

# Recent COVID-19 Trends: Differences in COVID Case Trends Between States Won by Hillary Clinton and President Donald Trump in 2016

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**The Menges Group**

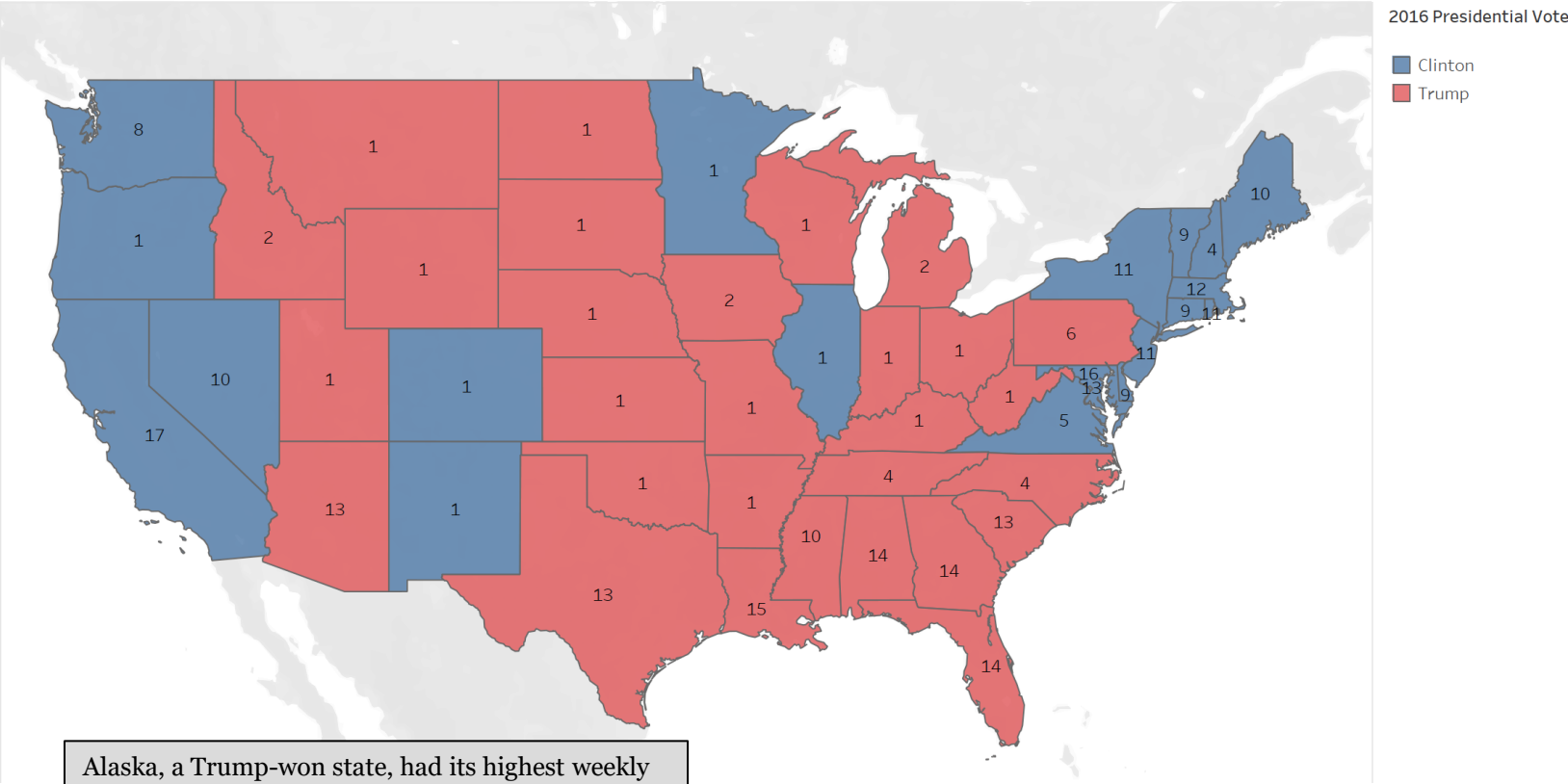
Strategic Health Policy & Care Coordination Consulting

