



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

October 1, 2020



### Research Policy Update

#### *COVID-19 Data – Situation Summary – IHS Area Data*

The purpose of this update is to share publicly available data and trends related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Indian Country. The NCAI Policy Research Center reviews updates on public sites in the early morning each day and records available data. The data shared in this update represents what has been shared publicly by the sources described below, and the NCAI Policy Research Center is not analyzing the primary sources of data. This update represents data posted at the time of viewing each day. Starting 7/09/2020, this report will be published weekly on Thursday.

In reviewing this data, it is important to understand that current COVID-19 data is likely an underestimate of the actual data due to current lack of adequate testing availability and underreporting. Tribal nations are encouraged to conduct their own surveillance locally in partnership with local, county, state and federal agencies.

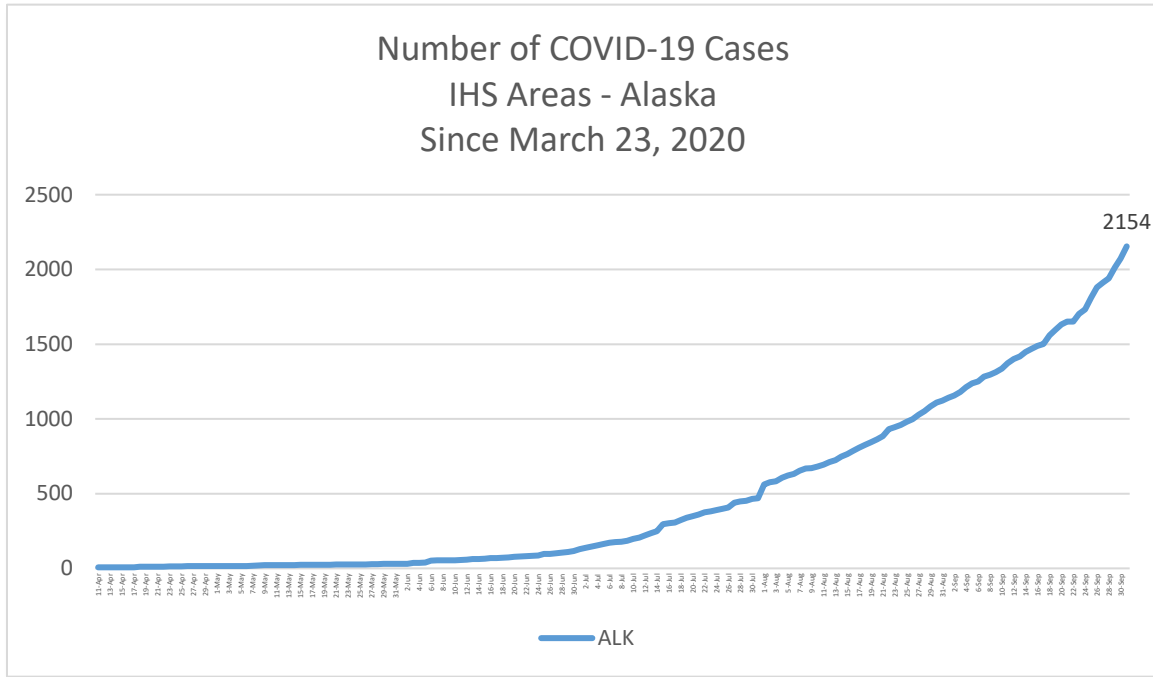
### INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS) AREA DATA

#### *Total COVID-19 Cases in Indian Country*

The primary public source of federal data on COVID-19 cases in American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) is the Indian Health Service (IHS) Coronavirus (COVID-19) website located at the following link: <https://www.ihs.gov/coronavirus/>. On this website, total COVID-19 cases are recorded daily as well as total cases in each IHS Area.

