

# COVID Statistics and Gating Criteria

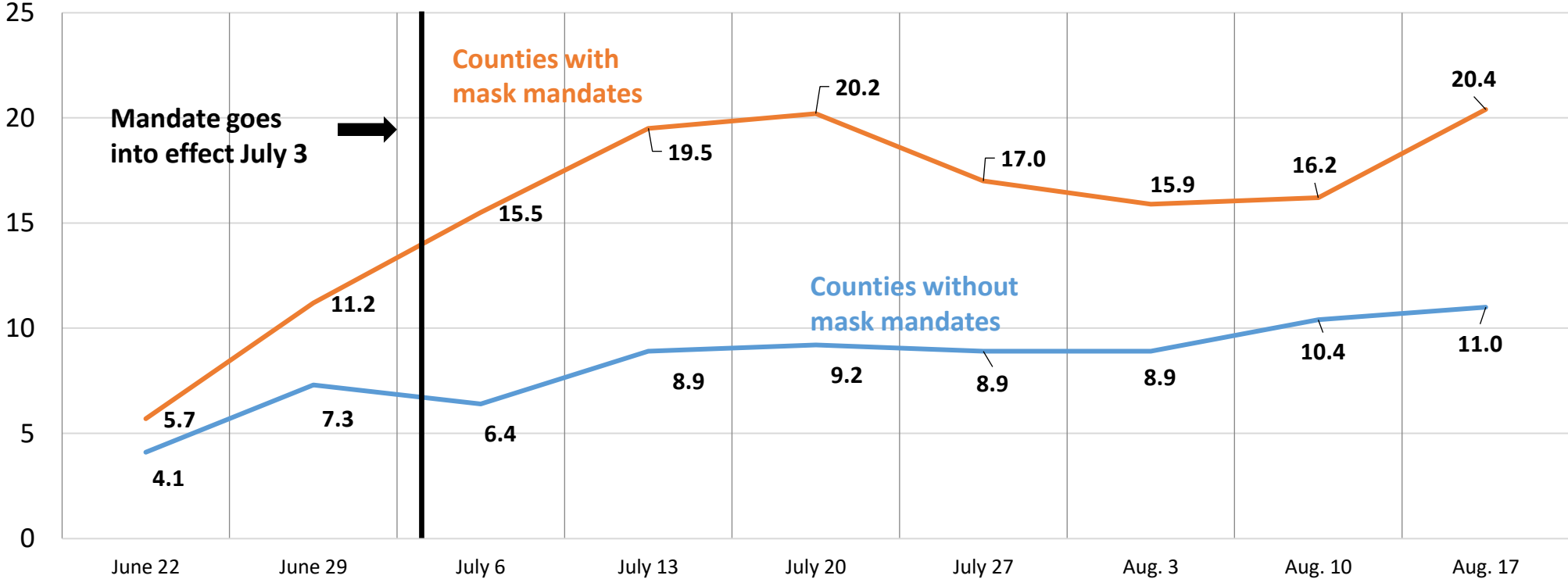
*Dave Trabert, Kansas Policy Institute*

# *Kansas Policy Institute*

- Non-profit research/education organization that protects constitutional liberty.
- Also own *The Sentinel* – news service holding media and government accountable – and **Kansas Justice Institute** – public interest litigation center.
- Overland Park and Wichita offices.

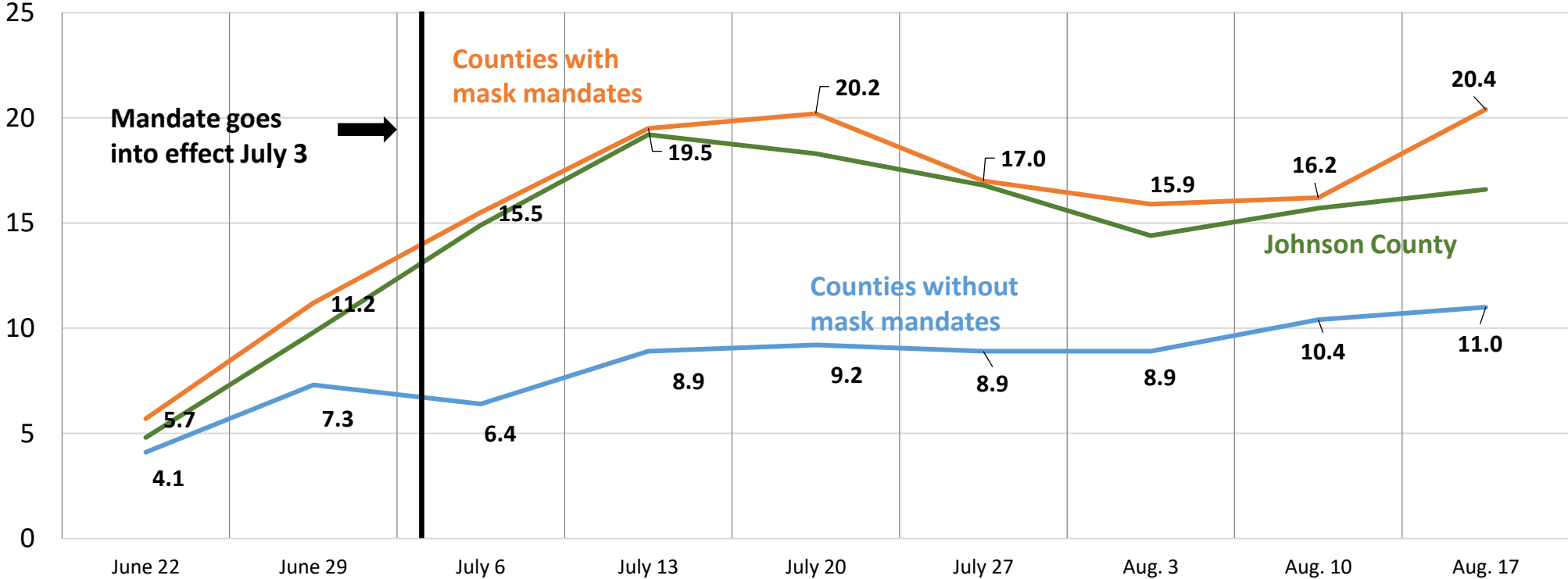
# Kansas COVID-19 7-Day Rolling Average of Daily Cases Per 100,000 Population

