



COVID-19 OUTBREAKS IN GROCERY SETTINGS

Office of Communicable Disease Epidemiology

AGENDA

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**Non-Healthcare
Congregate Setting
Team**

2

**Workplace Outbreak
Definition**

3

**Grocery Setting
Outbreaks Statistics**

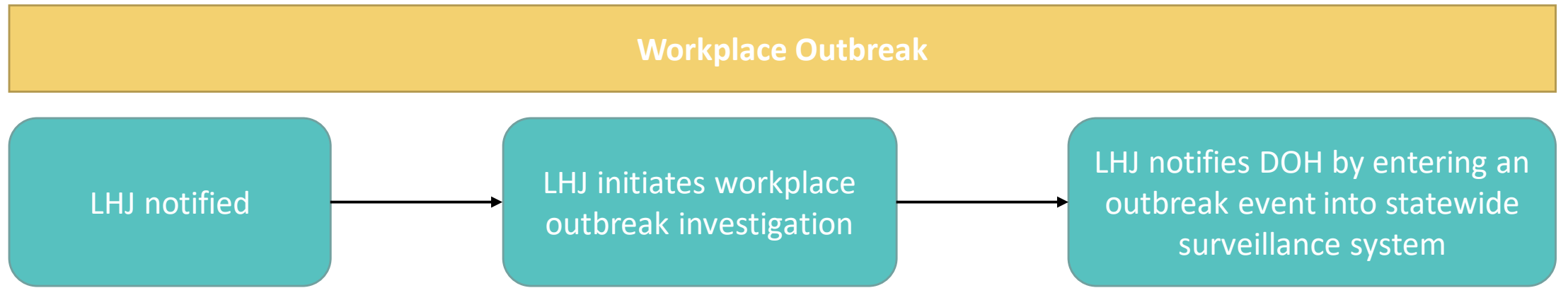
Non-Healthcare Congregate Setting Outbreak Program

- New program within Office of Communicable Disease Epidemiology
 - Focus on COVID-19 outbreaks in correctional facilities, agriculture facilities, schools, service-providing industries
- Provide subject matter expertise and epidemiological technical support for Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJ) in outbreak response
 - Develop setting-specific guidance
 - Provide surge capacity for outbreak investigation
 - Lead outbreak investigation for multi-jurisdictional outbreaks
 - Report on statewide COVID-19 outbreaks

COVID-19 Workplace Outbreaks

OVERVIEW

COVID-19 Outbreak Investigations



COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR NON-HEALTHCARE WORKPLACES

Workplace cluster:

- Two or more laboratory-positive (PCR or antigen) cases, **AND**
- At least two cases have onsets within 14 days of each other, **AND**
- Plausible epi-link in the workplace (e.g., case-patients work on the same shift or in the same building, or benefit from employee sponsored transportation or housing), **AND**
- No other known epidemiological link outside of the workplace (e.g., case-patients do not share a household, and there is no epi-link suggesting transmission is more likely to have occurred during private carpooling or social interactions outside of the workplace).

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-284-Guidance-NonHC-Workplace.pdf>

