

New York City Board of Correction COVID-19 Update

March 9th, 2021

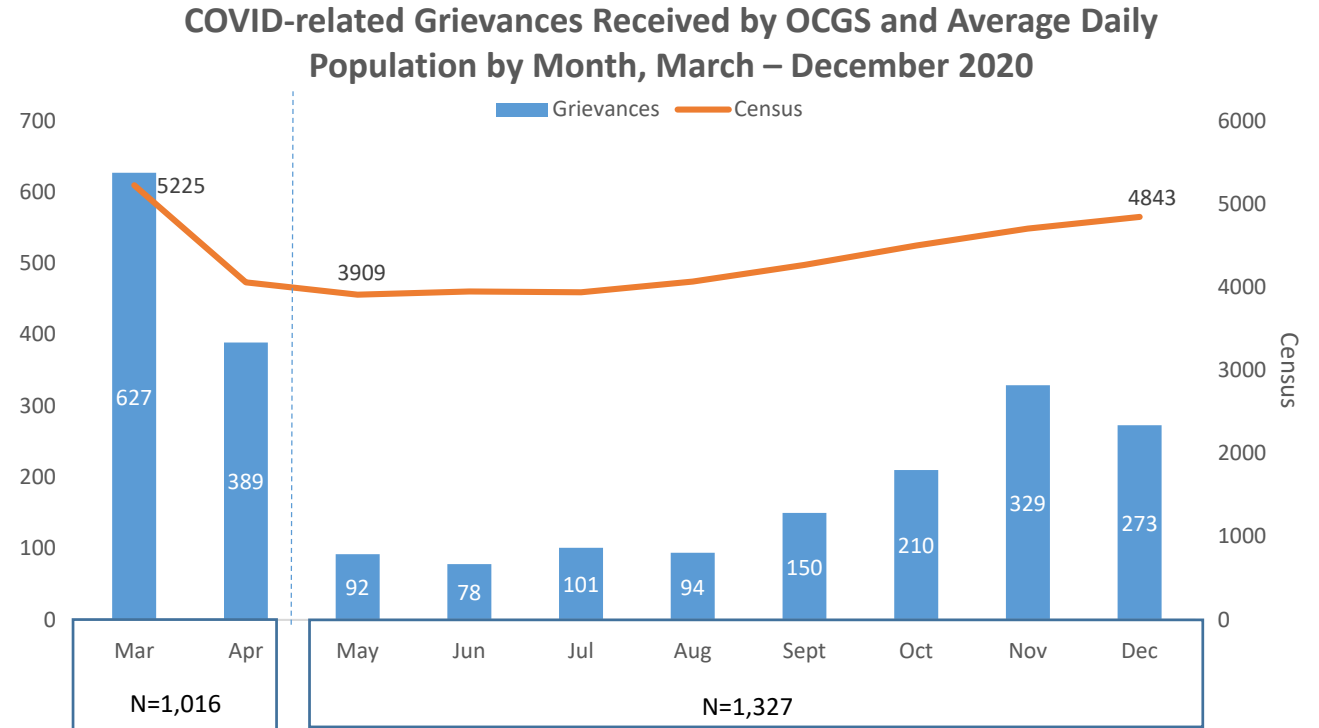
COVID-19 Update March 9th, 2021

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COVID-related Grievances

COVID-related Grievances: Key Findings

- From May 1st to December 31, 2020:
 - DOC received a total of 21,336 grievances (including concerns and requests for information), six percent (6%, n=1,327) of which OCGS categorized as COVID-related
 - the jail population increased by 29% from a census of 3,824 on May 1st to a census of 4,940 on December 31st
 - the monthly total number of grievances received by OCGS increased by 111%, from a total of 1,728 in month of May to 3,644 in December, and
 - the number of COVID-related concerns increased by 197% from 92 in May to 273 in December



Sources: DOC Office of Constituent and Grievance Services (OCGS) Service Desk System; Average Daily Population calculated from DOC 5 am Census reports.

COVID-related Grievances: Key Findings (cont.)