# Introduction and Key Findings

- Across the 31 weeks since mid-March when confirmed cases existed in every state, **21 states experienced their highest weekly number of new confirmed cases in the most recent week (Oct 5-12)**. This is Month 8 of the pandemic's presence throughout the USA – we can and should be doing better by now in limiting the spread of the virus.
- There are stark differences in COVID cases between the 30 states won by President Donald Trump in 2016 versus the 20 states (plus DC) won by Hillary Clinton.
  - 20 of the 25 states where new confirmed cases were highest or second-highest in the most recent week of October 5-12 (among the pandemic's 31 weeks in the country) were states won by Trump in 2016.
  - The percentage of the population infected by COVID through October 12 is 2.6% across the 2016 Trump-won states, versus 2.1% across the states won by Clinton. This has occurred despite a much higher population density existing across the Clinton-won states (where the virus can spread much more easily).
  - The week of October 5-12 was particularly severe across the Trump-won states in terms of new cases being 57% above the 31-week average. This most recent week was also concerning across the Clinton-won states, where new cases were 11% above the 31-week average.

# New COVID Cases Are Currently At an All-Time High in Nearly Half the States

State Rank of COVID-19 New Cases During Week of October 5-12 Among Past 31 Weeks



Alaska, a Trump-won state, had its highest weekly new case volume from October 5-12. Hawaii, a Clinton-won state, had its 10th highest week.

A ranking of “1” indicates that the week of October 5-12 was the worst of the past 31 weeks (dating back to mid-March) in terms of the volume of new COVID cases in that state. 21 states just had their worst week, and four additional states had their second-worst week.

20 of the 25 states where new cases are spiking heavily were won by President Trump in 2016.

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# State-Level Confirmed Cases and Recent Trends, Alabama through Kansas

State	Total Population, July 2019	Population Per Square Mile	Confirmed Cases Through October 12	New Confirmed Cases, October 5 - 12	Positive Tests as a Percent of New Tests, October 5 - 12	Highest Week's New Cases (Among 31 Weeks)	Rank of New Cases During October 5 - 12 Week	Average Weekly New Cases Across 31 Weeks	October 5 - 12 as % of Average Weekly Cases	October 5 - 12 as % of Highest Week's New Cases	Percent of Population Confirmed with COVID Through October 12
Alabama	4,903,185	97	166,076	6,363	13.8%	13,346	14	5,357	119%	48%	3.4%
Alaska	731,545	1	10,805	1,294	4.3%	1,294	1	349	371%	100%	1.5%
Arizona	7,278,717	64	226,072	4,981	6.5%	26,940	13	7,292	68%	18%	3.1%
Arkansas	3,017,804	58	93,487	6,057	7.8%	6,057	1	3,016	201%	100%	3.1%
California	39,512,223	254	859,959	22,239	2.7%	66,908	17	27,735	80%	33%	2.2%
Colorado	5,758,736	56	79,499	5,470	3.9%	5,470	1	2,564	213%	100%	1.4%
Connecticut	3,565,287	736	61,377	2,257	1.3%	6,475	9	1,980	114%	35%	1.7%
Delaware	973,764	500	22,289	926	6.0%	1,417	9	719	129%	65%	2.3%
District of Columbia	705,749	11,560	16,022	475	1.4%	1,278	13	517	92%	37%	2.3%
Florida	21,477,737	401	736,016	18,150	11.1%	77,959	14	23,742	76%	23%	3.4%
Georgia	10,617,423	185	316,884	9,365	6.1%	23,603	14	10,222	92%	40%	3.0%
Hawaii	1,415,872	220	13,675	668	2.8%	1,701	10	441	151%	39%	1.0%
Idaho	1,787,065	22	48,663	3,831	22.9%	3,849	2	1,570	244%	100%	2.7%
Illinois	12,671,821	228	325,755	18,327	4.0%	18,327	1	10,508	174%	100%	2.6%
Indiana	6,732,219	188	138,933	10,648	14.3%	10,648	1	4,482	238%	100%	2.1%
Iowa	3,155,070	56	100,451	7,190	17.8%	8,311	2	3,240	222%	87%	3.2%
Kansas	2,913,314	36	69,094	5,333	16.0%	5,333	1	2,229	239%	100%	2.4%

\* Ranking of New Cases shows the state's case volume in week of Oct 5-12 relative to the same state's past 31 weeks. A ranking of "1" in this column indicates the state experienced its highest volume of new cases during this past week.