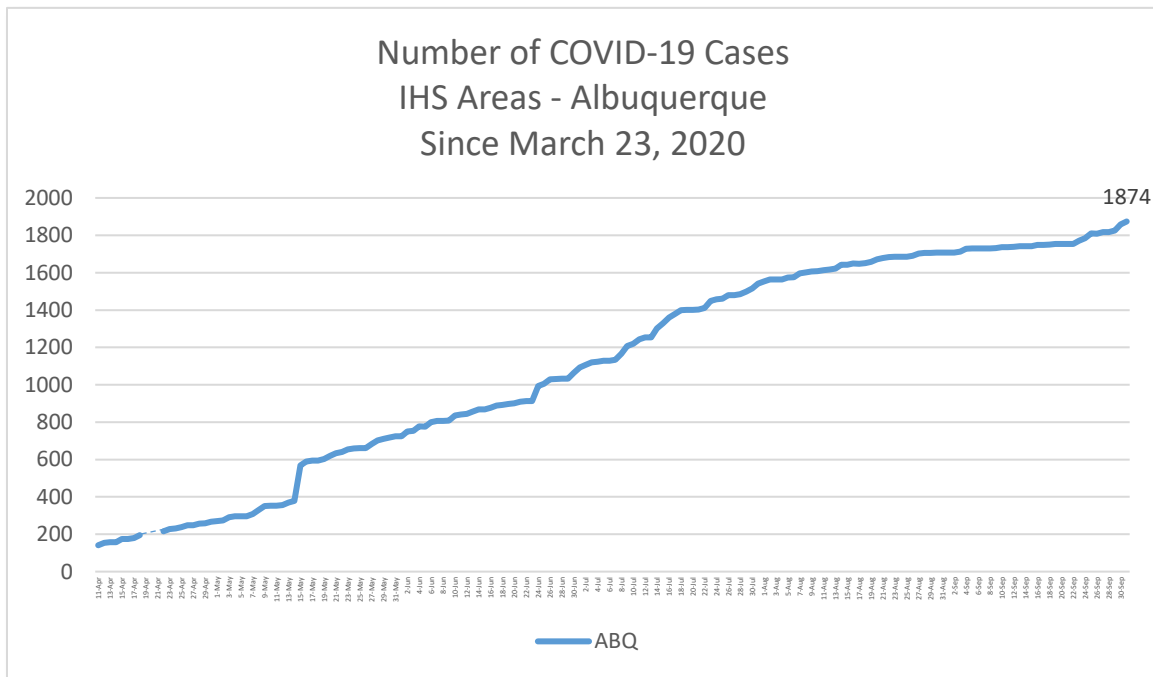
The NCAI Policy Research Center has tracked these case numbers daily since March 23, 2020. Using these numbers, we created trend graphs for each IHS Area. In all IHS Areas, total cases have continued to increase. These graphs are included on the next pages. When downward corrections in total cases were made, likely due to reclassification by location or an error, we denote the days with corrections with dotted lines on the graph. Flat areas of the curves are when cases did not increase for that day. The change in cases from the prior day is listed above the graph, and the change from last week's report is listed below the graph. Percent positive COVID-19 tests and the trend since last week (↑, ↓, or –) is also listed below the graph.

## ALASKA (+81)



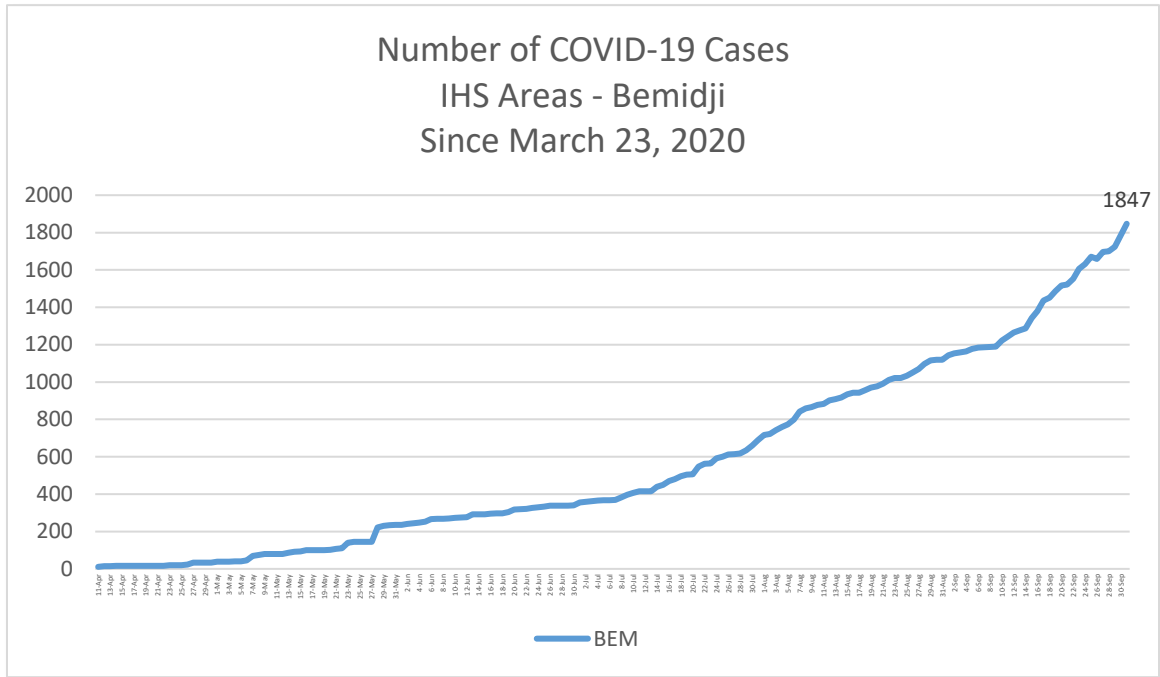
Cases since last week (09/24/2020): 422    Percent Positive Tests: 1.0 (↑ since last week)

