

Recent COVID-19 Death Rate Trends, Preliminary Look at Pediatric COVID Trends

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The Menges Group

Strategic Health Policy & Care Coordination Consulting

Introduction

- We stopped producing COVID editions of our 5 Slide Series as average nationwide COVID deaths per day declined to approximately 200 during late June and early July.
- Average daily deaths across the prior 7-day period were 361 on June 13 and 274 on July 13, but then increased to 650 on August 13 and 1,827 on September 13.
- Every two days, more Americans are currently dying of COVID than perished in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.
- The pandemic's resurgence is worthy of significant attention.

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Vaccination Decisions Have Strong Political Preference Connections and Extremely Strong COVID-19 Death Correlations

- National percentage of persons vaccinated per an August 24th NBC News Poll: Biden voters in 2020 general election: **91 percent**, Trump voters in 2020 general election: **50 percent**.
- 11 of the 12 states with the highest COVID death rates during August were states where Donald Trump won the most votes (Nevada being the lone exception). The same 11 out of 12 outcome again occurred during the first eight days of September (with Georgia being the lone exception).
- Alabama provides a good example of the recent clinical and political dynamics of COVID:
 - Alabama's COVID death rate per population during August was the nation's 7th highest.
 - 94% of Alabama's COVID deaths from April 1 through August 18 were attributed to unvaccinated persons.
 - 50% of Alabama adults were vaccinated as of September 13 (a lower percentage than all states except West Virginia).
 - 63% of 2020 presidential votes in Alabama were for Donald Trump (4th highest percentage among all states).

COVID Death Rates in Recent Months between Political Groupings of States

Political Grouping	Number of States	Percent of USA Population	Percent of USA COVID Deaths			COVID Deaths per 1,000 Persons		
			July	August	Sept 1-8	July	August	Sept 1-8 Prorated to Full Month
Democrat Governor	23	54.3%	44.9%	33.3%	32.4%	2.2	5.0	8.2
Republican Governor	27	45.7%	55.1%	66.7%	67.6%	3.1	11.8	20.2
Won by Biden	25	57.4%	45.6%	29.7%	33.1%	2.1	4.2	7.9
Won by Trump	25	42.6%	54.4%	70.3%	66.9%	3.3	13.3	21.5
Total	50	100%	100%	100%	100%	2.6	8.1	13.7

Source: Menges Group tabulations using CDC website's daily death data.

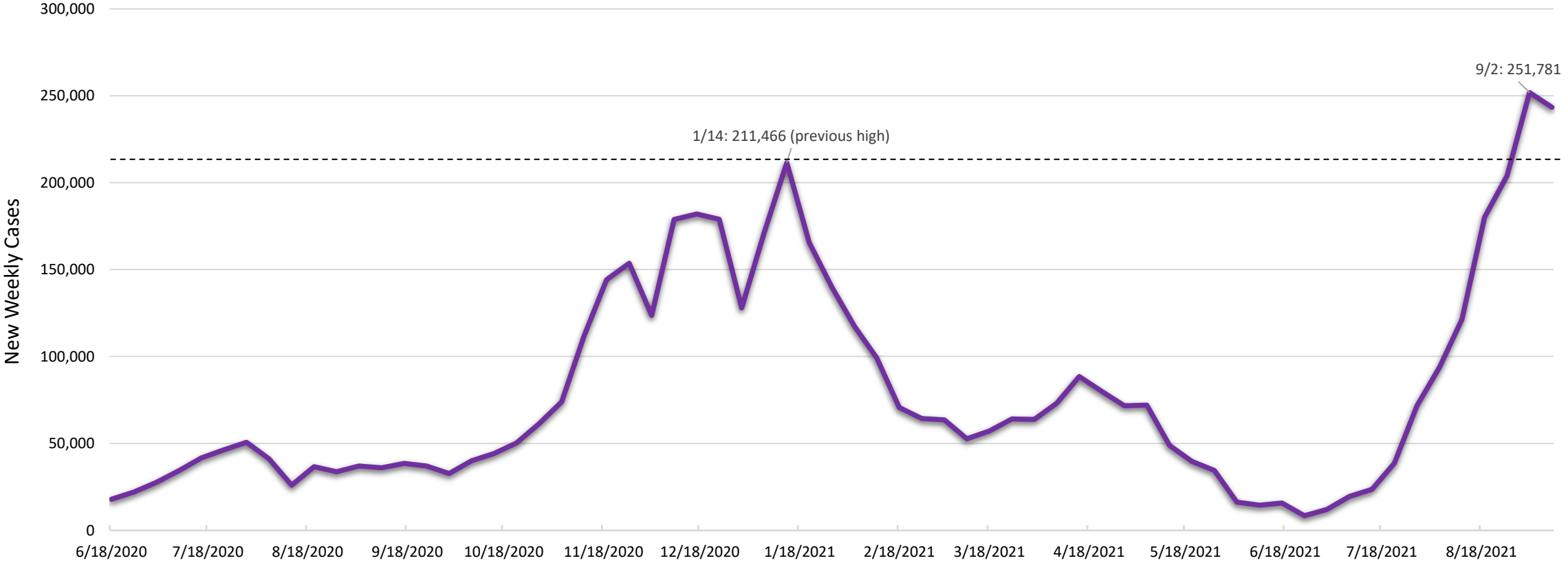
- States preferring Democratic candidates represent roughly 55% of the US population but only one-third of recent COVID deaths. States preferring Republican candidates represent less than half the overall population but two-thirds of recent COVID deaths.
- The COVID death rate in recent months has been **2-3 times higher** across Republican-leaning states than across Democratic-leaning states.



