



# A Regional Comparison of Sonoma County's COVID-19 Statistics

September 3, 2020

Dr. Sundari Mase  
Sonoma County Health Officer



**sonoma county**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

# Blueprint for a Safer Economy

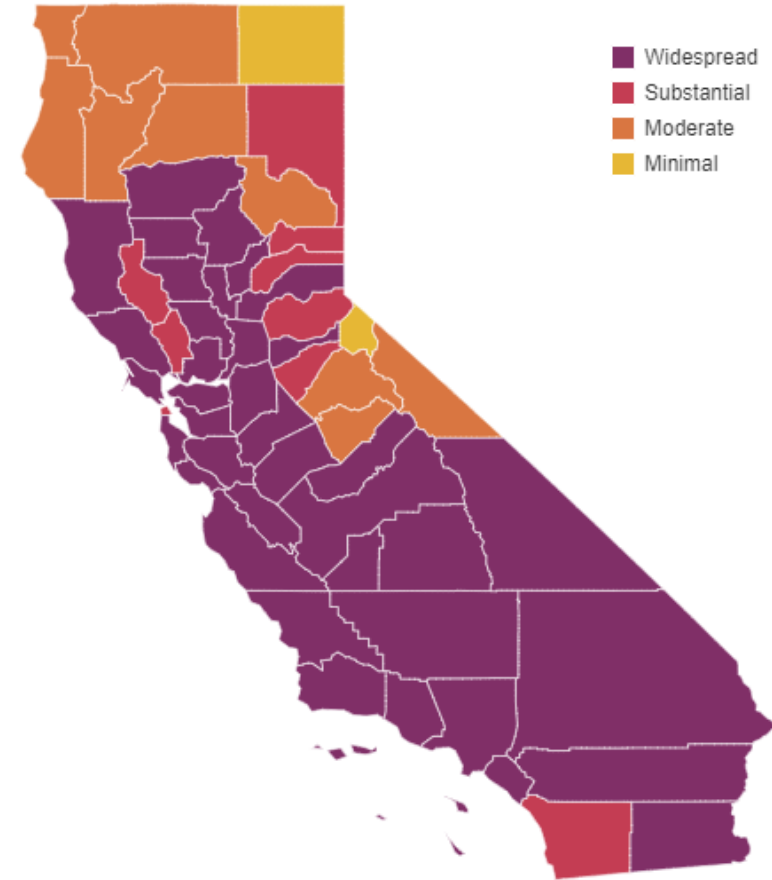
- On August 28<sup>th</sup>, Governor Newsom introduced the *Blueprint for a Safer Economy*, a new four tier structure for reducing COVID-19 with revised criteria for loosening and tightening restrictions on activities.
- This framework replaces the former County Data Monitoring criteria