Orange highlighting denotes states won by President Donald Trump in 2016; blue highlighting denotes states won by Hillary Clinton.

# State-Level Confirmed Cases and Recent Trends, Kentucky through North Carolina

State	Total Population, July 2019	Population Per Square Mile	Confirmed Cases Through October 12	New Confirmed Cases, October 5 - 12	Positive Tests as a Percent of New Tests, October 5 - 12	Highest Week's New Cases (Among 31 Weeks)	Rank of New Cases During October 5 - 12 Week	Average Weekly New Cases Across 31 Weeks	October 5 - 12 as % of Average Weekly Cases	October 5 - 12 as % of Highest Week's New Cases	Percent of Population Confirmed with COVID Through October 12
Kentucky	4,467,673	113	83,074	6,287	6.4%	6,287	1	2,680	235%	100%	1.9%
Louisiana	4,648,794	108	174,647	4,710	4.1%	15,067	15	5,634	84%	31%	3.8%
Maine	1,344,212	44	5,752	207	0.6%	361	10	186	112%	57%	0.4%
Maryland	6,045,680	623	132,357	4,080	5.7%	7,872	16	4,269	96%	52%	2.2%
Massachusetts	6,892,503	884	139,663	4,201	1.0%	16,819	12	4,504	93%	25%	2.0%
Michigan	9,986,857	177	151,284	8,527	3.2%	10,621	2	4,880	175%	80%	1.5%
Minnesota	5,639,632	71	113,492	8,640	4.7%	8,640	1	3,661	236%	100%	2.0%
Mississippi	2,976,149	63	105,228	4,525	9.7%	9,068	10	3,394	133%	50%	3.5%
Missouri	6,137,428	89	147,220	11,969	7.9%	11,969	1	4,749	252%	100%	2.4%
Montana	1,068,778	7	19,205	4,078	10.6%	4,078	1	620	658%	100%	1.8%
Nebraska	1,934,408	25	52,839	4,580	13.0%	4,580	1	1,704	269%	100%	2.7%
Nevada	3,080,156	28	86,433	3,889	14.8%	8,208	10	2,788	139%	47%	2.8%
New Hampshire	1,359,711	152	9,208	528	1.7%	650	4	297	178%	81%	0.7%
New Jersey	8,882,190	1,208	215,885	5,385	2.5%	24,454	11	6,964	77%	22%	2.4%
New Mexico	2,096,829	17	33,362	2,730	4.6%	2,730	1	1,076	254%	100%	1.6%
New York	19,453,561	413	470,061	9,566	1.2%	66,918	11	15,159	63%	14%	2.4%
North Carolina	10,488,084	216	233,059	13,014	5.8%	13,523	4	7,518	173%	96%	2.2%

\* Ranking of New Cases shows the state's case volume in week of Oct 5-12 relative to the same state's past 31 weeks. A ranking of "1" in this column indicates the state experienced its highest volume of new cases during this past week.



Orange highlighting denotes states won by President Donald Trump in 2016; blue highlighting denotes states won by Hillary Clinton.