Grocery Setting Outbreaks in Washington State

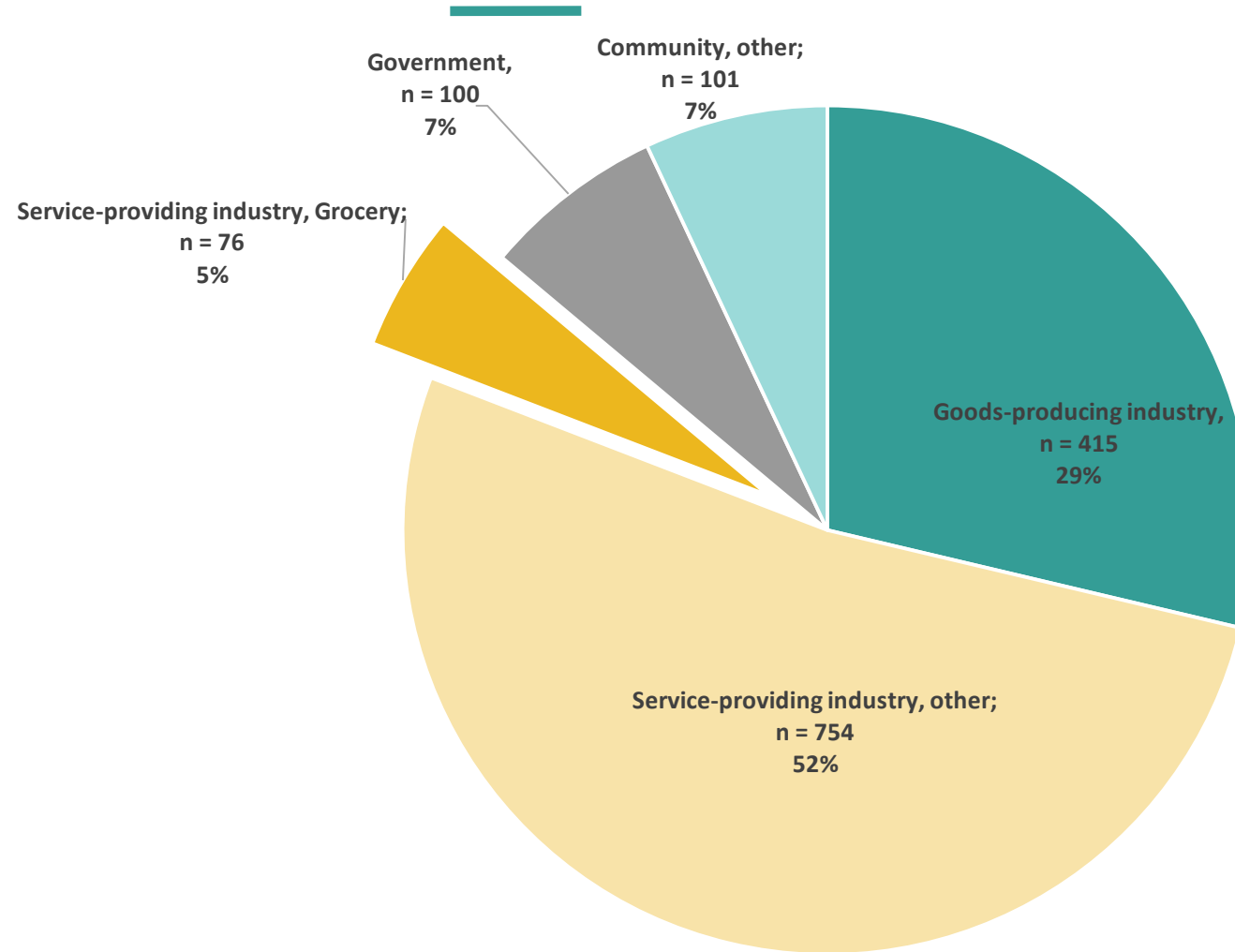
SUMMARY STATISTICS

Reported COVID-19 Outbreaks in Washington State

Total Non-healthcare setting outbreaks reported to DOH:

- **1446***

Service-providing goods producing industries are defined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)