# Four Tiers

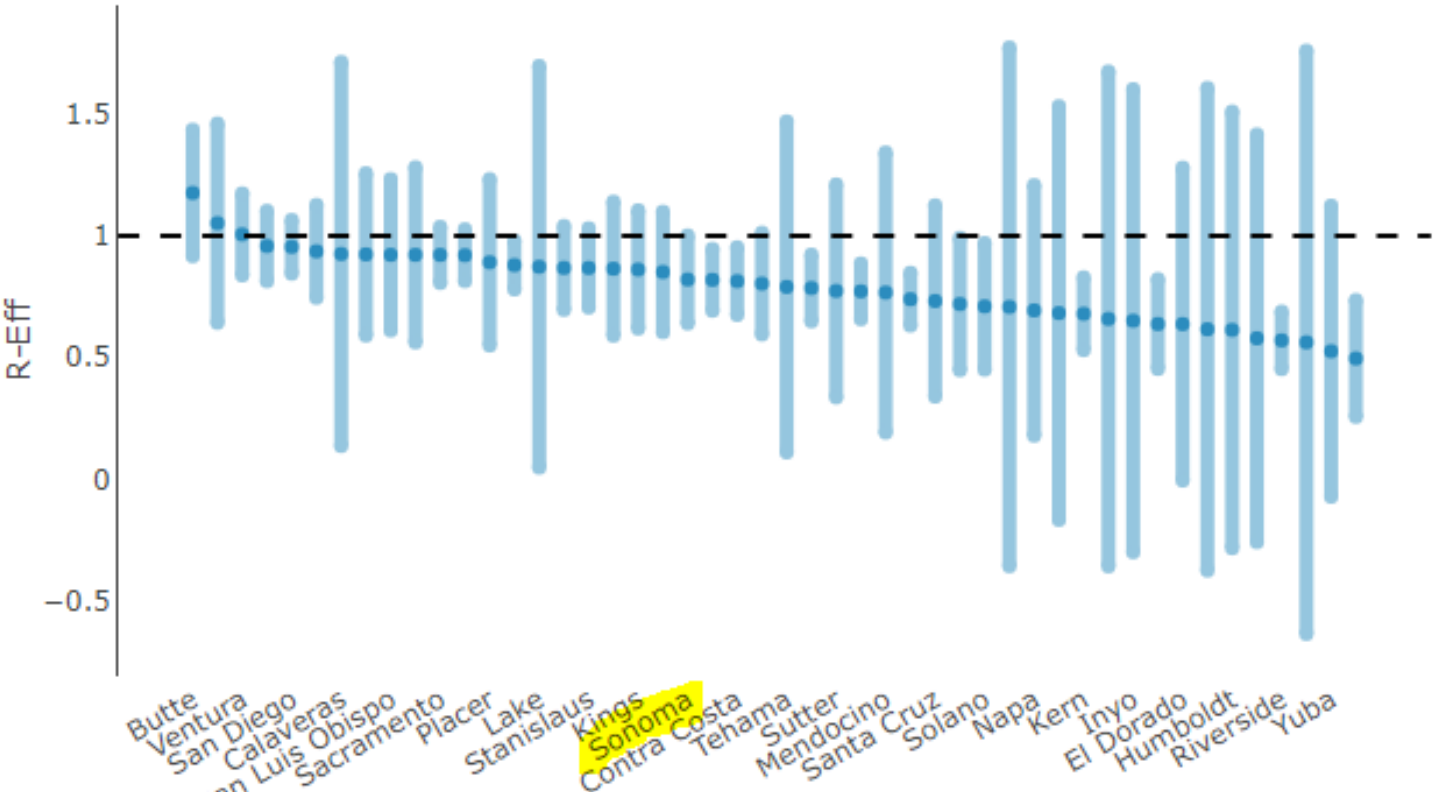
Higher Risk → Lower Risk of Community Disease Transmission				
	Widespread Tier 1	Substantial Tier 2	Moderate Tier 3	Minimal Tier 4
<b>Measures*</b>				
<b>New cases**/100,000 population per day (<u>7 day average</u>; 7 day lag)</b>	>7	4-7	1-3.9	<1
<b>Testing % Positivity (<u>7 day average</u>; 7 day lag)</b>	> 8%	5-8%	2-4.9%	<2%

# How does Sonoma County compare to the Region and State?

- Sonoma County is one of 38 counties in the State in *Tier 1 (purple): Widespread Transmission*



# Measure of Spread



The R-effective refers to the average number of additional people infected by each COVID-19 case (<1 decreasing spread, >1 increasing spread)