- Concerns about the lack of Social Distancing in the jails were the most frequent kind of COVID-related grievance received by OCGS (42%, n=561).
- COVID-related grievances showed a repeated pattern of concerns from people in custody about being housed with individuals who could potentially be COVID-19 positive, with sixteen percent (16%, n=208) of grievances about people concerned with COVID-19 Exposure Safety and 6% (n=80) about a lack of COVID preventive measures.
- The Board's review of DOC investigations into 38 COVID-related grievances found that in 84% (n=32) the Department completed detailed investigations which addressed all concerns in the grievance filed.

COVID-related Grievances: Recommendations

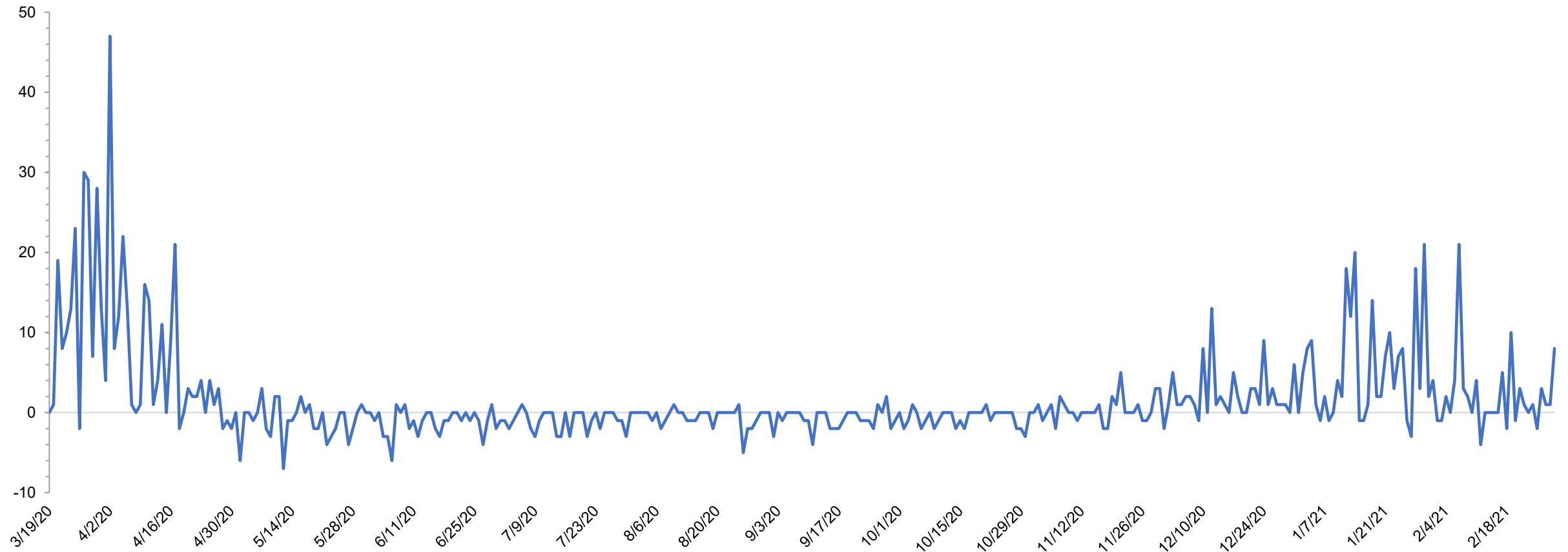
1. The city should prioritize decarceration and the Department should reduce housing area capacity.
2. DOC and CHS should continue to work together with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on their COVID-19 public health campaign to communicate health risks and what actions people in custody and staff can take to protect their health and the health of those around them.
3. CHS should provide COVID test results to people in custody in writing.

Confirmed Cases

- The number of people in custody with confirmed COVID-19 (active and recovered) began to rise in November.
- As of March 1st, 10% of the population, a total of 539 patients in jail had confirmed COVID-19 (active and recovered); with 1% of the population, 59 patients having an active COVID infection.

