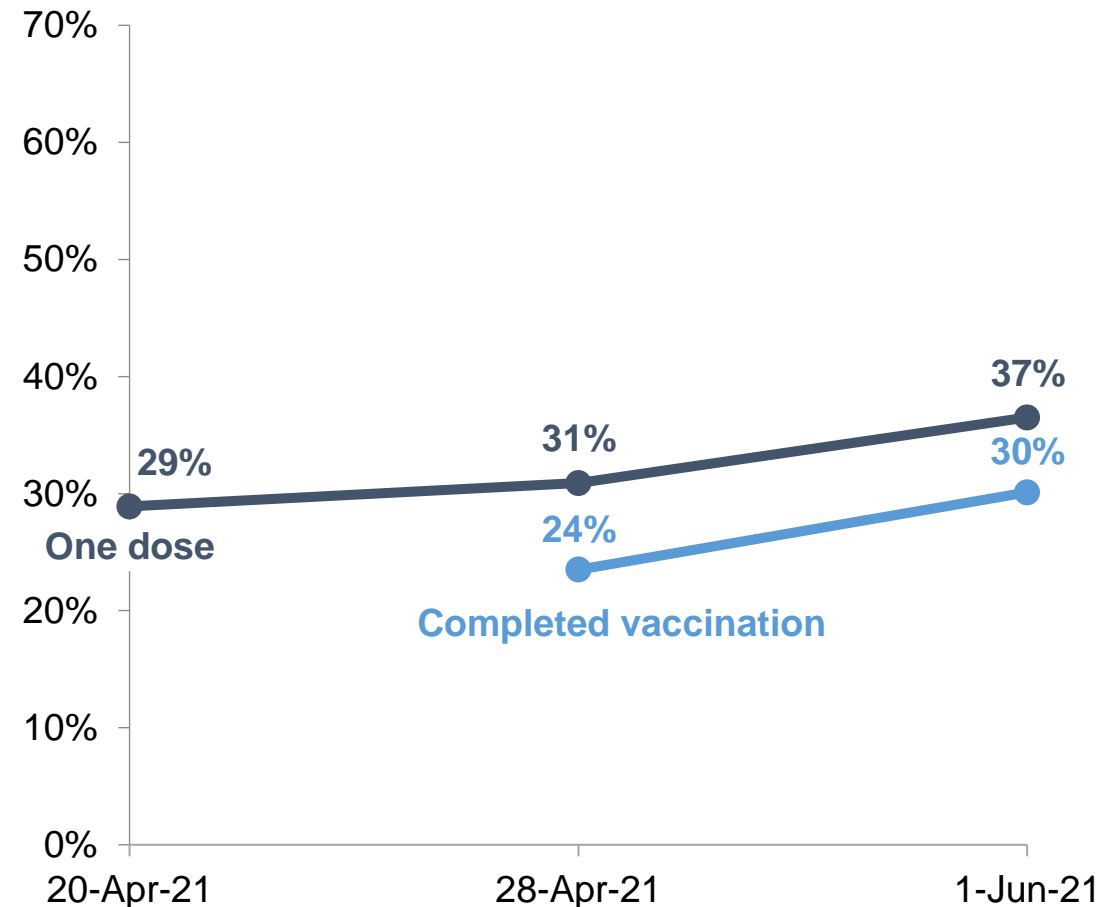


<sup>1</sup> No values are reported on holidays or weekends.



- On April 20<sup>th</sup> CHS began reporting the percentage of people in jail who had received at least one vaccine dose, and on April 28<sup>th</sup> CHS began reporting the percentage of people in jail who had completed vaccination .
- As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 37 percent of people in jail had received one vaccine dose and 30 percent of people in jail had completed vaccination.

### Share of Jail Population Vaccinated



## Critical Jail Services