## ALBUQUERQUE (+16)



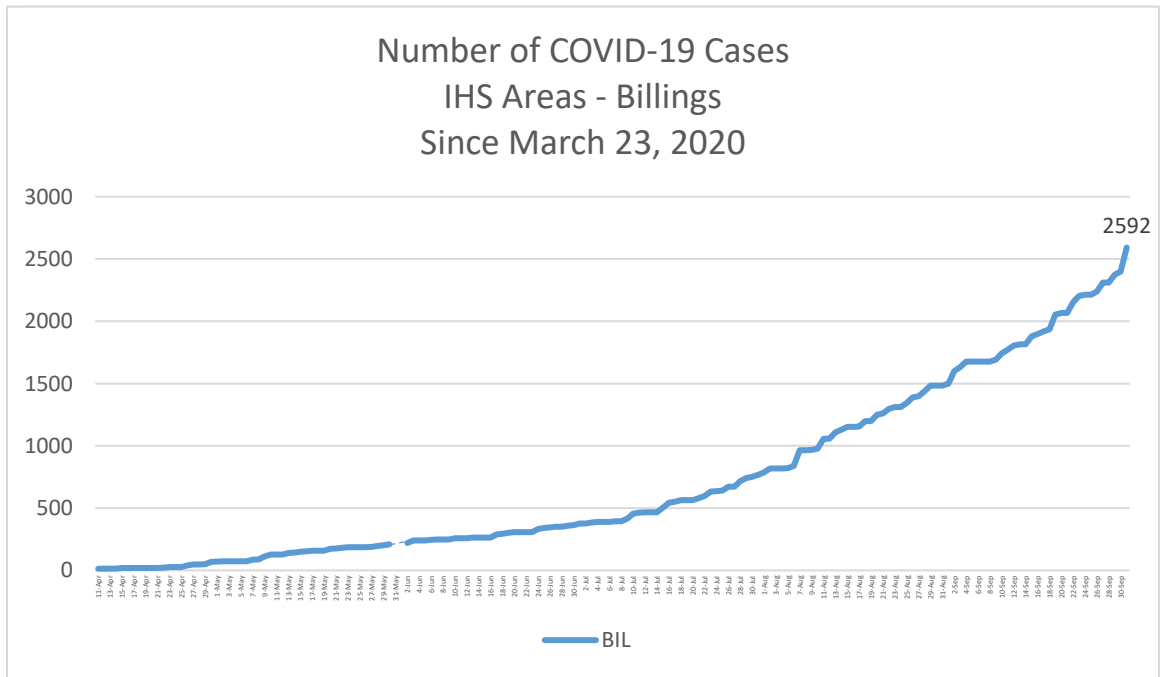
Cases since last week (09/24/2020): 90    Percent Positive Tests: 4.3 (- since last week)

## BEMIDJI (+63)



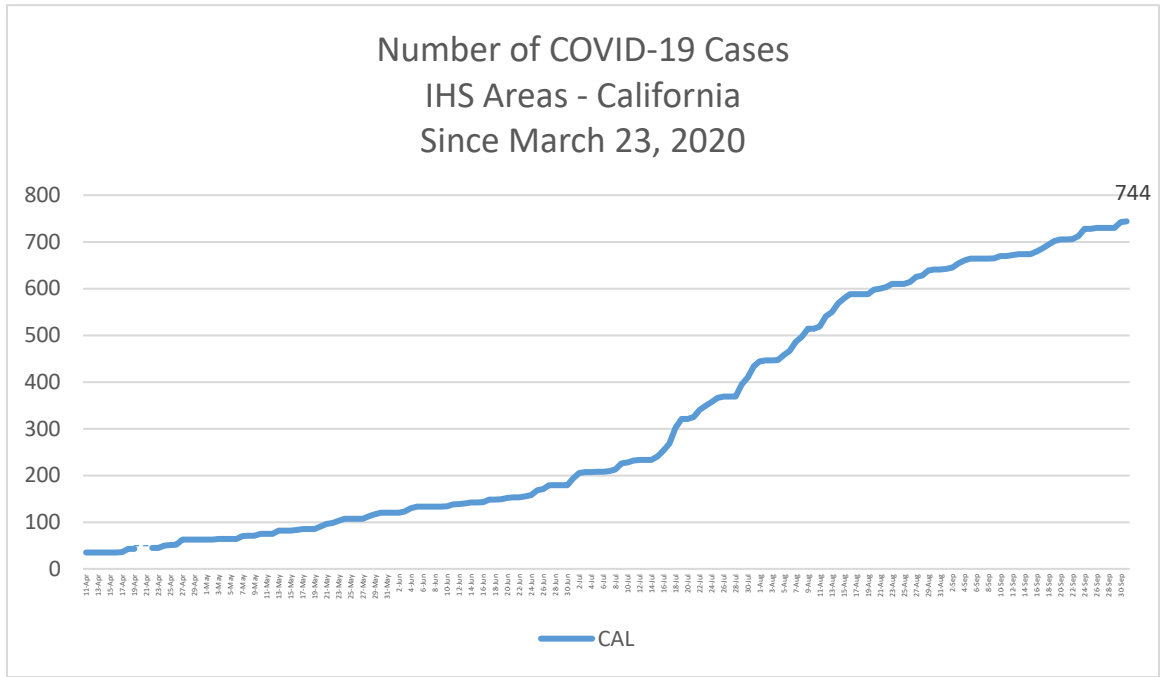
Cases since last week (09/24/2020): 216    Percent Positive Tests: 3.5 (↑ since last week)