*As of Saturday, Nov. 07

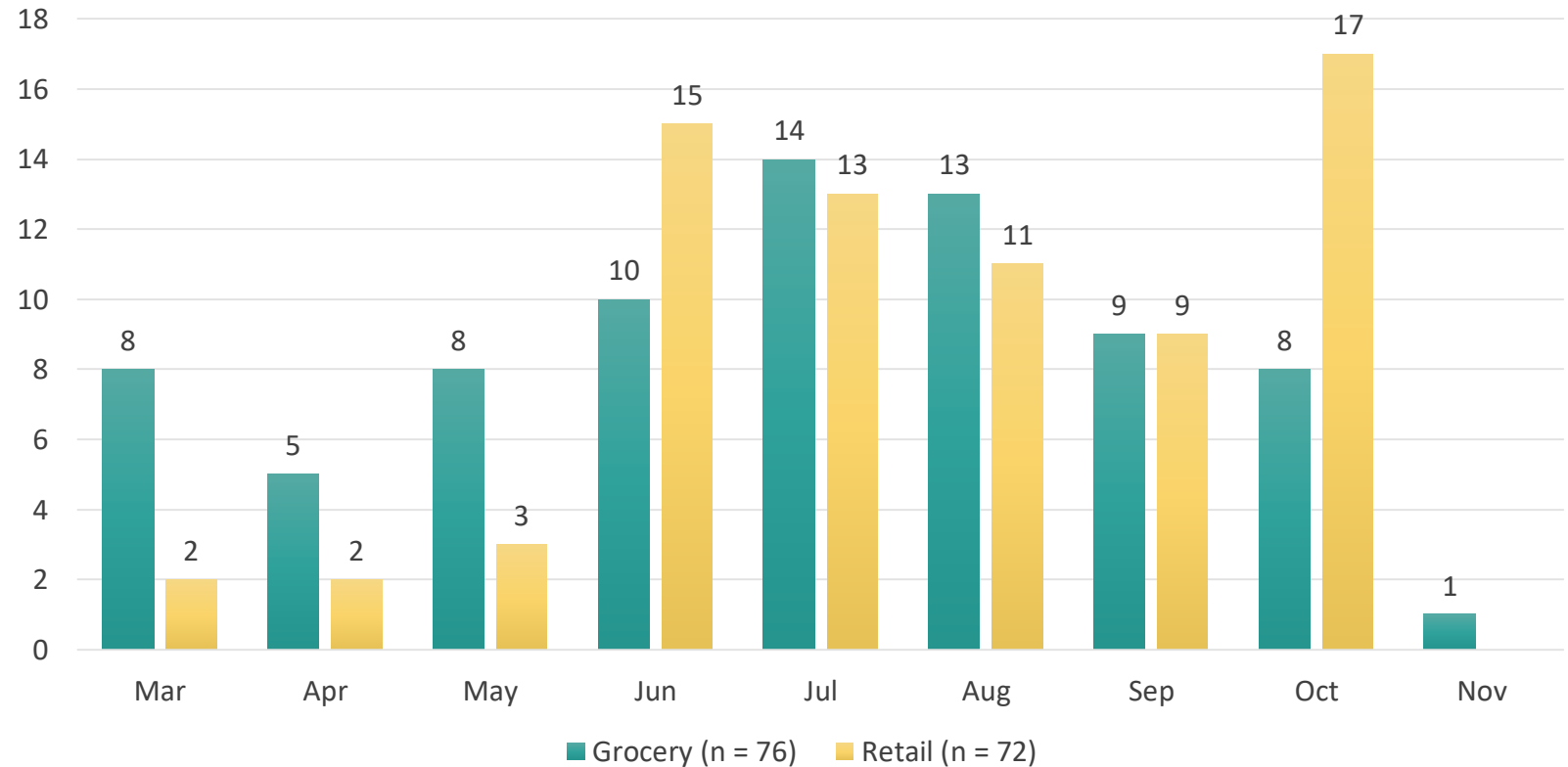
Grocery COVID-19 Outbreaks

- **There have been 76 grocery settings outbreaks reported to DOH**
- Grocery category is defined as
 - Establishments with NAICS codes for grocery stores, supermarkets, department stores, and warehouse super stores **AND**
 - Stayed open during the shut down on the premise of their ability to provide food & groceries to customers.
- Make up 5.2 % of the reported non-healthcare setting outbreak events and 2.8% of all reported outbreak events

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/StatewideCOVID-19OutbreakReport.pdf>

COVID-19 Outbreaks in Grocery & Retail Settings*

- 305 linked cases to grocery outbreak events
 - Median = 3
 - Range: 2 - 29



*Data reflect outbreaks reported to DOH since the beginning of the pandemic.
Data may be incomplete

Limitations

- Limited outbreak reporting
 - Outbreaks may go unreported due to asymptomatic cases, lack of testing, etc.
- Customers are not typically considered in these outbreak investigations;
 - Investigations typically limited to staff
- Limited public health bandwidth to support data entry and case follow up

Recent Research

Workplace

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Association between SARS-CoV-2 infection, exposure risk and mental health among a cohort of essential retail workers in the USA

Fan-Yun Lan,^{1,2} Christian Suharlim,³ Stefanos N Kales,^{1,4} Justin Yang ^{1,5}

<https://oem.bmj.com/content/early/2020/10/11/oemed-2020-106774>

Key Findings

- Employees with direct customer exposure were more likely to test positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- The inability to practice social distancing consistently at work was a significant risk factor for anxiety and depression.
- Commuting to work by public transportation/shared rides was significantly associated with depressive state.

Additional Resources

DOH COVID-19 Workplace Safety Guidance

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-284-Guidance-NonHC-Workplace.pdf>

DOH COVID-19 Guidance for Food Workers & Food Establishments

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/FoodWorkerEstablishment.pdf>

DOH COVID-19 Guidelines for Grocery Stores

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/GroceryStores.pdf>

DOH Statewide COVID-19 Outbreak Report

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/StatewideCOVID-19OutbreakReport.pdf>

Safe Start Washington Reopening Guide

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SafeStartPhasedReopening.pdf>

Questions?



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