# COVID-19 Cases by City

Cloverdale



Healdsburg



Petaluma



Sonoma



Rohnert Park



Santa Rosa



Sebastopol

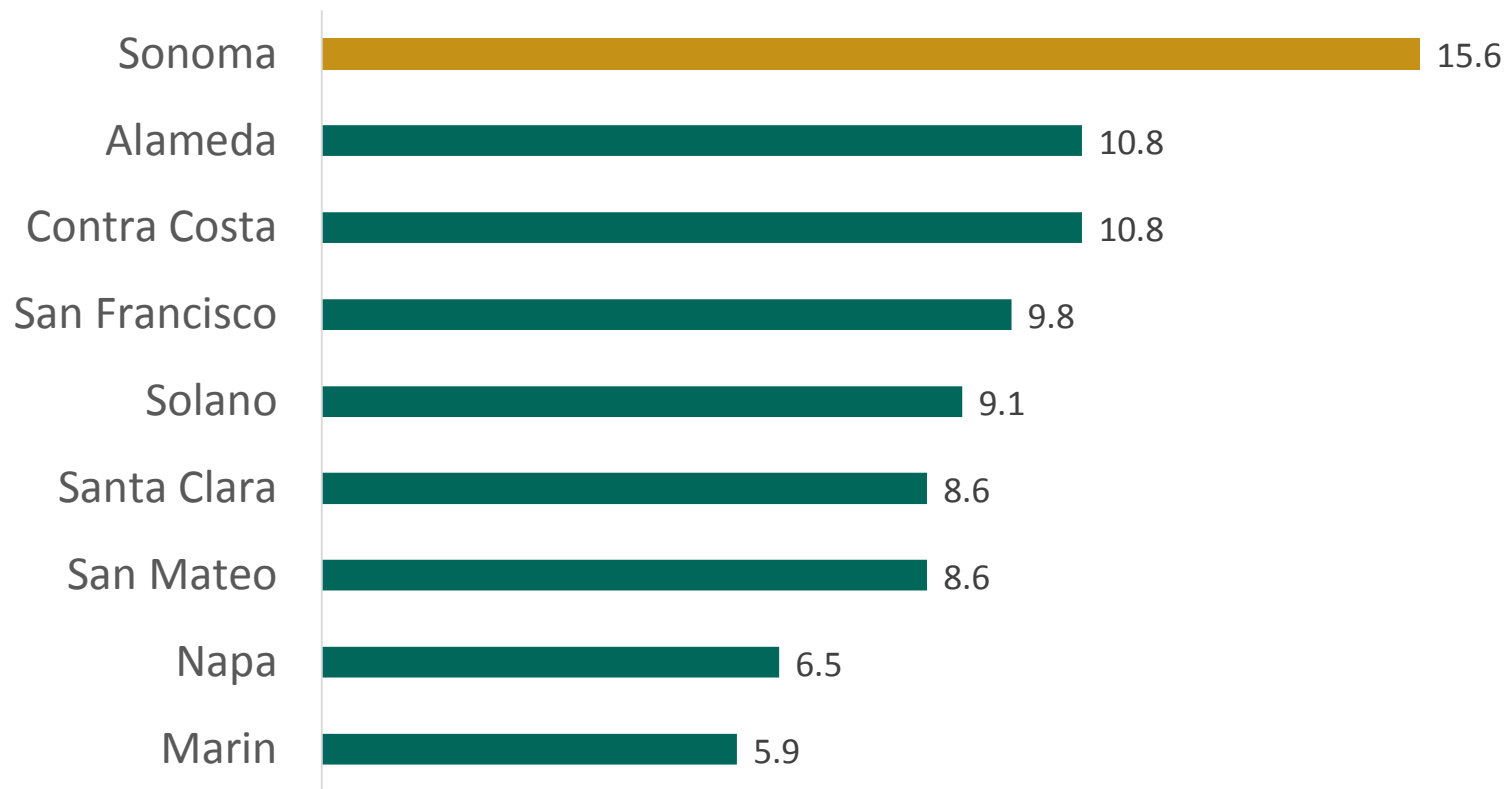


Windsor



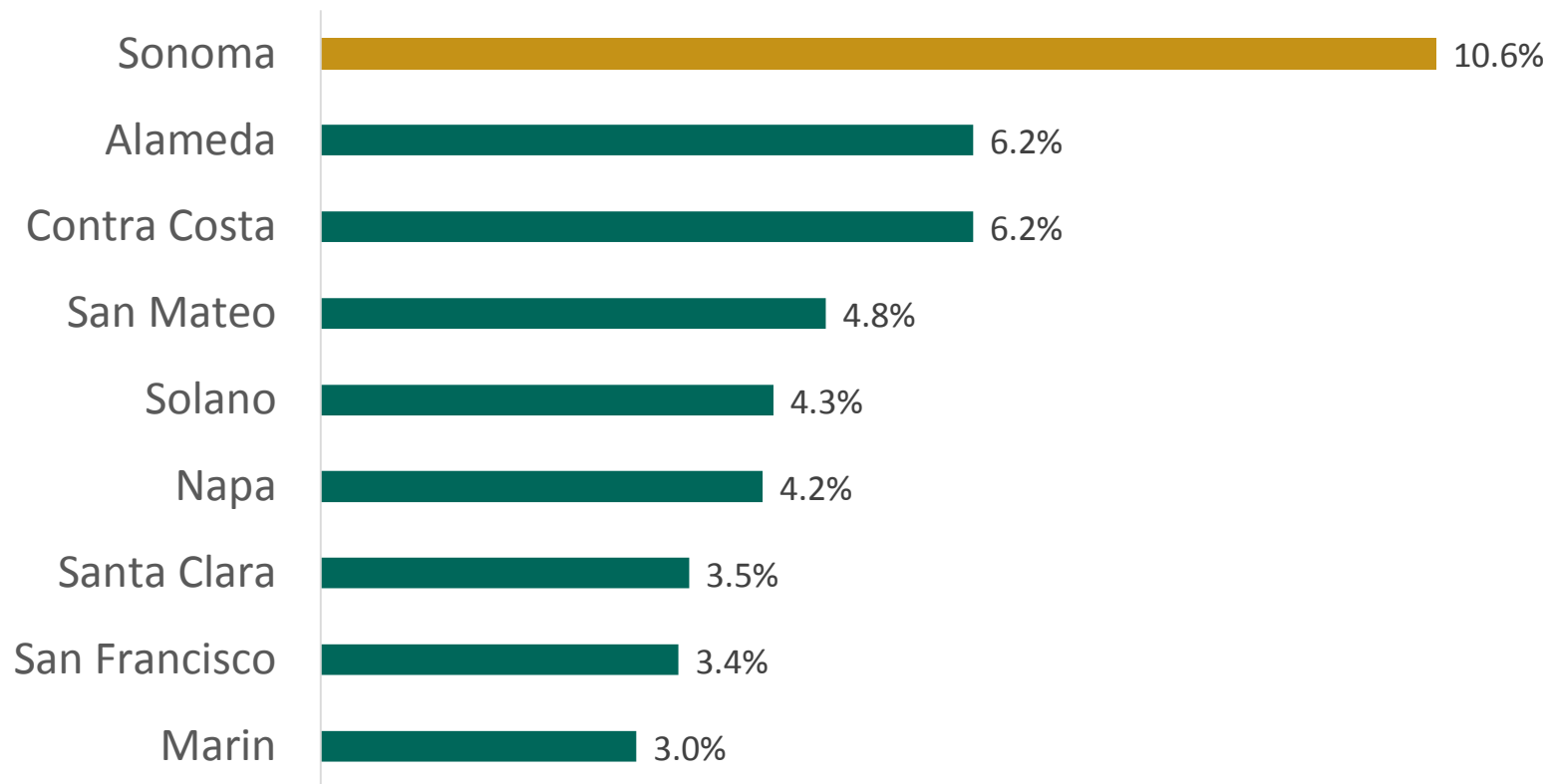
# Regional Comparison: Case Rate

- New cases per 100,000 per day (7 day average; 7 day lag)



# Regional Comparison: Testing Positivity

- Seven day testing positivity (7 day average; 7 day lag)





# Differing Drivers of Infection

- It is important to keep in mind that Sonoma County has a few key differences from our Bay Area neighbors:
  - Sonoma County is home to tourism, agriculture, industry.
  - Essential workers in Sonoma County live and work within our border.
  - Marin and Napa have a smaller population base and essential workers who cannot afford to live in these counties can commute from other places.
  - Contra Costa, Alameda, Marin and San Francisco do not share similar industries, including agriculture and food production.