People in Custody with Confirmed COVID-19, Daily Change
March 19, 2020 – March 1, 2021

Each day shows new cases reported since the previous day



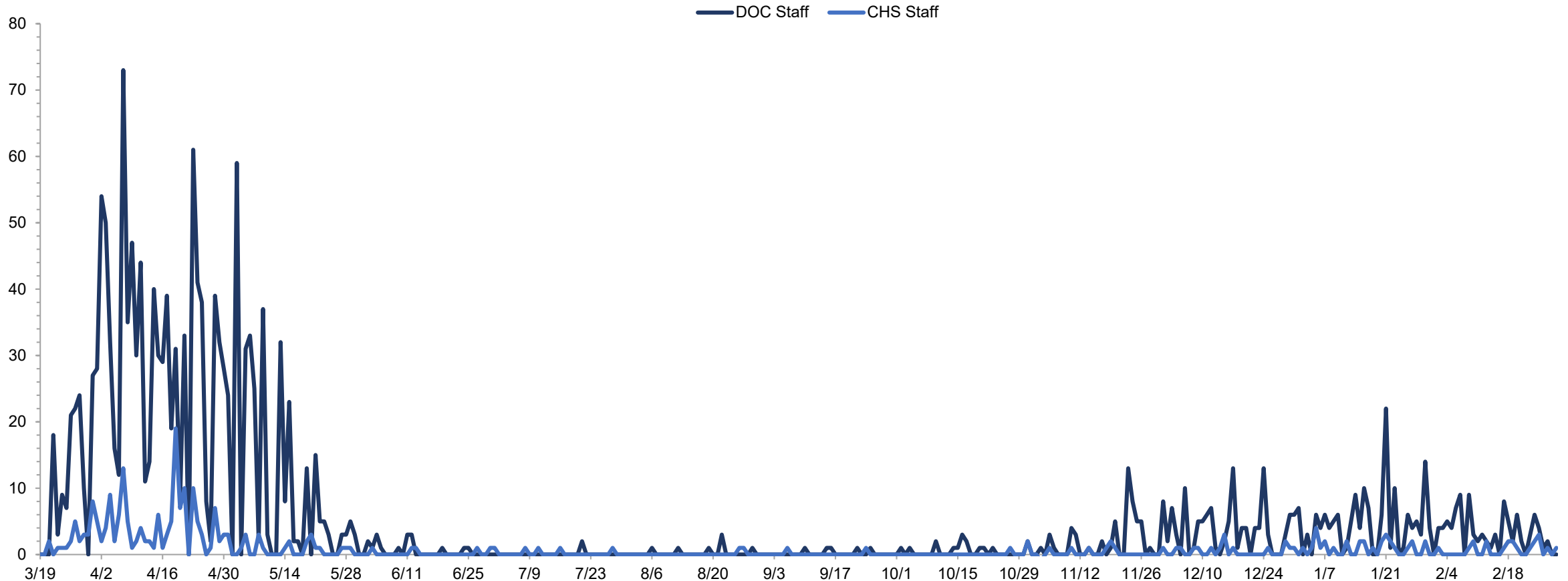
¹ This count includes active and recovered patients.
 SOURCE: BOC analysis of daily DOC and CHS COVID-19 Reports to BOC

- CHS and DOC reported fewer new staff cases in February compared to January.
 - CHS reported a total of 30 new cases in January and 19 in February.
 - DOC reported a total of 153 new cases in January and 95 in February.
- As of March 1st, the cumulative case count for DOC staff was 1,872; for CHS it was 284.