## BILLINGS (+193)



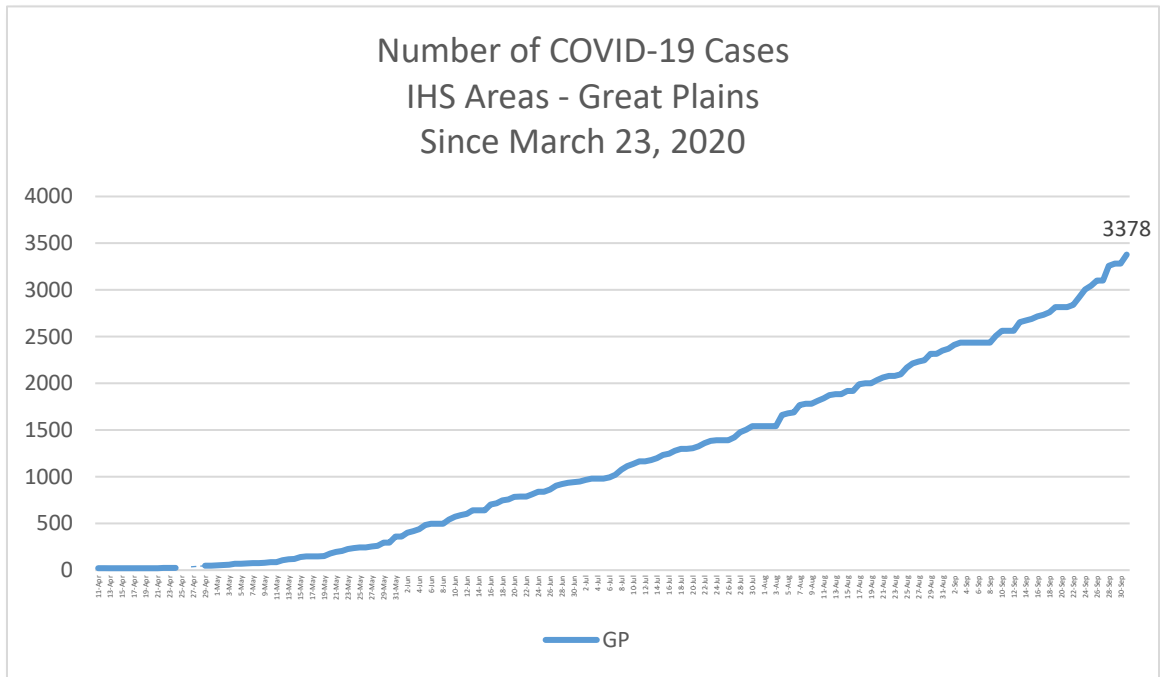
Cases since last week (09/24/2020): 379    Percent Positive Tests: 4.4 (↑ since last week)

## CALIFORNIA (+2)



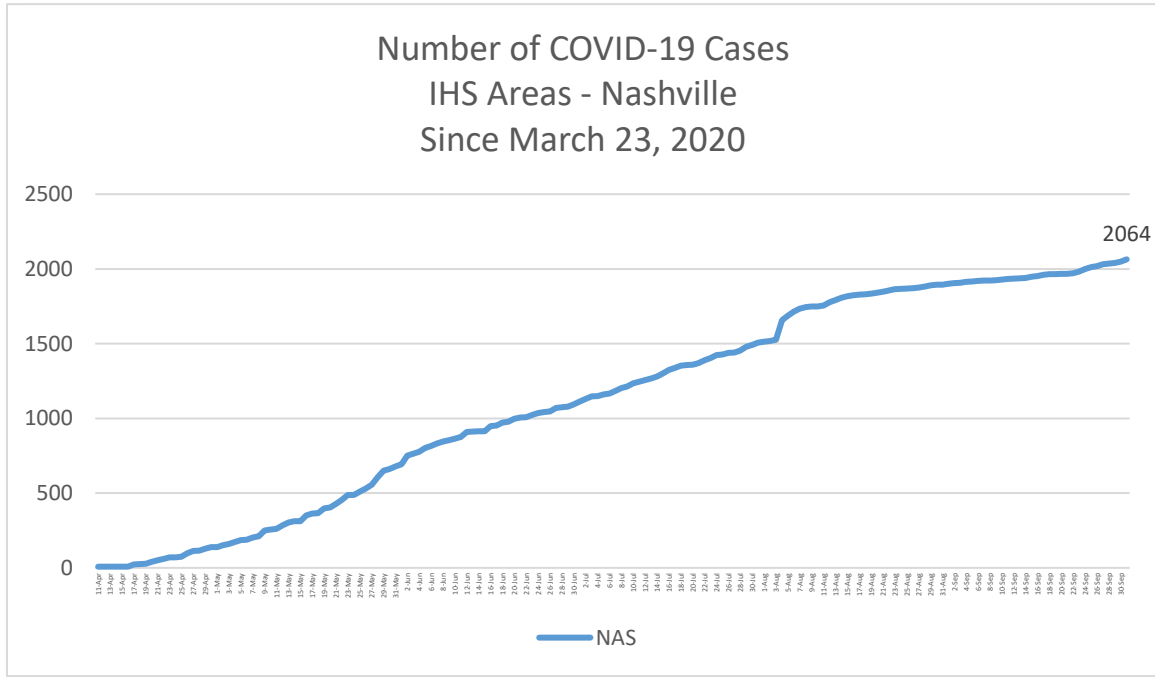
Cases since last week (09/24/2020): 16    Percent Positive Tests: 6.0 (↓ since last week)