Pediatric Cases

- Turning now to pediatric COVID trends, 5.3 million (**15.5%**) of the 34.2 million confirmed COVID cases over the course of the pandemic since September 9, 2021, have been among children.
- New weekly pediatric COVID cases as of this date were 115% of their all-time high (in mid-January) – and are now growing at the quickest rate since the start of the pandemic. Since the first week of June, pediatric cases have grown **1,444% to over 240,000 new weekly cases.**
- Pediatric cases represent **30% of all new cases** – up from 17.2% during the first week of June and 12.9% during the first week of January.

Nationwide Pediatric COVID-19 Cases Are Rising Sharply and Have Are Now Record High

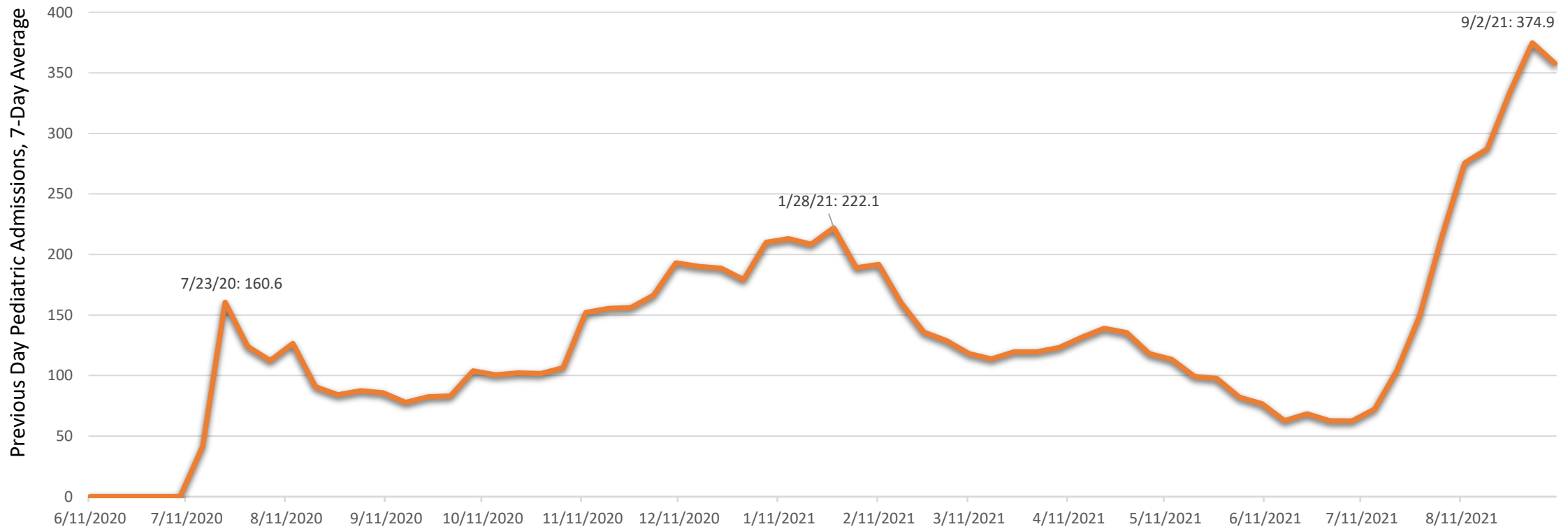


Note: NY did not provide age distribution for state-wide cases (only NYC); AL, HI, RI, MO, and WV changed definitions of child cases throughout the observed period; TX, MA, AK, FL, NE, and LA ceased or omitted case/hospitalization reports during certain time periods, or revised case definitions, leading to subsequent count changes.