Source: Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment COVID-19 Summaries; weekly change divided by 7



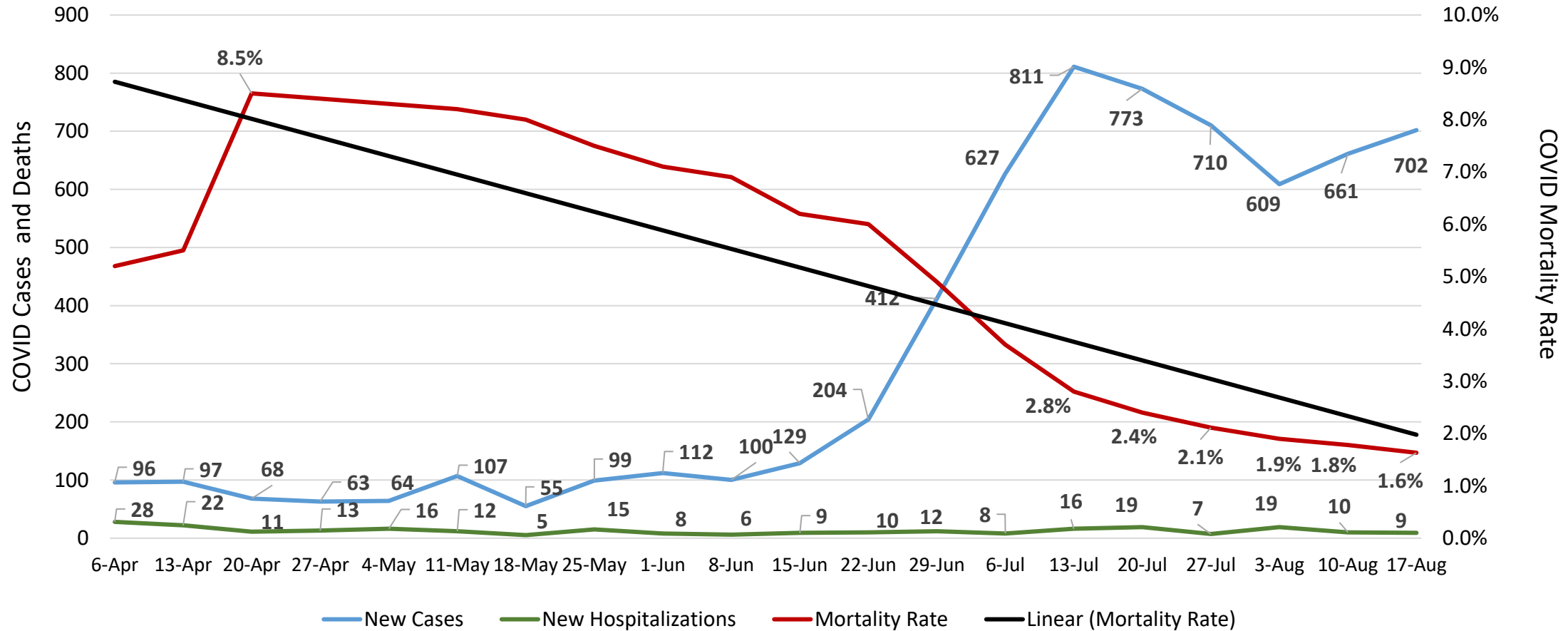
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# New Weekly Johnson County COVID Cases, Deaths, and Rolling Mortality Rate

Aug. 17 confirmed infection rate = 1.1%



Source: KDHE, Johnson County Health Dept.

## *Issues with Positivity Rate as Gating Criteria*

- Why positivity rate instead of case severity, which, measured by hospitalization and mortality rates is clearly declining?
- What's the scientific basis of 5% positivity for in-person school?
- Dr. Christine White SMMC says testing data is skewed; vast majority tested have symptoms or known exposure. Last 3 months, **0.5% positive of 7,500 asymptomatic pre-op patients.**
- How many new cases are **false positives** (*later found negative*), positive for **antibodies** (*had the virus in the past*), or **probables**?

## *Issues with Positivity Rate as Gating Criteria*

- Why is school gating based on testing of the entire population?
- Did the county quantify the health benefits at 5%...10%?
- Did the county quantify the serious *educational, economic, emotional, nutritional, and physical abuse consequences* of not opening schools?
- What is the net positive or negative at 5%...10%...15%?

## *Johnson County needs a more balanced approach*

- Revised risk assessment that balances health issues against devastating economic, educational, and multiple well-being consequences of efforts to mitigate COVID.
- Aggressively protect vulnerable, not one-size-fits-none orders.
- Much more data transparency.