## GREAT PLAINS (+95)



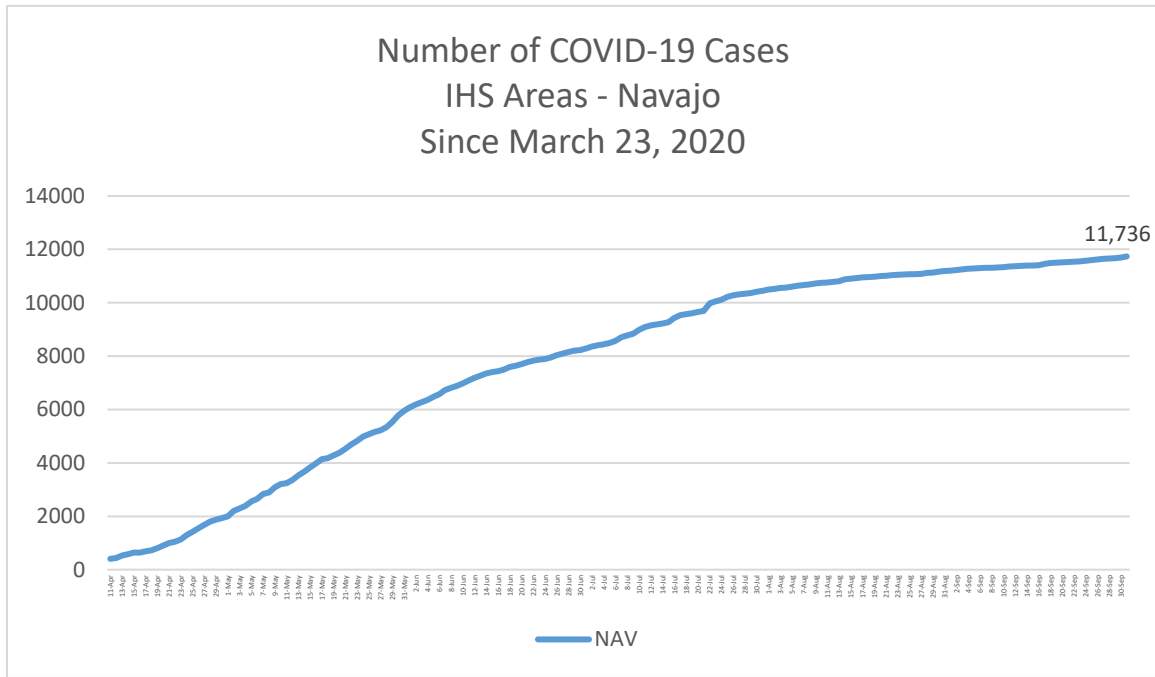
Cases since last week (09/24/2020): 373    Percent Positive Tests: 4.8 (↑ since last week)