Source: American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Hospital Association

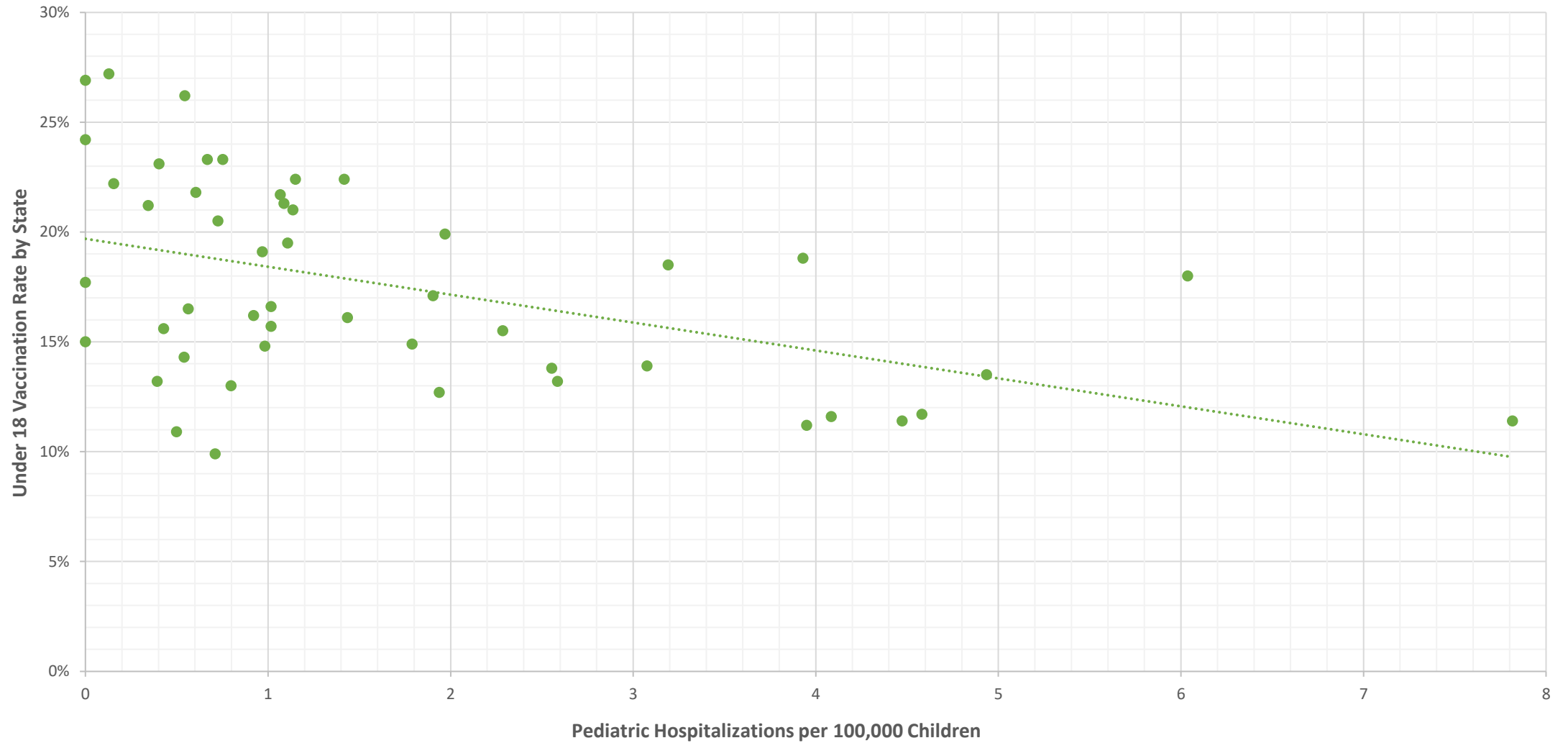
Pediatric COVID-19 Hospitalizations are Now Higher than Ever



Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Menges Group calculations

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States with Larger Share of Children Vaccinated Have Lower Child Hospitalization Rates, with Trendline



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Source: Mayo Clinic, Menges Group calculations

Overview of States' COVID-19 School Policies

- 15 states require teachers to wear masks in school, 28 states have no school mask mandate, and 7 states have passed laws prohibiting any mask mandate within the state.
- 8 states require teachers to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, 30 states have no school faculty vaccine mandate, and 12 states have banned vaccine mandates.
- With children having returned to school throughout most of the country, we will be closely tracking pediatric hospitalizations and deaths. Future editions will convey pediatric state-level COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths based upon these policies.

5 Slide Series Overview

Our 5 Slide Series is typically a monthly publication whereby we briefly discuss/address a selected topic outside the confines of our client engagements. The Menges Group has developed a variety of datasets that we use to support our 5 Slide Series and client projects.

To be added to our list to receive these as they are published (or to be removed), please email us at pcall@themengesgroup.com. If you have questions about the content or data sources we have available, please email us at jmenges@themengesgroup.com or call 571-312-2360.

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