DOC & CHS Staff with Confirmed COVID-19, Daily Change

March 19, 2020 – March 1, 2021

Each day shows new cases reported since the previous day



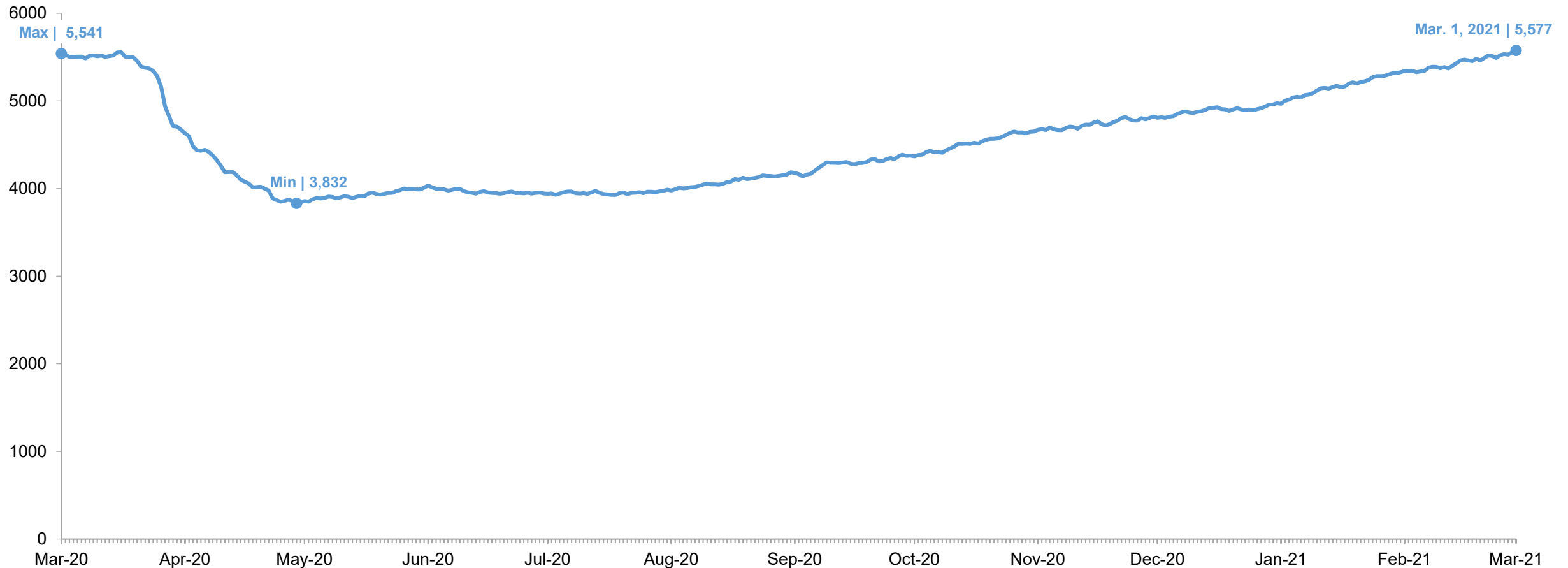
NOTE: CHS began reporting positive staff cases to the Board on March 18th, 2020. DOC began reporting positive staff cases to the Board on March 21st, 2021.

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

Jail Population & Decarceration

- On April 29th, there were 3,832 people in jail, a historic low.
- Since April 29th, the number of people in jail has increased by 46%, reaching 5,577 on March 1st and exceeding the jail population pre-pandemic.

Total Jail Population
March 1, 2020 – March 1, 2021



DOC population by Custody Status and Key Demographics as of March 5th, 2021

As of Friday March 5th, New York City's jails held:

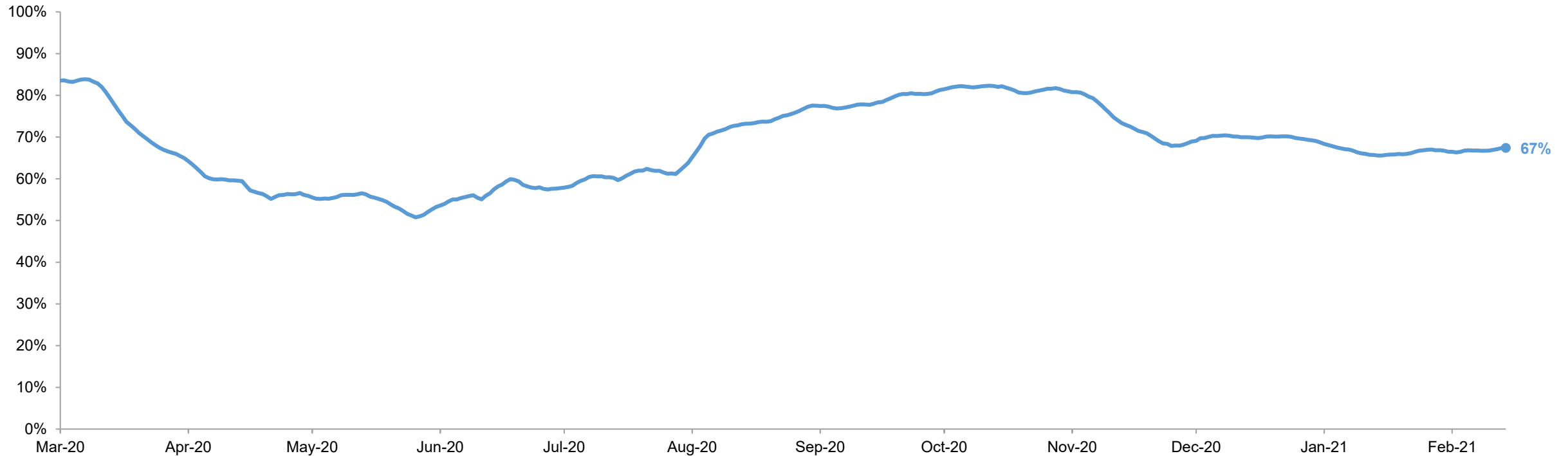
- 4,878 people in pre-trial detention
- 180 people serving a city sentence
- 254 people held on technical parole violations with no open case
- 255 people in custody for other reasons (e.g., state sentenced, state ready)
- 808 people age 50 and over, including 59 held solely on a technical parole violation

Housing Area Density

- The proportion of people housed in units above 50% capacity began to decrease in November, as COVID cases in the jails began to rise.
- Since November, the proportion of the jail population in units above 50% capacity has decreased by 18%: from 82% on November 1st to 67% on March 1st.

Percentage of Jail Population Housed in Units Above 50% Capacity March 16, 2020 – March 1, 2021

Figures are presented as a 7-day moving average



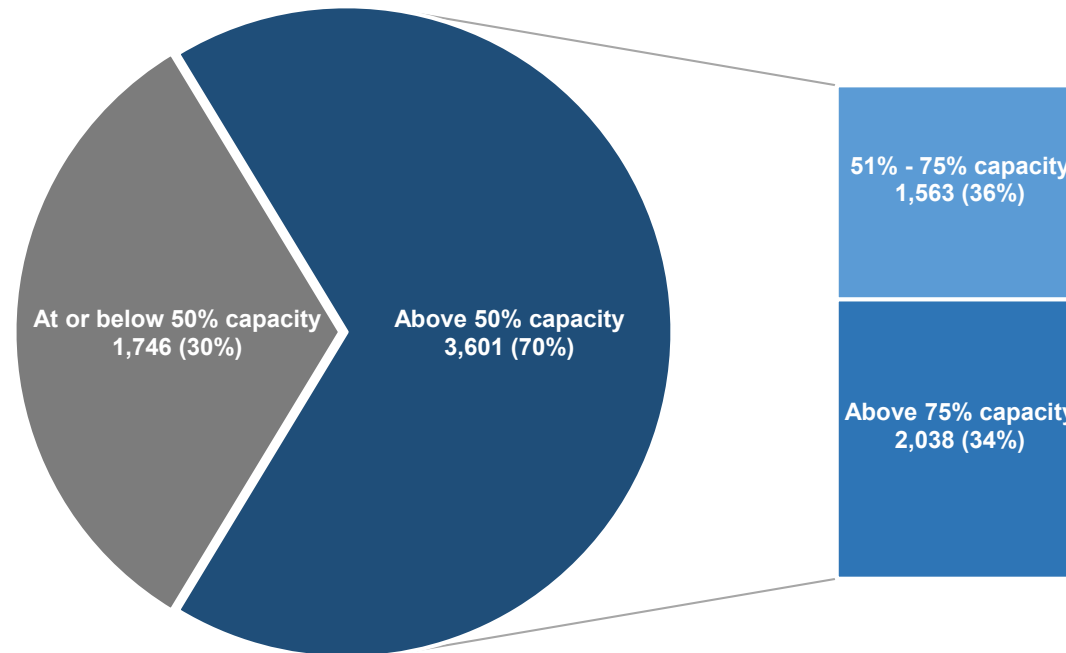
NOTES:

- 1) **Designed 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 designed 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.