## NASHVILLE (+16)



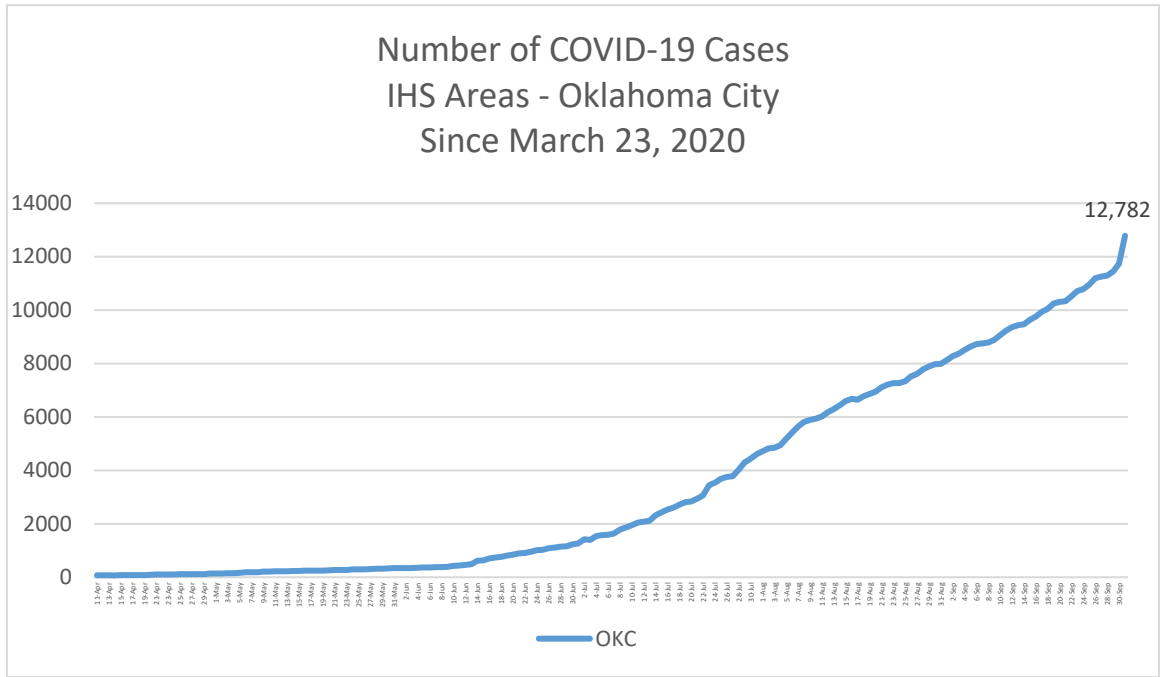
Cases since last week (09/24/2020): 65      Percent Positive Tests: 7.3 (↓ since last week)

## NAVAJO (+43)



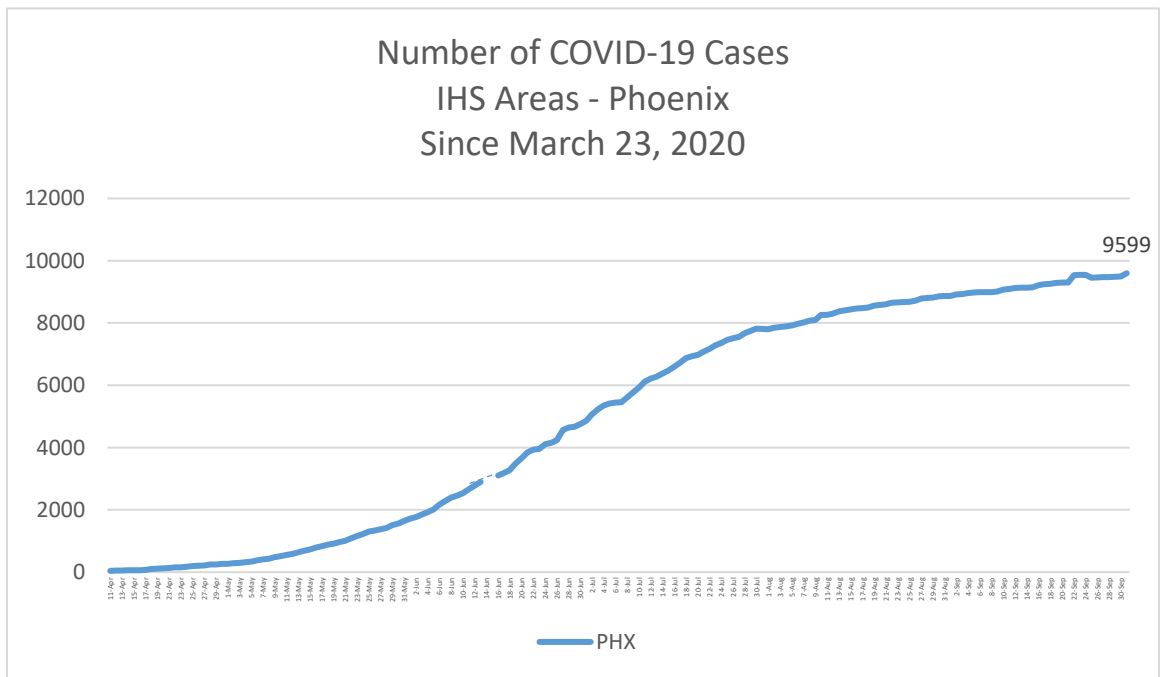
Cases since last week (09/24/2020): 165      Percent Positive Tests: 12.8 (↓ since last week)