# State-Level Confirmed Cases and Recent Trends North Dakota Through Wyoming, Including USA Totals

State	Total Population, July 2019	Population Per Square Mile	Confirmed Cases Through October 12	New Confirmed Cases, October 5 - 12	Positive Tests as a Percent of New Tests, October 5 - 12	Highest Week's New Cases (Among 31 Weeks)	Rank of New Cases During October 5 - 12 Week	Average Weekly New Cases Across 31 Weeks	October 5 - 12 as % of Average Weekly Cases	October 5 - 12 as % of Highest Week's New Cases	Percent of Population Confirmed with COVID Through October 12
North Dakota	762,062	11	27,742	3,877	7.6%	3,877	1	895	433%	100%	3.6%
Ohio	11,689,100	286	170,179	10,215	3.3%	10,215	1	5,490	186%	100%	1.5%
Oklahoma	3,956,971	58	100,184	8,202	9.5%	8,202	1	3,232	254%	100%	2.5%
Oregon	4,217,737	44	37,472	2,416	6.7%	2,416	1	1,208	200%	100%	0.9%
Pennsylvania	12,801,989	286	177,844	8,718	8.0%	11,220	6	5,737	152%	78%	1.4%
Rhode Island	1,059,361	1,025	26,294	875	1.6%	2,618	11	848	103%	33%	2.5%
South Carolina	5,148,714	171	158,055	5,896	5.4%	13,277	13	5,098	116%	44%	3.1%
South Dakota	884,659	12	28,925	4,327	23.0%	4,327	1	933	464%	100%	3.3%
Tennessee	6,829,174	166	214,245	13,642	6.6%	15,925	4	6,911	197%	86%	3.1%
Texas	28,995,881	111	836,389	30,141	6.5%	71,940	13	26,980	112%	42%	2.9%
Utah	3,205,958	39	86,879	8,146	14.8%	8,146	1	2,802	291%	100%	2.7%
Vermont	623,989	68	1,876	59	1.1%	287	9	60	98%	21%	0.3%
Virginia	8,535,519	213	159,570	7,013	5.1%	7,697	5	5,147	136%	91%	1.9%
Washington	7,614,893	115	98,265	4,063	2.9%	6,411	8	3,164	128%	63%	1.3%
West Virginia	1,792,147	75	18,281	1,539	3.1%	1,539	1	590	261%	100%	1.0%
Wisconsin	5,822,434	108	160,655	18,875	20.3%	18,875	1	5,182	364%	100%	2.8%
Wyoming	578,759	6	7,802	1,173	18.9%	1,173	1	252	466%	100%	1.3%
<b>United States</b>	<b>328,239,523</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>7,768,483</b>	<b>349,667</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>462,432</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>250,572</b>	<b>140%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
States Won by Trump in 2016 (n=30)	186,790,098	73	4,860,217	245,653	7.6%	340,645	7	156,777	157%	72%	2.6%
States Won by Clinton in 2016 (n=20 + DC)	141,449,425	147	2,908,266	104,014	2.6%	147,490	12	93,795	111%	71%	2.1%

\* Ranking of New Cases shows the state's case volume in week of Oct 5-12 relative to the same state's past 31 weeks. A ranking of "1" in this column indicates the state experienced its highest volume of new cases during this past week.



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# State-Level Observations

- Across the 31 weeks of the pandemic's presence in all states, the week of October 5-12 was the nation's 7<sup>th</sup> worst in terms of number of new confirmed cases.
- Several states' new cases during the week of October 5-12 were far above their 31-week average, led by Montana (658% of their weekly average), Wyoming (466%), South Dakota (464%), and North Dakota (433%).
- Of the 30 states that reported that more than 5% of all COVID tests received a positive result during the week of October 5-12, 25 were won by President Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election. The positive test rate was above 10% this past week in 13 states (led by South Dakota at 23%), 12 of which were won by Trump in 2016.
- Across the states Trump won in 2016, the testing positivity rate from October 5-12 was 7.6%. Across the states won by Clinton, the positivity rate was far lower at 2.6%. This indicates that a heightened case outbreak has occurred in the states won by Trump (rather than our statistics indicating that relatively more testing recently occurred in those states).

# 5 Slide Series Overview

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

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Address: 4001 9th Street N., Suite 227, Arlington, VA 22203

Website: [www.themengesgroup.com](http://www.themengesgroup.com)

**The Menges Group**