Between February 27th and March 5th, the average daily population in housing areas above 50% capacity was 3,601, 70% of the average daily population in custody.

**Average Daily Population in Custody by Housing Capacity
February 27 – March 5, 2021**



NOTES:

- 1) **Designed 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 designed 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.
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SOURCE: BOC analysis of DOC 5am census reports and DOC designed capacity data.

Rehousing Estimates March 1st, 2021

As of March 1st, 2021, and without accounting for operational or individual/specific security factors, Board staff estimate that to achieve 50% capacity level across all **General Population** housing areas the Department would need to:

- Rehouse ~972 people in GP units that exceed 50% capacity: 479 in cell units and 493 in dorm units.
- Open a minimum of 31 general population units.

An additional ~72 people in **Mental Health** units and ~86 people in **Protective Custody** housing units would need to be rehoused to achieve 50% capacity across those specialized units.

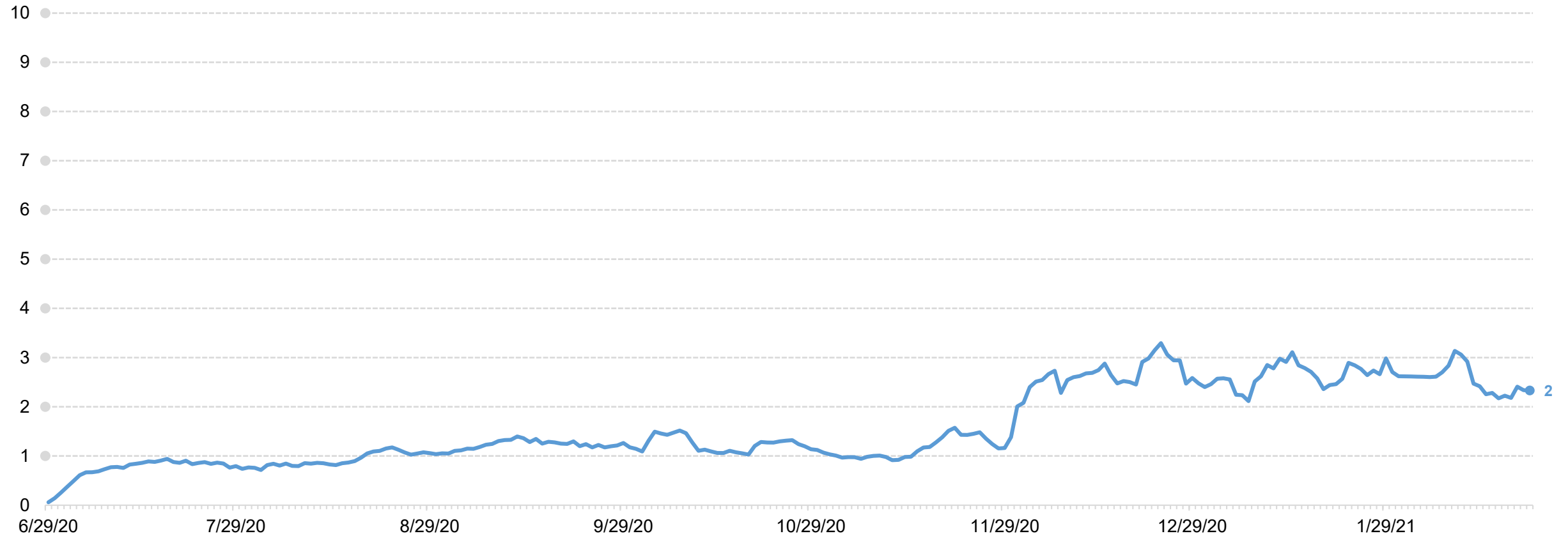
Testing Strategy

The COVID-19 testing rate increased from November to December. Since December, there have been 2 to 3 tests administered for every 100 people in custody.