# Different Approaches to Testing

In addition to these differences, Sonoma County has adopted aggressive case finding strategies:

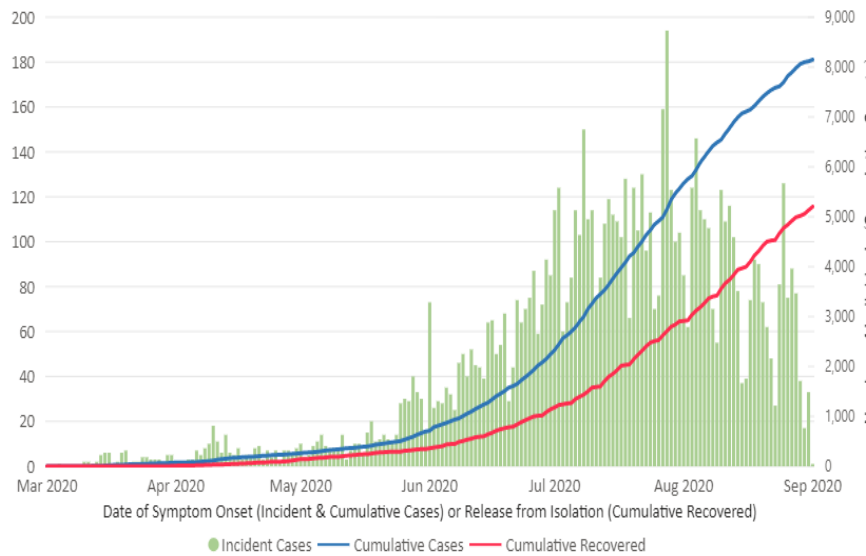
- Sonoma County Department of Health Services has an agile, responsive testing team that conducts active case finding at worksites, communities, facilities and vulnerable populations.
- The network of community clinics and other major health care providers make testing available to all persons accessing care, including family members.
- Sonoma County has a fully staffed public health laboratory able to prioritize testing based on shifts in the outbreak.
- Two OptumServe sites are also available for rapid testing.

# Comparison County Considerations

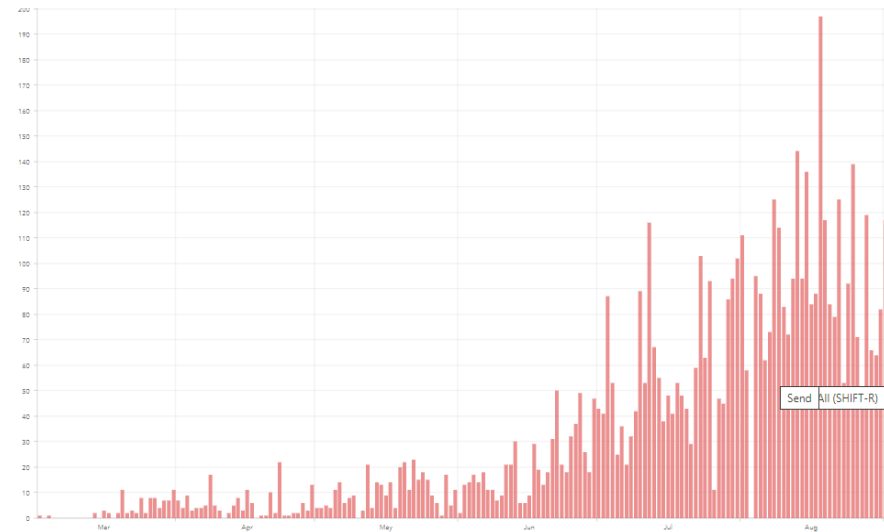
- While geographically close, our neighboring counties have different drivers impacting their case rates.
- To look at a more comparable example, the county of Monterey might be considered. Like Sonoma County, **Monterey County** has:
  - A similar population size and demographics
  - Substantial tourism
  - Strong agriculture and food production industries
  - Essential workers live and work within boundaries

# Comparison of Case Statistics

County	New Cases per 100,000 per Day	Testing Positivity
Sonoma	15.6	10.6%
Monterey	15.5	10.9%