## OKLAHOMA CITY (+1050)



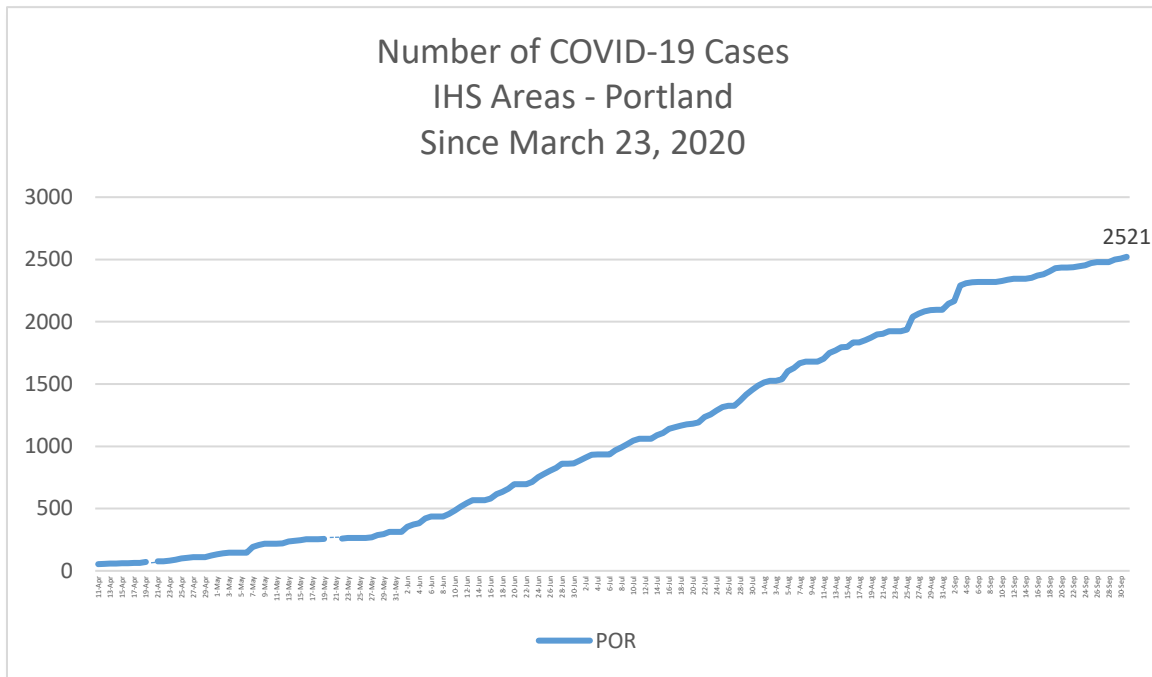
Cases since last week (09/24/2020): 1995 Percent Positive Tests: 7.6 (↑ since last week)

## PHOENIX (+108)



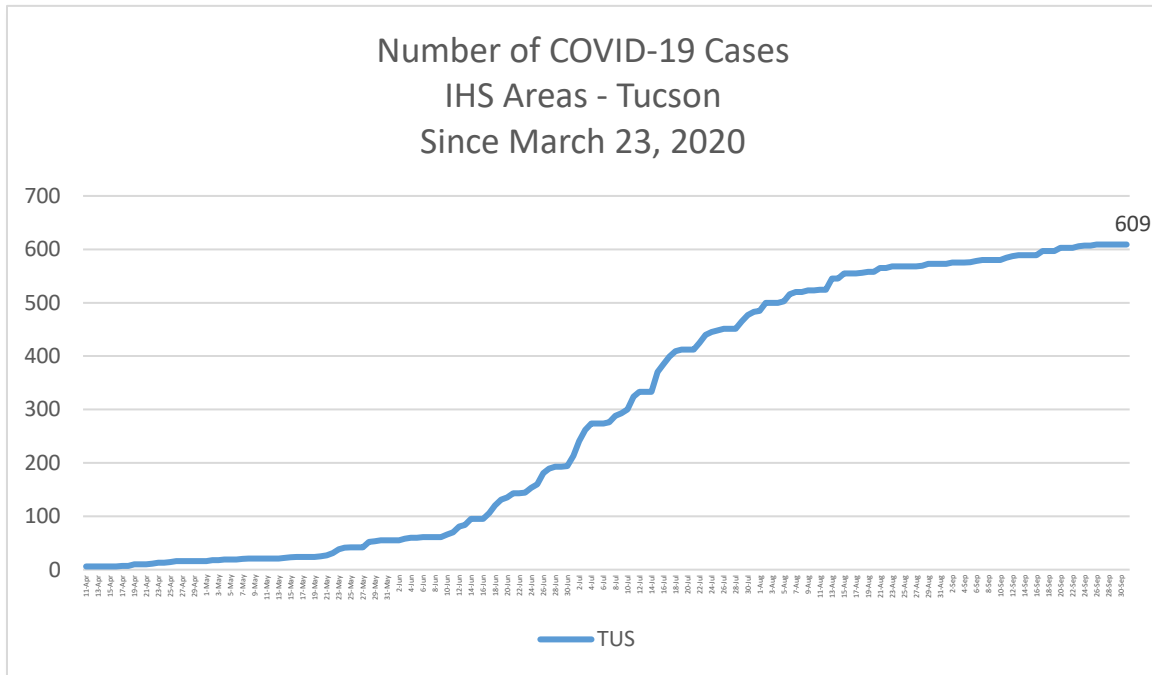
Cases since last week (09/24/2020): 147 Percent Positive Tests: 13.8 (↓ since last week)