Daily COVID-19 Tests Per Hundred People in Custody¹

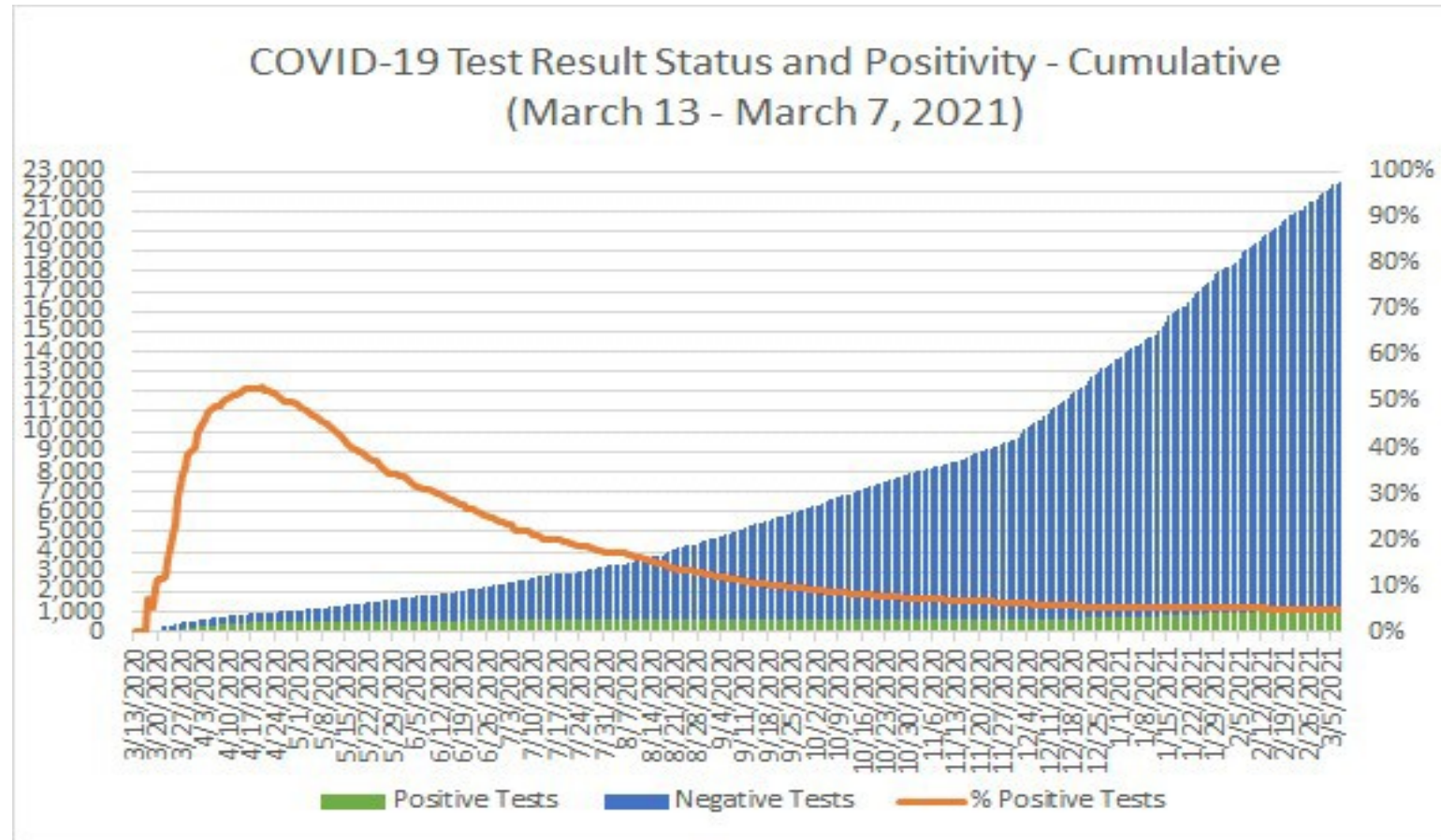
June 29, 2020 – February 21, 2021

Figures are given as a moving 7-day average



¹ 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 Sunday, March 7th, there were 32 active infections among people in custody and a 7-day average daily positivity rate of 1.70%.



Vaccinations

Critical Jail Services