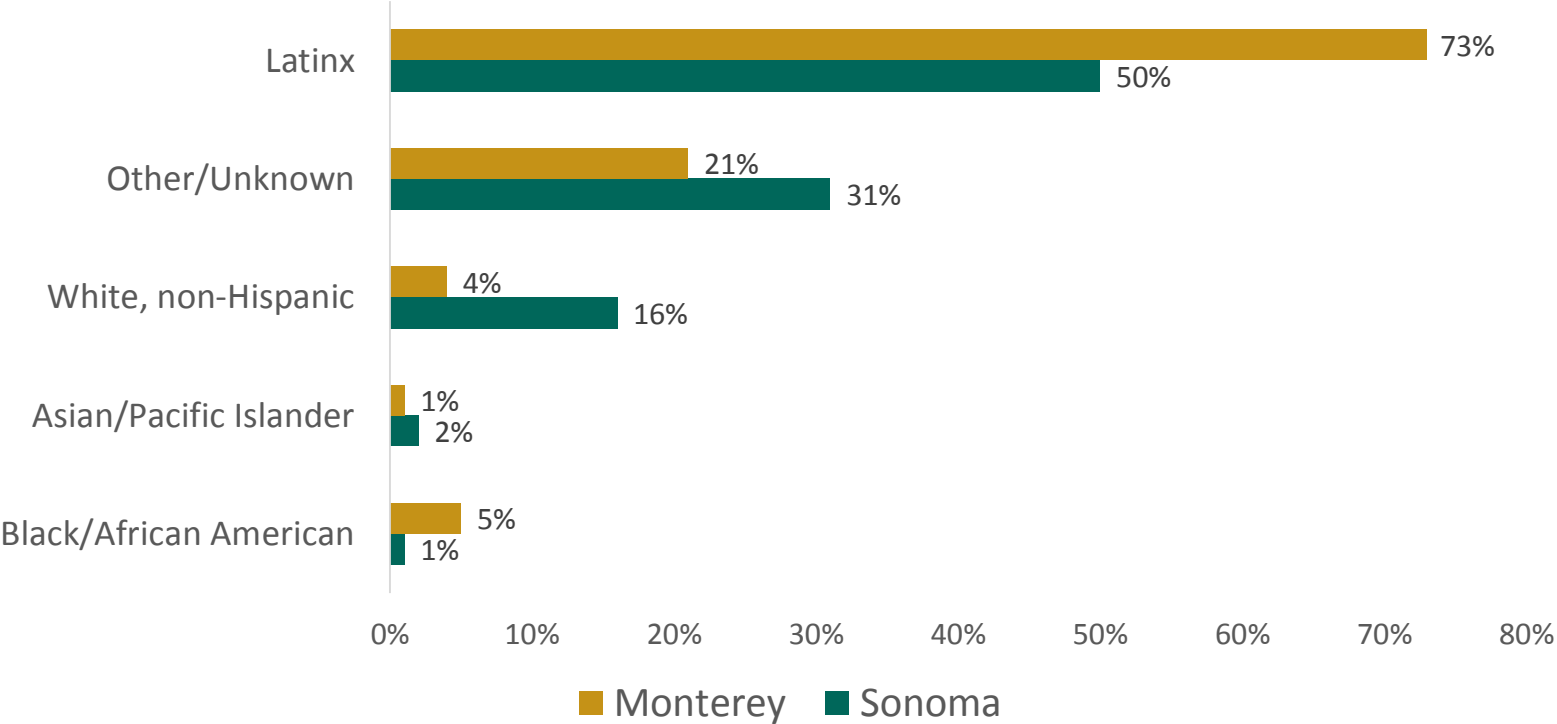


Monterey County Cases



Sonoma County Cases

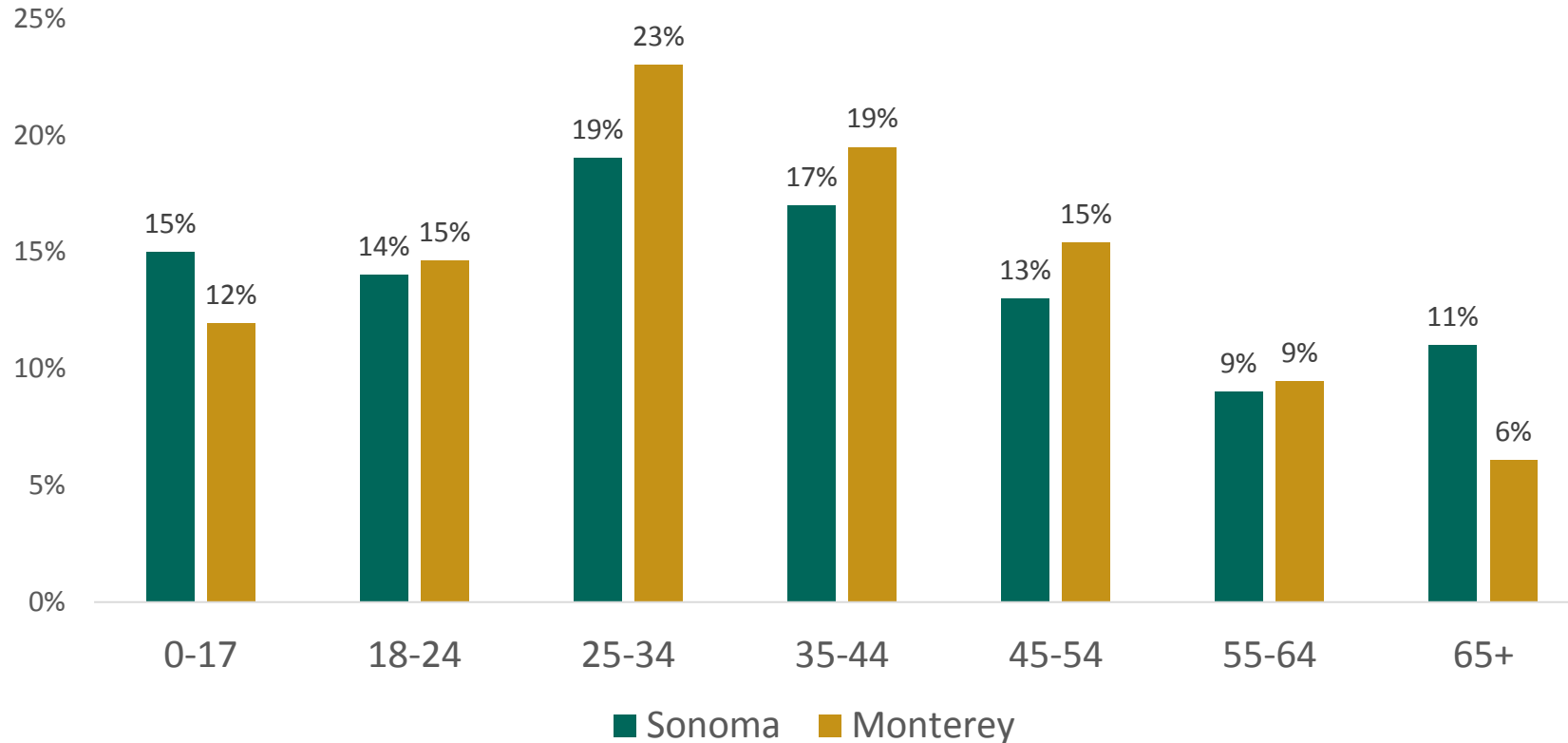
# Race/Ethnicity of Cases



Similar to Sonoma County, Monterey County has experienced a disproportionate number of cases in the Latinx community and outbreaks among Agriculture and Farm workers



# Cases by Age Group



Similar trends seen in cases by age groups, with the 25-34 year old age group accounting for the largest proportion of cases in both counties

# Conclusions

- Sonoma County's pattern of cases is similar to other counties that share our demographic, industry and tourism profiles
- Focused case finding efforts, extensive field testing in vulnerable populations (e.g. skilled nursing facilities) and worksites, and systematic testing of close contacts have yielded a high number of positive cases

# What Can Sonoma County do to Slow the Spread of COVID-19?

- Continue focused approach to testing, contact tracing and data-driven case finding
- Reinforce importance of wearing facial coverings, social distancing, hygiene, wearing masks when ride sharing, and avoiding gathering
- Encourage workers to stay home when ill and urge employers to provide sick leave when possible
- Outreach to the agriculture industry, skilled nursing and other congregate and vulnerable settings to strengthen prevention and mitigation measures