## PORTLAND (+14)



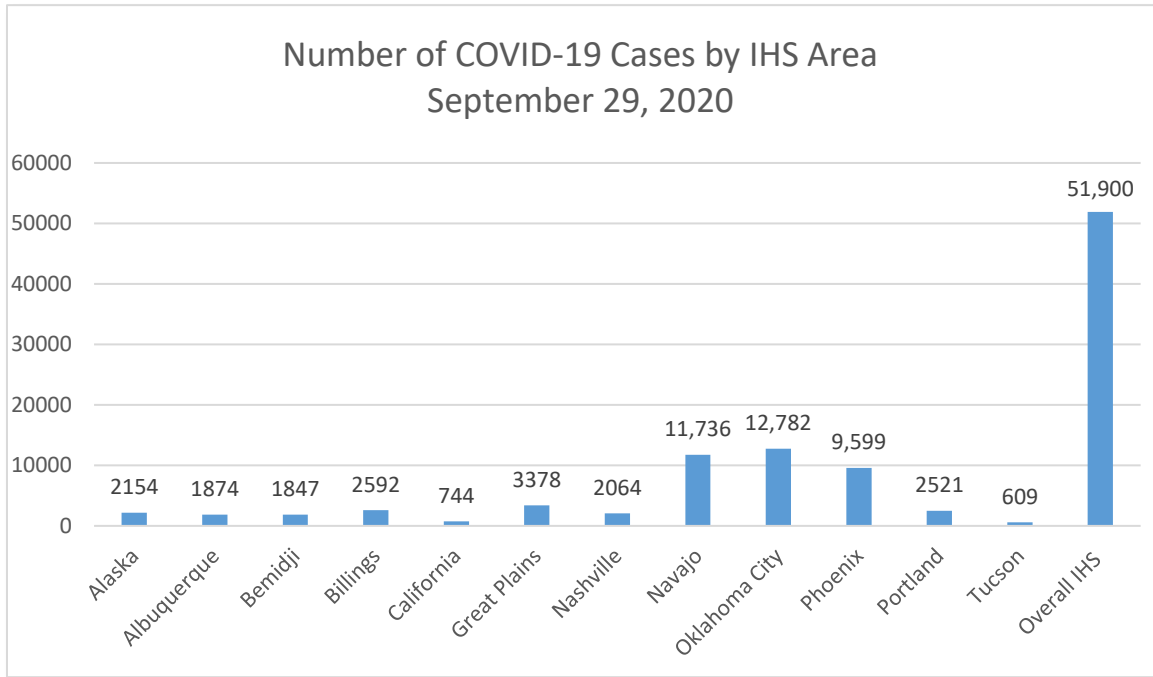
Cases since last week (09/24/2020): 69    Percent Positive Tests: 7.7 (↓ since last week)

## TUCSON (+0)



Cases since last week (09/24/2020): 2    Percent Positive Tests: 8.3 (↓ since last week)

**ALL IHS AREAS (+1681)**



Cases since last week (09/24/2020):3849    Percent Positive Tests: 6.1 (- since last week)

**IHS AREA TOTAL COVID-19 CASES (in descending order)**

IHS Area	COVID-19 Cases 9/30/2020	Change since past week
Oklahoma City	12,782	+1995
Navajo	11,736	+165
Phoenix	9599	+147
Great Plains	3378	+373
Billings	2592	+379
Portland	2521	+69
Alaska	2154	+422
Nashville	2064	+65
Albuquerque	1874	+90
Bemidji	1847	+216
California	744	+16
Tucson	609	+2



While some believe that increases are due to increased COVID-19 testing, the White House Coronavirus Task Force indicates that an increase in cases AND increase in percent positive tests means that the increase is likely a true increase. U.S. and WHO guidelines consider a percent positive COVID-19 test result below 5.0 should be achieved before advancing to the next reopening stage. Percent positive test results greater than 10 percent are concerning, even if decreasing, since the result means that at least 1 in 10 tests performed are positive. Tribal nations are encouraged to work with their local, state, and IHS Areas to follow local trends.

**Citation:** NCAI Policy Research Center (2020). *Research Policy Update: COVID-19 Data – Situation Summary – IHS Area Data*. Washington DC: National Congress of American Indians, October 1, 2020.

**Questions:** NCAI Policy Research Center – email: [research@ncai.org](mailto:research@ncai.org); website: <http://www.ncai.org/prc>